

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 9th June, 2021

10.00 am

**Council Chamber, Sessions House,
County Hall, Maidstone**





AGENDA

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 9th June, 2021, at 10.00 am
Council Chamber, Sessions House, County
Hall, Maidstone

Ask for: **Anna Taylor**
Telephone: **03000 416478**

Membership

- Conservative (10): Mr A Booth (Chair), Mr P V Barrington-King, Mrs R Binks, Mr N J Collor, Mr G Cooke, Mrs S Hudson, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr O Richardson, Mr A M Ridgers and Mr J Wright
- Labour (1): Dr L Sullivan
- Liberal Democrat (1) Mr A Hook
- Green and Independents (1) Mr P Stepto
- Church Representatives (3): Mr J Constanti, Mr M Reidy and Mr Q Roper
- Parent Governor (2): Mr K Garsed and Mr A Roy

County Councillors who are not Members of the Committee but who wish to ask questions at the meeting are asked to notify the Chairman of their questions in advance.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

A - Committee Business

- A1 Introduction/Webcast Announcement
- A2 Apologies and Substitutes
- A3 Election of Vice-Chair
- A4 Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this Meeting
- A5 Minutes of the meetings held on 10 February 2021, 11 March 2021 and 27 May 2021 (Pages 1 - 10)

B - Scrutiny Committee meeting as the Crime and Disorder Committee

- B1 Kent Community Safety Agreement (Pages 11 - 70)

C - Any items placed on the agenda by any Member of the Council for discussion

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel
03000 416814

Tuesday, 1 June 2021

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held Online on Wednesday, 10 February 2021.

PRESENT: Mr A Booth (Chairman), Mr J Wright (Vice-Chairman), Mr M A C Balfour, Mr P V Barrington-King, Mrs P M Beresford, Mrs R Binks, Mr R H Bird, Mr D L Brazier (Substitute for Mr A M Ridgers), Mr G Cooke, Mrs T Dean, MBE, Mr D Farrell, Mr R C Love, OBE and Dr L Sullivan

ALSO PRESENT: Mr M D Payne (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport) and Mr E E C Hotson

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs B Cooper (Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport), Mr B Watts (General Counsel), Mrs S Holt-Castle (Interim Director of Environment, Planning and Enforcement), Mr S Gasche (Rail Project Manager), Mr M Welch (Principal Transport Planner) and Mrs A Taylor (Scrutiny Research Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**30. Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this Meeting**
(Item A3)

No declarations were made.

31. Decision 21/00011 - Kent Rail Strategy 2021
(Item B1)

Mr M Payne, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport; Mrs B Cooper, Corporate Director Growth, Environment and Transport; Mrs S Holt-Castle, Director of Environment, Planning and Enforcement; Mr S Gasche, Rail Project Manager and Mr M Welch, Principal Transport Planner were in attendance for this item.

1. The Chairman introduced the item and invited the proposer of the call-in, Mr Bird, to provide an overview of the grounds for his call-in request, Mr Farrell as the seconder and Mr Hotson as a local Member were invited to speak in addition. Mr Farrell reserved his right to speak.
2. Mr Bird stated his disappointment that his request that Cllr Martin Cox, Leader of Maidstone Borough Council and Mr Geoff Miles, Chairman of the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership be permitted to make verbal representations was not agreed by the Chairman. Section 17.63(e) of the Constitution was cited, that the Chairman and Group Spokespersons on the Scrutiny Committee shall agree which other witnesses are asked to attend, with the Chairman being responsible for the final decision where agreement could not be reached. The Chairman asserted that written representations would have satisfied the criteria.

3. Mr Bird presented the justification for his call-in request. He gave an overview of rail travel trends in Maidstone, addressed previous Kent travel strategies, and cited previous commitments and dialogue with the Secretary of State for Transport and Minister of State for Railways. He noted the demand from commuters for a direct service to the City of London of one-hour or less, which had been reflected in previous policy documents. It was contended that the Thameslink service supported in the Kent Rail Strategy 2021 could take up to 75 minutes, which contradicted the Key Requirements of the Rail Action Plan for Kent (2011). Mr Bird raised his concerns that the support of a Thameslink service between Maidstone East and London Blackfriars via the Catford loop could inhibit the development of faster Thameslink services in the future.
4. Mr Hotson outlined his concerns with the Maidstone East Thameslink service supported in the Rail Strategy. He stressed the need for direct Thameslink services between Maidstone East and London Blackfriars and suggested that support be given to a faster service, than that endorsed in the strategy. It was noted that a significant volume of commuter road traffic from Maidstone to Staplehurst and Marden stations had developed as a result of the town's poor rail links to the City of London, a comparison between rail services on the South East main line and Maidstone line was made.
5. Mr Payne confirmed the role of the Kent Rail Strategy, to act as an advisory document to central government, which gave KCC the opportunity to shape and inform future policy decisions. He informed the Committee that KCC did not have access to Department for Transport rail strategy plans. Mr Payne confirmed his attendance at a series of meetings involving Kent MPs and the Minister of State for Railways and that subsequent MP-Minister meetings had been conducted, the outcome of which was anticipated. He stressed the need to continue to campaign central government for rail service improvements.
6. Mr Gasche, the Kent Rail Strategy policy author, confirmed that the strategy supported the principle of Thameslink services between Maidstone East and London. He stated that serious operational difficulties, which included limitations with automatic train operations at stations and track layouts, required services to travel via the Catford loop. Mr Gasche reassured Members that the supported service would be 'semi-fast' and take 65 minutes from Maidstone East to London Blackfriars. In relation to government strategy, Mr Gasche confirmed that the Department for Transport were aware of the impact operational limitations had on future services.
7. A Member asked to what extent KCC had influence on the implementation of the services supported in the strategy. Mr Payne confirmed that whilst the strategy put central government under no obligation, it provided a record of Kent's priorities which informed and influenced policy decisions concerning the county.
8. It was noted by a Member that KCC was a partner in the development of West Malling and Kings Hill and that fast rail services to London were key attracting

factors for residents. The current quality of rail services on the Maidstone line was questioned.

9. Mr Payne was asked whether the inclusion of support for faster Thameslink services, which avoided the Catford loop, in the Rail Strategy was possible. He confirmed that an issue faced in the production of the Rail Strategy was the unavailability of the Department for Transport's latest proposals and timelines. It was asserted that an amendment to the Strategy's recommendations was possible.
10. A Member acknowledged that whilst KCC did not have responsibilities for rail services it had a role to play in ensuring that visitors and residents had good quality services. A comparison between different authorities and their rail advocacy campaigns was made, the Member asserted that KCC needed to greater understand commuting patterns.
11. It was commented by a Member that future Thameslink services from Maidstone East needed to be trialled and delivered on an interim basis to permit service evaluation and adaptations if necessary.
12. The impact of new ways of working on future rail service demand and capacity, which included ticketing; service regularity and timetabling were noted by a Member. Rail operators were encouraged to re-engage effectively with passengers following the pandemic.
13. Mr Payne was asked to strengthen the recommendations of the Rail Strategy to include the support of Thameslink services from Maidstone East with connections to Crossrail and the wider underground network. Mr Payne proposed an amendment of the Kent Rail Strategy 2021 to the Committee, the intent to reinforce KCC's commitment to support Thameslink services from Maidstone to the City of London was cited.
14. Mr Farrell exercised his right. He thanked Mr Hotson for providing context from a local perspective and stressed the need to explore commuter services from Maidstone further.
15. Mr Watts informed Members of the Committee's call-in powers, which included the power to express comments to Cabinet or request reconsideration. He confirmed that recommended amendments to the Kent Rail Strategy 2021, following the requisite administrative changes to the Strategy, would return to Cabinet for noting. It was noted that Cabinet next met, Monday 15 March 2021.
16. A Member asked for clarification on the criteria which permitted the attendance of external witnesses at the Committee. Mr Watts stated that an amendment of the Constitution would be required to specify the codified position on the attendance of external witnesses at Scrutiny explicitly. The scope for interpretation of Section 17.63(e) of the Constitution was acknowledged.

17. Mr Bird moved and Mr Farrell seconded that **“The Scrutiny Committee recommends that the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Transport, requesting that the proposal to introduce the service terminating at Blackfriars be reconsidered, and that priority be given to commencing the previously promised fast Thameslink services from Maidstone as soon as possible.”**

18. Members voted on the motion. The vote was lost.

19. Mr Bird moved and Mr Farrell seconded **“That the Scrutiny Committee should recommend the following amendment to paragraph 4.15 of the Kent Rail Strategy 2021:**

‘This strategy therefore calls again on the Rail Minister to approve the operation of this last leg of the whole Thameslink service programme. At the very least this would be an initial all-day service between the county town and Blackfriars, whilst retaining the ambition and working towards a through service in due course to St Pancras and on to Cambridge allowing full interconnectivity with Crossrail and the wider underground network.

That the section on page 62 of the strategy is further amended as follows:

‘Rail Minister to approve the operation of Maidstone East section of the Thameslink service programme, with an initial all-day service between the county town and Blackfriars, while retaining the ambition of a through service to St Pancras and beyond.’”

20. Members voted on the amendment. The vote was won.

21. The Chairman thanked Mr Payne, Mr Gasche and Mr Watts for their information, advice and attendance.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Committee should recommend the following amendment to paragraph 4.15 of the Kent Rail Strategy 2021:

‘This strategy therefore calls again on the Rail Minister to approve the operation of this last leg of the whole Thameslink service programme. At the very least this would be an initial all-day service between the county town and Blackfriars, whilst retaining the ambition and working towards a through service in due course to St Pancras and on to Cambridge allowing full interconnectivity with Crossrail and the wider underground network.

That the section on page 62 of the strategy is further amended as follows:

‘Rail Minister to approve the operation of Maidstone East section of the Thameslink service programme, with an initial all-day service between the county town and Blackfriars, while retaining the ambition of a through service to St Pancras and beyond.’

POST MEETING NOTE: The agreed amendments were made to the Kent Rail Strategy 2021, the amended report was placed on the 15 March 2021 Cabinet agenda for noting.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Online on Thursday, 11 March 2021.

PRESENT: Mr A Booth (Chairman), Mr J Wright (Vice-Chairman), Mr P V Barrington-King, Mrs P M Beresford, Mrs R Binks, Mr R H Bird, Mr D L Brazier (Substitute), Mr G Cooke, Mrs T Dean, MBE, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr A M Ridgers and Dr L Sullivan

ALSO PRESENT: Mr R W Gough (Leader of the Council), Mr P J Oakford (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services), Mrs C Bell (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health) and Miss D Morton (Deputy Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Z Cooke (Corporate Director of Finance), Mr B Watts (General Counsel), Mr A Scott-Clark (Director of Public Health) and Mr D Shipton (Head of Finance Policy, Planning and Strategy)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

32. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2021

(Item A4)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2021 were a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

33. Covid - 19 Financial Monitoring

(Item C1)

Mr P Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services; Mrs Z Cooke, Corporate Director of Finance and Mr D Shipton, Head of Finance Policy, Planning and Strategy were in attendance for the item.

1. Mr Oakford introduced the item and provided a verbal summary of the types of Covid-19 support grants received from central government. He noted the diversity of grants received, in terms of both value and spending criteria.
2. Mr Shipton gave a detailed overview of grant spending criteria, reporting and future funding. He confirmed that the Covid-19 Emergency Grant was un-ringfenced, whilst the Adults' Social Care, Public Health, Winter Grant Scheme, Emergency Assistance, Home to School Transport, and Active Travel grants were ringfenced. Members were informed that a further £7.2m had been received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in February, after the publication of the report. It was verified that Covid-19 grant spending was reported to MHCLG monthly and that the most recent submission was made in January 2021. Areas of increased spending during the pandemic were specified and included: Adults' and Children's Social Care; Home to School and Public Transport; and

Environment. The Committee were notified that the Helping Hands Scheme had been funded through the un-ringfenced Emergency Grant. Future funding was summarised, it was noted that further financial support from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund and Clinically Extremely Vulnerable public health grants were expected in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years.

3. A Member sought reassurance that due diligence had been done when grant funded contracts were awarded and monitored. Mr Oakford confirmed that commissioners within KCC had managed grant funded contracts and that he was satisfied due diligence had been done, given their detailed consideration and recommendations.
4. Mr Oakford was asked whether the solvency of home to school transport providers had been analysed during the pandemic and what steps had been put in place to support public transport providers. He confirmed that KCC had provided bus operators with funding provided by central government. Mr Shipton added that continuity payments made to operators had originally been funded through the un-ringfenced Emergency Grant and were subsequently funded by the ringfenced Home to School Transport grant, following the return of children to school.
5. A Member asked to what extent the Council, as an organisation, had learnt from and been impacted by the pandemic. Mr Oakford noted that the organisation had recognised and utilised its ability to react quickly and responsibly to emergency developments effectively. He acknowledged that it was too early to judge the overall performance of the Council during the pandemic, given the continued challenges faced. Members agreed that scrutiny of the authority's overall handling of the pandemic was best suited at a later date.
6. It was asked whether examples of best practice had been shared with neighbouring authorities during the pandemic. Mr Oakford confirmed that officers had attended meetings with their counterparts in peer authorities and had exchanged processes and learnings confidentially. It was added that Kent's services were quality and value benchmarked against other authorities.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

34. Local Authority Coronavirus Enforcement Powers

(Item C2)

Mrs C Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health; Miss D Morton, Deputy Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health; Mr A Scott-Clark, Director of Public Health and Mr B Watts, General Counsel were in attendance for the item.

1. Mr Watts introduced the report and gave a verbal overview of the Covid-19 local authority enforcement powers possessed by the Council, this included the power to issue: Coronavirus Improvement Notices (CIN); Coronavirus Restriction Notices (CRN) and Coronavirus Immediate Restriction Notices (CIRN). He noted that the enforcement notices extended to and included both

individuals and businesses. A timeline of coronavirus enforcement regulation developments was provided. It was acknowledged that enforcement had required a multi-agency response from KCC Trading Standards, Public Health and Kent Police, with coordination through the Kent Resilience Forum enforcement cell.

2. Mr Watts recognised the future enforcement role of the Council, given the reopening of non-essential retail on 12 April 2021. Members were informed that the relevant powers remained in effect until May and June 2021 respectively. He further confirmed that consideration would be taken to judge whether Cabinet Member key decisions would be taken, during the pre-election period, when related to Covid-19 enforcement powers.
3. Mrs Bell addressed enforcement developments since the scrutiny of the Broadstairs Christmas Market and Pantiles Market local lockdown direction decisions on 22 January 2021. She confirmed that no further Covid-19 enforcement key decisions had been taken and noted the speed and competency of officer enforcement actions.
4. Mrs Bell was asked what lessons had been learnt and strengths recognised from the use of enforcement powers during the pandemic. She noted that the pandemic had highlighted the efficiency and flexibility of officers and confirmed that no significant lessons required learning. Mr Watts added, from a governance perspective, that key decision information had improved as a result of the process, the role of Scrutiny in recommending information criteria was acknowledged. It was noted further that many key decisions had been avoided due to effective correspondence with businesses and event operators, which allowed voluntary cancellation rather than authorised enforcement action.
5. A Member requested reassurance that KCC would take enforcement action against retailers who did not comply with regulations and asked how KCC could help businesses operate safely. Mrs Bell confirmed that appropriate decisions would be taken to reduce the spread of Covid-19, where necessary. Mr Scott-Clark added that risk assessments had been carried out and shared with operators, where vital, to recommend appropriate measures and provide reasonable notice of concerns.
6. A Member asked whether KCC would continue to have a Covid-19 enforcement role following the predicted end of social restriction on 21 June 2021 and ceasing of relevant regulatory powers. Mr Watts stated that there would be no enforcement once the obligation to enforce concluded and further reassured Members that no enforcement would be carried out beyond the scope of legislation. Mr Gough reaffirmed Mr Watts' statement on the use of powers and asserted that multi-agency Covid-19 enforcement in Kent had been an overall success. The public were thanked for their discipline and it was noted that the local Covid-19 variant had contributed to the previous rapid spread of the virus to a great extent, rather than public noncompliance.

