

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 8th June, 2022

2.00 pm

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





AGENDA

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 8th June, 2022, at 2.00 pm
Council Chamber, Sessions House, County
Hall, Maidstone

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

Membership

Conservative (10): Mr A Booth (Chairman), Mr P V Barrington-King (Vice-Chairman), Mrs R Binks, Mr N J Collor, Mr G Cooke, Mrs S Hudson, Mr D Jeffrey, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr H Rayner and Mr O Richardson

Labour (1) Dr L Sullivan

Liberal Democrat (1): Mr A J Hook

Green and
Independent (1): Mr P Stepto

Church
Representatives (3): Mr J Constanti, Mr M Reidy and Mr Q Roper

Parent Governor (2): Mrs K Moses, vacancy

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 Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this Meeting
- A4 Minutes of the Affordable Housing Select Committee 19 May 2022 - for information (Pages 1 - 4)

B - Scrutiny Committee meeting as the Crime and Disorder Committee

- B1 Kent Community Safety Agreement (Pages 5 - 70)

C - Any items placed on the agenda by any Member of the Council for discussion – none

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
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Friday, 27 May 2022

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE – AFFORDABLE HOUSING

MINUTES of a meeting of the Select Committee – Affordable Housing, held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 19 May 2022.

PRESENT: Mr R Thomas (Chairman), Mr T Bond, Mr P C Cooper, Mrs T Dean MBE and Ms S Hamilton

ALSO PRESENT: Mr D Murphy (Cabinet Member for Economic Development)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms S Holt-Castle (Director for Growth and Communities), Ms R Spore (Director of Infrastructure) Mr J Cook (Democratic Services Manager) and Mr G Romagnuolo (Research Officer - Overview and Scrutiny)

IN ATTENDANCE (VIRTUAL): Mr D Shipton (Head of Finance – Policy, Planning and Strategy)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**1. One year-on update report**
(Item 1)

1. Mr Thomas welcomed the Select Committee Members and the guests to the one year-on reconvened meeting of the Affordable Housing Select Committee. He invited Mr Murphy to introduce his report.
2. Mr Murphy (Cabinet Member for Economic Development) reported that, during the financial year 2020/21, completions of affordable homes in Kent stood at 1,691 (23.4%) - a similar proportion to those delivered across England (24.1%), and in line with the 10-year county average. However, affordability in Kent was reported at 11.07 times the income, and considerably higher than the England average of 8.04. Housing affordability in the county therefore remained an issue.
3. In terms of national policy, he explained that there had been significant changes in government policy since the publication of the Select Committee's original report. In particular, housing was one of the main elements of the Levelling Up White Paper.
4. He stated that the pledge to build more social housing and the potential for more local control over affordable homes in the Levelling Up Paper was welcome, although there was a concern that changes to the operation of Homes England within the context of Levelling Up could potentially shift funding away from the South East.

5. In terms of KCC's financial context, the Cabinet Member pointed out that, as the Select Committee report rightly cautioned, it was important to be pragmatic in the extent to which KCC could enable the delivery of more affordable homes, due to the current financial climate, and affordable housing not being a principal role of a County authority.

6. Ms Holt-Castle (Director for Growth and Communities) explained that, in the recent First Reading of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (2022), the government was committed to the new Infrastructure Levy securing at least as much affordable housing as developer contributions do now.

Recommendation 1

7. Ms Holt-Castle reported that the Kent and Medway Growth and Infrastructure Framework was currently being transformed into a digital online platform, and that this platform would support work towards the "Infrastructure First" Infrastructure Proposition, including mapping at a county level the provision of affordable housing. Engagement with local planning authorities was already strong, for example with the commitment with a number of local planning authorities to commence a pilot scheme in late summer 2022, and through the collective endeavour in this area by organisations such as the Kent Joint Chiefs, Kent Housing Group and the Kent Planning Officers Group.

Recommendation 2

8. The Cabinet Member explained that there was a move towards stronger arrangements between five east Kent districts, including housing. A Member applauded this move, although pointed out that there were contrasting priorities that sometimes local authorities had to balance out.

9. In response to a Member's comment about the extent to which KCC disposed its land to promote the building of affordable housing, Ms Spore (Director of Infrastructure) clarified that, with the exception of surplus school sites, the majority of KCC's portfolio was characterised by small sites which were not of a scale where a JV arrangement would be viable.

10. Ms Holt-Castle explained that, as at May 2022, Kent Joint Chiefs had agreed to establish a number of collective, thematic priorities, of which Growth was one.

Recommendation 3

11. Ms Spore discussed that KCC had a robust process in place for identifying surplus land that came forward for sale and/or redevelopment. She added that, in terms of the Disposal policy, there was a mechanism in place to take affordable housing into account. However, given that KCC was not a Local Planning Authority, it was not easy to determine with accuracy the direct benefits to KCC which were accrued from enabling affordable housing.

12. In response to a Member's comment about the need for more Member involvement in relation to the impact of KCC's land disposal, Mr J Cook (Democratic Services Manager) clarified that the KCC's disposal process and arrangements were a responsibility of the Executive and, in particular, of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services. The process for any decisions and Member involvement is set out in KCC's Constitution.

Recommendation 4

13. Ms Holt-Castle clarified that a proposal to develop a Housing Growth Unit had to recognise current financial constraints and that, given the current climate, KCC would develop a proposal to encompass the Housing Growth Unit proposal within a realigned Growth and Communities team. Ms Holt-Castle confirmed that such a structure would identify a single point of access for each District on housing-related issues.

Recommendation 5

14. Ms Spore commented that, as explained earlier, KCC's Infrastructure service had explored joint venture models and concluded that KCC did not own land of sufficient size and scale which would be attractive to the housing market. Also, while KCC was open to the principle of establishing housing joint ventures, it needed to be mindful of the potential returns against the resource requirement to deliver this type of schemes and its risk appetite. She added that the Disposals Programme was challenging and, currently, it had been the primary focus for disposal and development to maximise the capital receipt to the council, as reinvestment funds would be available without resorting to more borrowing than necessary.

Recommendation 6

15. Mr D Shipton (Head of Finance – Policy, Planning and Strategy) clarified that - in relation to investigating the feasibility of different ways of funding the delivery of housing and genuinely affordable housing schemes in Kent – in order to comply with the Prudential Code for capital finance, local authorities were not allowed to borrow to invest in projects primarily intended for financial return.

16. A Member commented that, it was not prudent for KCC to make investments in social housing using its Superannuation Fund.

Recommendation 7

17. The Cabinet Member commended KCC's No Use Empty scheme, which had been recognised and applauded at national level.

18. In response to a Member's comment about the different definitions of "affordable housing" that are used to measure this type of housing provision, Ms Holt-Castle clarified that KCC used the government's official definition (this definition of affordable housing is set out in Annex 2 to the National Planning Policy Framework).

Recommendation 8

19. A Member clarified that the letter was sent by the former Cabinet Member for Economic Development, and that a response was received.

Conclusion

20. The one year-on meeting was the end of the Select Committee process. The Clerk confirmed that the minutes of the reconvened Select Committee would be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee in June 2022.

21. The Committee noted the progress update, and noted that any further progress would be reported to the Growth, Economic Development & Communities Cabinet Committee.

22. The Chairman thanked all the people who had assisted in the inquiry, and thanked the guests for attending the meeting and for answering Members' questions.

RESOLVED that the Select Committee note the progress to date of the Affordable Housing Select Committee recommendations, and note that any further progress would be reported to the Growth, Economic Development & Communities Cabinet Committee.

By: Anna Taylor, Scrutiny Research Officer
To: Crime and Disorder Committee – 8 June 2022
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 assessment, 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
 - Probation Service
- 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). The CSA is a rolling document which is reviewed annually and refreshed as appropriate, along with the associated CSA Action Plan.

2.2 The Kent CSP has delegated performance monitoring to the senior officer led working group and relevant priority leads from the partner agencies. Any points of concern or anomalies are reported to the KCSP for consideration.

2.3 The latest refresh of the Kent CSA took place in April 2022 (see Appendix A) and resulted in some changes to the previous priorities and cross-cutting themes. Full details of the review are included in the attached CSA document, however shown below is the updated list of priorities for 2022/23:

- Domestic Abuse
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Preventing Extremism and Hate
- Substance Misuse
- Road Safety

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.

2.5 In addition to the newly refreshed CSA for April 2022, a report is also attached (see Appendix B) which provides details on the related actions undertaken during 2021/22 by partners to deliver the priority outcomes from the Kent CSA published last year (April 2021). It should be noted that as 'Violence Against Women and Girls' (VAWG) is a new priority for 2022/23, and 'Preventing Neighbourhood Crime' is also a new addition to the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) priority, these topics are not covered within the attached report. Activity relating to these two new focus areas will be undertaken in 2022/23.

- 2.6 As per the Crime and Disorder Committee's previous requests the report (Appendix B) includes a summary of performance and contextual information
- 2.7 The Kent Community Safety Agreement also works to deliver against the countywide ambitions of the statutory responsible authorities. 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 current Community Safety Agreement and the activities undertaken to address the priorities 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 refreshed Community Safety Agreement (April 2022) and make no comment.
- Make comment on the refreshed Community Safety Agreement (April 2022) and the year-end action plan and performance summary for 2021/22 .
- Offer recommendations to one or more of the responsible authorities.

Appendices:

- Appendix A - Kent Community Safety Agreement April 2022
- Appendix B - Kent CSA Action Plan and Performance Summary 2021/22

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Kent Community Safety Agreement



April 2022

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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
6.0	April 2022	<p>Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective date changed to April 2022 - Foreword – updated to reflect latest version - Ch.3 - changes made to the landscape, legislation and partnership challenges - Ch.5 - achievements for 2021/22 added - Ch.6 - changes made to priorities and cross-cutting themes, and diagram updated - Appendix A – strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B – MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D - new Police and Crime Plan added - Appendix E - amendments to reflect Ch.6 - Logos - updated agency logos added

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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 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 KCSP.

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 continue to work with partners to address the many issues identified within the agreement, taking into account new duties and strategic plans, such as the new Serious Violence Duty, the Beating Crime Plan, the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy and Tackling Domestic Abuse action plan. Last year the most immediate issue was the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and whilst we are now learning to live with this, new challenges have arisen which will affect service needs and agency resources. Issues such as the significant rise in the cost of living; the invasion of Ukraine with millions of people forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in neighbouring countries; and the ongoing disruption to imports / exports causing supply chain bottlenecks. Inevitably these global and local issues will impact on the lives of residents and in turn the work of the partnership, but we will keep working together throughout the year ahead and continue to adapt plans as needed.

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.

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

The following Chapter outlines the key pieces of legislation and statutory duties that direct the work of the Kent Community Safety Partnership

- 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, a 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 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.

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.

National and International

- 3.1. Coronavirus (COVID-19): During the last two years the whole country, along with the rest of the world, has endured a range of measures as part of the response to tackling the pandemic, including several periods of lockdown. The measures put in place impacted on all walks of life in an effort to slow the spread of the virus and to save lives. These were unprecedented and whilst everyone worked hard to reduce the impact of the virus there were 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 increased or were highlighted by the pandemic, including domestic abuse; mental health issues; homelessness; alcohol consumption; inequalities; etc. Whilst this significantly changed the way we live, it has also changed the way that partners are able to deliver services, with the working practices of many organisations changing forever, and many people continuing to work from home with reduced regular face-to-face contact with colleagues and partners. Despite the easing/removal of restrictions, COVID-19 is still present and 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 a future beyond the pandemic.

- 3.2. Violence Against Women and Girls: Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is an umbrella term used to cover a wide range of abuses against women and girls such as domestic homicide, domestic abuse, sexual assault, abuse experienced as a child, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, misogynistic behaviours by Incels (involuntary celibates) and harassment in work and public life. While men and boys also suffer from many of these forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women. It is a topic of even greater public interest following several recent high-profile cases, including the murders of Sarah Everard, Sabina Nessa, and the Kent Police Community Support Officer, Julia James. During the last 12 months the Home Office has published a Strategy on [Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls](#); and the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's new Police and Crime Plan entitled '[Making Kent Safer 2022-2025](#)' includes this issue as a priority. In addition, the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has also set up a Violence Against Women (VAWG)

inquiry which includes an online survey, meetings with victims and working with partners to develop a series of tangible recommendations to improve practices in Kent.