7. In response to a question from a Member, Mr Watts confirmed the extent of correspondence between the Council and the operators of the three events closed under Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No 3) Regulations. He agreed to circulate further information to the Committee regarding the outcomes of each decision.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Mote Hall Leisure Centre, Maidstone, Kent ME15 7RN on Thursday, 27 May 2021.

PRESENT: Mr P V Barrington-King, Mrs R Binks, Mr A Booth, Mr N J Collor, Mr G Cooke, Mrs S Hudson, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr O Richardson, Mr A M Ridgers and Mr J Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: Joel Cook, Democratic Services Manager

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

37. Election of Chair

(Item 3)

1. It was duly proposed and seconded that Mr A Booth be elected Chair of the Committee.
2. RESOLVED that Mr A Booth be elected Chair of the Committee.

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By: Anna Taylor, Scrutiny Research Officer
To: Crime and Disorder Committee – 9 June 2021
Subject: Kent Community Safety Agreement

Summary: This report briefly explains the background of Community Safety Agreements and the development of Kent's Agreement. This report also seeks to outline the role of the Committee in scrutinising the Kent Community Safety Agreement and as a 'critical friend' to the Community Safety Partnership.

1. Community Safety Agreements

- 1.1 Community Safety Agreements (CSAs) are mandatory for two tier authorities and are used by the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to meet their statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006). Additionally, the 2006 Act required CSPs to include anti-social behaviour (ASB) and substance misuse within their strategies. The Police and Crime Act 2009 added reducing reoffending to the areas to be addressed by CSPs.
- 1.2 The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 revised the 1998 Act, altering the manner in which District and Borough Council evaluated their Community Safety arrangements. The previous method of three yearly audits was replaced with an annual strategic, triennial partnership plan and public consultations. These district/borough level assessments feed into the higher authority's CSP and influence the Community Safety Agreement.
- 1.3 The broad range of public safety considerations addressed by CSPs requires joint work from the partners that serve as responsible authorities:
- Police
 - District and Borough Councils
 - County Council,
 - Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)
 - Fire and Rescue Service
 - Relevant Probation company
- 1.4 The CSA draws together the key strategic aims of all the relevant services in the crime, disorder and public safety sectors, promoting a joint approach that enables more effective and co-ordinated inter-agency planning that will result in improved outcomes.

1.5 Each CSA reflects its own areas priorities based on needs assessment and shared intelligence between the partner agencies. Since the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) Community Safety Partnerships must give due regard to the PCC's Police and Crime Plan. The strategic assessments undertaken by local Community Safety Partnerships are reviewed for common issues and priorities, which are then consulted on with relevant stakeholders to confirm their inclusion in the CSA. This engagement with stakeholders also provides opportunities for gaps to be identified and broader cross-cutting themes to be taken into account.

2. Kent Community Safety Agreement

2.1 Responsibility for delivering the CSA priorities rests with the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP). In March 2017 the KCSP agreed that the CSA would be a rolling document which would be reviewed and refreshed, if necessary, annually along with the associated CSA Action Plan. The priorities and cross cutting themes within the CSA were last updated in April 2018.

2.2 In 2016, the Kent CSP agreed that performance monitoring would be managed by the senior officer led working group and relevant priority leads from the partner agencies. Any points of concern or anomalies would then be reported to the KCSP for consideration.

2.3 The priorities currently included within Kent's CSA are:

- Domestic Abuse
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Substance Misuse
- Road Safety
- Preventing Extremism and Hate

2.4 Details of the relevant Leads for each priority are contained within the main CSA document along with a summary of the key issues identified by the local CSP strategic assessments. The attached appendix provides detail on the related actions being undertaken to deliver the priority outcomes and following a previous request from the Crime and Disorder Committee, includes a summary of performance and contextual information.

2.5 The Kent Community Safety Agreement also works to deliver against the countywide ambitions detailed in the Vision for Kent 2012-22; to grow the economy, to tackle disadvantage and to put citizens in control. The core focus on effective partnership working embedded within the Kent Community Safety Partnership and the Agreement reflects the need for continued joint working with relevant agencies to meet the needs of Kent's communities.

3. Committee Role

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee is required to meet annually in the form of the Crime and Disorder Committee to review and scrutinise work undertaken by relevant partner agencies and authorities responsible for managing crime and disorder in the County. This duty arises from the Police and Justice Act 2006 which introduced Crime and Disorder Committees to fulfil this scrutiny function.
- 3.2 The Committee exists as a 'critical friend' of the Community Safety Partnership, considering the strategic level approach on crime and disorder and should not seek to challenge operation level actions.
- 3.3 Reviewing, considering and commenting on the Community Safety Agreement and its associated action plan serves as a constructive approach for the Committee to fulfil its statutory requirement to scrutinise the strategic activity in the arena of crime and disorder. The focus of the Committee's scrutiny should be on the collective work of the partnership rather than the activities of the individual agencies.
- 3.4 All district/borough CSPs across Kent have scrutiny functions in place meeting the benchmark for annual scrutiny set out in the legislation; with some local Scrutiny Committees meeting more frequently to review the CSP plans as well as other Community Safety related topics.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee may resolve to:
 - Note the Community Safety Agreement and make no comment.
 - Make comment on the Community Safety Agreement and its action plan.
 - Offer recommendations to one or more of the responsible authorities.

Appendix:

- Kent Community Safety Agreement April 2021
- Kent CSA Action Plan and Performance Summary 2019/20 and 2020/21

Contact details:

Anna Taylor, Scrutiny Research Officer
anna.taylor@kent.gov.uk
03000 416478

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Kent Community Safety Agreement



April 2021

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Version Control

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	April 2017	New Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) – effective from April 2017
2.0	April 2018	Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) - Updated document date to April 2018 - Ch.1 - reference added to 1.1 about version control - Ch.5 - achievements for 2017/18 added - Ch.6 - priorities/cross-cutting themes updated effective from April 2018, including refreshed diagram - Ch.7 - priority leads updated - Appendix A - strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B - MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D - Police & Crime Plan details updated
3.0	April 2019	Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) - Effective date changed to April 2019 - Ch.3 - updated legislation and addition of partnership changes and challenges - Ch.5 - achievements for 2018/19 added - Ch.6 - minor changes to the chapter acknowledging the 2019 review - Ch.8 - minor changes to the list of plans - Appendix A - strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B - MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D - minor change acknowledging the latest review of the Police & Crime Plan
4.0	April 2020	Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) - Effective date changed to April 2020 - Foreword – updated to reflect new version - Ch.3 - updated legislation partnership changes - Ch.5 - achievements for 2019/20 added - Ch.6 - minor change to one priority - Ch.7 - minor changes to the list of leads - Ch.8 - minor changes to the list of plans - Appendix A - strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B - MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D - minor change acknowledging the 2020 review - Appendix E – Kent CSA Priorities and Cross Cutting Themes

5.0	April 2021	<p>Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective date changed to April 2021 - Foreword - updated to reflect latest version - Ch.3 - updated legislation and partnership changes - Ch.4 - change to the named responsible authorities - Ch.5 - achievements for 2020/21 added - Ch.6 - addition of a new cross-cutting theme - Ch.9 - change to the named responsible authorities - Appendix A - strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B - MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix E - addition of a new cross-cutting theme - Logos - updated logos to reflect the changes to the responsible authorities
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Foreword

As Chair of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) I am pleased to present the latest refresh of the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) which takes effect from 1st April 2022.

The Community Safety Agreement sets out how partners in Kent will work together to address the key community safety priorities for the County, identifying the shared objectives and outcomes required to improve the lives of the people of Kent. Whilst enforcement of the law will always play a major part in community safety, much can be done to prevent problems before they arise and a great deal of effort is devoted to supporting and safeguarding vulnerable people, tackling issues of substance misuse, improving road safety, enhancing quality of life and developing community resilience.

I am pleased to say much progress has been made by partners over the last few years in addressing the community safety issues identified within the CSA and this latest update along with the refresh of the action plan will help support the ongoing focus of the Kent Community Safety Partnership.

The Community Safety landscape is ever changing and the problems we face are becoming increasingly more complex. The KCSP recognises the challenges in addressing these issues and operates alongside a number of cooperating bodies and other multi-agency partnerships. Over the coming year, the KCSP will work with and support the Violence Reduction Unit to tackle serious violence in the county including working with partners to implement the Government's proposed new Serious Violence Duty, as well as continuing to address the many other issues identified within the agreement. The more immediate issue during the last year has been the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and partners across Kent have worked hard to support residents and ensure services continue to be delivered whilst adapting to new ways of working. Inevitably this has impacted on some of the CSA activities but as we follow the Government's roadmap to recovery, we hope to see a return to more face-to-face interactions and continued partnership working to ensure this can take place safely.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise that the success of this agreement can only be achieved through the ongoing delivery of the associated action plans, which would not be possible without the considerable support of the Kent Community Safety Team and partner agencies at both district/borough and county level, as well as non-statutory organisations and the voluntary sector. I would therefore like to thank everyone involved for their efforts and continued support during a very difficult time.

Mike Hill OBE

Chair Kent Community Safety Partnership

Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlines the key community safety priorities for Kent. The CSA is reviewed and refreshed annually, so for details of the current version, effective date and changes to previous documents see version control (page 4).
- 1.2. The CSA is mandatory for two tier authorities such as Kent and helps us to meet our statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) in which responsible authorities are required to consider crime and disorder in the delivery of all their duties.
- 1.3. This agreement aims to develop a more joined-up approach to public service delivery, to enable more effective and co-ordinated strategic planning across partner agencies and to ensure sustainable and lasting improvements in delivering outcomes. It recognises that community safety issues do not always respect district boundaries, and that coordination of effort can lead to economies of scale, joined up working, and more effective outcomes.
- 1.4. The agreement also aims to deliver against the three countywide ambitions set out in the Vision for Kent 2012-22: to grow the economy; to tackle disadvantage; and to put citizens in control. These ambitions cannot be achieved without the commitment and contribution of all partners through their own delivery plans and strategies as well as multi-agency agreements such as the Kent Community Safety Agreement.
- 1.5. Whilst Medway Unitary Authority does not form part of this agreement, it does undertake a similar process, suitable for unitary authorities, which will include an annual strategic assessment of their community safety issues and production of a Community Safety Plan. Where appropriate, partners in Kent and Medway will work collaboratively to tackle common priorities.

2. Legislation

- 2.1. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation the responsible authorities commonly referred to now as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), were required to carry out three yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies.
- 2.2. The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced scrutiny arrangements in the form of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, as well as introducing a number of amendments to the 1998 Act including the addition of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and substance misuse within the remit of the CSP strategies. Reducing reoffending was subsequently added by the Policing and Crime Act 2009.
- 2.3. The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 set out further revisions to the 1998 Act, the most notable of which at district/borough level was the replacement of three yearly audits with an annual strategic assessment, triennial partnership plan and public consultations. For two tier authorities such as Kent, the statutory Community Safety Agreement was introduced.
- 2.4. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. This brought with it a requirement for the PCC to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs and for those authorities to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The legislation also brought with it a mutual duty for the PCC and the responsible authorities to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions.
- 2.5. The requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into effect on 13th April 2011 as a result of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). In Kent and Medway it was agreed that these would be commissioned by the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) utilising pooled funding on behalf of the local CSPs including Medway. The process is managed, coordinated and administered by the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) with input from a wide variety of partners. The DHR process has been developed and enhanced since its introduction including the implementation of updated statutory guidance from the Home Office.

3. Key Changes to the Community Safety Landscape

In recent years there have been many changes both nationally and locally that impact upon the work of partners involved in community safety.

Global Pandemic

3.1. Coronavirus (COVID-19): During the last 12 months the whole country has endured a range of measures in the ongoing response to tackling the COVID-19 pandemic including several periods of lockdown. The measures that have been put in place (*including staying at home, social distancing, self-isolation, wearing of masks, infection testing, closing of schools and businesses, etc.*) have impacted on all walks of life in an effort to slow the spread of the virus and to protect the NHS from being overwhelmed. These measures are unprecedented and whilst everyone is working hard to reduce the impact of the virus there are unfortunate knock on effects on communities and individuals, from social isolation, loneliness, stress / anxiety, financial impacts, relationship impacts, as well as some of the hidden harms which have increased or been highlighted by the pandemic including domestic abuse; mental health issues; homelessness; alcohol consumption; inequalities; etc. Whilst this has significantly changed the way we live it has also changed the way that partners are able to deliver services, alongside which the needs and demands of communities and residents has changed too. Community Safety partners have moved many of their usual services online, where possible, such as providing support to residents through webchats, phone based services, etc, but inevitably this has had an impact on the way partners would normally work, limiting face-to-face meetings, seminars, training, etc. as well as interaction with residents. In addition, agencies across the county have been working together through the Kent Resilience Forum to coordinate and deliver an enhanced range of services from setting up local community hubs to support residents needing help with shopping or access to foodbanks, to the establishment of testing and vaccination centres. Despite the anticipation of a return to some kind of normality as the infection rates fall and the vaccination programme is fully rolled out, the impacts of the pandemic will be felt for a long time to come, and over the coming months community safety partners will continue to respond to the needs of the community and adapt their services and priorities as necessary, whilst also looking to the future and planning for the easing of restrictions.

Changes to Legislation

- 3.2. Anti-Social Behaviour: The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, received royal assent on 13th March 2014. The Act introduced simpler more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour to provide better protection for victims and communities including a new Community Trigger and Community Remedy to give people a greater say in how agencies respond to complaints. Partners have been working together since the introduction of the legislation to effectively implement the changes across the county. Updated statutory guidance from the Home Office released in December 2017 has brought greater clarity around the use of the tools and powers introduced by the Act.
- 3.3. Safeguarding: Between 2014 and 2016 a number of pieces of legislation were introduced to provide authorities with additional tools, powers and statutory duties to tackle community safety and safeguarding issues. Including the Care Act 2014, Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (and subsequent amendments in 2019), Serious Crime Act 2015, Modern Slavery Act 2015 and Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. These pieces of legislation introduced a range of duties including new reporting, referral and decision-making mechanisms, staff awareness requirements and impacts on contract management to be included in the everyday work of relevant organisations. More recently statutory guidance was introduced regarding inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'.
- 3.4. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR): This came into effect on 25th May 2018 and whilst not solely related to community safety activities, it has resulted in partners reviewing and refreshing their information sharing practices, updating the Kent and Medway Information Sharing Protocol and development of Privacy Notices to cover a variety of partnership activities.
- 3.5. Domestic Abuse: On 21st January 2019 the Government published its draft Domestic Abuse Bill however due to the dissolution of Parliament in November 2019 the bill failed and has since been reintroduced as a new proposal in March 2020. The Bill is now progressing through parliament and reached the report stage in the House of Lords in March 2021. Although it is not yet law the proposed changes will impact on victims and their families and the agencies that support them by improving the response to domestic abuse. Some of the recommended changes include a statutory definition of domestic abuse; introduction of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner; a new domestic abuse protection notice and order; a new duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims and their children in safe accommodation, as well as the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Board, etc. This is an evolving piece of draft legislation but Community Safety partners welcome the potential changes that new legislation could bring.

- 3.6. Serious Violence: In 2019/20 the Home Office ran a consultation on a new legal duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence. The outcome was a decision to bring forward primary legislation to create a new duty on organisations to collaborate, where possible through existing partnership structures, to prevent and reduce serious violence. In addition, there is an intention to amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships, in recognition of the important role of CSPs. Although legislation has not yet been introduced Community Safety partners are already working together to address serious violence as appropriate and await the governments introduction of new legislation.

Partnership Changes and Challenges

- 3.6 Violence Reduction: In response to the Government's national Serious Violence Strategy, the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) introduced a Violence Reduction Challenge (VRC) in 2018, a year-long study into the challenges around reducing violence. The PCC worked with victims, residents, charities, statutory bodies and others to learn about people's experiences of violent crime, its causes and how it can be tackled as well as challenging Partner agencies to look at opportunities to address this issue. As a result of this work the PCC set up a Violence Reduction Fund in 2019/20 to tackle violence in the county and requested that the Crime Reduction Grant funding provided to Community Safety Partnerships in Kent and Medway by the PCC has a particular focus around tackling violence. Coupled with this, in 2019, the OPCC was successful in being awarded Home Office funding to set up a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in Kent to deliver a range of violence reduction projects. The VRU is a partnership between police, local councils, health service providers and other key agencies to deliver a reduction in violence in the county.
- 3.8 Transformation of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs): Following formal approval from NHS England and NHS Improvement the eight CCG's within the Kent and Medway footprint amalgamated to form a single CCG with effect from 1st April 2020, now known as the NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group. The emergent Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group remains an active member of the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP), working with partners to deliver the Kent & Medway five year strategic plan (2019/20 – 2023/24) to meet all the commitments identified within the Long Term Plan.
- 3.8 Delivery of Probation Services: Following a public consultation, 'Strengthening Probation' July to September 2018, the Ministry of Justice set out its plans to renationalise the case management of adults under probation supervision in England and Wales. Nationally, the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) contracts will expire on 25 June 2021 and with effect from 26 June 2021 the

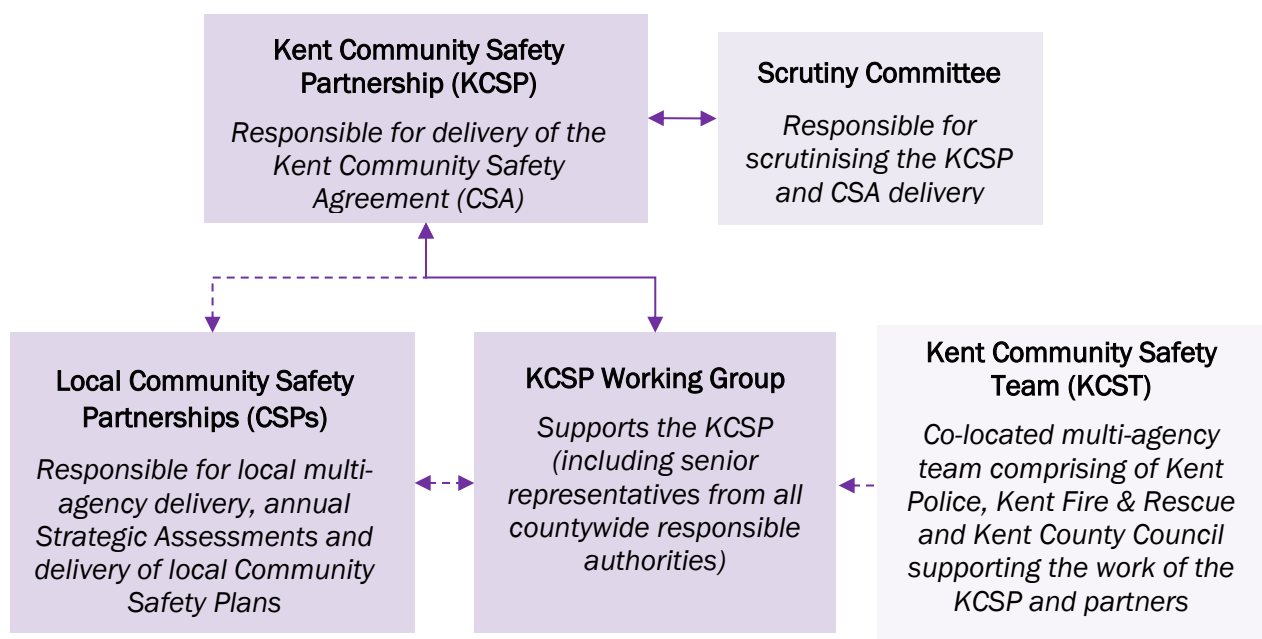
National Probation Service (NPS) will take over responsibility for all case management, community payback and accredited programmes. Rehabilitative services will be delivered by providers, commissioned through a Dynamic Framework. In Kent and Medway, Employment, Training and Education (ETE) provision will be delivered by Interventions Alliance, Seetec's justice and social care division. As the current parent company to Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS RC), Seetec, an employee owned organisation, is well placed to provide seamless transition of this service through Interventions Alliance. Additional services on the Dynamic Framework remain subject to formal announcement and on-going competition. During 2020-21 the NPS and CRC have worked closely together to manage the safe and smooth transfer of services and staff, to the National Probation Service and Dynamic Framework. In the meantime KSS CRC will continue to deliver the existing range of probation services and maintain its commitment to work with partners to reduce reoffending.

4. Governance

- 4.1. The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is responsible for the delivery of the Kent Community Safety Agreement priorities, with membership taken from senior officers across the responsible authorities (see below), local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Chairs and the County Council portfolio holder.

The Responsible Authorities are: Kent Police, District & Borough Councils, Kent County Council, NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, and Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (*until 25 June 2021*) to be replaced by the National Probation Service (*from 26 June 2021*).

- 4.2. The KCSP is supported by a Working Group consisting of senior representatives from all the countywide statutory partners. In addition, the multi-agency Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) which is formed of staff from Police, Fire & Rescue and KCC helps support the work of both county and district partners.
- 4.3. The statutory partners aim to effectively and efficiently deliver the priorities outlined in this agreement and to comply with statutory responsibilities.
- 4.4. The KCC Scrutiny Committee will also serve as the Crime and Disorder Committee as required and therefore will have a statutory responsibility to review and scrutinise delivery of the Community Safety Agreement.



5. Key Achievements

During 2020/21 the key priorities identified as those with the potential to benefit from being supported at a county level included Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse, Safeguarding Vulnerable People, Serious Violence & Organised Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Road Safety and Preventing Extremism & Hate. The priorities are addressed through a rolling partnership action plan linking into existing multi-agency partnership arrangements where possible. Progress is monitored and reported to the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) on a regular basis by the Working Group.

Some of the progress and key achievements include:

- **Resilient Communities Conference (virtual):** The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) has delivered a conference for the benefit of partners across the County for a number of years, depending on an identified need. In 2020/21, as a result of the multi-agency work undertaken by partners in responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our communities, the KCSP worked with the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) to deliver a joint conference on the topic of 'Resilient Communities'. This was the first time that the two groups have worked together to deliver a joint conference, and the first time either group has held a conference as a webinar. It was attended by over 100 people from a variety of organisations with either a resilience/emergency planning or community safety background. The feedback was very positive with 93% rating the webinar as either excellent or good.
- **Kent Community Safety Team (KCST):** As part of the KCST's role in sharing good practice and facilitating joint working, the team produces a regular newsletter on Community Safety in Kent, highlighting and promoting partnership working. During 2020/21 the KCST produced three newsletters which included input from partners across the county sharing information, examples of best practice, good news stories and events. The KCST also produced more frequent e-bulletins aimed at providing brief updates on emerging issues, such as changes to services, new documentation, data releases, media articles, funding opportunities, etc. During 2020/21 the bulletins were initially circulated on a fortnightly basis to help share information about the many partnership, government and service delivery changes resulting from COVID-19. As the first lockdown eased, the bulletins moved to a monthly update, however this remains flexible and future frequency will vary dependent on need.
- **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs):** During 2020/21 (to date) the KCSP has published three completed reviews following quality assurance from the Home Office, ensured that 38 recommendations from across six different DHRs have been implemented; this includes three reviews which have been signed off with all recommendations complete. The Partnership is committed to ensuring that the learning from these tragic cases is shared with partners to not only help in preventing

such homicides in the future, but also to help improve services for all victims of domestic abuse. The KCST would normally deliver DHR Lessons Learnt Seminars to several hundred frontline practitioners and professionals to share the learning from the reviews and inform future practices. However as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic it was not possible to deliver face-to-face seminars during 2020/21, as such the KCST developed an information pack to share the learning from reviews reaching approximately 600 colleagues across the county. With the continued restrictions impacting large-scale events other methods to share learning with partners are also being explored through the use of digital technology. The KCST continues to manage the current caseload on behalf of Community Safety Partnerships across Kent and Medway, these are at various stages of the DHR process.

- **Project Funding:** In 2020/21 the KCSP used the funding provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to fund a total of ten projects focusing on a variety of topics. These included a community café, scams social media campaign, two women's breakfast clubs, trading standards checked videos, crime prevention education, Heritage Watch signs, Country Eye refresh, translation of Hate Crime leaflet, Modern Slavery in the Supply Chain training and the conference mentioned above. Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic completion of some of the projects has been delayed, particularly those involving face-to-face interaction, but partners are working hard to ensure the currently funded projects are delivered as soon as practical. The achievements and outcomes of these projects are monitored by the KCSP Working Group and reported back to the PCC.
- **Domestic Abuse Service Information:** The KCST led on the review and refresh of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse website, working with partners to ensure the directory of services and content was up to date and provides the best experience for visitors to the site. During 2020/21 the refreshed website moved onto a new platform to make it more user friendly. The public facing element of the website went live on the 23rd November in line with the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) with development planned for the professionals section of the website. In addition to the above, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the KCST has kept the website updated with changes to services to ensure those in need have access to current and up to date information on service provision in the county.
- **Workshops / Events:** During 2020/21, in addition to events already mentioned, the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) organised and delivered a number of workshops to support partnership delivery including a Strategic Assessment Data workshop for district partners, and a Community Safety Information Sessions for staff in a number of districts on a variety of topics including the Domestic Abuse Bill, Brexit Transition, COVID enforcement, Immigration, Modern Slavery, etc.

Whilst the CSA action plan sets out how partners aim to address the overarching priorities across the county, each local CSP in Kent has their own community safety plan and associated initiatives aimed at tackling the most relevant issues for their residents.

6. County Priorities

- 6.1. To help identify the community safety priorities for Kent as well as the local district/borough partnerships a wide variety of datasets are sourced from partner agencies and analysed to ascertain the key issues. The review of data is complemented by other sources of information such as horizon scanning (including legislative changes) and partnership plans etc. which all help to identify and formulate the priorities for the forthcoming year.
- 6.2. At a local level, the eleven Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across Kent undertake an annual strategic assessment process to identify the priorities for their own district/borough community safety plans. The outcomes of these assessments for the new financial year are shown in the appendix and have been incorporated into the review of the priorities for the CSA.
- 6.3. In 2016-17 a pilot was undertaken by several of the district/borough CSPs as well as the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) to trial the use of the MoRiLE (*Management of Risk in Law Enforcement*) scoring matrix as part of the assessment process. The matrix helped partners to rank specific issues based on threat, risk and harm and to support the selection of the priorities within the local assessments and the Community Safety Agreement. In subsequent years this has been refreshed for the County CSA. Further details are in the appendix.
- 6.4. In recent years the priorities and themes within the Community Safety Agreement (CSA) have developed from more crime and disorder based priorities to incorporate a wider range of issues. These include a number of safeguarding issues and new duties such as preventing violent extremism, hate crime, gangs, organised crime groups, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, online safety, cybercrime, mental health, vulnerable people, victims etc. Many of which were incorporated into the broader themes identified in the April 2017 CSA of 'Safeguarding Vulnerable People' and 'Serious and Organised Crime'.
- 6.5. Following the review in 2018 it became evident that preventing violent extremism along with hate crime had risen up the priority listings and warranted being a priority in its own right – 'Preventing Extremism and Hate'. In the same review the profile of 'Road Safety' had dropped at a local level but remained an issue for county partners. It was therefore agreed that it remain a priority within the CSA but to note that it would be led by the multi-agency Road Casualty Reduction Partnership (RCRP) reporting back to the KCSP as necessary.
- 6.6. In the 2019 review no major changes were identified for the overarching priorities although the Violence Reduction Challenge (VRC) launched by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the impacts of Brexit were noted. It was

agreed however that these two elements could be incorporated into existing priorities such as Serious and Organised Crime, Safeguarding Vulnerable People and Preventing Extremism and Hate.

- 6.7. In the 2020 review in response to the increased focus on serious violence for both Government and local partners the priority of 'Serious and Organised Crime' was renamed 'Serious Violence and Organised Crime'. This change reflected the fact that the PCC had successfully secured funding for a Violence Reduction Unit in Kent and in anticipation of the Government's plans to introduce new duties for individual agencies and CSPs to tackle serious violence.
- 6.8. The latest review (April 2021) focused on the most significant issue to affect the country - the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the associated response to the situation (i.e. lockdowns, social distancing, etc.). The pandemic has had a significant impact on everyday life including the way in which partner agencies deliver their services, the changing needs of communities and the introduction of new measures to support and address these issues. The impact of COVID-19 has been felt across the board and has affected all of the existing priorities in one way or another, such as changes to Domestic Abuse Services or the introduction of district/borough community hubs to support vulnerable people. As such there are no proposals to amend the existing priorities at this stage, however it was agreed a new cross-cutting theme be introduced to reflect the breadth of impact.
- 6.9. The CSA also includes a number of cross-cutting themes to be addressed within each priority as appropriate. In the 2018 review, a new theme was added - 'Support Mental Health and Wellbeing', which has since been significantly and adversely impacted by the pandemic. In this latest review (April 2021), whilst a standalone priority for COVID-19 would not be appropriate, partners have agreed to add a new cross-cutting theme of '*Response and Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic*', acknowledging the current and future impacts that the pandemic has on all the priorities, services and residents in Kent.
- 6.10. The diagram over the page not only includes the priorities and cross-cutting themes for the CSA but also shows those identified in the Police and Crime Commissioner's Safer in Kent Plan 2017-21 (*updated Spring 2020*), reflecting the need to have due regard for each other's priorities.
- 6.11. Several of the identified priorities already have existing multi-agency partnership arrangements in place that are ensuring a coordinated approach across organisations at a strategic level. Including groups such as the *Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group; Domestic Homicide Review Steering Group; Road Casualty Reduction Partnership; Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership; Kent & Medway Safeguarding Adults Board; Kent & Medway Joint Exploitation Group; Prevent Duty Delivery Board; Channel Panel; Hate Crime Forum; Kent & Medway Reducing Offending Board*; etc.

6.12. These multi-agency partnerships can be further enhanced with links to the Kent CSA and where necessary suitable co-operative arrangements and joint interventions can be established to deliver shared priorities or issues.

Kent Community Safety Agreement Priorities and Cross-Cutting Themes:



Kent CSA priorities & themes (purple). Chief Constable's priorities from the Safer in Kent Plan (grey). See Appendix E for a table display of above diagram.

- ASB includes: *Neighbour Disputes, Environmental Crime, Deliberate Fires*
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People includes: *Child Sexual Exploitation, Scams, Cybercrime, Victims, Vulnerable People at Risk of Exploitation*
- Serious Violence & Organised Crime includes: *Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), Gangs, Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking, Violence Reduction*
- Preventing Extremism & Hate includes: *Preventing Violent Extremism, Counter-Terrorism, Hate Crimes, Brexit*

7. Leads

Lead officers for each of the priorities have been identified below and have the responsibility for developing, with partners, the action plans to address the countywide priorities. The leads will also act as a champion for the designated priority and provide regular progress updates for the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) and Scrutiny Committee as required.

Priority	Lead
Domestic Abuse	Chair of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group
Anti-Social Behaviour	Superintendent of Partnerships and Child Centred Policing
Substance Misuse	Consultant in Public Health, Kent County Council
Serious Violence and Organised Crime	Head of Serious Crime Command, Kent Police
Safeguarding Vulnerable People	Group Head of Public Protection, Kent County Council
Road Safety	Assistant Director for Building and Customer Safety, Kent Fire and Rescue Service;
Preventing Extremism and Hate	Prevent and Channel Strategic Manager, Kent County Council

8. Links to Plans

The priorities set out in this Community Safety Agreement link to, and assist in the achievement of a number of national and local partnership plans and strategies including:

- Vision for Kent
- Safer in Kent: The Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan
- Local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Community Safety Plans
- Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy
- Kent County Council's Five Year Plan
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service Corporate and Customer Plan
- Kent Criminal Justice Board Strategic Plan
- Kent and Medway Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending
- Medway Community Safety Plan
- Draft Vision Zero – Road Safety Strategy for Kent
- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan
- Kent Children and Young People Strategy
- Prevent Duty Delivery Board Action Plan
- Kent Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

9. Responsible Authorities

This agreement has been drawn up on behalf of the Partners of the Kent Community Safety Partnership and in association with the Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner:-

- Kent Police
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)
- Kent County Council
- Local District/Borough Authorities
- NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (*until 25 June 2021*)
to be replaced by the National Probation Service (*from 26 June 2021*)
- Local District/Borough Community Safety Partnerships

Appendix A: Strategic Assessments (2020-21)

Local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) strategic assessments:

All statutory partners including Police, Fire and Rescue, Health, Probation, County Council services, Local Authority services provided community safety information for use by the twelve Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Kent during the strategic assessment process to help determine their key priorities.