- 3.3. War in Ukraine: The Russian invasion of Ukraine has so far led to at least 2.5 million people fleeing the country with EU officials predicting up to five million refugees. Many countries are imposing economic sanctions on Russia, and several well-known companies have suspended trading within Russia. Whilst undeniably the most significant impact of the war is on Ukraine and its residents, there are knock on effects across Europe and the rest of the world in terms of supporting the migration of refugees, provision of humanitarian aid, the rising cost of living as international trade is impacted and global commodity prices increase. In addition, it is important to be aware of any changes in community tensions, such as protests or demonstrations against the war, or a rise in anti-Russian sentiment affecting community relations.
- 3.4. UK Strategies to Tackle Drugs and Crime:
 In July 2021 the Home Office published the [Beating Crime Plan](#) '*Fewer victims, peaceful neighbourhoods, safe country*'. The plan sets out the strategic approach to: cutting homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime; exposing and ending hidden harms; and building capability and capacity to deal with fraud and online crime. It complements other existing strategies, and sits alongside other work on hidden harms, as well as work that the Government is planning for later this year when the domestic abuse and national cyber security strategies are due to be published. Governance and accountability for the strategy will be supported by monitoring of the National Crime and Policing Measures. Nationally the Government is investing in a number of programmes and funding schemes to help strengthen the ability to tackle these issues, including: Safer Streets Fund, Violence Reduction Units, Supporting Families Fund, and tackling drugs supply and county lines. Some of these funding streams and programmes are already being utilised in Kent.
- In December 2021 the Government published '[From Harm to Hope](#)' a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives by reducing the supply and demand for drugs and delivering a high-quality treatment and recovery system. The plan is the first Drugs Strategy which commits the whole Government along with public services to work together and share responsibility for creating a safer, healthier and more productive society. The main aims are to break drug supply chains; deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system; and reduce the demand for drugs through changing attitudes in society.
- 3.5. Exit from the European Union (EU): The United Kingdom (UK) left the EU, following the end of the Brexit transition period on 31 December 2020. Since then new rules on trade, travel and business for the UK and the EU have been implemented. The latest changes came into force in January 2022 for imported

goods. As a key gateway to the Continent, Kent is strategically important, with 90 per cent of UK truck freight trade passing through the Short Straits at the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel. With greater checks at ports under the new border arrangements there were concerns about potential lengthy border delays and lorry queues. To facilitate the new entry and exit checks required, inland border facilities have been established in Kent aimed at keeping traffic flowing through the ports. In addition, at times of significant cross-Channel delays, due to severe weather, industrial action, or possible impact of new border arrangements, a traffic management plan (Operation Brock) may be activated which includes a contraflow system on the M20.

- 3.6. Migration and Resettlement: At a national level, in 2021 the Government published a New Plan for Immigration (NPI) and introduced the Nationality and Borders Bill into Parliament, which is currently in the final stages. At a more local level, the Home Office is currently establishing a processing site in Kent for illegal migrants to provide safe and secure accommodation whilst the necessary checks are carried out. Some migrants who arrive in the UK are 'unaccompanied asylum seeking children' (UASC) and as such are placed in the care of the local authority. In June 2021 Kent County Council (KCC) warned that Kent's services for UASC were at breaking point and whilst some young people were transferred to other local authority areas, the majority remained in Kent. KCC has called on the Government to establish a longer term solution to manage this issue. The UK currently runs a number of resettlement schemes and in response to the Afghan refugee crisis, local authorities across Kent are providing support within their communities including Afghan resettlement schemes. Community sentiments are monitored although there is currently no suggestion of significant tensions. However going forward there is a possibility of both pro and anti-migrant related tensions occurring in Kent, which is consistent with the ongoing momentum of media coverage around 'small boat' migration.

Changes to Legislation

- 3.7. 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.
- 3.8. Safeguarding: Between 2014 and 2019 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' etc.

- 3.9. Domestic Abuse: The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021. Part 2 of the Act introduced a Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales with an amendment to the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004), requiring CSPs to send completed DHR reports to the DA Commissioner. In addition, the DA Commissioner's office is developing plans in line with their powers regarding greater oversight of DHRs (particularly the learning and recommendations), as well as other reviews which incorporate DA (such as Safeguarding Adult Reviews). The DA Commissioner has powers to compel public bodies to cooperate with her office and make recommendations for public bodies to respond to within 56 days. Part 4 of the Act gives Tier 1 authorities with support from Tier 2 authorities, statutory requirements linked to support within safe accommodation services, which are defined as refuge (communal and individual placements), sanctuary (security measures within existing homes), and move-on accommodation (as people move out of refuge or other safe accommodation into longer term homes). Part 4 of the Act also requires Tier 1 authorities to; create a Local Partnership Board with responsibility for conducting a needs assessment (this is now available [here](#)); b) complete a Domestic Abuse Strategy on safe accommodation by Jan 2021 (available [here](#)); c) undertake commissioning activity in relation to accommodation-based services for both adult survivors and their children informed by the need's assessment; and d) monitor delivery against the strategy. In March 2022 the Home Office published the [Tackling Domestic Abuse Action Plan](#) which sets out how various aspects of the Domestic Abuse Act will be delivered and will complement the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.
- 3.10. 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 was 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. The new duties have been progressing through Parliament as part of the 'Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill', which received Royal Assent on 28th April 2022.

- 3.11. Fire Safety: The Fire Safety Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021. The Act was introduced to clarify who is responsible for managing and reducing fire risks in different parts of multi-occupational residential buildings to prevent future tragedies, such as the Grenfell Tower fire where 72 people lost their lives. In addition, the Government is also looking to introduce a Building Safety Bill which would give residents and homeowners more rights, powers and protections – making homes across the country safer. In particular residents in high-rise buildings will have more say in the management of their building. Whilst these new pieces of legislation do not directly affect the work of the multi-agency partnership, the requirements of the Act will make it easier for responsible authorities within the KCSP such as the Fire and Rescue Service to enforce the new duties and ultimately make the lives of residents in Kent safer.
- 3.12. Future Considerations: Recent national consultations on a variety of community safety related topics may lead to future changes in legislation or statutory guidance. The Government is currently undertaking a Victims Bill consultation which aims to build on the foundations provided by the Victims Code to improve victims' experiences within the criminal justice system. Some of the areas being looked at include community based support services and advocacy support. The Government has also been consulting on a proposed new Protect Duty, as a result of terror attacks in public spaces, such as happened at the Manchester Arena and other smaller scale attacks; with the aim to consider security measures at publicly accessible locations and the support needed from Government. In addition, following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 the Government has sought views on draft Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance to support the implementation of the Act with guidance and support to frontline professionals and sharing of best practice.

Partnership Changes and Challenges

- 3.13. 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. In 2019, the OPCC was successful in being awarded Home Office funding to set up a multi-agency Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in Kent to deliver a range of violence reduction projects. The VRU remains in place and has recently been awarded a three year funding settlement until March 2025. Some of the key challenges for partners in relation to violence include the implementation of the new Serious Violence duty (see 3.10) and tackling the issue of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) (see 3.2).

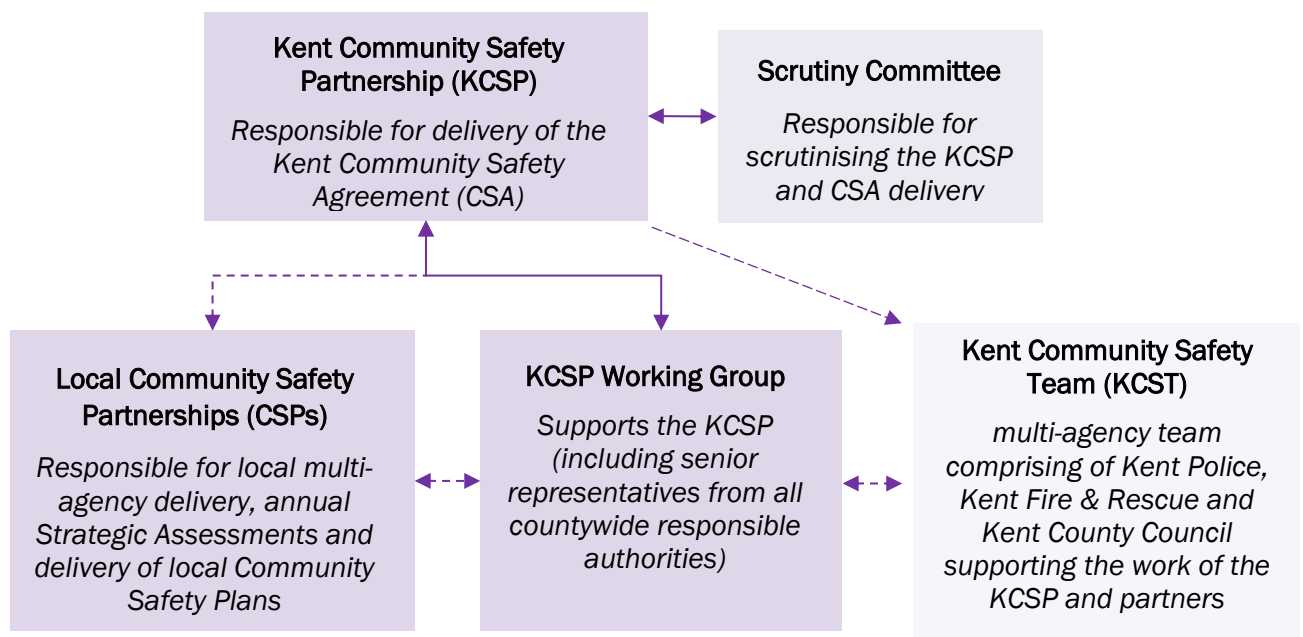
- 3.14. Increases in Service Demand: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns there has been an increased demand for support services in general, one example of which has been an increased demand for domestic abuse and sexual violence services. The PCC has been successful in bidding for additional funding from the Ministry of Justice to support our local domestic abuse service providers which includes funding for new IDVA and ISVA posts [*Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) and Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA)*]. As well as this, the PCC has also been successful in gaining Home Office funding for domestic abuse and tackling perpetrator programmes.
- 3.15. Probation Services: On 26 June 2021 the responsibility for all case management, community payback and accredited programmes was transferred from the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) to the Probation Service. Rehabilitative services are being delivered by providers, commissioned through a Dynamic Framework. In Kent and Medway, Employment, Training and Education (ETE) provision is being delivered by Interventions Alliance, Seetec's justice and social care division. In addition to the transfer of all case management, as the provider of probation services in Kent, the duty set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as a responsible authority and statutory member of Community Safety Partnerships has also been transferred. One of the focus areas for implementation by Probation Services and the Police working with other partners is the Government's [Neighbourhood Crime Integrated Offender Management](#) (IOM) Strategy (published in December 2020) which includes a refresh and refocusing of the existing IOM programme to help reduce neighbourhood crime.
- 3.16. Kent and Medway Prevent: In June 2021 a Peer Review of Prevent in Kent and Medway was undertaken by the Home Office. The outcome and findings were shared with partners. The aim of the review was to evaluate Prevent delivery structures and processes within Kent and Medway with a view to developing recommendations for improvement and promoting best practice. The review identified significant best practice and opportunities to improve Prevent delivery. A Peer Review working group has been established to work through the recommendations over the next year. There was positive recognition of links with the KCSP and district/borough CSPs. In addition, the latest Counter-Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) and the Counter-Terrorism Strategic Risk Assessment is currently being updated which will be shared with partners (as appropriate) to help raise the profile and understanding of the issues.

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, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, and the Probation Service.

- 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 2021/22 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:

- Kent Community Safety Team (KCST): As part of the KCST's role in sharing good practice and facilitating joint working, the team produces regular e-bulletins on Community Safety in Kent, highlighting and promoting partnership working. During 2021/22 the KCST produced monthly e-bulletins aimed at providing brief updates on emerging issues, such as changes to services, new documentation, data releases, media articles, funding opportunities, etc.
- Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs): During 2021/22 the KCSP has published six completed reviews following quality assurance from the Home Office and ensured that over 80 actions from across eight different DHRs have been implemented. The Partnership is committed to ensuring that the learning from these tragic cases is shared with partners to not only help to improve services for all victims of domestic abuse but also to help prevent such homicides in the future. 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. During 2021/22 significant work has taken place to improve arrangements for working with families who wish to engage with the DHR process, this included at least two face-to-face panel meetings where family members (accompanied by an advocate if requested), were able to meet with key agency representatives involved in their DHRs, and have the opportunity to ask questions of the panel.
- Project Funding: In 2021/22 the KCSP used the funding provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to fund a total of seven projects focusing on a variety of topics. These included a scams social media campaign ('spot the signs'), mental health crisis care support cards, dummy CCTV cameras, support for Business Crime Reduction Partnerships across Kent, ASB professional development training, NVR (Non-Violent Resistance) Foundation Level training and the OSARA problem solving training. The achievements and outcomes of these projects are monitored by the KCSP Working Group and reported back to the PCC.