The following table shows the outcome of the local assessments with the key issues identified either as a main priority, cross-cutting theme or as part of a broader theme.

Priority	No. of CSPs Identifying these Issues
Domestic Abuse	12
ASB / Environmental	11
Safeguarding and Vulnerability (including child sexual exploitation, exploitation, vulnerable people, repeat victims)	9
Tackling Violence (including violent crime, violence reduction, youth violence, weapons)	9
Substance Misuse (including drugs & alcohol, night-time economy)	9
Serious and Organised Crime (including gangs, organised crime groups, county lines, modern slavery)	8
Mental Health	7
Strengthening Communities (cohesion, resilience, reassurance)	6
Crime (including acquisitive, property, doorstep crime & scams)	5
Reducing Offending and Reoffending	5
Extremism & Hate (including preventing violent extremism, counter-terrorism & hate crimes)	5
Young people and youth engagement	4
Road Safety	1

Other focus areas identified by districts/boroughs include: cybercrime / fraud, COVID-19 recovery, homelessness, deliberate and accidental fires, communication and information sharing, diversionary activities, financial crime, unauthorised encampments, hot spot locations, town centres, etc.

Appendix B: MoRiLE Assessment (2020-21)

In 2016-17 the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) facilitated a pilot with six district/borough community safety units in Kent to trial the use of the MoRiLE (*Management of Risk in Law Enforcement*) scoring matrix within the local strategic assessments. The aim of MoRiLE is to enable specific issues to be ranked based on threat, risk and harm and to help target resources at those which have the greatest impact on individuals and communities not just those with the greatest volume.

At that time a national pilot was also in progress, which Kent participated in, to look at whether MoRiLE which was originally developed for use by law enforcement agencies could be adapted to the needs of multi-agency community safety partnerships (CSPs). In 2016/17 many of the districts/boroughs involved in the Kent pilot incorporated the methodology and outcomes within their strategic assessments to support the identification of local priorities. It should be noted that MoRiLE is not the only element used to identify priorities the assessment also takes into consideration resident's views, partner priorities, new legislation, emerging issues etc.

An updated MoRiLE assessment matrix was developed by the national pilot in 2017 and has been used to inform the latest CSA refresh. The assessment looked at approximately 20 different elements of community safety from modern slavery to vehicle crime. The issues that caused the greatest harm and risk resulting in the highest overall score, unsurprisingly issues such as child sexual exploitation and modern slavery appear high in the rankings:

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	Mental Health
PREVENT	Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)
Modern Slavery	Cyber Crime
Domestic Abuse	Public Order
Gangs	Violent Crime
Anti-Social Behaviour	Hate Crime

Whilst the outcome from the MoRiLE assessment provides a list of priorities based on threat, risk and harm it is not used in isolation but is combined with the outcomes from the district strategic assessments, horizon scanning etc. As such the priorities identified within the CSA may not fully replicate the above listing however most if not all of the issues identified within MoRiLE do form part of the CSA priorities and cross-cutting themes.

Appendix C: Horizon Scanning (2020-21)

Using PESTELO analysis members of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) Working Group helped to identify existing and future issues that could impact on communities and may need to be considered as part of community safety plans.

Political:

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic impacting locally, nationally and internationally
- End of EU transition period on 31 December 2020 with new trade and travel rules from 1 January 2021
- County Council elections and delayed District Council and PCC elections to take place in May 2021.

Economic:

- Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the economy
- Impact of Brexit on the economy
- Funding pressure on public services as a result of the pandemic
- Financial pressures on private businesses and individuals
- Increased unemployment
- Increased need for financial and other types of support, i.e. food banks

Social / Demographic:

Safeguarding and supporting the most vulnerable members of society, including:

- domestic abuse
- preventing violent extremism
- child sexual exploitation
- human trafficking/modern slavery
- looked after children
- organised crime groups
- serious violence / street gangs
- psychoactive substances
- hate crime
- mental health (including dementia)
- social isolation / loneliness

Technological:

- Cyber-crime and cyber-enabled crime
- Online safety
- Increased demand due to COVID-19.

Environmental (and Geographical):

- New developments i.e. North Kent Development, New Dartford Crossing
- Extreme weather events, i.e. flooding
- Impact of Brexit on transport routes.

Legislation:

Recent legislation introduced a range of statutory duties and opportunities including:

- Stalking Protection Act 2019
- Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019
- EU (Withdrawal) Agreement Act 2020
- Coronavirus Act 2020
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020

Upcoming legislation includes:

- Domestic Abuse Bill
- Building Safety and Fire Safety Bills
- New legal Protect duty
- New legal duty re. serious violence

Organisational:

- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic changing the focus of organisations and impacting service delivery
- Public sector restructures
- Innovative ways of working inc. virtual
- Greater opportunities for joint working
- Support from volunteers
- Impact of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic on business continuity.

Appendix D: Police & Crime Plan (2017-2021)

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. Under this legislation, the PCC is required to produce a Police and Crime Plan that sets out the vision and priorities for policing and community safety, as well as the objectives and ambitions that the Police will be held to account on. The legislation also includes a requirement for the responsible authorities making up the CSPs to have regard to the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan as well as a mutual duty to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions.

The following is an extract from the Police and Crime Plan entitled '**Safer in Kent: The Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan 2017-2021**' (spring 2020 version). Due to the PCC elections in May 2021 a new plan for 2021/22 onwards is not yet available.

The guiding principles of the plan are:

- People suffering mental ill health need the right care from the right person
- Crime is important no matter where it takes place
- Vulnerable people must be protected from harm

The Chief Constable's priorities are to:

1. Put victims first
2. Fight crime and antisocial behaviour
3. Tackle abuse, exploitation and violence
4. Combat organised crime and gangs
5. Provide visible neighbourhood policing and effective roads policing
6. Deliver an efficient and accessible service

The Police and Crime Commissioner will:

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

The Police and Crime Plan priorities included in the diagram on p.18 of the Community Safety Agreement reflect the Chief Constable's priorities detailed above.

Appendix E: Kent CSA Priorities and Cross-Cutting Themes

As highlighted on page 18, Appendix E has been included in the document for digital accessibility purposes. The below tables show the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) priorities and cross-cutting themes as well as the Chief Constable's priorities from The Safer in Kent Plan 2017 – 2021.

Kent CSA Priorities:
Domestic Abuse
Anti-Social Behaviour
Safeguarding Vulnerable People
Serious Violence and Organised Crime
Preventing Extremism and Hate
Substance Misuse
Road Safety

Kent CSA Cross-Cutting Themes:
Early Intervention, Prevention and Education
Improve Quality of Life and Enhance Community Resilience
Support Mental Health and Wellbeing
Reduce Re-Offending and Support Victims
Response and Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

Safer in Kent Plan (2017 – 2021) – Chief Constables Priorities:
Tackle Abuse, Exploitation and Violence
Provide Visible Neighbourhood Policing and Effective Roads Policing
Put Victims First
Combat Organised Crime and Gangs
Deliver an Efficient and Accessible Service
Fight Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

In partnership with



Kent Fire & Rescue Service



Kent Police



For Further information on this Community Safety Agreement please contact the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST):



KCST Office
Maidstone Fire Station
Loose Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 9QB

Email: kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk

Tel: 03000 410234

This document is available in other formats; please contact the KCST above by email or telephone.



Introduction

The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) has agreed that the sub-group known as the KCSP Working Group will manage the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) Action Plan as well as monitoring a set of indicators chosen to represent the key priorities. The measures are not solely linked to the work detailed in the action plan and are impacted upon by a variety of factors, therefore the measures are only used to give an indication about direction of travel.

The following report includes a brief summary regarding performance, the current actions being taken to tackle the CSA priorities and a progress update on those actions. These are updated by partners and reviewed on a regular basis by the Working Group, any significant changes or areas of concern are reported to the governing group as part of the reporting cycle.

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

It should be noted that due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee was rescheduled from last year in 2020 at the request of the partnership to alleviate pressure on all partner agencies whose time and resources were focused on responding to the pandemic. As such the summary report below may include actions taken in both 2019/20 and 2020/21 to ensure the key activities that have taken place by the KCSP over the last couple of years have been included.

It should also be noted that Covid-19 may have impacted on some of the data collected by partners over the last 12 months making it more difficult to compare to previous years. For example data recorded by Kent police shows a reduction in certain offences, such as residential burglary or shoplifting, which have seen a notable decrease in the last 12 months with more people staying at home and many retail outlets being shut, resulting in less opportunities for offenders. Other types of incidents such as anti-social behaviour have seen a rise compared to previous years, and whilst the rise may not solely be due to Covid-19, a proportion of the incidents recorded are related, including incidents such as neighbour disputes, rowdy or nuisance gatherings. etc.

For information, some of the national crime statistics quoted within the report are only available up to the end of March 2020 (published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in July 2020) which were largely unaffected by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic as much of the data relates to the period before lockdown. A full set of national crime statistics are published annually by the ONS with the next release for the year-ending March 2021 due in July 2021. In-year data for some crime types has been published by the ONS and where available these have been included.

Priority: Domestic Abuse

Context

A report from the Home Office on the Economic and Social Cost of Domestic Abuse (published January 2019) estimated that the cost of Domestic Abuse in England and Wales for the year ending March 2017 was approximately £66 billion or £34,015 per person¹. The report states that “the largest element of the domestic abuse cost is the physical and emotional hardship suffered by the victims themselves (£47 billion) with the next highest cost arising from lost output, time taken off work and reduced productivity afterwards (£14 billion)”¹. In a recent Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment produced by the Kent Public Health Observatory (October 2020), based on the

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national estimates above, it has been estimated that the unadjusted economic and social costs to society of DA in Kent and Medway is around £2.6 billion per year (based on an estimated 75,000 annual incidents in Kent and Medway at a cost of £34,015 per victim), however it is considered that this is more likely to be an underestimate than an overestimate¹.

Domestic abuse is not limited to physical violence it can take many forms as detailed in the recent Domestic Abuse Act 2021 which defines Domestic Abuse as: physical or sexual abuse; violent or threatening behaviour; controlling or coercive behaviour; economic abuse; psychological, emotional or other abuse. It can include a single incident or repeated patterns of abusive behaviour. The person carrying out the behaviour and the person directly receiving the abuse must be over 16. Children are now defined as victims of abuse in their own right if they see, hear, or experience the effects of the abuse and are related to either the victim or perpetrator.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) report on Domestic Abuse in England in Wales for the year ending March 2020 (published November 2020), the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) showed that an estimated 2.3 million adults aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse in the last year (1.6 million women and 757,000 men), a slight but non-significant decrease from the previous year². Nationally the police recorded 758,941 domestic abuse-related crimes in England and Wales (*excluding Greater Manchester Police*), an increase of 9% from the previous year; this continues an ongoing trend that may reflect improved recording by the police alongside increased reporting by victims².

During the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic available data sources at the National level showed that there was a 7% increase in police recorded offences flagged as domestic abuse-related between March and June 2020, compared with the same period in the previous year; however, there has been a gradual increase in these offences over recent years, therefore it cannot be determined whether this can be directly attributed to the coronavirus pandemic². There was generally an increase in demand for domestic abuse victim support services, including a 65% increase in calls and contacts logged by the National Domestic Abuse Helpline between April and June 2020, compared with the first three months of the year². Increases in demand for domestic abuse support were particularly noticeable following the easing of lockdown measures in mid-May, such as a 12% increase in the number of domestic abuse cases handled by Victim Support in the week lockdown restrictions were eased, compared to the previous week; this reflects the difficulties victims faced in safely seeking support during the lockdown². Increases in demand for domestic abuse victim services do not necessarily indicate an increase in the number of victims, but perhaps an increase in the severity of abuse being experienced, and a lack of available coping mechanisms such as the ability to leave the home to escape the abuse, or attend counselling².

According to report presented to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner at the Performance and Delivery Board in March 2021, the number of Domestic Abuse offences recorded by Kent Police in the last four years (2017-2020) has increased by 47.3% with 12,254 more offences during the 4-year period³. The current year has seen a 9.3% increase, with 3,233 more offences³. DA offences stabilised in 2019 after increases being seen in both 2017 and 2018. The impact of changes in the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) had an effect on these increases in recorded offences, where the requirement for a behavioural crime, as well as any substantive offences to be recorded, was implemented³. The current increase can be attributed to a 12.9% increase (3,495) in Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences. Within VAP, controlling and coercive behaviour offences have equated to a 330% increase, (3,102)³. Stalking and harassment offences have increased by 10.7%, (816), with other VAP offences decreasing by 2.3% (423)³. These two key offences are considered behavioural crimes³.

Whilst increased crime data integrity may be an influencing factor in the increases in recorded domestic abuse cases, over recent years there has been increased victim propensity and

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confidence nationally to report crimes of domestic abuse as media coverage, campaigns and major inquiries have contributed to increasing awareness and reducing the stigma around the reporting of abuse. This was supported in Kent and Medway by the creation of the Domestic Abuse Services website several years ago providing residents with ready access to information about all the support services available in their area. The development of the website and the recent refresh of the site was funded by the KCSP. The refresh of the website was undertaken by the Kent Community Safety Team in partnership with members of the Domestic Abuse Tactical Group to improve the functionality and accessibility for both residents and partners.

Despite the significance of domestic abuse, service provision was historically fragmented with a lack of coordination and short-lived funding, as a result several years ago partners began developing a jointly commissioned service across Kent providing a single referral point / triage process, a comprehensive network of support and ongoing, sustainable funding. The Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) commenced in April 2017 and is commissioned to run until 31 March 2022. This contract is managed by KCC Commissioning on behalf of partner agencies including the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Kent Fire and Rescue, and district and borough councils. A formal review of the contract is being undertaken to inform a decision in extension (opportunity to extend two years plus an additional two years). Integrated commissioning has enabled a simplification in the pathways to access help and has been able to provide more assistance to those at an earlier stage, within communities. In 2019/20 the countywide referral, assessment and triage service received 24,157 domestic abuse referrals and the core community service supported 1,875 victims through refuge and outreach services with 94% of victims reported feeling safer since using the service.

An element of the contract is to raise awareness of domestic abuse and educate others. In November 2020, providers delivered the conference 'Domestic Abuse: It's Everybody's Business', which achieved 10301 total event registrations and feedback included *'Thank you for such a powerful and inspiring session. Practical and realistic. Valuable and motivating conversation'*

Since contract award, KCC and its public sector partners, have successfully bid for additional funding and the contracts with the lead providers have been varied to include the management and delivery of the following services: the Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (HIDVA) Service and the Specialist IDVA Service. The HIDVA project from April 2018 has had 620 individuals referred for support and 93.5% have engaged either directly with the HIDVA or via NHS staff (trained by the HIDVA). This project has also increased reach of 'hidden' victims of domestic abuse including male victims and those aged 65+ years.

The Covid-19 pandemic has seen referrals to community services (IDVA and Outreach) for April 2020 to January 2021 increase by 30% when compared to the same period in 2019-20. Providers have also reported an increase in case complexity and those presenting with multiple disadvantages. Measures were implemented to enable victims and their children fleeing abuse to continue to access refuge and support. Providers worked in partnership to apply for Home Office and MHCLG funding (*Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government*) to achieve better access to remote support within refuge, develop virtual delivery of the Phoenix programme, support the delivery of remote support at One Stop Shops and enable access to additional trauma counselling for victims. In addition, £290k of government funding has been awarded in 2021/22 to increase resources to manage the increased demand from Covid-19.

To support some of the highest risk domestic abuse cases, partners regularly work together via Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) to develop co-ordinated action plans to increase the safety of victims. The 13 MARACs in operation in the County continued to operate remotely throughout the pandemic. After several years of little growth in cases, in 2020 cases rose considerably with 2,749 cases heard: up from 2,481 cases in 2019. 3,475 children were identified

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as living within households where high-risk domestic abuse was taking place. Most of the growth in MARAC cases can be attributed to three MARAC areas; Medway, Sevenoaks, and Mid Kent. MARAC processes are currently being reviewed; all participants in MARAC have been surveyed on their thoughts and ideas on the process; this will feed into a lean event being held in the Summer of 2021.