- ASB Training: Organised by the KCST using Crime Reduction Grant Funding, ASB training for partners across the County was delivered in four face-to-face sessions in February 2022 at a variety of venues provided by district/borough colleagues. The training was a full-day focused on Community Protection Notices and Civil Injunction Notices with a range of ASB officers, Housing Officers, Community Safety Officers and some Police Officers in attendance. Feedback is currently being sought to assess the outcomes and benefits.
- OSARA Problem Solving: Organised by the KCST using Crime Reduction Grant Funding, the problem solving 'train the trainer' course was provided to a number of partners across the County. The course was delivered over a 2-day period as face-to-face training and included case studies and scenario planning. Attendees were provided with materials to assist with the onward cascading of the training to other colleagues and partners. Currently the KCST is in the process of developing a training offer to be shared with partners.
- Workshops / Events: During 2021/22, 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 three Community Safety Information Sessions for staff in a number of districts on a variety of topics including: Domestic Abuse campaign, Stalking, Contextual Safeguarding, Preventing Extremism, Hate Crime, Kent and Medway Gangs Strategy, launch of My Community Voice, plus a number of operational and organisational updates, etc.
- Learning and Information: The KCST worked with the Kent & Medway Prevent Team and the Kent Police Hate Crime lead to refresh the 'Preventing Extremism & Hate Learning and Information Pack', which was originally developed in 2018/19 to support the community safety conference of the same name. The refreshed document includes the latest information, guidance, referral routes, useful contacts etc. It has been shared with partners as part of the latest e-bulletin but also formed part of the attendee pack for the recent CPD event on 'Preventing Hateful Extremism' on 28th February 2022 which was delivered by the Kent and Medway Prevent Team and Kent Police. The event was delivered as a hybrid event with 80 attending in person and over 200 virtually. The event saw keynote speakers from external organisations as well as delivery by Kent Police and the Prevent team. Excellent feedback has been received and it is hoped to run a similar event in 2023.

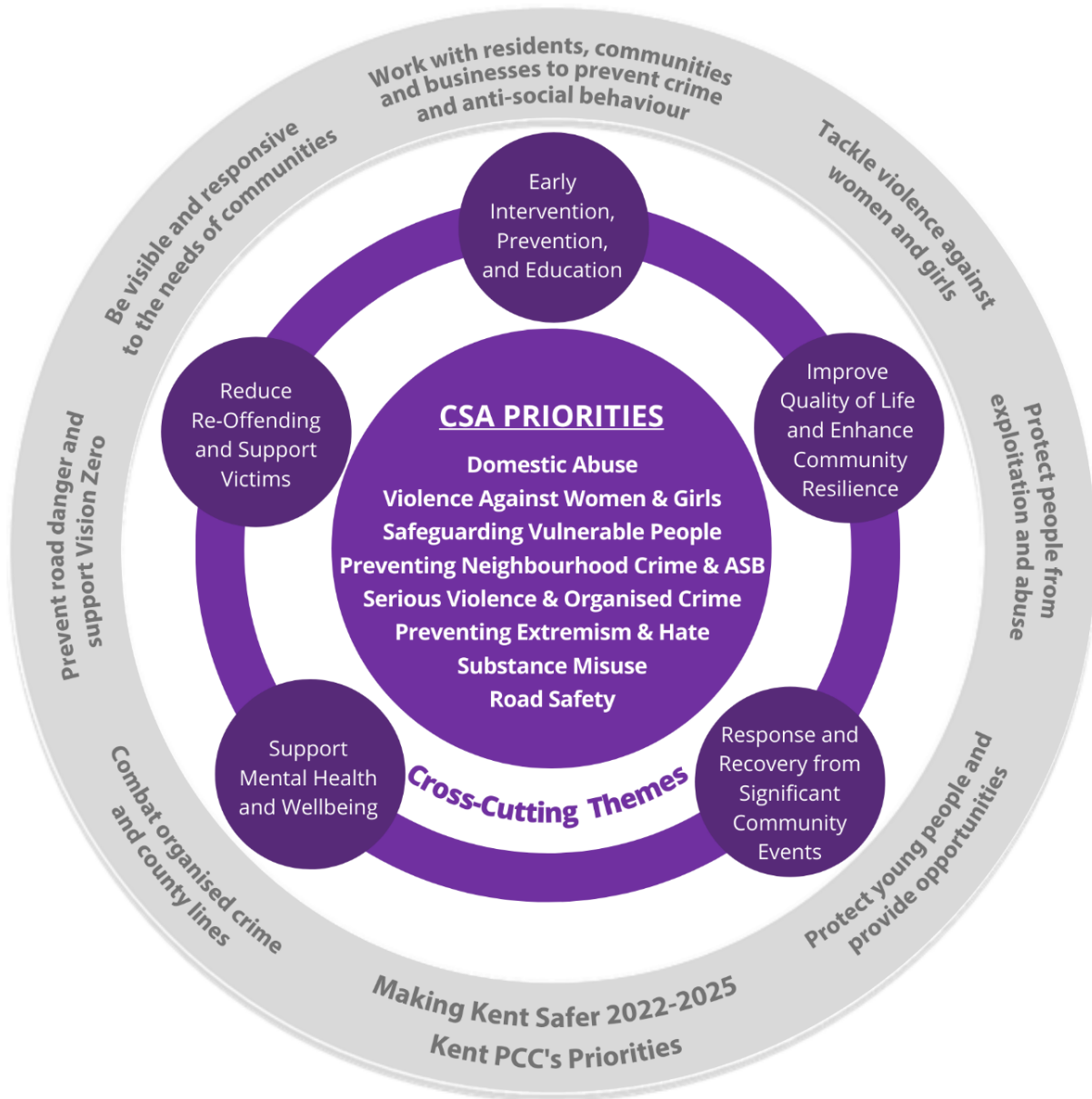
Whilst the CSA action plan sets out how partners aim to address the overarching priorities across the county, each local CSP in Kent has their own community safety plan and associated initiatives aimed at tackling the most relevant issues for their residents.

6. County Priorities

- 6.1. This section sets out the key priorities for the Kent Community Safety Partnership for the forthcoming year along with a number of cross-cutting themes to be addressed within each priority as appropriate.
- 6.2. 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, which includes use of the MoRiLE scoring matrix (*Management of Risk in Law Enforcement*), 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.
- 6.3. At a local level, the twelve 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.
- 6.4. Over the 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.
- 6.5. Since the first version of this document was published in April 2017, there have been a number of changes made to the priorities and cross-cutting themes as new issues emerged, with the refreshed CSA being published annually in April:
- 2018 – A new priority of ‘Preventing Extremism and Hate’ was introduced, which was previously included as part of the ‘Safeguarding Vulnerable People’ priority; In addition a new cross-cutting theme was added to ‘Support Mental Health and Wellbeing’.
 - 2019 – No major changes were made but it was agreed that Violence Reduction and the impact of Brexit would be incorporated into existing priorities i.e. Serious and Organised Crime, Safeguarding Vulnerable People and Preventing Extremism and Hate.
 - 2020 – The priority of Serious and Organised Crime was expanded to become ‘Serious Violence and Organised Crime’ to reflect new proposed

- duties around Serious Violence and the introduction of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).
- 2021 – A new cross-cutting theme was added entitled ‘Response and Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic’ to reflect the impact of the pandemic across all the priorities.
- 6.6. In the latest review for April 2022, it is evident that the issue of ‘Violence Against Women and Girls’ (VAWG) has become a focus both nationally and locally following several high profile events, with both the Home Office and the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner prioritising this as an issue (see 3.2). In addition a number of district / borough CSPs have identified VAWG within their plans and the Government has recently launched the ‘Enough’ campaign. As mentioned earlier, VAWG covers a wide range of abuses against women and girls and could be included within a number of the existing priorities, however, it has been agreed by KCSP members that this should become a standalone priority of *‘Violence Against Women & Girls’*.
- 6.7. It was also agreed that the other priorities and cross-cutting themes remain essentially the same for 2022 but with a couple of amendments including expanding the priority of ‘Anti-Social Behaviour’ to become *‘Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB’*; and changing the cross-cutting theme: ‘Response and Recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic’ to *‘Response and Recovery from Significant Community Events’*. The latter is to reflect that whilst most restrictions have been lifted in England (at the time of writing) and we have moved into a recovery phase, COVID-19 is still present, and residents, communities, and businesses are still learning to live with it. Therefore the cross-cutting theme has been adapted slightly to acknowledge the potential impacts of other significant events, not just Covid.
- 6.8. The only other item to note as part of this year’s review relates to ‘Road Safety’ as this remains an issue for county partners and the public in general, due to the impact that road safety has on the wider determinants of public health and community safety. The lead for this area of work is the multi-agency Safer Roads for Kent partnership, reporting back to the KCSP as necessary. Whilst Road Safety is less likely to be referenced as a standalone priority in district / borough Community Safety Plans, it has been included in the Police and Crime Plan along with the Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy.
- 6.9. Whilst the priorities remain relatively unchanged it is acknowledged that further work will need to take place over the year ahead to assess the impact of a number of new national strategies such as ‘The Beating Crime Plan’. In the meantime the action plan which supports the work of the CSA will ensure these key workstreams are included and actioned as appropriate.

6.10. The diagram below not only includes the priorities and cross-cutting themes for the CSA as detailed above but also shows those identified in the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner’s new Police and Crime Plan entitled ‘Making Kent Safer’ 2022-25. This reflects the statutory requirement to have due regard for each other’s priorities.



ASB = anti-social behaviour

Key:
 Kent CSA priorities & cross-cutting themes (purple).
 Kent PCC’s priorities from Making Kent Safer 2022-2025 (grey).
 See Appendix E for a table display of above diagram.

- Safeguarding Vulnerable People includes: *Child Sexual Exploitation, Fraud, Cybercrime, Victims, Vulnerable People at Risk of Exploitation*
- Serious Violence & Organised Crime includes: *Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), Gangs, Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking, Violence Reduction, Serious Violence Duty, County Lines and Drug Dealing (which also links to the Substance Misuse priority)*
- Neighbourhood Crime & ASB includes: *Anti-Social Behaviour, Neighbour Disputes, Environmental Crime, Deliberate Fires, Criminal Damage*
- Preventing Extremism & Hate includes: *Preventing Violent Extremism, Hate Crimes, Radicalisation, Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism, Incels (involuntary celibates), Immigration tensions*
- Substance Misuse – *this is a specific duty placed upon Community Safety Partnerships*
- *Response & Recovery from Significant Community Events includes: COVID-19 pandemic*

- 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; Safer Roads for Kent 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.

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	Chief Superintendent (Domestic Abuse), Kent Police / Chair of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group
Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)	Chief Superintendent (Violence Against Women & Girls), Kent Police
Safeguarding Vulnerable People	Group Head of Public Protection, Kent County Council
Serious Violence and Organised Crime	Director of Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) / Head of Crime Command, Kent Police
Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB (<i>Anti-Social Behaviour</i>)	Superintendent of Strategic Partnerships, Kent Police
Preventing Extremism and Hate	Prevent and Channel Strategic Manager, Kent County Council
Substance Misuse	Consultant in Public Health, Kent County Council
Road Safety	Chair of Safer Roads for Kent partnership

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
- Making Kent Safer 2022-2025 (Kent Police and Crime Plan)
- Local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Community Safety Plans
- Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Kent and Medway Gangs Strategy
- Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy
- Kent County Council's Interim Strategic Plan – Setting the Course
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service Customer Safety Plan 2021-2031
- Kent Criminal Justice Board Strategic Plan
- Kent and Medway Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending
- Medway Community Safety Plan
- Vision Zero – Road Safety Strategy for Kent
- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan
- Prevent Duty Delivery Board Action Plan
- Counter Terrorism Situational Risk Assessment
- Prevent Community Engagement 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)
- Probation Service
- Local District/Borough Community Safety Partnerships

Appendix A: Strategic Assessments (2021-22)

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	12
Safeguarding and Vulnerability (including child sexual exploitation, exploitation, vulnerable people, repeat victims)	11
Tackling Violence (including serious violence, *violence against women & girls (VAWG), violent crime, violence reduction, youth violence, weapons)	11
Substance Misuse (including drugs & alcohol, night-time economy)	10
Serious and Organised Crime (including gangs, organised crime groups, county lines, modern slavery)	9
Strengthening Communities (cohesion, resilience, reassurance)	7
Extremism & Hate (including preventing violent extremism, counter-terrorism, radicalisation, hate crimes)	7
Mental Health	7
Reducing Offending and Reoffending	5
Young people and youth engagement	5
Crime (including acquisitive property, doorstep crime, shoplifting)	4
Town Centres	4
Road Safety	3

Appendix B: MoRiLE Assessment (2021-22)

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). 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)	Public Order
PREVENT	Anti-Social Behaviour
Modern Slavery	Violent Crime
Domestic Abuse	Cyber Crime
Gangs	Criminal Damage
Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)	Hate Crime
Mental Health	Road Safety

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 (2021-22)

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:

- Ongoing impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- Impact of trade and travel rules following EU exit
- War in Ukraine
- Local Council elections in May 2022

Economic:

- Significant cost of living increases
- Fuel Poverty
- Impact of Covid-19 and EU exit
- Disruptions to trade and labour supply
- Funding pressure on public services
- Financial pressures on businesses and individuals
- 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:

- violence against women and girls
- 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.

Environmental (and Geographical):

- New developments
- Extreme weather events, i.e. flooding
- Impact of Brexit on transport routes.

Legislation:

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

- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Counter-Terrorism & Sentencing Act 2021
- Fire Safety Act 2021
- EU (Withdrawal) Agreement Act 2020
- Stalking Protection Act 2019
- Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019

Upcoming legislation / duties includes:

- Police, Crime, Sentencing & Courts Bill (*inc. new serious violence duty*)
- Building Safety Bill
- New legal Protect duty
- New statutory guidance for domestic abuse

Organisational:

- Impact of COVID-19 changing the focus of organisations and service delivery inc. new ways of working
- Public sector restructures
- Impact of Brexit and COVID-19 on business continuity.
- Implementation of new duties and strategies

Appendix D: Police & Crime Plan (2022-2025)

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). 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 new Police and Crime Plan entitled '[Making Kent Safer](#)' April 2022 to March 2025.