In the community, partners also work together to deliver Domestic Abuse (DA) One Stop Shops (OSS) which are a multiagency endeavour to help victims of domestic abuse in the local communities across Kent. KIDAS providers have an active role in the delivery of OSS. They offer access to impartial advice, information and support from a range of agencies, under one roof, free of charge and accessible without pre-arrangement. OSS have been operating in Kent and Medway for a number of years, however the service was disrupted by the pandemic, and not fully operational from March 2020 onwards. Hence the data is comparable to previous years only until February 2020.

Between July 2019 and March 2020, 1,956 visits to One Stop Shops were recorded. Compared to an average of 8 months in 2018/19 this shows a reduction of 8%. Medway remains the busiest venue. In 2019/2020, 6% of One Stop shop visitors were male and 85.3% of visitors described their ethnicity as white. Records show that there were 2,705 children living in the households of One Stop Shop visitors. The service is well used by the local community with 94.5% of visitors living within the local authority they accessed the service in and 98.8% of clients reporting that they found their visit helpful. Covid-19 has provided an opportunity to review the OSS as a whole and develop an emergency offer throughout the pandemic. As lockdown restrictions ease, OSS are gradually being reinstated across Kent with appropriate measures in place. A multi-agency working group is being set up to explore the future model of OSS to ensure a robust, consistent, and sustainable model.

The most significant change that has taken place in recent years in relation to tackling Domestic Abuse is the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 with measures being introduced at both a national and local level. In January 2019 the Government first published its draft Domestic Abuse Bill, this has since passed both Houses of Parliament and was signed into law on 29 April 2021. The changes introduced by the new ACT will impact on victims and their families and the agencies that support them by improving the response to domestic abuse. Some of the changes introduced in the Act include a statutory definition of domestic abuse; introduction of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner; a new domestic abuse protection notice and order; a new duty on local authorities in England to provide support to survivors and their children in safe accommodation (refuge, sanctuary, safe accommodation). In line with the Act the council have established a Local Partnership Board and work is underway on a needs assessment and strategy which will inform future commissioning of services.

Domestic Abuse remains a focus area for all Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) either as a stand-alone priority or as part of a broader theme and following the annual review of the CSA in both 2020/21 and 2021/22 it also remains a priority within the county agreement.

The KCSP will continue to work with partners including the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group and its tactical subgroups to deliver the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy and support delivery of services to tackle the issues of domestic abuse. In addition, the KCSP will work with partners to support the new duties introduced by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The following actions and progress updates highlight just some of the key areas that partners are working together on to help tackle the issues of domestic abuse and to support victims.

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Notes:

- 1) Kent Public Health Observatory. Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment (published October 2020)
- 2) Office for National Statistics. Domestic Abuse in England and Wales Overview: November 2020 (recorded police data excludes Greater Manchester Police)
- 3) Safer in Kent Plan 2017-2021_End of Term Report presented to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance and Delivery Board (March 2021).

Actions	Progress
<p>Commission and support the Domestic Homicide (DHR) process on behalf of CSPs across Kent and Medway</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the last two years the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) commissioned the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) to undertake eight new DHRs. During the same period five DHRs were published with learning from a sixth being shared with partners at the request of the family. The KCST continues to manage a number of cases which are at various stages of the process. • Learning from reviews is shared with partners via briefings at CSP meetings as well as at DHR Lessons Learnt Seminars. In 2019/20 two seminars were delivered for up to 200 frontline practitioners and professionals with the third being cancelled due to Covid-19. Feedback from the seminars showed 93% of responders rated the event as either good, very good or excellent. • During 2020/21 whilst face-to-face events were not possible a learning pack was developed to replace the seminars which was distributed to over 600 recipients to coincide with the national awareness campaign '16 Days of Action Against Domestic Abuse'. • In 2019/20, the KCST developed, and continues to produce, a short summary document for each published DHR to be shared with professionals to help cascade the learning from each case. • The multi-agency DHR Steering Group meets quarterly to monitor the DHR process and oversee delivery of the action plans associated with each published review. Between April 2019 and March 2021, five DHRs have been discharged with all of their actions and recommendations fully completed.
<p>Review and refresh the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Services Website and raise awareness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kent and Medway DA Services website is maintained and managed by the KCST. Funding from the KCSP enabled the KCST to work with a web developer and colleagues from the DA Tactical Group to improve the usability and functionality of the website. • The website has been made more user friendly, and the content and service directory have been updated. Following consultation with partners and user-testing the refreshed website went live in November 2020 to coincide with the National Awareness Campaign – 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Abuse. • Work is ongoing with partners on the professionals section but this has been delayed during the Covid-19 pandemic as priority was given to keeping the service directory up to date with the latest information on service availability / accessibility. • Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2019/20 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to print 10,000 DA posters and three banners, to promote the website and encourage people to seek help. • KIDAS providers arranged a series of virtual events between 25th November to 10th December 2020 entitled 'Domestic Abuse – Its Everybody's Business;. The events were promoted via the website and the website was also promoted during the events.

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Support delivery of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Domestic Abuse Strategy was signed off in March 2020 following public and partnership consultations. • In 2019/20 a task and finish group was established to develop an action plan to support the DA strategy with input from the KCSP and other partners. The action plan is now in place and sits across the term of the strategy (2020-23). Progress against the plan is monitored by the DA Tactical Group with oversight from the Executive Group. • The KCST collates the Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop (OSS) data on behalf of partners across the county, although during the pandemic OSS support mostly moved to virtual sources of support and as such there has been a disruption to the data collection process. • During 2020/21 partners have been discussing and preparing for the new Domestic Abuse Bill including the development of a Local Partnership Board. This was recently enacted into UK law. The KCSP will continue to work with partners to support the strategy and the action plan.
Updates provided to partners about the multi-agency funded integrated domestic abuse service	Updates and briefings from the Executive Group are provided to the KCSP as required, including details about the KIDAS contract and commissioning of services, whilst regular input from the KCSP around DHRs and other partnership activities such as the DA Website and OSS data are fed into the Tactical and Executive Group.

Priority: Road Safety

Context

Road Safety is often raised by communities as a key concern, especially the perception of road danger and speeding vehicles. Whilst most local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) do not include road safety as a priority within their local plans it is not simply because it is no longer a concern but that local partnerships are limited in their ability to impact on this particular issue. However strategically at a county level it remains a priority within the CSA.

The Safer Roads for Kent Partnership brings together key partners to coordinate road safety interventions, enforcement, engineering and supporting publicity. The Partnership is governed by a Strategic Board that includes Cabinet Member and Head of Service for KCC, Director of Operations from Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) and Assistant Chief Constable.

Data from personal injury crashes is collected by Kent Police and then cleansed and analysed by Kent County Council. Following this, the data is sent to the Department for Transport for final validation before it is made public. The DfT report on road accidents and safety statistics for 2020 is not due for publication until September 2021.

During 2020, the Department for Transport estimated that road traffic decreased on Great Britain's Roads by 21.3% compared to the previous year¹ due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the various lockdowns and national / local restrictions that required people to stay at home / stay local with limited travel to and from other countries. In Kent traffic decreased by 24%. Nationally road traffic levels were 63% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019¹ during the first full month of lockdown when only essential workers were allowed to go to their place of work and travel outside the home was severely limited. Although most motor vehicle types saw a decrease in traffic levels in 2020 pedal cycle traffic increased by 45.7% compared to 2019¹.

Provisional data² for 2020 shows 2,967 total Collisions (36 Fatal, 639 Serious and 2,292 Slight)

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resulting in 3,931 Casualties (39 Fatal, 705 Serious and 3,187 Slight) on Kent and Highways England Roads (excluding Medway). Compared to 2019 data there was an overall reduction in collisions across all severities of 659 and reduction in casualties by 1,024, there was an increase in fatal casualties of 2 and a drop in Killed and Serious Injury (KSI) casualties of 19. This shows an approximate 21% drop in total casualties in 2020, but only a 2.5% drop in KSI casualties.

Traffic volumes in Kent fell by an estimated 24% last year, from 7507 to 5710 million miles. Kent had an approximate 21% drop in casualties (slight, serious, fatal) in 2020, which strongly correlates to the 24% drop in traffic volumes. The Killed or Serious Injury (KSI) data also shows a very close correlation between injury numbers and traffic volumes on a month by month basis. However, over the year KSI only dropped 2.5% and between June to November KSI were at a higher level in 2020 than the average trend. The lack of a decline in KSI can be explained, at least partially, by the increase in 'speed as a factor'.

Nationally the trend in the number of fatalities has been broadly flat since 2010. Previously, and particularly between 2006 and 2010, the general trend was for fatalities to fall. Since that point, most of the year on year changes are either explained by one-off causes (for instance, the snow in 2010) or natural variation. The evidence points towards Britain being in a period when the fatality numbers are broadly stable³.

In January 2021 KCC Highways launched a public consultation on its draft five year Road Safety Strategy for Kent and their 30 year vision⁴. The ambitious 'Vision Zero' aims for zero, or as close as possible, fatalities on Kent's roads each year by 2050. Through partnership working, an evidence-led approach and by combining engineering, education and enforcement, the aim is to make Kent roads, streets, towns, and villages feel and be safer for all. The strategy aims to embed the Safe Systems Approach and engage with partners, stakeholders and Kent's public and promote Vision Zero objectives. All road users will be encouraged to maintain and improve their road safety behaviours, skills, attitudes, and knowledge with the aim being to reduce driver behaviours that put themselves and others at risk such as distraction, impairment, and inappropriate speed. Innovative technologies will be incorporated into the transport network and roads and streets will be designed to be forgiving in the event of mistakes being made. The consultation closed on 15th March 2021. Following the consultation the responses will be analysed and compiled into a consultation report, which will help produce the final version of the strategy. The final strategy will be presented to KCC's Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 29 June 2021 for approval.

The KCSP will continue to work with partners over the coming months to support the road safety agenda including raising awareness with partners around the new strategy.

The following actions and progress updates highlight just some of the key areas that partners have already worked on together on to help address road safety.

Notes:

- 1) Department for Transport - Road Traffic Estimates: Great Britain 2020 (published 28 April 2021)
- 2) Actual numbers cannot be confirmed until DfT formally close out the National Collision and Casualty data and publish accordingly which should be later in the year.
- 3) Department for Transport – Reported road casualties in Great Britain: 2019 Annual Report (published 30 September 2020)
- 4) Vision Zero The Road Safety Strategy for Kent (draft consultation) (published 26th January 2021)

Since the roll out of CRASH (Collision Recording and Sharing) a number of Highway Authorities using the system (including Kent County Council) have seen an uplift in the number of serious casualties being reported. The Department for Transport (DfT) has advised that part of the increase is likely to be related to the CRASH system where previous categorisation of some slight injuries may now mean they are recorded as serious injuries.

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Actions	Progress
Support delivery of the Safer Roads for Kent Partnership Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2019/20 following the release of the Annual Road Safety Statement, a data working group was established to ensure that any work undertaken by the partnership is intelligence lead. The data group is key to the working of the 2 priority working groups (older road users and young drivers). • The working groups continue to look into the delivery of educational programmes, engagement events and campaigns, whilst the data working group provides clear priorities based on KSI data and trends. • Regular meetings take place with the KCST and KCSP to establish opportunities to work collaboratively and share information on school work and campaigns for road safety. • The above work is ongoing. In 2020/21, district / borough Community Safety Units were contacted to gain a better understanding of the local road safety issues in their areas and find out what engagement and enforcement is needed and/or taking place.
Raise awareness of road safety campaigns across partnerships to facilitate joint working.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually a delivery plan is created based on the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) calendar. Members of the Safer Roads for Kent Partnership work together to facilitate communications with the plan highlighting joint working events and campaigns to ensure consistency within the partnership. • The KCC led campaign 'Speak Out' was supported by the Partnership, jointly delivered by individual partners from Sept. 2020 – Feb. 2021. The campaign targeted at 17-24 year olds within Kent & Medway, empowers passengers to 'speak out' if they feel unsafe in a car and provides a range of coping strategies. Some elements of the campaign were postponed, due to Covid-19 restrictions. • The Partnership is currently looking at the fatal 4 activity in line with the NPCC calendar for June, July, and August. It is likely a social media calendar will be produced which can be shared across all partners.
Reduce young driver / passenger casualties through education and changing behaviours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Licence to Kill (L2K) road safety programme which had been delivered to young people across Kent & Medway over 10 years was reviewed in 2017/18 to bring it more in line with current behaviour change theories. The review was undertaken by a behaviour change expert and key partners to refresh the programme with the aim to ensure that it provided the best educational value and supported behaviour change for students. • In 2018/19 a pilot was undertaken of a potential replacement programme called 'No Turning Back' with a second pilot taking place in 2019/20. The evaluation following the second pilot of NTB did not show a significant change in behaviour following the intervention. Following discussions nationally about young driver interventions a national research study has been commissioned. • Over the last two years, the Safer Roads Partnership has actively been involved in supporting a national research study in understanding how best to deliver interventions that contribute towards safer driving amongst younger drivers. The Pre-driver theatre and workshop research (PdTWER) project will be piloted in two schools within Medway in June 2021 and September 2021. The research study has support from Department for Transport, The Road Safety Trust, NFCC and many other road safety partnerships and agencies. • Joint delivering of 'Speak Out' (as mentioned above). Partners are

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	<p>currently discussing delivering 'Speak Out' again in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• KCC have developed a new virtual young driver course, which is being heavily promoted by partners, with scope to roll this out across Medway in late 2021.• Ongoing discussions are taking place within the partnership about best practice and sharing resources to ensure consistency across the county.
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Priority: Anti-Social Behaviour.

Context

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) continues to be identified as a priority for many of the local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) either as a stand-alone priority or as part of a broader theme and following the annual reviews of the CSA for 2019/20 and 2020/21 it remained a priority within the county agreement.

Around 1.3 million incidents of ASB were recorded by the police in England and Wales¹ (including the British Transport Police) in the year ending March 2020, a decrease of approximately 5% from the previous year¹, more current data for the year ending March 2021 will not be available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) until July 2021. ASB incidents may still be offences in law, such as littering or dog fouling, but are not of a level of severity that would result in the recording of a notifiable offence and therefore are not included in the main police recorded crime series¹.

According to the report presented to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner at the Performance and Delivery Board in March 2021, over the last four years ASB has increased by 28.6% in Kent and Medway². Although reductions were seen in 2017 and 2018 (Jan-Dec), during 2020 there has been a 50% increase in ASB from 34,452 recorded incidents in 2019 to 51,652 in 2020 (Jan-Dec)². Since March 2020, incidents have averaged 4,853 per month, with the highest volume recorded in May 2020 (7,161), prior to this, incidents averaged 2,900 per month. A third of all ASB incidents in 2020 have been Covid-19 related².

There are three key ASB types that have accounted for the majority of ASB incidents in 2020²:

- Rowdy or nuisance gatherings in public/impeding public access – 19,946 incidents were recorded an 83.6% increase (9,081) on the same period in 2019. Volumes peaked in the first lockdown with April and May recording over 3,000 each per month; the highest volumes in over 8 years. Those associated with Covid-19 account for 44% of incidents².
- Neighbour disputes/nuisance, including noise – 11,052 incidents were recorded, almost double compared to the same period in 2019 (5,710 incidents). Volumes peaked at 1,699 incidents in May 2020. Those associated with Covid-19 account for a third of incidents².
- Noisy party/organised event/rave – 676 incidents recorded; this is the highest volume in over 4 years. Reported incidents peaked at 103 in May 2020; the highest volume in 5 years. Those associated with Covid-19 account for 51% of incidents².

In December 2017 the Government released updated statutory guidance in relation to the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 providing greater clarity for agencies around the use of the powers. District / borough partners are jointly reviewing the guidance provided to residents around the Community Trigger and the Kent Community Safety Team are looking to develop an ASB training programme for 2021/22 to support partners across the county.

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In previous years the KCSP has supported delivery of ASB activities through the development of the ASB case management system known as Themis; facilitating workshops/discussions to implement new ASB legislation introduced in the Crime and Policing Act 2014; provision of guidance and training to embed the use of the tools and powers; and sharing of good practice. Whilst ASB continues to be identified as an issue across the county and therefore remains a priority within the Kent Community Safety Agreement, all of the operational activity is undertaken at a district / borough level by community safety partners. Although strategically the opportunities for county partners to significantly contribute to this priority are limited, the KCSP remains committed to support local partners where possible and contributes significantly through the resources it contributes at a local level.

The following actions and progress updates highlight just some of the key areas that partners are working together on to help tackle the issues of ASB.

Notes:

1) Office for National Statistics. *Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2020 (published July 2020) (excluding Greater Manchester Police)*

2) *Safer in Kent Plan 2017-2021_End of Term Report presented to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance and Delivery Board (March 2021).*

Actions	Progress
<p>Sharing of best practice, with partners across Kent and Medway</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing effective practice on ASB tools and powers continues in a variety of ways, through Boards, newsletters, meetings etc. • The Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) produced community safety newsletters during 2019/20 and 2020/21 sharing effective practice, good news stories, promoting events/campaigns etc. In addition, following a partnership survey in 2019 regular e-bulletins are now produced to provide more up to date information for partners on emerging community safety issues and current activities. • The e-bulletins began just before the first lockdown in March 2020 and were initially shared on a fortnightly basis due to the fast paced nature and changing information coming from government and partners as agencies responded to the pandemic. These have since moved to monthly bulletins but frequency can be adjusted as required. • The KCST also runs half-day briefing sessions on a variety of topics to keep partners updated on emerging issues, new legislation, strategies, training, projects, or to provide refresher information on existing areas of work. During the pandemic, virtual webinars replaced face-to-face events. Two online events have been delivered in recent months (Dec '20 and Apr '21) covering a range of topics such as the DA Bill, EU transition, Covid-19 enforcement, Immigration and Modern Slavery, Dog thefts, DA and Suicide, Stalking, Counter-Terrorism, etc. The webinars have been well received with 100% of responders rating the December event as very good or excellent.

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<p>Work with partners to identify potential training needs and opportunities in relation to ASB tools & powers including delivering OSARA training to partners to assist them in fighting crime, ASB & reducing reoffending</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019/20 as part of continued professional development (CPD) Kent Police trained over 500 Police and partners to utilise a problem-solving approach to managing ASB known as OSARA delivered by a training provider. OSARA has primarily been used to tackle ASB issues however the principles can be adapted for use to address a variety of community safety related issues. • In 2019/20 funding was agreed by the KCSP using the Crime Reduction Grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to deliver an OSARA (problem solving) train the trainer course with the aim to develop a number of staff in-house who could cascade the training. • The OSARA training was initially scheduled for the end of 2019/20 but was delayed due to Covid-19. It was eventually delivered in April '21. The course provided partners from a range of agencies with the knowledge and understanding of the principles of OSARA and the skills to cascade the training to others. Three members of the KCST have been trained and can provide onward training to others. Monitoring and evaluation of the course outcomes will take place during 2021/22. • A training programme is being developed by the KCST for 2021/22 which will focus on class-room based training / webinars to help upskill partners in the use of Community Protection Notices and Civil Injunctions, however this is subject to securing funding from the Crime Reduction Grant provided by the PCC.
<p>Support development of a shared platform for problem solving using Athena which will lead to an improved system to replace Themis.</p>	<p>Athena PPSS (police problem solving solution) will be going live for all Forces this year and Kent Police will look at a phased implementation as to how to use this for business requirements/ different portfolios. Athena PPSS was delayed due to EU Exit and other technical issues. The launch date for the trial is 1st March. Training and administration is currently being put in place for the Dartford CSU and North Kent Gangs and County Lines team. Following the trial and evaluation a further roll out plan will be put in place for the rest of the Force and exploration of accessibility for partners.</p>
<p>Regular multi-agency operations to address night time economy (NTE) anti-social behaviour and support licensing objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the KCST, Kent Police have been coordinating regular partnership activity with district partners to deploy staff in support of local NTE issues. These multi-agency operations have been delivered regularly throughout 2018/19 and most of 2019/20 but due to Covid-19 the last two operations in 2019/20 were cancelled. Whilst the focus of the operations is on NTE anti-social behavior and violence, they also seek to highlight and identify vulnerability in terms of Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). • Although the 2020/21 multi-agency NTE Op Localities were unable to be delivered, many other joint Covid-19 partnership operations have been conducted with partners in and around both NTE and day-time businesses. This will continue as lockdown is eased, with Op Localities expected to recommence in June 2021.

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<p>Support Heritage Watch members in Kent to reduce ASB and crime</p>	<p>Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2020/21 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to support the printing of Heritage Watch signs for members to demonstrate that sites are working together to reduce and prevent heritage crime and ASB. A total of 25 Heritage Watch signs have been purchased for distribution to Heritage sites in the Kent. Several have been delivered to sites by Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) via the Kent Police volunteer coordinator, but distribution has been delayed due to the pandemic and Covid-19 restrictions.</p>
<p>Support improved functionality of the Country Eye App</p>	<p>Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2020/21 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to upgrade and improve the functionality of the Country Eye App (match funded with other organisations). The aim of the upgrade was to improve recording and sharing information on crime etc. in rural Kent. Working with a developer the app has been improved and the number of users has increased from below 5,000 in early 2020 to over 6,000 today with 2,500 reports being issued to agencies to date.</p>

Priority: Substance Misuse

Context

Recent data published by Public Health England (PHE) has shown that during the Covid-19 pandemic alcohol consumption has risen significantly for those people already drinking at high-risk levels. In the last two years alcohol related deaths have risen by 20% nationally and drug-related deaths continue to rise. Services for drug and alcohol dependent people continued to operate throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and are reporting increased demand and increased complexity. Recent research from the University of Kent has shown that services for high-risk dependent drinkers continue to be hard to access due to the lack of join up between Public Health commissioned services and NHS commissioned services and Kent's new approach and strategy (post Covid-19) will address these issues. During the pandemic (2020) Kent Public Health conducted a CLear assessment (peer review) and found good links between community safety and crime partners and advised a few areas where partnerships could be improved.

According to guidance from Public Health England (published in 2018), estimates show that the social and economic costs to the UK of alcohol related harm amount to £21.5 billion pounds a year, while harm from illicit drug use costs £10.7 billion pounds a year¹. These include costs associated with deaths, the NHS, crime, and in the case of alcohol, lost productivity¹.

A report to the Health & Wellbeing Committee in March 2019, showed there were around 130,000 severely dependent drinkers in Kent and an additional 23,000 in Medway². It was estimated that a quarter of people drink at levels above those recommended and 70,000 adults in Kent were drinking at higher risk levels (double the recommended safe levels or above)². In 2017/18 the Kent rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions (not including Medway) was 1,226 per 100,000 for women and 2,540 per 100,000 for men². Although prevalence of high-risk drinking is consistent across Kent and Medway, the harms are generally more marked in disadvantaged communities. An estimated 11% of the Kent and Medway population had mild dependency to alcohol, this group of people will find it hard to cut down consumption without help and support². It is not only the person who consumes the alcohol that is impacted by alcohol related harm, approximately 23% of the individuals entering treatment for alcohol misuse lived with Children². In 2017/18 there were over 5,000 hospital admissions (Sept '17-Aug '18) as a result of mental and behavioral disorders due to psychoactive substance use* *[relates to drug use in general]*. Post Covid-

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19 we have seen increases in alcohol consumption, barriers to care and treatment for the most vulnerable (e.g. rough sleepers) and increased drug deaths.

People with mental health issues, who are not accessing care, are known to self-medicate with alcohol². Co-occurring conditions (Dual Diagnosis) refers to the co-existence of mental health and substance misuse problems. Problematic substance use is one of the most common co-morbid conditions among people with a major mental illness, with prevalence of mental health of around 75% in users of drug services and 85% among users of alcohol services². In Kent the Treatment Substance Misuse Suicidality Audit in 2018 found that 15 to 25% of clients had suicide intent and 41% reported a mental health diagnosis².

In 2019/20 (Sept '19 to Aug '20) there were 5,985 admissions of Kent residents to hospital with mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use [*relates to drug use in general*], an increase of 6.3% on the previous year. In the same year (Sept '19 to Aug '20) there were 985 admissions of Kent residents to hospital where there was evidence of alcohol (by blood alcohol level, level of intoxication, or toxic effects of alcohol), which was a 10% increase on the previous year. In addition, there were 404 alcohol specific deaths in 2017-19 in Kent with 17,357 being recorded in England during the same period.

In 2017/18 (between October 2017 and September 2018) there were over 4,900 individuals accessing structured treatment with 31% receiving treatment for alcohol misuse, 43% for opiate misuse and the remainder receiving treatment for other drugs or a mixture of substances. National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) data showed that both Kent and Medway treatment services achieve good completion of treatment rates and 37.5% of clients become abstinent in post treatment, which is above the expected range for both services². During the same periods in 2018/19 and 2019/20 (Oct-Sept) there were over 5,400 and 5,100 individuals respectively accessing structured treatment with a similar percentage breakdown for those receiving treatment for alcohol misuse (33% and 32%) and opiate misuse (40% and 41%).

There are a number of challenges in tackling these problems. The substance misuse landscape has changed over the last 10 years and this means that the strategies and response to tackling substance misuse needs to adapt. Some of these issues identified in recent years are: the introduction of Novel Psycho-Active Substances, new "edibles", the increased misuse of synthetic and prescribed drugs, the increased use of the dark web for supply, the increased vulnerability and age of existing injecting drug users and dependent alcoholics, the fragmented nature of the funding streams set to commission services and the challenges of homelessness, mental illness, cheaper and more available forms of alcohol, and Covid-19.

In 2017 a combined Drug and Alcohol strategy for Kent was agreed after consultation and an action plan developed for all partners to contribute to the strategy's aims. This is now being refreshed in light of Covid-19 and the recent peer review (CLearR), and has been shared with the Kent Substance Misuse Alliance.

Substance Misuse continues to be identified as a priority for many of the local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) either as a stand-alone priority or as part of a broader theme and following the annual reviews of the CSA for 2019/20 and 2020/21 it remained a priority within the county agreement.

The following actions and progress updates highlight just some of the key areas that partners are working together on to help tackle the issues of substance misuse. The illegal nature of many drugs and the widespread use of alcohol means actions to tackle misuse must be both practical, cost effective and related to the substance in question.

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Notes:	
<p>1) <i>Public Health Guidance: Alcohol and drug prevention, treatment and recovery: why invest? (published February 2018)</i></p> <p>2) <i>Report to the Kent and Medway Joint Health and Wellbeing Board (19th March 2019) – Reducing Alcohol Consumption Deep Dive.</i></p>	
Actions	Progress
Engagement with local community safety partnerships to support the Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019/20 KCC Public Health established the multi-agency Kent Substance Misuse Alliance. In the same year they began engaging partners in the CLeaR Alcohol assessment tool to understand the visions and priorities for the County In 2020/21 a brief summary report of the Alcohol CLeaR assessment was provided by Public Health England to Kent PH which has since been shared with partners who participated in the Alcohol CLeaR peer-review assessment. Following on from the assessment a draft new Kent Drug & Alcohol Strategy, partly based on the Alcohol CLeaR report is being developed and will be presented to the Kent Substance Misuse Alliance. This will be followed by consultation with partners on the new strategy and the 12 new priority areas, as well as development of action plans.
Highlight issues and share effective practice with partners in relation to licensed drinking establishments through the Kent & Medway Strategic Licensing Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kent & Medway Strategic Licensing Steering Group, chaired by Kent Police staff from the KCST, works with district partners to discuss issues, share actions, and highlight learning from across the county. Effective practice is also shared through the vulnerability awareness training that has been delivered and available to all districts. The training is aimed at night time economy (NTE) workers including Security Industry Authority (SIA) staff, premises holders etc. with the support of all local authorities. The Steering Group members have worked well together throughout the lockdowns responding to changing legislation, central government advice on being flexible to support business, and cooperation in addressing flagrant breaches, all of which have been shared across the partners and fed back into the Covid cell structures. The group continues to identify problem areas within the NTE and work collectively to establish effective practice and target them. This work will continue in the months and years ahead. This will be fed back to substance misuse services via the Substance Misuse Alliance.
Provide frontline staff with the understanding and tools to support those in need; and increase awareness of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019/20 Public Health put on a ‘Making Kent & Medway ACE Aware’ conference in September 2019 with over 100 people in attendance. <i>*(ACEs are Adverse Childhood Experiences)</i>. This work has continued through the ‘SPACE Matters’ Network developed for practitioners to enable trauma informed care. In addition, the Commissioning Team began working with treatment providers and domestic abuse providers to work more effectively with Integrated Children Services (ICS) to enable the staff to have difficult conversations with families about their substance misuse. In 2020/21 a post for the ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) programme has been recruited to take the project forward.
Assess the impact of alcohol as a factor on domestic abuse in Kent to inform future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kent Public Health Observatory worked with partners across Kent to produce the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment which was published in October 2020. The report looked at a wide variety of factors including alcohol and substance misuse which could be

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plans and activities.	associated with DA. The report has been published and is available for use by both partners and the public.
Increase awareness with partners of the commissioned treatment services and how to access them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019/20 the 'Know Your Score' (KYS) campaign continued to be active on KCC website, an online IBA resource (Identification and Brief Advice) which includes stories of recovery. There is ongoing organic promotion of KYS through KCC social media channels with additional paid-for promotion during Alcohol Awareness Week (11th November) and planned for Dry January via Kent Online, Heart FM, Facebook promotions, etc. In light of Covid-19 the media campaign will continue. • Providers are seeing increased numbers of clients coming into treatment and they are having capacity issues. Commissioners are working this through with the providers to see where additional capacity can be made to see the numbers in treatment.
Support the delivery of the Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP) in Kent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP) are local voluntary schemes that aim to change attitudes to drinking by informing, and advising young people on sensible drinking, supporting retailers to prevent sales of alcohol to underage drinkers, promoting responsible socialising and empowering local communities to tackle alcohol-related issues. There are currently 9 CAPs in Kent, supported by a coordinator from Trading Standards and a range of partners. • In 2019/20 Kent Police worked with Kent CAPs to develop new areas and maintain the existing CAPs. • In 2020/21 Covid-19 has impacted this work. During lockdown virtual visits to premises have been undertaken covering normal ranges of activity and advising on requirements with face masks when they became compulsory. Now lockdown has eased, a gradual return to work will take place to similar pre-Covid level as partners become available to engage again. Going forwards when partners are ready, new areas can be considered.

Priority: Serious Violence and Organised Crime

Context

The Government published the refreshed 'Serious and Organised Crime Strategy' in November 2018 with four overarching aims to: disrupt criminal networks, build resilience (*in vulnerable people, communities, businesses, systems*), stop the problem at source and establish a single, whole system approach. In 2018 the Government also published a Serious Violence Strategy focusing on specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing. The strategy noted the important links to the Government's work on serious and organised crime, as well as acknowledging that tackling serious violence is not a law enforcement issue alone and requires a multiple strand approach involving a range of partners across different sectors.

In March 2019 the Home Secretary announced £100 million Serious Violence Fund, with around a third of the funding (£35million) being invested in Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) in 18 police force areas across the Country. Kent received £1.16million in 2019/20 to tackle serious violence including establishing a VRU. The VRU is a multi-agency approach bringing together police, health, local authorities, etc. In 2019 a VRU was created in Kent and began building on the partnership working undertaken in response to the Kent PCC's earlier Violence Reduction Challenge. The initial funding from the Government in 2019/20 has since been renewed.

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In addition to the above, in July 2019 the Government announced that it would bring forward legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty on public bodies to ensure relevant services work together to share data and knowledge and allow them to target their interventions to prevent serious violence altogether. The Government also announced that it would amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships by making sure they have a strategy in place to tackle violent crime.