The guiding principles of the plan are:

- Crime is important no matter where it takes place - urban, rural or coastal communities
- Victims and witnesses at the heart of everything we do
- Ensure that vulnerable people and those suffering mental ill health get support from the right agency

Kent Police's priorities are to:

- Work with residents, communities and businesses to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour
- Tackle violence against women and girls
- Protect people from exploitation and abuse
- Combat organised crime and county lines
- Be visible and responsive to the needs of communities
- Prevent road danger and support Vision Zero
- Protect young people and provide opportunities

The Police and Crime Commissioner will:

- Hold all agencies to account for the delivery of an effective and efficient criminal justice system
- Work in partnership with the police and others to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour
- Be responsive to emerging issues and trends through innovation
- Secure the funding that Kent needs through specific grants and funding formula review
- Support volunteering
- Commission services for victims that are needs-led

The Police and Crime Plan priorities included in the diagram on p.20 of the Community Safety Agreement reflect the Kent PCC's priorities detailed above.

Appendix E: Kent CSA Priorities and Cross-Cutting Themes

As highlighted on page 20, 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 Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities from the Police and Crime Plan 'Making Kent Safer'.

Kent CSA Priorities:
Domestic Abuse
Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
Safeguarding Vulnerable People
Serious Violence and Organised Crime
Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB (<i>Anti-Social Behaviour</i>)
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 Significant Community Events

Making Kent Safer (2022 – 2025) – Kent PCC's Priorities:
Work with residents, communities and businesses to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour
Tackle violence against women and girls
Protect people from exploitation and abuse
Combat organised crime and county lines
Be visible and responsive to the needs of communities
Prevent road danger and support Vision Zero
Protect young people and provide opportunities



In partnership with



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



Email: kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk

Tel: 03000 410234

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

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Introduction

The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) has delegated performance monitoring of the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) to the senior officer led sub-group known as the KCSP Working Group, along with relevant priority leads from the partner agencies.

The following report includes a summary of performance and contextual information along with the actions undertaken by partners to tackle the CSA priorities published in April 2021. 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 (the KCSP) for consideration as part of the reporting cycle. The priorities identified in the Kent Community Safety Agreement published in April 2021 (and covered within this report) are:

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

Data Provision

It should be noted that Covid-19 impacted on some of the data both locally and nationally during 2020/21 making it more difficult to compare datasets. For example in 2020/21 data recorded by Kent police showed a reduction in certain offences, such as residential burglary or shoplifting 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 saw a rise compared to previous years, and whilst the rise may not solely have been due to Covid-19, a proportion of the incidents recorded were 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 2021 (published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in July 2021). A full set of national crime statistics are published annually by the ONS with the next release for the year-ending March 2022 due in mid/late July 2022. In-year data for some crime types has been published by the ONS and where available these have been included.

Priority: Domestic Abuse

Context

Domestic abuse is not limited to physical violence but takes many forms. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 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.

Legislation and Statutory Duties

The Domestic Abuse Act received royal assent in April 2021 and introduced measures at both a national and local level. The changes introduced by the Act include a statutory definition of domestic abuse; introduction of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner; a new domestic abuse protection notice and order; and a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to survivors and their children in safe accommodation (refuge, sanctuary, secondary or move on accommodation and specialist accommodation). Part 4 statutory requirements include:

- forming a multi-agency partnership board (Local Partnership Board, LPB),
- assessing the need for support in safe accommodation,
- preparing and publishing a strategy for the provision of support within safe accommodation,
- giving effect to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy
- to monitor any impact on community-based provision.

In August 2021 (updated October) draft Statutory Guidance in relation to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 was published by the Home Office to provide guidance and support to frontline professionals about the new duties. In March 2022 the Home Office published a policy paper on the Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan which sets out how the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 will be delivered through preventing Domestic Abuse from happening, providing more support for victims and survivors and more robust actions to deal with perpetrators.

Prevalence

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) report providing an Overview of Domestic Abuse in England in Wales for the year ending March 2021 (published November 2021) the number of domestic abuse-related crimes* recorded by the police in England and Wales increased by 6%; from 798,607 in the year ending March 2020 to 845,734¹. This continues the trend of increases seen over previous years, which may in part, be driven by general police improvements in offence recording practices or increased willingness of victims to come forward to report domestic abuse. Domestic abuse-related incidents* cover reports where, after initial investigation, the police have concluded that no notifiable crime was committed. In the year ending March 2021, the number of domestic abuse-related incidents recorded by the police in England and Wales (613,929 incidents) also increased by 6% compared with the year ending March 2020 where there were 581,649 incidents¹. Since the year ending March 2018, the number of domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales has exceeded the number of domestic abuse-related incidents¹.

In the same time period as above (2020/21) Kent Police recorded a total of 59,136 domestic-abuse related crimes and incidents, of which 39,161 were recorded as crimes and 19,975 were recorded as incidents. In the last 12 months (April 2021 to March 2022) the total number of DA-related crimes and incidents recorded in Kent decreased slightly to 58,152 compared to the previous year (including 38,719 crimes; 19,433 incidents). Around 9,000 of the DA-related crimes recorded in 2021/22 in Kent were stalking and harassment, whilst around 4,400 were coercion and control.

Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment²

The Local Partnership Board has responsibility for conducting a needs assessment. In October 2020 a full Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment for Kent and Medway was published. This was updated in November 2021, focusing on support within safe accommodation, in line with the Act. Key findings from the 2021 Needs Assessment showed:

- Domestic abuse is a largely hidden crime, and victims are often reluctant to report abuse to the police or via crime surveys. People often do not report or disclose domestic abuse to the police (HMIC, 2014) and may underreport domestic abuse in surveys, particularly during face-to-face interviews (ONS, 2015)².

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- Applying national prevalence estimates to the Kent population suggests there were just under 40,000 female survivors of domestic abuse in Kent in 2019/20 (66% of survivors) and around 20,000 male survivors².
- Domestic abuse prevalence is particularly high amongst single adult households with children. It is estimated that in 2019/20 around 28,500 adults (aged 16-74) in Kent experienced domestic abuse and live with children².
- In 2020, 44% of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police are recorded as either having a child present or within hearing shot, or involve a victim and/or suspect with children².

Service Provision

Historically provision of domestic abuse services for adults was commissioned or grant funded by a wide range of agencies including the Police and Crime Commissioner, District and Boroughs and Kent County Council. Disparate and complex funding arrangements led provision to be short term, and pathways unclear. Throughout 2016, the council worked with partners, stakeholders and survivors to plan new services that would be integrated, and outcome focussed. The Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) commenced in April 2017. It is jointly funded by KCC, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Kent Fire and Rescue and District and Boroughs and managed by KCC Commissioning on behalf of these partner agencies. The contract includes accommodation-based services, such as refuges and community-based support for those aged 16+. Through collaboration with the PCC a single point of access was added to their wider Victim Support contract.

A formal review, completed in 2021, included evaluation of the performance of the KIDAS contract. The service was found to be good and delivering positive outcomes for victims of domestic abuse. In August 2021 a key decision was made by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health to use the first of the two, two-year options to extend the contract to 31 March 2024.

In 2021/22 the single point of access received over 24,000 referrals. Of these 3% were from individuals who were not resident to Kent, 2,024 (8.5%) were assessed to be at high risk of harm or homicide, 8,439 (35%) medium risk and 13,446 (56%) standard risk. From the single point of access over 4,000 individuals were referred on to the KIDAS lead providers for support in refuge and the community with 2,036 new entrants being supported and 3,419 individuals being supported in total (262 of those were in refuge)

The KIDAS contract has enabled KCC and its public sector partners, to work in partnership to successfully bid for additional funding and the contracts with the lead providers have been varied to include the management and delivery of services including the Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (HIDVA) Service, Specialist IDVA Service and to increase staffing resources within community-based services. The success of the HIDVA service has resulted in Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) continuing to fund the established service and develop a proposal to fund an expansion of this to countywide with a decision on this expected later in the year

As part of the councils' new statutory responsibilities introduced by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Kent County Council was allocated £3.1m in new funding for 2021/22 to deliver support within safe accommodation. The KIDAS contract was identified as a vehicle to support the council to use the new funding effectively and compliantly. In response to the findings from the 2021 needs assessment the council have varied into the KIDAS contract:

- Enhanced support for individuals residing in refuge to improve the offer for those with co-occurring conditions;
- Trauma support for children residing in refuge has also been commissioned; and
- Tenancy Support Workers have been recruited to improve move on support and

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opportunities for those leaving refuge.

An element of the KIDAS contract is to raise awareness of domestic abuse, support an awareness that services are for everyone and to educate partner agencies and the community. Throughout 2021/22 the KIDAS lead providers, in partnership with the Medway Domestic Abuse service, commissioned a communications consultant who worked with partners including Medway council to deliver coherent, effective, and impactful content for all partners to use to connect with key audiences and increase awareness of DA across Kent and Medway.

This includes the 'Know, See, Speak Out' social media campaign which ran across 16 days consecutive in November / December 2021. It was coordinated across all partners to ensure consistency in information and sign posting. The campaign included social media assets and toolkits for sharing through their networks and social media channels and covered key themes such as what DA is and its different forms, warning signs and the cycle of abuse. The content achieved 777 mentions across Twitter, Facebook and Instagram; 3.3M Reach (total seen content) and 3.2K Interactions (total likes, commented, shared). The KIDAS data for 2021/22 shows that 5% of those supported were over 61 years, this is an increase when compared to 2020/21 (4%) and is felt to be as a result of the media campaigns and awareness raising as there was content around domestic abuse in older victims.

The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Support Services website was able to be refreshed through funding provided by the KCSP in 2020/21. This work was led by KCSP in partnership with members of the Domestic Abuse Tactical Group to improve the functionality and accessibility for both residents and partners. This website is now being used as the platform to share the above-mentioned communication and campaign assets with partners alongside information about available services for residents.

To support 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. In 2020/21 (April to March) Kent and Medway MARAC discussed 2,762 adults and 3,581 children (classed as victims in their own right) who were risk assessed at high risk of murder or serious harm². The MARAC process is currently undergoing a review which KCSP are feeding into with findings and recommendations available in due course.

To support 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. In 2020/21 (Nov '21 to Oct '22) there were 2,837 cases presented across Kent and Medway, which was an increase when compared to the same period in the previous year - approximately 150 more cases, with 3,694 children identified as living within households where high-risk domestic abuse was taking place and therefore classed as victims in their own right. The MARAC process is currently undergoing a review which KCSP are feeding into with findings and recommendations available in due course.

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 with services moving to a virtual operation with the option of face-to-face support gradually being reintroduced. In the last three months (Jan 2022 to Mar 2022), 156 face-to-face visits were recorded in One Stop Shops

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with a further 49 accessing support virtually (total of 205 visits). During this period, approximately 8% of One Stop shop visitors were male and records show that there were over 270 children living in the households of One Stop Shop visitors. Of those that gave feedback on the service nearly all advised that they found their visit helpful. A multi-agency working group is now in place to monitor and review the effectiveness of the current OSS and to ensure any changes are robust, consistent, and sustainable.

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

Notes:

1) Office for National Statistics. *Domestic Abuse in England and Wales Overview: November 2021*

[*Domestic abuse related crimes are defined as any incidence of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, aged 16 years and over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. *The number of incidents refers to how many domestic abuse-related incidents did not get recorded as a crime.]

2) Kent Public Health Observatory. *Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment (published October 2020) and Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment Update (published November 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 2021/22 the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) received five notifications and has commissioned the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) to undertake three new DHRs. During the same period six DHRs were published. 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 presentations at CSP meetings and short written briefings shared across a variety of partners and frontline staff. • In previous years face-to-face DHR Lessons Identified Seminars have taken place aimed at professionals and frontline practitioners. Due to the pandemic the seminars were put on hold and a learning pack was developed and distributed to over 600 recipients instead. In 2021/22 work began on developing online themed webinars, the first of which took place in March '22 on the topic of Young People and DA. • 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 2021 and March 2022, over 80 actions have been signed-off, across eight different reviews.
<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 last year 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 for victims and professionals seeking information on how to access support. • In addition the website now acts as a platform to share media and communications assets, making campaign material accessible for partners to share through networks and social media. Poster, business cards and pull-up banners promoting the website are available for partners and have been used by partners at face-to-face events that have been held across the county. • The website address was advertised on all material throughout the Know, See, Speak Out campaign.

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<p>Support delivery of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DA Policy lead provides updates on the work of the Exec Group and implementation of new legislation to the KCSP and associated partners. • The Kent and Medway Strategy was published in January 2022 and is supported via a delivery plan of which KCSP have supported progression • 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.
<p>Updates provided to partners about the multi-agency funded integrated domestic abuse service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates and briefings from the Executive Group are cascaded to the KCSP, including details about the KIDAS contract and commissioning of services. • KCSP provide regular updates to the Tactical and Executive Group around DHRs and other partnership activities such as the DA Website and OSS data. • A formal review of the service was completed which informed a key decision, taken in August 2021 to extend the KIDAS contract until March 2024. • The success of the Hospital IDVA service has resulted in CCG funding for the existing provision until March 2024 and informed a proposal to expand across the county which is going through CCG governance routes.

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 not a concern but that local partnerships are limited in their ability to impact on this particular issue. At a county level Road Safety remains a priority within the CSA.

In April 2022 the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner published a new Police and Crime Plan entitled 'Making Kent Safer' 2022-2025 which outlines the key priorities for the Force and includes a new priority on Road Safety and the Vision Zero Strategy (see below for more details). It should be noted that CSPs are required to have due regard to the Police and Crime Plan and in the latest strategic assessments undertaken by district / borough CSPs a number have referenced both Road Safety and Vision Zero.

Joint working between agencies is key to supporting Road Safety and in Kent 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 2021 is not due for publication until September 2022. We are able to share provisional data for 2021 only at this stage.

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At the time of writing the Department for Transport is yet to publish the regional traffic statistics for 2021 or the national traffic statistics for Q4 (October – December) 2021 and therefore it is difficult to contextualise changes in collision and casualty numbers in Kent with traffic for 2021. In Great Britain, traffic was 11% lower January-September 2021 compared to the same period the previous year¹. Traffic levels in Q4 2020 were lower than in Q3 2020, due to a second national lockdown. This pattern is unlikely to be seen in 2021 as there were no restrictions on movement in Q4 2021. As such best estimates suggest that total traffic levels for 2021 could be 3-7% lower than 2020 nationally, this is best explained due to the fact that Q1 of 2020 was unaffected by any lockdowns, and traffic levels at that point were very high (pre-covid).

Provisional data for 2021 shows 3,148 total Collisions (42 Fatal, 616 Serious and 2,490 Slight) resulting in 4,168 Casualties (47 Fatal, 674 Serious and 3,447 Slight) on Kent and National Highways Roads (excluding Medway). Compared to 2020 data there was an overall increase in collisions across all severities of 181 and increase in casualties by 237, there was an increase in fatal casualties of 8 and an increase in Killed and Serious Injury (KSI) casualties of 23. This shows an approximate 5.68% increase in total casualties in 2021, but only a 2.8% drop in KSI casualties.

The drop in KSI casualties will likely mirror the predicted traffic levels for 2021, however an increase of all severity casualties against a potential drop in traffic nationally would be unusual. 2021 Casualty data in Kent has seen an increase in pedestrian, light goods vehicle, motorcycle and micromobility (electric scooters and electric cycles) casualties compared to 2020. This reflects anecdotal evidence that the 'fast food' economy of increased delivery driving could be resulting in greater numbers of vehicle conflicts despite a reduced overall traffic level.

KSI collisions and casualties have been generally declining on the KCC network, but at a slower rate, they have decreased 6% since 2017. Collisions on unclassified roads decreased dramatically in 2017–2018, but have been increasing since, the increase has been on 30mph roads. The adoption of Vision Zero and the principles of a Safe Systems approach seek to lift the plateau effect in a bid to see some real reductions in KSIs.

In September 2021 KCC Highways adopted a five year Road Safety Strategy for Kent and a 30 year vision². 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. The public consultation was very successful, and the full consultation report can be seen here:

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/9010/widgets/27042/documents/13562>

The final strategy was launched at a collaborative event in September attended by all partners including a keynote speech from Prince Michael of Kent who is a Patron of Road Safety and work has now begun establishing working groups, key roles and responsibilities and the annual programme of road safety investment.

The KCSP will continue to work with partners to support the road safety agenda including raising awareness with partners around the Vision Zero 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.

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Notes:

- 1) 960.5 billion vehicle miles travelled in January – September 2020, compared to 851.2 billion vehicle miles in January-September 2021 – DfT Road Traffic Statistics: Provisional Estimates; Table TRA2501a
 2) 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 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.

Actions	Progress
Support delivery of the Safer Roads for Kent Partnership Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Vision Zero paper was presented to the KCSP meeting in June 2021 with an update report presented in March 2022. The Partnership will be continuing to support the delivery of the strategy and develop delivery plans that are aligned with the new Strategy. • 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 newly restructured Road Safety & Active Travel Group within the Transportation department will host internal training and development to promote the delivery of the partnership actions and further encourage Collaborative working.
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 Safer Road Users Team will be speaking in May at the Young Driver Focus Conference and again at a national road safe conference in November • Partners of the Safer Roads Partnership are supporting Vision Zero and the Safe System approach. The launch event, organised by KCC took place on 15/09/2021, with all partners in attendance. • Discussions are planned with regards developing the online Safer Communities Portal and using the KCST e-bulletin to promote campaigns locally to district partners.
Reduce young driver / passenger casualties through education and changing behaviours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Partnership is continuing to support the delivery of the national research project 'Pre-driver Theatre & Workshop Education Research'. • KCC's Road Safety Team are continuing to deliver their 'Young Driver' course to schools and colleges across Kent. Product and resources have been shared with Medway to ensure consistency across the whole County. The programme has engaged over 6,000 year 12/13 pupils since September 2021. The Course lead has been invited to speak at Young Driver conference in May 2022 and again at National Road Safety conference in November 2022 highlighting best practice techniques, delivery and approach to subject matter. • Awarding winning Speak Out Campaign – focusing on empowering young people to speak out if they feel unsafe in a car, took place across a variety of platforms from September 2021. • Numerous interventions in relation to new drivers including educational/DVSA driver magazines; First Car Young Driver Guide' to support Young Driver & Passenger programme and input into Approved Driving Instructors (ADI's) across Kent.

Priority: Anti-Social Behaviour.

Context

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has been identified as a priority for all twelve local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) either as a stand-alone priority or as part of a broader theme and following the latest annual review it remains a priority within the county agreement, although for the year ahead 2022/23 it has been expanded to also include 'Preventing Neighbourhood Crime'.

The police recorded 1.5 million incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the year ending December 2021, this was a 25% decrease compared with the year ending December 2020¹. Levels of ASB incidents were particularly high in the year ending December 2020 because of people reporting breaches of virus restrictions in their local area since the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic¹. The number of ASB incidents in the year ending December 2021 was similar to that of the pre-coronavirus year ending March 2019¹.

The Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TSCEW) showed that 24% of adults personally witnessed or experienced anti-social behaviour in their area in the last 12 months¹. The TCSEW includes a measure of harassment that covers adults' experiences of being insulted, called names, threatened or shouted at in public spaces. Estimates showed that 7% of adults experienced these types of harassment in the year ending December 2021¹. Where a specific perceived reason for the harassment was given, the most common was because of the coronavirus pandemic (21%), followed by education, income level or job (8%)¹.

In Kent and Medway between April 2021 and March 2022, Kent Police recorded 32,640 incidents of anti-social behaviour, significantly lower than the 56,915 incidents recorded in the same period the previous year (2020/21). As mentioned above by the ONS, higher levels of ASB reporting took place in 2021/22 linked to the reporting of Covid-19 breaches. Of the 32,640 ASB incidents in Kent (2021/22) the most prevalent type of ASB was Rowdy or nuisance gathering in public (11,094), Drunken and rowdy behaviour (6,853), and Neighbour disputes/nuisance, including noise (5,872).

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 tools and powers. In previous years the KCSP has supported delivery of ASB activities through 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.

In January 2021 the Home Office published revised Statutory Guidance, around ASB powers, for frontline professionals and in 2021/22, district / borough partners worked together to jointly review and refresh the ASB Case Review process, commonly referred to as the 'Community Trigger' incorporating the Government's updated statutory guidance around ASB tools and powers. During the same year the Kent Community Safety Team commissioned the delivery of an ASB training programme for district / borough colleagues to support partners across the county, focusing on Community Protection Notices and Civil Injunctions; as well as providing training in relation to OSARA problem-solving which is aimed at addressing ASB issues although the principles can be used to assess a wide range of issues.

Whilst ASB continues to be identified as an issue across the county and therefore remains a priority within the Kent Community Safety Agreement, the operational activity is undertaken at a district / borough level by community safety partners. Whilst 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 provides

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at a local level.

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

Notes:

1) Office for National Statistics. *Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2021 (published April 2022)*

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 regular e-bulletins during 2021/22 to provide up to date information for partners on emerging community safety issues and current activities as well as sharing effective practice, good news stories, promoting events/campaigns etc. The e-bulletins were produced fortnightly at the start of the pandemic in 2020 to share information about the changing Covid rules / regulations and impact on services, but are now generally produced monthly although frequency can be adjusted as needed. • 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 2021/22, three online events were delivered (April, July and October 2021) covering a range of topics such as Dog thefts, Domestic Abuse and Suicide, Stalking, Counter-Terrorism, Kent & Medway Gangs Strategy, Prevent and Hate Crime, Contextual Safeguarding, etc. In addition a data specific webinar was delivered to district partners in December '21 to help inform the annual community safety agreement process. • In 2021/22 District/Borough community safety colleagues worked together with colleagues from Kent Police and the KCST to review and refresh the ASB Community Trigger process for Kent. This was finalised and agreed by district partners in Autumn 2021.
<p>Multi-agency operations to address anti-social behaviour linked to drugs and alcohol, supporting the needs of the districts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-partnership operations such as OP Locality were put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However these are being re-established and plans are currently being developed for Summer 2022. During 2021/22 any relevant issues relating to the Night-Time Economy (NTE) were picked by Licensing Steering Group (as mentioned in the Substance Misuse priority)

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<p>Deliver an ASB training programme for partners and scope potential training needs and opportunities to support ongoing delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A training course was developed with an external expert to help upskill partners and provide refresher training in the use of Community Protection Notices and Civil Injunctions. • Four one-day training sessions took place across Kent during February 2022, with 55 people attending in person. Attendees included Local Authority colleagues from a range of services (housing, community safety, ASB, environmental enforcement) as well as a number of Police colleagues working with the CSUs. Venues were provided by Local Authority partners. • The training was well received by the attendees - Questionnaires were sent out after the sessions and 41 responses were received. 100% rated the trainer's delivery as either good or excellent, with 95% rating the content as good or excellent. In the feedback, many people said that they have been able to use what they learned at the training, and that it would help them in their roles. • There is an option to join Resolve as a member so that on-going learning can be accessed
<p>Deliver OSARA Problem Solving Train the Trainer to partners and cascade the learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSARA is a problem solving approach primarily used to tackle ASB issues however the principles can be adapted for use to address a variety of community safety related issues. • Funding for a 'train the trainer' course was agreed by the KCSP using the Crime Reduction Grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) with the aim to develop a number of staff in-house who could cascade the training. This was initially scheduled for the end of 2019/20 but was delayed due to Covid-19 and was eventually delivered in April 2021. • 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 have put together a presentation and OSARA template guide to be able to provide onward training to others. • Since the training took place OSARA learning has been cascaded to staff within KFRS, Kent Police and others such as the licensing group. This training will continue to be delivered, and discussions are taking place with the districts to arrange some face-to-face training sessions.

Priority: Substance Misuse

Context

In a recent National review of drugs and drug treatment services by Dame Carol Black, it was found that the illicit drugs market in the UK, is worth an estimated £9.4 billion a year, with around 3 million people taking drugs in England and Wales including 300,000 in England taking the most harmful drugs (opiates and/or crack cocaine)¹. Drug deaths in 2018 were the highest on record (2,917) and drug addiction fuels many costly social problems, including homelessness and rising demands on children's social care¹. The drugs market is driving most of the nation's crimes: half of all homicides and half of acquisitive crimes are linked to drugs². People with serious drug addiction occupy one in three prison places². Taking the health harms, costs of crime and wider impacts on society together, it is estimated that the total costs of drugs to society is over £19 billion, which is more than twice the value of the market itself¹. These findings were anticipated in the Kent Needs Assessments on drugs and alcohol in 2020. Here findings of the increasing complexity, needs of rough sleepers, high degree of co-occurring conditions (mental illness and substance misuse),

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vulnerability of slipping through gaps in services, poor physical health outcomes, family trauma and early death were outlined alongside changes in substance misuse supply and the harm resulting from complex drug misuse involving cocaine (as well as alcohol and opiates).

In a Public Health England (PHE) review entitled 'Alcohol and Drug prevention, why invest?' it was estimated that the cost of alcohol misuse to society is around £21 billion. It was also estimated that there is a £3 social return for every £1 spent on alcohol treatment³. Alcohol misuse is the biggest risk factor for death, ill-health and disability among 15-49 year-olds in the UK and the fifth biggest risk factor across all ages⁴. It is estimated that there are around 10 million adults in England who drink above the UK Chief Medical Officers' low risk guidelines⁵ and in Kent, around 308,000 were drinking above the recommended levels of alcohol in July 2021³.