As a result of changes in legislation and various government strategies, the scope of community safety has expanded in recent years beyond the traditional remit of 'crime and ASB' to incorporate issues such as human trafficking, modern slavery, gangs, organised crime groups (OCGs) etc. In response to these changes many local CSPs added Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) either as a stand-alone priority or included elements within their plans. In the latest reviews (2019/20 and 2020/21) SOC continues to be a priority within the CSA, however in 2019/20, in response to the PCC's violence reduction challenge, proposed new Government legislation and the introduction of a VRU in Kent this was expanded to include Serious Violence as an emerging issue - changing the priority to 'Serious Violence and Organised Crime'.

In 2020 the National Crime Agency (NCA) published a National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime (SOC), which stated that SOC continues to have more impact on UK citizens than any other national security threat¹. The latest estimate available of the social and economic cost of SOC to the UK was approximately £37 billion (from a research report published in Feb '19). However, it was assessed to be a significant underestimate of the true cost, as the calculation used a baseline of 2015/16 and does not include threats such as money laundering, fraud against the individual, or bribery and corruption¹. It was estimated that there are more than 350,000 individuals in the UK involved in SOC with 4,772 known organised crime groups (OCGs) operating in the UK, of which 37% are involved in drugs activity¹. While the true scale of modern slavery in the UK is unknown, potential victims identified through the National Referral Mechanism increased by 45% between January and September 2019, to 7,273, compared to the same period in 2018, with the increase likely to be driven by heightened awareness of modern slavery among law enforcement, other first responders and the public¹. In addition there were over 3,000 unique deal line numbers reported by police forces to the National County Lines Coordination Centre in 2019, of which 800–1,100 were estimated to be active during a given month¹. One million computer misuse offences were reportedly experienced by households in England and Wales in the year ending September 2019¹ and an estimated 3.8 million fraud incidents occurred in the year ending September 2019, an increase of 9% on the previous year¹.

According to the report presented to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner at the Performance and Delivery Board in March 2021, in the past four years, OCGs have been relentlessly targeted by local policing teams and the Serious Crime Directorate (SCD)². OCGs have been identified operating within modern slavery, human trafficking, and child exploitation, including sexual exploitation². Following the introduction of an operation which took a multi-agency approach, local Serious Organised Crime Partnership Boards mobilise partners across the 4 pillars of Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Pursue elements to protect communities². Pursue continues to be the main disruption option as this is a national trend, but over 60 disruptions have taken place led by partner agencies against organised crime².

During the 2020 calendar year (Jan-Dec) the ONS report on Crime in England and Wales, showed that police figures recorded a slight rise of 2% in Violence Against the Person offences (VAP) whilst robbery offences fell 25% and sexual offences decreased by 7%³. In addition, recorded offences involving knives or sharp instruments went down by 9% to 46,015 in England and Wales during 2020³. In 2018/19, nationally there were 5,069 hospital admissions for assault with sharp objects, which was a 1.6% increase on the previous year⁴.

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In the report presented to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner at the Performance and Delivery Board in March 2021, over the last four years 2017-2020 (Jan-Dec) Violent crime has experienced an increase of 21.7%, with 14,939 more offences². Violent Crime includes a broad range of offences, across a spectrum of non-injury reports to the most serious violence, including homicide². The current year (2020) has seen a 1.7% decrease, from 85,187 violent crimes in 2019 to 83,766 crimes in 2020, with 1,421 less victims². The decreases can be mainly attributed to reductions in Robbery and Sexual Offences². Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences experienced an increase of 24.8%, with 15,192 more offences over the 4-year period². The current year percentage change has remained static, with 151 less victims². Approximately 40% of VAP is Domestic Abuse related with increases in DA reflective in overall VAP numbers². Of note there has been an increase in the volume of assault on emergency workers in 2020; a crime type that is also defined within VAP². Between March and December 2020, 1,315 offences were recorded, an increase of 42.8% (+394) on the same period in 2019².

Given Kent's position being the gateway to Europe and bordering London, County Lines and Gangs remain within the Kent Police Force's Control Strategy². Through ongoing analysis of County Lines, there are currently 59 county lines which is a reduction from 82, with the majority (85%) coming from London². County Lines and Gangs often look to exploit the most vulnerable in our communities, in response Kent Police created a dedicated County Lines and Gangs Team in April 2020². Information and intelligence is shared with relevant partners through the County Lines Protect, Prepare and Prevent Board including Community Safety Units and the VRU².

Many local CSPs now have well established multi-agency groups to address OCG and gang activity within their local areas by using a range of partnership powers resulting in a number of successes which are shared to promote good practice. The work of local partners will be further supported by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) which has two Directors from Kent County Council and Kent Police, and staff seconded from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, Kent Police, Medway Council and Kent County Council. The multi-agency nature of the staffing is an illustration of the level of partner commitment to the VRU and supports the work across agencies, districts, and communities in the County.

Since the inclusion of SOC as a priority for CSPs much of the focus has been around raising awareness of the issues and upskilling staff to be able to identify signs and to understand how to report concerns. Over the last few years the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) delivered a number of briefing sessions to community safety partners on subjects such as Modern Slavery and OCGs as well as funding training. However recently there has been an increased focus on serious violence and the VRU have been working with the KCSP and district/borough CSPs to share information and intelligence as well as working jointly on identified projects.

As mentioned above in 2019 the Government announced that it would bring forward legislation introducing a new serious violence duty, this is now progressing through the House of Commons as part of the 'Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act Bill'. To support organisations and authorities exercising functions in relation to the Serious Violence Duty the Secretary of State issued Draft Statutory Guidance on 13 May 2021. Therefore as part of the CSA action plan for 2021/22 the KCSP will work with the VRU and other partnerships and agencies to prepare for the introduction of the new legislation.

Details of some of the previous activities from 2019/20 and 2020/21 are included in the table below.

Notes:

- 1) National Crime Agency (NCA) National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2020
- 2) Safer in Kent Plan 2017-2021_End of Term Report presented to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance and Delivery Board (March 2021).

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2) Office for National Statistics. *Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2020 (published Feb 2021) (excluding Greater Manchester Police)*
 4) NHS Digital. *Hospital admissions for assault by sharp object from 2012 (published 18 June 2020)*

Actions	Progress
<p>Support delivery of the newly formed Joint Exploitation Group by sharing information and raising awareness with partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019/20 the newly formed Kent & Medway Joint Exploitation Group met for the first time. The group includes areas of work such as gangs, modern slavery, Prevent, sexual exploitation, UASC leaving care, etc. and reports into all three Safeguarding Boards/Partnerships in Kent and Medway. In 2020/21 the JEG continued to meet virtually with input from a wide range of partners and multi-agency groups. A report is provided to JEG for their quarterly meetings by the KCSP as part of a reciprocal arrangement to facilitate information sharing. Whilst an update from the JEG is presented at each KCSP meeting highlighting opportunities for joint-working and/or emerging risks.
<p>Publicity material will be produced to support the education phase of the knife crime enforcement project with retailers regarding underage sales of knives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019/20 Challenge 25 test purchasing audit operations were carried out in North Kent, Thanet and Swale Districts, along with several ad-hoc visits to premises across the County where specific intelligence was received. Premises that failed Challenge 25 test purchases of knives were offered advice and guidance. This was followed with a formal operation using an under-18 test purchaser with the potential that failure could lead to formal legal action. Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2019/20 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to design and print posters and stickers covering the principles that form part of a good trader practice - no ID no sale, and assess, challenge, check. The posters and stickers have been produced, however, due to the Covid-19, engagement with retailers and test purchases have been placed on hold.
<p>Work in partnership to promote and support multi-agency operations to tackle SOC issues</p>	<p>In 2019/20 Op Sceptre, the National knife crime operation continued to be carried out in nominated districts. These events were run in partnership with trading standards, CSP's, KFRS, health, and other key partners. During 2020/21 due to Covid-19 Op Sceptre activities have been limited but regular campaigns have been run on knife crime in collaboration with Fearless, and knife sweeps have taken place in areas of concern using knife wands and knife arches funded by the VRU.</p>
<p>Work with partners to establish links with the Strategic SOC Board and to facilitate raising awareness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District SOC panels continue monthly with good partnership representation, and joint initiatives / operations taking place on a regular basis. County Prevent/Protect/Prepare leads are delivering inputs to SOC boards and the Community Safety Unit Inspectors meetings, to improve understanding of the 4 'P' opportunities across Kent Police.
<p>Work with the VRU to raise awareness, share information, work jointly on relevant projects, and implement actions as appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The multi-agency Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) regularly meets with district / borough Community Safety Managers (CSMs) at their quarterly meeting and are attending CSPs on request. The VRU produce monthly and quarterly analysis of serious violence. The work identifies individuals, groups and places of concern and uses a harm matrix to identify where risk of harm is highest. The data is used to inform local CSP activity. Discussions are taking place between the KCST, the VRU and other community safety partners about a potential joint project to develop a new analytical platform in 2021/22.

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<p>Deliver Modern Slavery Train the Trainer to partners across Kent</p>	<p>Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2019/20 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to deliver a Modern Slavery Train the Trainer course. Due to Covid-19 face-to-face delivery was cancelled and the one-day classroom training event was rescheduled to September 2020 and delivered in 2 half-day virtual training sessions. A total of 21 people from a variety of agencies attended including the KCST, Local Authorities, Probation, Kent Police, KFRS, etc. A list of trained individuals is held by the KCST and those who have received training will be able to cascade it to others.</p>
<p>Provide training for partners to understand Modern Slavery in the Supply Chain.</p>	<p>Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2020/21 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to deliver Modern Slavery in the Supply Chain Training for partners across Kent aimed at those people working in procurement and commissioning. The training was originally due to be delivered face-to-face but moved to a 2-day online training course due to Covid-19. The training was delivered in March 2021.</p>

Priority: Safeguarding Vulnerable People

Context

The priority of Safeguarding Vulnerable People reflects the outcome of strategic assessments undertaken by local community safety partnerships (CSPs) with many choosing safeguarding and/or vulnerability either as a stand-alone priority or selecting elements for inclusion within their plans. Whilst preventing violent extremism (PREVENT) was previously included within this priority in the review undertaken for 2018/19 it was identified as a priority within its own right (see next section). In the latest reviews (2019/20 and 2020/21) Safeguarding Vulnerable People continues to be identified as a priority within the CSA.

Whilst CSPs have a role to play within this priority there are a number of multi-agency groups including the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP), Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB) etc. which take the lead on a number of these issues. In particular the multi-agency Joint Exploitation Group (JEG) which is a subgroup of the Safeguarding Partnership/Boards in Kent and Medway has a particular remit with regards child sexual exploitation (CSE), missing children, online safety, gangs, modern slavery and human trafficking. As such, members of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) link into these boards and subgroups and are working with them to support and implement actions, as well as monitor performance via their reporting processes. Information and reports produced by these groups are shared with community safety partners. Reciprocal arrangements have been established for the KCSP to report into the Safeguarding Boards/Partnerships or their subgroups to ensure effective links are established and maintained.

Although there is no single indicator or group of indicators that can effectively be used as a proxy measure to monitor such a broad topic as safeguarding or vulnerability, as mentioned above KCSP members are linked into JEG and other safeguarding groups which play a key role in monitoring issues such as child sexual exploitation, missing children episodes etc. As appropriate other data sources may also be looked at, for example scams. During 2020/21 the Kent Community Wardens undertook 130 tasks supporting individuals dealing with bogus callers, rogue traders and scams, in addition to the work undertaken by Trading Standards to tackle this issue and support vulnerable victims. Since the Covid-19 pandemic started there has been a noticeable increase in the number of scams and the National Cyber Security Centre (part of GCHQ) disclosed it had taken down more scams in the last year than in the previous three years combined as the organisation moved to

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further protect the UK public and critical services such as the NHS during the coronavirus pandemic¹.

In March 2019 KCC published a Select Committee report on Loneliness and Social Isolation which identified an estimated 29,500 in Kent aged 65 and over who are more likely than average to exhibit characteristics associated with social isolation². This represents 9.5% of the Kent's residents aged 65 and over and is in line with Age UK's estimate that 10% of those aged 65 and over are lonely all or most of the time². With the recent Covid-19 pandemic restrictions including lock-downs, shielding for medically vulnerable people, self-isolation and social distancing it is expected that feelings of loneliness and social isolation could have increased over the last year.

In response to the pandemic and to support vulnerable people, Community Hubs were established in each local council area to provide food and other essential items to vulnerable residents and those required to shield. The Vulnerable People and Communities Cell (VPCC), coordinated by the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF), was established to oversee the hubs and wider efforts to safeguard Kent's vulnerable residents³. This was a significant multi-agency response which also included KCSP members and community safety staff from across the county as part of the VPCC. By June 2020, the local hubs had made 167,029 contacts to vulnerable people in Kent and Medway, and at the peak 70,687 people were being actively supported in some way, ranging from advice on the telephone through to physical interventions and food parcels³. In addition to the district/borough Community Hubs KCC set up a Kent Together webpage and phone line to increase awareness of the of the support available, whilst also enabling KCC to identify and triage any social care and safeguarding referrals internally. As of 28 February 2021, 5,944 requests have been made to Kent Together³.

It is clear that safeguarding is not the responsibility of a single agency but can only be achieved by effective partnership working. The following actions and progress updates highlight just some of the areas that partners are working together on to support Safeguarding Vulnerable People.

Notes:

1) National Cyber Security Centre. Active Cyber Defence – the 4th Year

2) KCC Loneliness and Social Isolation Select Committee Report (March 2019)

3) County Council (11th March 2021) - report on 'COVID-19 – Delivering through the Pandemic'

Actions	Progress
<p>Raise awareness of and support the work being undertaken by the Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Steering Group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC's Public Health team is leading the delivery of suicide prevention interventions across the county to increase awareness and confidence in relation to delivering suicide prevention interventions. As well as ensuring the immediate wellbeing and crisis support for vulnerable people in need. • Information regarding campaigns and training is shared with community safety partners with the project lead attending community safety conferences, briefing sessions, as well as providing regular updates to KCSP partners. • In 2019/20, 26,000 calls were made by residents in Kent and Medway to the Release the Pressure 24-hour helpline. In 2020/21 funding was increased enabling thousands more calls to be taken and a new 24-hour text support service was introduced with an estimated 20,000 text conversations taking place. • During the last 2 years suicide prevention training has been delivered to over two thousand people both face-to-face and virtually, and an <u>E-learning suicide prevention package</u> has been developed. • In 2020/21 a leaflet highlighting the available mental health support

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	<p>was distributed to over 800,000 homes across Kent and Medway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Public Consultation has been completed on the <u>draft 2021-25 Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Strategy</u>. The Strategy will be updated following analysis of the public responses.
Work in partnership with the Safeguarding Boards to raise awareness and link into local and national campaigns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The KCST works with the Kent and Medway Adult Safeguarding Board and wider partners to support delivery of a wide variety of activities / events / training across the county including the annual Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week which used to take place in October. • In 2020/21 Kent partners agreed to align the local campaign with the National Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week (led by the Ann Craft Trust) taking place in November. • In previous years, various activities and events were held face-to-face during the week but in light of Covid-19, other ways of raising awareness were explored and awareness was raised by utilising social media platforms to share important messages and case studies. The KCST liaised with partners to ensure consistent messages were being shared during the week and also to source any case studies / news stories for sharing on social media and any partnership newsletters/bulletins etc.
Deliver training in Enhanced Trauma Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2019/20 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to deliver training in Enhanced Trauma Practice. KCC Public Health commissioned the training which was initially focused on delivery to Probation service professionals but was extended to other frontline staff such as those in Adult Social Care etc. • Due to Covid-19 face to face workshops were put on hold whilst the team worked with the provider to move to online workshops. • The project was completed in 2020/21 with 67 participants attending the training and a further 60 participants attending follow up reflective webinars to further embed the learning. We are currently awaiting the results of the longitudinal evaluation.
Provision of Emergency Trauma Packs (ETPs) in Community Warden vehicles working across Kent and other frontline staff to assist in incidents of life threatening injuries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2019/20 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to purchase 36 small Emergency Trauma Packs (ETPs) for use by partners via the bulk purchase scheme coordinated and led by Kent Police and the VRU. Across the County CSPs also purchased a range of large and small ETPs for distribution within their local communities. • In 2020/21 the packs were received and have been distributed to the Kent Community Warden Service for use in their badged vehicles. A number of packs are still to be distributed but this has been delayed due to Covid-19.
Reduce reoffending of women in the justice system.	<p>Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2020/21 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to establish two women's breakfast clubs in Kent to help females in the justice system to gain employment and engage with services reducing the risk to themselves and others. To date the breakfast clubs have not been able to open due to Covid-19 restrictions but plans are in place for May / June 2021 as some of the restrictions are lifted.</p>
Support vulnerable people targeted by scammers to minimise the impact and reduce future risk.	<p>Funding was provided by the KCSP using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to support the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2020/21 funding was provided to develop four videos to provide advice for residents/consumers and information to traders in relation to the new Trading Standards Checked tool. To date 93,600 people have