National & Local Strategies & Reviews

In response to the Professor Dame Carol Black review mentioned above, the government published its 10 year drugs plan to combat illegal drugs titled 'From Harm to Hope' sets out how national and local partners will focus on delivering three strategic priorities: Break drug supply chains; Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system; Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs⁶. By the end of 2024/25 the aim is to:

- prevent nearly 1,000 deaths, reversing the upward trend in drug deaths for the first time in a decade⁶
- deliver a phased expansion of treatment capacity with at least 54,500 new high-quality treatment places (an increase of 20%) – with a specific focus on opiate and crack users, rough sleepers and offenders with addiction⁶
- contributed to the prevention of three-quarters of a million crimes including 140,000 neighbourhood crimes through the increases in drug treatment⁶
- close over 2,000 more county lines through relentless and robust action to break the model and bring down the gangs running these illegal lines⁶
- deliver 6,400 major and moderate disruptions (20% increase) against activities of organised criminals⁶

At a local level these national outcomes are reflected in the new Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy (in draft stage) and are agreed as direction of travel by the Kent Substance Misuse Alliance which is chaired by Cllr Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health. The new draft strategy has already been endorsed by partners from this group. Wider consultation is being planned and will then go through the governance process. This strategy is expected to hopefully be signed off by the Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee on 17 January 2023. The new strategy aims to prioritise the causes and the consequences of drug and alcohol harm. It will also seek to implement a range of harm reduction strategies and ensure there are quality services for the very high-risk families, vulnerable people and communities.

Prevalence

In 2020, 4,561 deaths related to drug poisoning were registered in England and Wales (equivalent to a rate of 79.5 deaths per million people); this is 3.8% higher than the number of deaths registered in 2019 (4,393 deaths; 76.7 deaths per million). In the South East region there were 575 deaths relating to drug poisoning and drug misuse⁷. In Kent and Medway (2020/21) there were over 1,100 hospital admissions in which substance misuse is recorded as a primary or secondary diagnosis (including those admitted for mental and behavioural disorders resulting from opioids, cannabinoids, cocaine, etc.).

In 2020, there were 8,974 deaths (14.0 per 100,000 people) from alcohol-specific causes registered in the UK, an 18.6% increase compared with 2019 (7,565 deaths; 11.8 per 100,000 people) and the highest year-on-year increase since the data time series began in 2001. In the South East region

there were 986 alcohol-specific deaths⁸. In Kent and Medway (2020/21) there were over 5,600 hospital admissions in which alcohol is recorded as a primary or secondary diagnosis (including those admitted for toxic effect of alcohol, mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol, etc).

People with mental health issues, who are not accessing care, are known to self-medicate with alcohol. 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 diagnosis.⁹

Treatment

During 2021/22 there just over 5,000 adults accessing structured treatment in Kent with over 1,300 successfully completing treatment free from dependence. During the same period over 1,500 young people received group work and almost 300 accessed structured treatment.

Individuals that require support from drug and alcohol treatment services often face multiple challenges in addressing their addiction. Individuals have housing-related challenges, co-morbidities and mental health conditions all of which must be addressed in addition to treating the drug and alcohol addiction in order to successfully reach abstinence. However, often individuals face barriers to accessing care services due to their substance misuse. Therefore, the approach to drug and alcohol treatment is one that must be a multi-agency approach.

The Dame Carol Black Review stated that there must be no further cuts to drug and alcohol services and there should be improved join-up with NHS and social care services to amend the fragmentation of services (including in-patient medical detox)³. The needs assessments estimated there are large treatment gaps for people with complex alcohol addiction often resulting in a patchy access route to services via police and crisis care services. And the recent PHE peer review of Alcohol Clear partnerships in Kent in 2020 also recommended closer partnerships with NHS and social care which are reflected in the recommendations of the need's assessment. It is noted that it is important to acknowledge the impact of covid19 pandemic on both the changes on alcohol consumption and access to care and treatment.

In recognition of the recommendations outlined by Professor Dame Carol Black and the government's 10-year drug strategy, the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) has announced a three-year funding package for local authorities. The funding named the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant, is aimed at implementing local measures to address the aims of the treatment and recovery section of the national drug strategy. As a result there will be an investment of approx. 7 million pounds into Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services in Kent over the next 3 years which will increase capacity to tackle substance misuse, provide access to the most vulnerable groups including rough sleepers and those people with co-occurring conditions and via the criminal justice pathways.

Substance Misuse continues to be identified as a priority for most of the local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) either as a stand-alone priority or as part of a broader theme and following the latest review it remains a priority within the county agreement. It should be noted that there are strong links between Substance Misuse and other CSA priorities such as 'Serious Violence and Organised Crime' in the form of County Lines drug dealing and other associated activities and as such there may be some actions in the 2022/23 action plan which link across more than one priority.

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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.

Notes:

- 1) Home Office. *Independent Report (Dame Carol Black) – Review of drugs: Summary (updated 17 September 2020)*
- 2) Dept. of Health & Social Care. *Independent Report - Review of Drugs part two: prevention, treatment, and recovery (updated 2 August 2021)*
- 3) Kent Public Health Observatory *Alcohol Needs Assessment (December 2021)*
- 4) Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. *Local Alcohol Profiles for England*
- 5) Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. *Guidance - Alcohol: applying All Our Health (Updated 1 March 2022)*
- 6) UK Gov. *Policy Paper. From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives (updated 29 April 2022)*
- 7) *Deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales: 2020 registrations (published 3 August 2021)*
- 8) *Alcohol-specific deaths in the UK: registered in 2020 (published 7 December 2021)*
- 9) *Report to the Kent and Medway Joint Health and Wellbeing Board (19th March 2019) – Reducing Alcohol Consumption Deep Dive.*

Public Health Guidance: Alcohol and drug prevention, treatment and recovery: why invest? (published February 2018)

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 which now meets on a regular quarterly basis • The Kent Substance Misuse Alliance is developing a commissioning plan and strategy in relation to the funding and grant from the Government’s Drug Strategy and Dame Carol Black’s review.
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. • The group continues to identify problem areas and works collectively to develop and share effective practice. • Both the Substance Misuse Alliance meeting and the Kent & Medway Licensing Steering Group are now well established and the relationship between the two is being cultivated. Updates from both are to be permanent items on each agenda.
Provide frontline staff with the understanding and tools to support those in need of treatment 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 with the aim to bring about long-lasting system change to reduce the impact of ACES and unresolved trauma, that can impact on the physical and mental health of adults. The initial focus of SPACE Matters related to

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	<p>understanding the effect of ACEs, now the trauma and adversity suffered by so many because of the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to take a holistic trauma informed approach to support people dealing with stressful situations including (but not limited to) domestic abuse; illness, bereavement; unemployment and homelessness. Several training sessions have been organised and delivered, the most recent one was in February 2022.</p>
<p>People have hope and support to recover from addictions and live long, full, productive lives..</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparing this year (2021/22) with the previous year there has been a 13% increase in the number of adults successfully completing drug and alcohol services (free from dependence on drugs or alcohol). Further investment for drug and alcohol services is being developed to help to increase the number of people in treatment to increase the support and quality of service offered for those in treatment. • During 2020/21 two campaigns were undertaken to promote the alcohol “know your score” campaign: 15-22nd November 2021 as part of Alcohol Awareness Week (two week campaign) and 1st January 2022 for Dry January (four week campaign). • The campaign was promoted via a range of channels such as local radio, online newsfeed, social media, mobile adverts, Community Ad magazine, etc. including new videos created for the tool itself and new animations and static creative assets developed for social media and digital use • The aim of the campaign was: To raise awareness of health harms of drinking too much alcohol – physically, mentally and emotionally, in both short and long term; To raise awareness of Covid-19 impact on drinking habits; To promote the ‘Know Your Score’ online quiz tool at www.kent.gov.uk/knowyourscore; and Secondary signposting of people to One You Kent website – specifically www.kent.gov.uk/lowermydrinking - to use other online resources and local support services.
<p>Support the delivery of the Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP) in Kent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP activity was hit by Covid, with many staff in the partnerships being directed to other work on the covid response. Reports of retail issues dropped as many premises were impacted. As the environment is slowly returning to normal the project coordinator is working hard to rebuild the CAP partnerships across the county. • There are currently 10 CAPs within the KCC structure. Deal was the last new area identified and launched its CAP during lockdown. As partners bring CAPs back into business as usual, enquiries are anticipated on new CAPS around the County. • Achievements included: Engaging with all schools in CAP areas to promote the SMASH project theatrical performances; Challenge 25 visits to help identify compliance or enforcement issues; etc.

Priority: Serious Violence and Organised Crime

Context

As a result of changes in legislation and government strategies such as the ‘Serious and Organised Crime Strategy’, the scope of community safety has expanded over the years beyond the traditional remit of ‘crime and ASB’ to consider issues such as human trafficking, modern slavery, gangs, organised crime groups (OCGs) etc. In addition, there has been an increased focus around violence reduction, initially with the publishing of the government’s Serious Violence Strategy, the

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development of a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in Kent and more recently the introduction of new legislation and statutory duties for agencies around tackling violence. These issues are a priority for many of the local CSPs as well as the KCSP and as such 'Serious Violence and Organised Crime' remains a priority within the CSA.

Legislation and Strategies

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. The initial funding from the Government in 2019/20 has been renewed on an annual basis since that date, and in 2022 the Home Office confirmed that the Kent VRU would receive further funding for the next three years until March 2025.

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. This duty was recently enacted as part of the 'Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022' receiving Royal Assent on 28th April 2022. The duty requires specified agencies to work together to formulate an evidence based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues. Local areas are encouraged to use existing multi-agency partnerships where possible such as CSPs or multi-agency safeguarding groups¹, and in areas where a VRU exists (such as Kent) it is expected that the new duty will complement and assist VRUs in their aim of preventing and reducing serious violence¹. In Kent work has already begun to embed the new duty including work undertaken by the VRU on a strategic needs assessment (see initial findings below).

In July 2021 the Government introduced the Beating Crime Plan which sets out the strategic approach to: cutting homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime; exposing and ending hidden harms; and building capability and capacity to deal with fraud and online crime. It complements other existing strategies, and sits alongside other work on hidden harms.

Prevalence of Violence

Nationally the ONS report on Crime in England and Wales and in the year ending December 2021, police recorded violence increased by 13% from 1,780,556 to 2,017,307 compared with the previous year². The highest increase was seen in stalking and harassment offences, which rose by 19% to 673,129 (excluding controlling and coercive behaviour), this may be caused by improvements made by police forces in identifying and recording stalking and harassment offences together with an increased confidence in victims coming forward to report these offences². Police recorded crime data also showed increases in violence with injury (8% increase to 530,374) and violence without injury (11% increase to 773,878) compared with the year ending December 2020².

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The increases in police recorded violence with injury offences are reflected in research conducted by the Violence Research Group at Cardiff University². An estimated 146,856 people attended emergency units in England and Wales for treatment of violence-related injury in the year ending December 2021. This is a 23% increase compared with the year ending December 2020 (119,111 people)².

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides the best picture of the overall trend in violent crime². Estimates from the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) showed that there were 1.8 million violent offences in the year ending December 2021 and using a comparable dataset there was no statistically significant change in the total number of violent incidents, or the number of victims compared with the year ending December 2019².

At a local level the VRU published their first Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) in January 2020 which provides a picture for the County on public place serious violence. The latest assessment was published in February 2022, looking at a three year period up to Sept '21. What is clear from the analysis is that Covid-19 distorted the picture within the County during which there were significant falls in violence and robbery at times of lockdown, the times when violence occurred shifted as pubs and clubs were closed, and hotspots were different³. County Lines activity grew for part of the year which may reflect a change in activity in the County, but may be a reflection that, with less other activity, County Lines became more visible. The County saw a return to normal with the easing of restrictions in the Spring of 2021³. The key findings from the SNA showed an increase of 3% in overall violent crime, and falls in robbery of 29% and violence where injury was caused of 7% (Oct '20 – Sep '21)³. With the easing of lockdown restrictions, it was anticipated that levels of violence would increase but the data suggests that there have been significant improvements in reducing serious violence. Serious violence is distributed unequally across the County³ and levels of serious violence can be overlaid with indices of deprivation and those with a strong night-time economy³. There are peaks in levels of serious violence which occur at different times of the day which suggests that there are a variety of drivers behind the violence and different approaches are required to reduce or eliminate violence at those times³.

Serious and Organised Crime – Prevalence

Annually the National Crime Agency (NCA) publishes a National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime (SOC), this is usually published at the end of May providing a review of the previous calendar year. The most recent assessment was published on 25th May 2021 covering the calendar year 2020. Serious and organised crime is a significant and established national security threat⁴. The smuggling and distribution of drugs and guns; sexual abuse of children; cross-border trafficking and smuggling of people; exploitation of individuals; industrial-scale frauds; ransomware attacks; and the laundering of dirty money in and through the UK are causing harm to our citizens and communities on a significant scale⁴.

- It is estimated that there are a minimum of 69,281 individuals engaged with SOC in the UK (excluding child sexual abuse) and that there are likely to be 550,000 – 850,000 individuals in the UK posing varying degrees of sexual risk to children from downloading and sharing indecent images of children to direct contact abuse⁴
- It is likely that at least 6,000-8,000 offenders are involved in the exploitation of people in the UK with 10,613 potential victims identified through the National Referral Mechanism in 2020⁴.
- Demand for illicit drugs remains high in the UK and overall trends for drug misuse in England and Wales (in 2020) have largely been increasing, cocaine consumption in Great Britain is estimated to be 117 tonnes, although the single biggest UK drug market is cannabis with an estimated 2.6 million people using cannabis in 2020 consuming approx. 240 tonnes⁴. Street level networks including County Lines have demonstrated their ability to adapt to the environment in which they operate⁴.
- The cybercrime threat to the UK increased during 2020 with more severe and high profile attacks

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against UK victims, including UK local authorities. However, UK victim reporting was consistent with previous years, with 29,094 reports to Action Fraud and 1.7 million estimated computer misuse offences in the year ending September 2020⁴. Fraud remains England and Wales' most common crime type and accounted for over a third of estimated crime in the year ending September 2020 with 4.4 million offences against adults, affecting 3.5 million victims, in the same year fraud only accounted for 13% of all police recorded crime, showing the difference between the victims experiences and levels of reporting into law enforcement⁴.

According to the report presented to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner at the Performance and Delivery Board in March 2022, the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate (SCD) continue to target OCG criminality across the force. Through the established multi-agency approach local Serious Organised Crime Partnership Boards mobilise partners across the 4 pillars of Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Pursue elements to protect communities⁵. The SCD lead on tackling the most challenging and high-harm OCG offenders. Efforts to disrupt OCGs, by interfering with suspects' behaviours and circumstances so it is harder for them to commit crime, are vital as they can interrupt the organisation of their planned offences. This is a powerful tool for combatting OCGs and a total of 89 disruptions were carried out between May 2021 and September 2021⁵. Tackling County Lines and Gang Criminality also remains a priority for Kent Police with the County Lines and Gangs Team (CLGT) leading on this areas of work. Since September 2021 the number of County Lines has fallen from 44 to 37 County Lines with the associated threat harm and risk harm score reducing too⁵. Many local CSPs 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. Young People at risk of County Lines exploitation are identified through the sharing of intelligence between partners. There is discussion at the multi-agency Prevent, Prepare Protect agenda item within each District's multi-agency meeting structure and a plan agreed on how individuals will be protected from harm.

Details of some of the partnership activities undertaken in 2021/22 to address the priority of 'Serious Violence and Organised Crime' are included in the table below.

Notes

- 1) [Home Office Policy Paper – Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act: serious violence duty factsheet](#) (updated 10 May 2022)
- 2) Office for National Statistics. *Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2021* (published 28 April 2022)
- 3) Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) – *Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment* (published February 2022)
- 4) National Crime Agency (NCA) *National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2021*
- 5) *Safer in Kent Plan: Delivery and Performance – presented to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance and Delivery Board* (March 2022)

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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 2021/22 the Kent & Medway Joint Exploitation Group (JEG) continued to meet virtually with input from a wide range of partners and multi-agency groups including the KCSP. The group covers a wide range of areas such as gangs, modern slavery, Prevent, sexual exploitation, UASC leaving care, etc. and reports into all three Safeguarding Boards/Partnerships in Kent and Medway. 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. • The Kent and Medway Gangs Strategy has been refreshed and the work to deliver the action plan is coordinated by the VRU which reports to the Kent Community Safety Partnership on progress in tackling gang related harm. Governance of the strategy sits with the KCSP and Medway CSP.
<p>Work with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to raise awareness, share information, work jointly and implement actions as appropriate including the new serious violence duty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kent Community Safety Team has worked closely with the VRU over the year. The collaboration has supported the development of a strategic needs assessment (SNA) by the VRU, which was published in February 2022, and includes an assessment of the levels of violence in the County. • The SNA has allowed the Community Safety Team to work with local district / borough CSPs to consider a shared strategic approach to tackling serious violence in partnership with the VRU to maximise the coordination of approaches and use of resources. The areas of focus identified in the SNA are: <i>Violence with injury; Violence involving knives and weapons; Robbery; Violence linked to drug supply, including County Lines; Sexual violence; and Serious Violence Hotspots.</i> • During 2021/22 the VRU, KCST and other partners have been reviewing the new Serious Violence Duty referenced in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill and the draft guidance issued by the Home Office in May '21. The Bill received Royal Assent on 28 April 2022 and further work will be undertaken in 2022/23 to implement required changes.
<p>Support for Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs) across Kent</p>	<p>Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2021/22 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to support local Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs) with the purchase of a range of items to support their work. BCRPs are focused in town centres, and are normally funded by local businesses, they work with partner agencies to improve intelligence sharing and reduce harm in town centres. The funding was used to temporarily cover routine expenses such as the purchase of replacement radio batteries, replacement radios and training expenses and helped ease the financial pressures experienced as a result of businesses being closed during the pandemic and allowing them to recover and continue operating following an unprecedented period.</p>

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Prevention of doorstep crime by the installation of Dummy CCTV cameras.	Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2021/22 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC for the purchase and installation of Dummy CCTV cameras in the homes of victims of doorstep crime to help them to feel safer in their own homes and prevent them from repeat calls by doorstep criminals. The project is being delivered by KCC Trading Standards and the Kent Community Warden Service. A total of 200 cameras have been purchased and are being offered to doorstep crime victims first and foremost but have also been supplied to victims of scams and anti-social behaviour. The remaining cameras will be allocated where required to victims of doorstep crime or anyone else in need.
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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. In the latest reviews 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), Joint Exploitation Group (JEG) etc. which take a lead on a number of these issues. JEG has a focus with regards sexual exploitation, gangs/county lines, human trafficking/modern slavery, online safeguarding, radicalisation/extremism, and unaccompanied asylum seeking children. As such, the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) link into these boards and subgroups and is working with them to support and implement actions, as well as monitor performance via their reporting processes. 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. Information and reports produced by the groups are shared with community safety partners through the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) e-bulletins and Community Safety Information Sessions (CSIS). Topics relating to this priority covered at CSIS events in 2021/22 included Childrens Experiences of Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Contextual Safeguarding. The latter of which is about understanding and responding to young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It is about recognising that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse - this is where the CSPs can make a difference. In previous years CSIS events have also included topics such as immigration, modern slavery, loneliness, self-neglect, etc.

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 sexual exploitation, missing children episodes etc. As appropriate other data sources may also be looked at, for example scams. During the Covid-19 pandemic there was a noticeable increase in the number of scams, and in 2021 the National Cyber Security Centre (part of GCHQ) disclosed that more than 2.7 million scams had been removed from the internet, nearly four times more than in 2020, although the rise reflects the expansion of NCSC services to take down malicious online content, rather than an increase in scams overall¹. In Kent, the Trading Standards Victim Safeguarding Officer works closely with KCC Community Wardens who visit and work with scam victims, identified by the National Trading Standards Scams Team (NTSST).

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Between April and October/November 2021, the wardens have engaged with 216 households flagged as potential scam victims². In addition, during the same period the Victim Safeguarding Officer carried out 87 safeguarding interventions where those 87 households have lost £1.1 million to fraudsters, the safeguarding interventions prevented a further £117,000 going to criminals².

Although KCC's Select Committee Report on Loneliness and Social Isolation was published in March 2019, it provided a useful picture of the situation in Kent, identifying an estimated 29,500 people in Kent aged 65 and over who are more likely than average to exhibit characteristics associated with social isolation³. This represented 9.5% of the Kent's residents aged 65 and over, and was in line with Age UK's estimate that 10% of those aged 65 and over are lonely all or most of the time³. It is anticipated that the recent Covid-19 pandemic will have done little to improve the situation. In a recent Age UK report 'Loneliness and Covid' (December 2021) it notes that before the pandemic, around 1 in 12 people aged fifty and over in England were often lonely, equivalent to around 1.4 million people, a number that Age UK project will increase to around 2 million people by 2026⁴. The number may be even higher if the experiences of older people during the pandemic make it more difficult for them to engage in or increase levels of meaningful contact. The impact of the pandemic has been highly unequal, disproportionately affecting people with low incomes, health issues and from ethnic minorities⁴. Research by Age UK found that around a quarter (27%) of Black and South Asian older people (65+) they spoke to had experienced an increase in their feelings of loneliness since the coronavirus outbreak⁴. Age UK's research after the first lockdown in 2020 found that: Two in five people feel less confident going to the shops; Two in three are less confident using public transport; Nearly half feel less confident going to a hospital appointment. The resilience and ability to 'bounce back' may be particularly difficult for those who face barriers to reconnection, such as mental or physical health issues⁴. The longer-term impact of Covid-19 is likely to further embed economic and health inequalities, with more disadvantaged people more likely to be at risk of persistent loneliness⁴.

During 2021/22 partners continued to respond to the pandemic as needed, as well as planning for the recovery phase. The initial response activity was coordinated by the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) with a variety of subgroups being established at the start of the pandemic to coordinate the multi-agency response, for example the Vulnerable People and Communities Cell (VPCC) which had a focus on supporting and safeguarding vulnerable people. These groups are no longer needed in relation to the pandemic but staff across the county including community safety colleagues are aware they could be called upon to support future emergencies. In March 2022, the Kent Resilience Forum structures were again stood up in relation to the Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis, with partners working together to understand and support the numbers coming into the country through the Government's 'Homes for Ukraine Scheme'. Since that time, a number of responsibilities have passed down to local authorities in terms of ensuring the safety of those under the scheme not least of which are the requirements for property suitability checks, DBS checks, gas safety checks and initial welfare and support checks.

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 News (10 May 2022)*
- 2) *Trading Standards Update report to Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee (17 November 2021)*
- 3) *KCC Loneliness and Social Isolation Select Committee Report (March 2019)*
- 4) *Age UK Loneliness and Covid Research Report (December 2021)*

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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 2020/21, both the 24-hour services (phone line and text service) at the heart of the Release the Pressure campaign received over 20,000 contacts by residents www.releasethepressure.uk • Advertising campaigns promoting Release the Pressure were delivered throughout the year either to mark national "days" / "weeks" or in response to local intelligence and incidents. • A new Support Service for People Bereaved by Suicide launched in August 21 www.amparo.org.uk/refer/ and free to access suicide prevention training was commissioned with 35 sessions delivered by Mid-Kent Mind and attended by 535 participants. • A partnership with Kent Police provided Real Time Suicide Surveillance information on a weekly basis which allowed trends & patterns to be highlighted at a much earlier stage than previously possible. • Comprehensive website listing all available mental health services in Kent and Medway launched with the CCG www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/mental-wellbeing-information-hub
<p>Work in partnership with the Safeguarding Boards to raise awareness and link into local and national campaigns.</p>	<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. • The KCST is working with KMSAB colleagues to help promote and share the learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) alongside Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). In addition the KCST and SAR team are working together to identify any links between the findings from these reviews and raising awareness with partners. • The KCC Public Protection Team and other Partners are working with the KMSAB Comms & Engagement Working Group (CEWG) to ensure social media messaging (and other comms) relating to Adult Safeguarding are shared widely. • In 2021/22 the National Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week took place during the week of 15th – 21st November 2021 (led by the Ann Craft Trust). The KCST and other partners worked with the KMSAB to plan activities and/or information sharing for the awareness week.
<p>Reduce reoffending of women in the justice system.</p>	<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. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the clubs were unable to open last year but by the summer of 2021 the clubs were finally able to open fully.</p>

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<p>Support the delivery of Community Café in East Kent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Due to Covid-19 restrictions this was unable to open as originally planned but as of 2021/22 the weekly hub is up and running with partners attending, including KFRS and Samphire's Roma Officer.
<p>Support the delivery of the Spot the Signs Social Media Campaign (Scam Awareness) to protect vulnerable people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2021/22 to the 'spot the signs' social media campaign building on funding for the project provided by the KCSP the previous year. The project focused on raising awareness of doorstep crime, scams, and financial abuse. The campaign aimed to educate members of the public to 'spot the signs' and prevent themselves, family members, friends, neighbours and colleagues from being victims, or repeat victims. • The funding was spent throughout the year between April 2021 – March 2022 on a campaign which promoted the financial abuse video 'Spot the Signs' (the development of which was supported by the KCSP previously), resulting in 190,000 views on Facebook and 10,000 views on YouTube.
<p>Raise awareness of mental health services in the county through the provision of Mental Health Crisis Care Cards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cards were originally produced by Public Health in 2020 containing information about Youth Mental Health Services on one side and Adult Mental Health support on the other. • In 2021/22 the KCSP funded the printing of 20,000 additional cards for use by community safety colleagues and other partners for use in the community to support residents in need. The content was reviewed and updated by Health colleagues to ensure the information was still relevant with printing taking place in March 2022. • The KCST have begun distributing the cards to community safety colleagues across the county and have opened up the offer to the KMSAB to distribute even further.