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	<p>viewed the videos and 13,000 consumers have visited the Trading Standards Checked fair trader platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019/20 funding was provided to print 10,000 easy read leaflets to promote the 'Raise a Brow' scams campaign to help make guidance on scams accessible for adults with a learning disability. • In 2018/19 the KCSP partially funded the development of a professional, short, dramatic, and hard-hitting video that highlights the significant detriment caused to vulnerable adults from financial abuse in particular doorstep crime. The video was launched on 17 April 2019. By the end of 2019/210 there had been 232,771 views of the video across a range of social media sites. Feedback at year-end showed what a valuable resource the video had been in educating members of the public and also as a training aid by professionals.. • In 2020/21 funding was allocated to a 'spot the signs' social media campaign to raise awareness of scams and to promote the above Financial Abuse Video and provide advice to Kent residents.
<p>Support the delivery of Community Café in East Kent</p>	<p>Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2020/21 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to establish a Community Café with a focus on community inclusion and cohesion by promoting access to all residents including vulnerable migrant communities and otherwise. The aim is to help give vulnerable people access to services more easily and for partners to be able to engage with and support some of the hard to reach communities in Kent. Sessions, meetings, and interactions with the intended customer are not currently possible due to Covid-19 restrictions but will begin in 2021/22.</p>
<p>Deliver a joint conference with the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) on the topic of Resilient Communities</p>	<p>In 2019/20 uncertainty over Brexit resulted in postponing a community safety conference until Spring 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic planning for the conference was suspended and the event delayed. During 2020/21 as a result of the impact of the lockdowns partners agreed to focus the event on 'Resilient Communities' and started working with the Kent Resilience Forum to deliver a joint online webinar. The webinar was successfully delivered on 3rd Nov '20. Prior to the event an information pack was shared with attendees and a survey was sent out after the event. Feedback from attendees show 93% rated the event as good or excellent.</p>

Priority: Preventing Extremism and Hate

Context

During the annual review of the CSA for 2018/19 'Preventing Extremism and Hate' was identified as a new priority. In the year of that review there were five high-profile terror attacks in the UK (*Westminster, Manchester Arena, London Bridge, Finsbury Park & Parsons Green*) during which time the threat level was raised from severe to critical twice. In previous versions of the CSA issues such as extremism, counter-terrorism and hate crime were included within other CSA priorities such as 'Safeguarding Vulnerable People', however it became evident that these topics were becoming more of a focus for local partnerships and as such rose up the priority listings, warranting becoming a priority in its own right. Since then there have been a number of attacks across Europe and further afield as well as other thwarted attacks. During 2020 there were two terrorist attacks in the UK, however over the last three years 29 have been prevented. The threat level remained at substantial for most of 2020 having been lowered from severe in November 2019,

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but following various attacks in mainland Europe the threat level was again increased to severe. The most recent reviews of the CSA priorities in 2019/20 and 2020/21 identified the need to keep 'Preventing Extremism and Hate' as a priority for the partnership.

The UK has had a counter-terrorism strategy (known as CONTEST) for many years which is refreshed as needed, the latest version was published in June 2018. PREVENT forms part of the CONTEST strategy and aims to safeguard people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and addresses all forms of terrorism, including when it is inspired by Islamist or right-wing ideologies. In September 2015 the Joint Kent Chiefs agreed to the establishment of the Prevent Duty Delivery Board (PDDDB) as the strategic body overseeing the delivery of the Prevent Duty across Kent, chaired by a Corporate Director from KCC. Part of the remit of the PDDDB is to ensure information is shared as appropriate with partners this includes relevant elements of the Counter-Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) which sets out the risks and threats in Kent, one of which relates to the vulnerability of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) as identified in the Parsons Green report.

The Channel Programme is part of PREVENT and is a multi-agency approach to providing support for individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, including people holding and expressing extremist views. The programme can offer a tailored package of support including theological or ideological mentoring, it is not a criminal sanction. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed the Channel programme on a statutory footing and created a duty on each local authority in England and Wales to ensure that there is a panel in place for its area. Statutory guidance for Channel panels was originally published in March 2015 but this has recently been updated with refreshed guidance on Channel Panels being published in November 2020. One of the additional requirements being a Channel Annual Assurance Statement is now required to be completed and sent to the Home Office by the local authority Chief Executive.

In 2016 Kent became one of nine national local authorities taking part in a twelve-month pilot project known as Dovetail, this involved transferring administration and case management of the Channel process from the police to the Local Authority. Due to the success of the pilot, Kent continued to use Dovetail which has also been rolled out to other authorities across the country. During 2020/21, Dovetail was rolled out in Medway and the Kent Channel Panel merged with Medway to become a joint Kent and Medway Channel Panel ensuring a consistent approach across the whole area and some efficiencies for partner organisations who previously attended both panels.

In April 2019 Kent and Medway was designated as a Prevent priority area which brought additional Home Office funding to increase local resources, namely a Prevent Coordinator and Prevent Education Officer. In 2020 further funding was received leading to the addition of a second Prevent Education Officer and a Prevent Community Engagement Officer. The Kent and Medway Prevent Team deliver Prevent activity and support agencies locally in understanding and responding to the risk of terrorism and radicalisation.

According to Home Office National Statistics for Prevent in 2019/20 there were 6,287 referrals into the Prevent programme nationally compared to 5,737 in 2018/19 an increase of 10% (up 550)¹. Of those referred in 2019/20, 1,424 were discussed at a Channel Panel with 697 adopted as a Channel Case. Of the 697 Channel cases, the most common were cases referred due to concerns regarding right-wing radicalisation (303; 43%) followed by Islamist radicalisation (210; 30%)¹. In the South East there were 867 referrals, of which 144 were discussed at a Channel Panel and 72 were adopted as Channel Cases (2019/20)¹. Based on national figures the majority of individuals (625; 90%) receiving Channel support are male (2019/20) with 58% (402) of individuals whose cases have been adopted at Channel aged 20 or below¹.

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Following the identification of the priority within the CSA in 2018/19, the KCSP recognised a need to raise awareness of the issue across Kent and Medway and to cascade information and learning. Working with the KCC Prevent Team a conference was delivered on the topic of 'Preventing Extremism and Hate' in November 2018 with over 200 staff, partners, and volunteers in attendance. Part of the aim of the event was also to address the issues of intolerance and hate, (which tend to be affected by events such as terrorist attacks leading to spikes in hate crimes and community tensions), and also to consider opportunities to enhance community cohesion. Following the event the KCST worked with the Prevent Team and the Kent Police Hate Crime Lead to develop an information pack for partners and the KCSP has continued to support the work of the Kent and Medway Prevent Team, the Prevent Duty Delivery Board and the Hate Crime Forum to raise awareness and share information.

Hate crime is defined as 'any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic'. There are five centrally monitored strands of hate crime: race or ethnicity; religion or beliefs; sexual orientation; disability; and transgender identity.²

In 2018 the UK Government updated the Hate Crime Action Plan, which has been adapted as a plan on a page for Kent with the themes 1) Work in Partnership to tackle Hate Crime 2) Build our understanding of hate crime 3) Respond to hate crime in our communities 4) Increase the reporting of hate crime 5) Improve support for the victims of hate crime. The plan is used to direct the work of the Hate Crime Forum and is shared as everyone's responsibility in tackling hate crime.

At a county level, the multi-agency Hate Crime Forum chaired by Kent Police works with partners including the IPAG (Independent Police Advisory Group) to monitor hate crime, improve processes, and raise awareness. At a local level dedicated Police Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) who are based within district Community Safety Units (CSUs) act as the key point of contact for Kent's diverse communities. They work with groups and individuals from all protected characteristics, raise awareness around hate crime, act as tactical advisors to police and partners, and signpost support for victims. In Kent there is also a dedicated Hate Crime Advocate working with Victim Support Service who contacts each victim of hate crime and works in partnership to ensure victims are provided tailored support.

Hate Crime Awareness week takes place annually in October across the country. This week of action encourages police, local authorities, key partners, and communities to continue raising awareness about hate crime, reporting mechanisms, signposting tailored and timely support in order to tackle hate crime. Hatred not only has the potential to cause serious physical and emotional harm, it can damage communities and cause division. In addition to the awareness week there is an annual award scheme 'No2H8 Crime Award' which is run nationally by a coalition of organisations and is designed to recognise upstanding individuals who have contributed toward the cohesion of different communities within the UK through the tackling of hatred and prejudice. The Kent Police Community Engagement and Hate Crime Manager is one of the judges and within Kent a number of colleagues and communities have been nominated for this award.

The Home Office report on Hate Crime in England and Wales 2019/20 reported 105,090 hate crimes were recorded by Police in 2019/20, an 8% increase from 2018/19 (97,446 offences)². While increases in hate crime over the last five years have been mainly driven by improvements in crime recording by the police, there has been spikes in hate crime following certain events such as the EU Referendum and the terrorist attacks in 2017.²

Breaking down the headline number of hate crime offences nationally in 2019/20 by the five centrally monitored strands showed there were: 76,070 (72%) race hate crimes; 15,835 sexual orientation hate crimes; 6,822 religious hate crimes; 8,469 disability hate crimes; and 2,540

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transgender hate crimes². Over half (53%) of the hate crimes recorded by the police were for public order offences and a further third (38%) were for violence against the person offences. Five per cent were recorded as criminal damage and arson offences².

In the rolling year to March 2021 there were just over 5,400 hate crime incidents in Kent and Medway (including recorded offences and secondary incidents), compared to the previous year this was an increase of 9.5% in total incidents (up just under 500 offences). The vast majority of reported incidents were race related followed by sexual orientation and disability.

The pandemic and lockdown saw an increase with online hate crime and as the Covid restrictions eased, there was an upward trend of reported hate crime. There are other attributing factors for the increase nationally, reflected locally, including the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement, increased confidence in reporting due to ongoing community engagement, anti-migrant sentiment, media, terror attacks. However, hate crime remains under reported so we need to encourage reporting and also remain professionally curious for other vulnerabilities such as radicalisation to ensure appropriate safeguarding, interventions, and signposting support as part of our partnership response. Nationally, the Law Commission has consulted on hate crime law and hate speech laws in England and Wales, with a focus on 'who should these laws protect' and 'how should these laws work'. The outcome will be shared later in 2021.

Whilst CSPs have a role to play within this priority the Prevent Duty Delivery Board and multi-agency Hate Crime Forum take the lead on a number of the issues. As such, members of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) link into these boards and groups and are working with them to support and implement actions, as well as monitoring performance via their reporting processes.

Notes:

1) Home Office – Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent programme, April 2019 to March 2020 (published 26/11/20);

2) Home Office – Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2019/20 (published 28/10/20) (excluding Greater Manchester Police)

Actions	Progress
<p>Work in partnership to share information about Prevent and Channel to embed the process and to help Prevent violent extremism.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2020/21 the Prevent Duty Delivery Board (PDDB) moved to a joint Kent and Medway board and continues to meet quarterly and receive updates. In addition, it was also agreed to move to a joint Kent and Medway Channel Panel from May 2020. • PREVENT is a standing agenda item for the KCSP with a regular update on the work of the PDDB provided by the Prevent Team covering Prevent, Channel, Dovetail and also the Counter Terrorism Local Profile. Any issues requiring the focus of community safety partners are raised with the members. • Prevent is also a standing agenda item for the district / borough Community Safety Managers meeting with the KCC Prevent and Channel Strategic Manager attending to disseminate and discuss key messages and feedback to the PDDB. • The Prevent Education Officers are working directly with schools to offer support around Prevent policies, deliver staff training, run Prevent sessions with students and offer targeted support where required. • A monthly Kent and Medway Prevent newsletter is now regularly disseminated to a range of partners along with relevant factsheets.

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<p>Work with partners to understand the key issues from the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) and encourage intelligence reporting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Counter-Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) themes have been included into the Kent and Medway Counter-Terrorism Strategic Risk Assessment CT SRA), as well as briefings to Community Safety Managers and Community Safety Unit Inspectors. • The CT SRA is the basis for the Prevent Partners Action Plan which is being refreshed in light of the 2021 CT SRA. The revised action plan will be presented to the PDDB. • In 2020/21 a briefing event was held for CS Managers and CSU inspectors to discuss the Kent and Medway CT SRA. It has been agreed to hold further briefings following PDDB meetings. The CT SRA is currently being developed and will be presented to the PDDB on June 14th 2021 to be followed by briefings for relevant partners across the County. • The re-drafted 2020-21 Kent and Medway Prevent Action Plan includes a range of communications to partners, including development and sharing of factsheets on relevant topics. • The Prevent team undertake weekly online tension monitoring which is being used to assist in developing understanding of key CTLP issues. • Reporting of far right and extreme right wing graffiti and stickering has been included as a key theme into Prevent training products.
<p>Work in partnership to share information to help understand and address Hate Crimes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hate Crime Forum monitors and addresses hate crime in the County. Regular updates on issues, activity and events are circulated to partners and data and information on hate crime is shared with district colleagues via the Safer Communities Portal. • In 2019/20 the KCST worked in partnership with the Prevent Team and the Hate Crime Forum to produce a 'Preventing Extremism & Hate Information Pack'. This was a year-on from the KCSP Community Safety Conference on the same topic, providing conference attendees with a reminder of what they had learnt and other partners with information and resources about extremism and hate. The pack was shared as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week (October 2019). • Hate Crime Awareness week takes place annually in October, with many partnership activities and events taking place. In 2019 a conference launched the week with presentations being filmed to enable learning to be shared further. In 2020/21 due to Covid-19 events and awareness raising was focused primarily online with some socially distanced events taking place to promote support networks, raise awareness, and encourage reporting. This included a virtual conference on 'Working together to tackle hate crime in challenging times' with both local and national input; the promotion of a hate crime video developed in Kent featuring a victim of hate crime and various partners in the Criminal Justice System which was shared with professionals and communities to encourage reporting. • Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2020/21 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to translate an existing Kent Police leaflet about hate crime into the top 10 most spoken languages in Kent to make it more inclusive and accessible for a wider range of communities. The leaflet provides information about hate crimes, how to report it, where to get support, etc. There has been a delay in the printing but these will be available soon to download or print by partner agencies engaging with diverse communities. It will also be promoted via community contacts, faith leaders, social media, the post office etc.

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<p>Support the work of the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) to understand community safety issues in relation to Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff from the KCST and the wider KCSP worked closely with partners through the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) during the Covid-19 pandemic on a variety of subgroups but with a particular focus on the subgroup aimed at supporting ‘communities and vulnerable people’. • Updates and briefings from the KRF on Brexit and Covid-19 have been presented at KCSP meetings and multi-agency Community Safety Information Sessions to share information on plans for the ending of the EU transition period and the impact on travel in Kent, as well as the work around the response and recovery phases of Covid-19. • In 2020/21 the KCSP worked with the KRF to deliver a joint online conference on ‘Resilient Communities’ partners working in both Emergency Planning and Community Safety (<i>see section on Safeguarding Vulnerable People above for more information</i>).
<p>Support the development of educational videos to help engagement with the public in relation to Stop and Search</p>	<p>Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2020/21 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to create two short educational videos, with a focus on minority community group members that can feel targeted by being ‘Stop and Searched’. Filming of the videos was delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions but has now started and will be completed in 2021/22. Once finished the videos will be made publicly available on the Police website and shared with partners to raise awareness with other organisations. They will also be shared with the Home Office and College of Policing.</p>

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