Priority: Preventing Extremism and Hate

Context

In 2018/19 'Preventing Extremism and Hate' was identified as a standalone priority within the Kent Community Safety Agreement, prior to that issues such as extremism, counter-terrorism, radicalisation and hate crimes were included within other CSA priorities such as 'Safeguarding Vulnerable People'. In the year that 'Preventing Extremism and Hate' was added as a priority 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. Since then there have been a number of attacks across Europe and further afield as well as other thwarted attacks. In December 2021, Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) and the UK Intelligence Services announced that seven late-stage terror attacks had been stopped since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic (March 2020), which takes the total number of foiled terrorism plots since March 2017 to 32 - with 18 related to Islamist extremism, 12 to Extreme Right Wing Terrorism (XRWT) and two to Left, Anarchist or Single Issue Terrorism (LASIT)¹. The threat level set by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) was lowered to Substantial on 9th February 2022 meaning an attack is 'likely' (having been at severe from November 2021 – February 2022). However, it

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should be noted that this is still classified as a 'heightened' threat level and there is very little between Severe and Substantial levels. The most recent review of the CSA priorities identified the need to keep 'Preventing Extremism and Hate' as a priority for the partnership.

Preventing Extremism

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. The Prevent Duty Delivery Board (PDDDB) is 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 (CTLTP) 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 collection plan and development for the latest Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLTP) has been much improved from previous years. A CTLTP subgroup of the PDDDB has been established that meets quarterly to ensure the CTLTP process is a genuine partnership approach. The draft CTLTP 2022/23 has been presented and shared as appropriate and will be used to inform the development of the Counter Terrorism Situational Risk Assessment (CTSRA) and Prevent Action Plan which will also be shared with partners once complete.

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 was 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. Future changes may be required with regards Prevent and Channel as reviews of both the programme and delivery models are taking place nationally. The reviews have not been published as yet but any recommendations will be discussed and implemented as appropriate.

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. During 2021/22 a Prevent Peer Review was undertaken with positive feedback around the professionalism of the processes, staff and leadership as well as a number of recommendations to help improve practices further. For the year ahead (2022/23) Kent and Medway continues to receive priority status and are now the only priority area in the Southeast, which brings its own challenges with the high level of expectation for the team alongside the local threat and risk level. The Kent and Medway Prevent Team deliver

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Prevent activity across the county, including managing the Channel process, providing training and awareness, engaging with schools and other educational establishments, monitoring online sentiment, supporting agencies locally in understanding and responding to the risk of terrorism and radicalisation.

According to Home Office National Statistics for Prevent in 2020/21 there were 4,915 referrals into the Prevent programme nationally, which is a decrease of 22% compared to the previous year (6,287) and the lowest number of referrals received since comparable data are available (year ending March 2016)². This decrease is likely to have been driven by the effects of public health restrictions that were in place throughout the year to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Police made the highest number of referrals (1,770; 36%), followed by the Education sector (1,221; 25%)². The year ending 31 March 2021 saw the lowest proportion of referrals received from the Education sector since comparable data are available, likely due to the closure of schools and universities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic².

As in previous years, where gender was specified (4,913), most referrals were of males (4,316; 88%)². Of the referrals where age of the individual was known (4,883), those aged 15 to 20 accounted for the largest proportion (1,398; 29%)². The number of referrals discussed at a Channel panel (1,333) and adopted as a Channel case (688) saw smaller reductions compared with the previous year, decreasing by 7% and 0.6% respectively². The majority of those not deemed suitable for Channel were signposted to other services². Of the 688 Channel cases, the most common were cases referred due to concerns regarding Extreme Right-Wing radicalisation (317; 46%), followed by those with a mixed, unstable or unclear ideology (205; 30%) and concerns regarding Islamist radicalisation (154; 22%)².

Following the identification of 'Preventing Extremism and Hate' as a 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 with the same title as the priority was delivered. Following that the KCST worked with the Prevent Team and the Kent Police Hate Crime Lead to develop an information pack* for partners. 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. In 2022 the Information Pack* was updated and shared with partners as part of a CPD event (Continual Professional Development) delivered by the Kent and Medway Prevent Team and Kent Police. The Hateful Extremism event took place on 28th February 2022 with over 280 professionals attending - 80 plus in person alongside over 200 virtually in the first hybrid event. Excellent feedback was received from partners after the event. The CPD event was an opportunity for attendees to enhance their professional development, share best practice, lessons learned and hear from keynote speakers on current issues and the impact of hateful extremism. The event was opened by Travis Frain who is a survivor of the Westminster Bridge terror attack and set up the Resilience in Unity Project to counter radicalisation. Other speakers included Assistant Chief Constable, Hope Not Hate, Small Steps, Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE) and the Kent and Medway Prevent team.

Hate Crime

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.

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

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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. This is being updated Nationally following a Law Commission Review (see below) and the launch of the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) Hate Crime Strategy.

Nationally the Law Commission has been considering proposals to reform hate crime laws to remove the disparity in the way hate crime laws treat each protected characteristic – race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity. The proposals will be presented to Government and may lead to changes in the future coverage of the monitored strands. In December 2021 the Law Commission published the following recommendations:

- **Levelling up the protection for disability and LGBT+ victims:** Hate crime laws do not protect all five protected characteristics to the same degree. For example, aggravated offences only apply in respect of racial and religious hostility. This current hierarchy of protection is widely seen as unfair and sends a negative message to victims of hate crimes on the basis of disability, sexual orientation and transgender identity. The Law Commission has recommended that across the various hate crime laws all protected characteristics should be treated equally.
- **Tackling sex and gender abuse:** The Law Commission has recommended that “sex or gender” should not be added to the protected characteristics for aggravated offences and enhanced sentencing as it would be ineffective at protecting women and girls and in some cases, counterproductive. The Commission has recommended: Extending the offence of stirring up hatred to include of sex or gender, which would help to tackle the growing threat of extremist misogynist “incel” ideology; In addition, there is also a recommendation that the government review the need for a specific offence to tackle public sexual harassment.
- **Protecting freedom of expression:** Whilst the Commission has recommended some extensions to hate crime legislation, these are coupled with reforms to hate speech laws and new protections for freedom of expression to ensure that only the most egregious hate speech is criminalised.

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, raise awareness and improve processes. An independent review by IPAG resulted in recommendations that have been adopted. In addition, the Strategic Hate Crime Lead meets regularly with partners to better understand hate crime and also provides the link to other local and strategic meetings and represents at a Southeast Regional, National Gold and Cohesion Group as well as Operation Cavell which is the joined-up response to tackling assaults and hate crimes against the NHS. 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 diverse individuals and groups, raising awareness around hate crime, act as tactical advisors to police and partners, and signpost support for victims. In Kent there is a Hate Crime Advocate in the Victim Support Service who contacts each victim of hate crime and works in partnership to ensure victims are provided tailored support. Regular meetings between the Advocate and Strategic Hate Crime Lead ensures service recovery and feedback of best practice. In addition, Schools Officers in Kent Police work in partnership with schools to raise awareness with bespoke material around reporting of hate crime in schools with a focus on education, early intervention, safeguarding referrals and signposting 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

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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 Strategic Lead for Hate Crime at Kent Police is one of the judges.

The Home Office report on Hate Crime in England and Wales (year ending March 2021) reported 124,091 hate crimes recorded by Police in 2020/21³. Excluding Greater Manchester Police who did not supply data for year ending March 2020, there was a 9 per cent increase compared with the previous year³. Breaking down the headline number of hate crime offences nationally in 2020/21 by the five centrally monitored strands showed there were: 92,052 race hate crimes; 18,596 sexual orientation hate crimes; 6,377 religious hate crimes; 9,943 disability hate crimes; and 2,799 transgender hate crimes³. Excluding Greater Manchester Police there was a 12% increase in race hate crimes, 9% increase in sexual orientation hate crimes, 7% increase in disability hate crimes, 3% increase in transgender hate crimes and an 18% fall in religious hate crimes³. Over half (52%) of the hate crimes recorded by the police were for public order offences and a more than a third (40%) were for violence against the person offences. Five per cent were recorded as criminal damage and arson offences³.

While increases in hate crime over the last six years are thought to have been driven by improvements in crime recording by the police it is also thought that growing awareness of hate crime is likely to have led to improved identification of such offences³. Although these improvements are likely to be the main drivers for the increases, there appear to have been short-term genuine rises in hate crime following certain trigger events such as the EU Referendum in June 2016 and the terrorist attacks in 2017³. There was also an increase in public order hate crimes during the summer of 2020 following the widespread Black Lives Matter protests and far-right counter-protests³.

In Kent and Medway in the rolling year to March 2022 there were just over 4,900 hate crimes, compared to just over 3,900 hate crimes the previous year, an increase of approximately 26% with some of the biggest increases seen in hate crimes relating to public order offences, violence without injury and criminal damage. Similar to the national picture, the majority of recorded hate crimes in Kent were race related, followed by sexual orientation and disability hate crimes.

The pandemic and lockdown saw an increase with online hate crime and as Covid restrictions eased, there was an upward trend of reported hate crime. As mentioned above, there are other attributing factors for the increases including global trigger events, 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.

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) Counter Terrorism Policing News – “Latest Home Office Statistics Reveal 7 late-stage plots foiled since March 2020 (published 9 December 2021)
- 2) Home Office – Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent programme, England and Wales April 2020 to March 2021 (updated 18 November 2021);
- 3) Home Office – Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2020 to 2021 (published 12 October 2021)

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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"> • The joint Kent & Medway Prevent Duty Delivery Board (PDDB) continues to meet quarterly and has been reviewed and refreshed for 2022/2023 along with the internal KCC Cross Directorate Group (CDG) • Regular reports and updates are provided to the KCSP and Joint Exploitation Group (JEG) as well as the local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) • Kent and Medway Prevent newsletter is disseminated bimonthly to all partners/contacts along with the Prevent Education Officer (PEO) newsletter • Whole CPD event, with Kent Police, on 'Hateful Extremism' was held in February 2022 (see above), with plans for next year in process. • Ongoing engagement from Kent and Medway Prevent Education Officers (PEO) working directly with schools to offer support around Prevent policies, deliver staff training, run Prevent sessions with students and offer targeted support where required. • Comprehensive training offer from Prevent Team delivered across Kent & Medway – including revised training packages and new InCel – Subculture of misogamy. Promoted through various networks. • The Preventing Extremism pages on the Safer Communities Portal have been updated with information for partners inc. previous editions of newsletters, guidance documents, the training offer, etc. • A comprehensive Prevent Peer Review was published in 2021, highlighting several areas of national best practice and recommendations made to improve Prevent delivery. All actions have been progressed.
<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"> • 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. • There has been an increase in returns across Kent and Medway for partnership CTLP questionnaire • Partnership briefing to PDDB, Community Safety Managers (CSMs) and other relevant partners around the CTLP with the 'official' version being disseminated. CTLP briefing to partners in March 2022 with a CTSRA briefing due in July 2022
<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. Updates on issues, activity and events are circulated to partners and data and information on hate crime is shared. • In 2021/22 the KCST worked in partnership with the Prevent Team and the Hate Crime Forum to update the 'Preventing Extremism & Hate Information Pack' which was shared as part of the partnership CPD event mentioned above on 'Hateful Extremism' (see above). • Hate Crime Awareness week takes place annually in October, with many partnership activities and events taking place. In 2021/22 a range of CPD events/conferences and hybrid workshops were organised, such as lived experiences, a hate crime and prevent conference with national speakers and other Forces in attendance, a partnership CPD with Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) and Community Security Trust (CST). Guidance was also shared regarding NPCC Disability Hate Crime and Carers, Kent and Medway Hate

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	<p>Crime Business Guide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding was provided by the KCSP 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. These are regularly being utilised for bespoke support. • A number of partnership training sessions/awareness material has been shared around hate crime as it is 'everyone's responsibility.' These include the taxi industry, business industry, post offices etc • In February 2022, Kent Police worked with Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to organise and deliver a genuine redacted hate crime in a mock court case via a hybrid approach. Attendees were from partner agencies, other Forces, police colleagues and members of the community. The aim was to raise awareness around the journey of a hate crime once reported to the police either directly or via a 3rd party reporting platform. • Triggers impacting community tensions are monitored to ensure an effective response with weekly returns to the National Community Tension Team. • Monthly data return as part of Information Sharing Protocols with Community Security Trust (CST) and Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks).
<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 some short educational Stop and Search videos involving members of the public. These include, know your rights, what to expect if stop and searched, how to provide feedback, compliment or a complaint, getting involved in scrutiny. Filming was delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions but has since been completed in 2021/22. The videos are being used for engagement and further dissemination will continue using a variety of platforms.</p>
<p>Provision of NVR (Non-Violent Resistance) Foundation Level training</p>	<p>Funding was provided by the KCSP in 2021/22 using the Crime Reduction Grant from the PCC to provide training in Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) for a member of the Kent and Medway Prevent Team. The training has provided valuable skills and has been used to support the multi-agency case management of Chanel cases. It has enabled the trained officer to offer interventions to parents and carers of young people identified as being vulnerable to being radicalised and drawn into extremist offending. The officer has also shared the learning and principles of NVR with other staff to help raise awareness and for implementation in their operational delivery.</p>

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