

AGENDA

KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

**Thursday, 20th November, 2025, at 10.00
am
Online**

Ask for: **Gaetano
Romagnuolo**
Telephone **gaetano.romagnuolo
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UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

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

A. Committee Business

- A1 Introduction
- A2 Apologies and Substitutes
- A3 Declarations of Interest
- A4 Notes of the meeting held on 23 July 2025 (Pages 1 - 8)

B. Matters for Information/Discussion - Standing Items

- B1 Kent Community Safety Agreement Update (Pages 9 - 12)
- B2 Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update (Pages 13 - 18)
- B3 Kent and Medway Road Safety Update (Pages 19 - 22)
- B4 Kent Substance Misuse (Drug and Alcohol) Strategy Update (Pages 23 - 32)

C. Matters for Information

- C1 Dates of future meetings
 - Tuesday, 31 March 2026 at 10am
 - Thursday, 23 July 2026 at 10am

D -RESTRICTED ITEM(S)

Meeting not open to the press and public and reports not for publication

- D1 Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Related Death Review Update

- D2 Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews Funding Arrangements Report
- D3 Kent and Medway PREVENT Duty Delivery Board Update

Wednesday, 12 November 2025

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

NOTES of a meeting of the Kent Community Safety Partnership held online on Wednesday 23 July 2025, 10am.

PRESENT: Mr P Webb (Chair), Mr J Rivers (Vice-Chair), Mr S Peerbux, Ms S Brinson, Mr D Paul, DI J Ross, Ms C Bright, Ms A Oates, Ms J Leney, Cllr D Croxton, Ms I Hunter, Ms J Harman, Ms J Leney, Mr M Rolfe, Mrs M Lawes, Ms L McMahon, Mr M Hand, Ch/Insp O Changizi, Mr S Perez, Ms I Hunter-Whitehouse and Ms R Westlake.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr G Romagnuolo.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

148. Apologies and Substitutes

(Item A2)

Apologies were received from Cllr D Keers, Ms A Broom, Ms S Robson, Mr S Chapman, Ms D Haylett, Ms J Taylor, Mr P Dosad, Ms M Royle, Mr T Woolmer, Mr R Platt, Ms V Widden, Mr D Satchell, Mr N Wilkinson and Supt P Steenhuis.

149. Declarations of Interest

(Item A3)

There were no Declarations of Interest.

150. Notes of meeting held on 25 March 2025

(Item A4)

RESOLVED that the notes of the meeting held on 25 March 2025 were a correct record.

151. Election of Vice-Chair

(Item A5)

1. Mr Shafick Peerbux (Head of Community Safety, KCC) nominated and Mr Mark Rolfe (Head of Community Protection, KCC) seconded, Mr John Rivers as Vice-Chair of the Kent Community Safety Partnership.
2. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED that Mr John Rivers be elected Vice-Chair of the Kent Community Safety Partnership

152. Kent Community Safety Agreement Update (Item B1)

3. Mr Peerbux explained that the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) was a statutory document that outlined the key community safety priorities for the county along with the cross-cutting themes, which supported identified priorities. It was a rolling document which was reviewed and refreshed annually.
4. Ms Shirley Brinson (Community Safety Team Leader, KCC) said that her team had been working with partner organisations over the last few months to produce the action plan which supported the priorities in the Community Safety Agreement and included work to strengthen the actions and also accountability. They worked closely with representatives from other multi-agency groups and strategies including the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group, the Kent and Medway Safer Roads Partnership, the Substance Misuse Alliance, the Joint Exploitation Group, the Prevent Duty Delivery Board, Safeguarding Boards/Partnerships, the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) etc.
5. Work was ongoing to deliver against the actions set out in the action plan with work being developed for delivery throughout the year and a number of actions have already been implemented, such as the delivery of a stalking webinar and domestic homicide review learning webinars.
6. The action plan is a live document which enables it to be developed throughout the year to include any new actions or projects funded by the PCCs Crime Reduction Grant funding once approved. The action plan is monitored by the KCSP Working Group.
7. Mr Peerbux highlighted the substantial amount of work that had gone into the production of the action plan and thanked Ms Brinson, the KCSP Working Group and partners for their efforts.
8. Mr Peerbux talked about the upcoming Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee; a requirement set out in the Police and Justice Act (2006) to review and scrutinise the work of the Partnership on an annual basis. Its next meeting was due to take place on the 2nd of October 2025 and the Chair of the Partnership, alongside representatives of key agencies would attend to represent the Partnership and respond to any queries raised by the Committee. Mr Peerbux explained that a detailed report and a presentation has been developed with partners to present to the Committee.

RESOLVED that the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP):

- Note the refreshed action plan which supports delivery of the refreshed Community Safety Agreement.
- Provide feedback on the content of the draft action plan via email to kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk (KCST) by 8th August 2025, or at any time in-year if new actions emerge.

152. Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update (Item B2)

1. Mr Peerbux explained that the KCSP is supported by the multi-agency KCSP Working Group whose remit was to prepare and monitor the Community Safety Agreement, including the action plan and performance reports, as well as managing any funding on behalf of the Partnership.
2. The position of Chair for the KCSP Working Group had been vacant, following the departure of Mark Powell, Director of the Violence Reduction Unit. Mr Stephen Perez, Community Intelligence and Partnerships Lead at Kent Fire and Rescue Service was elected as Chair of the KCSP Working Group at their last meeting on 15th July.
3. Mr Peerbux said that the Crime Reduction Grant funding allocation to the KCSP for 2025/26 by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had remained the same as in previous years, which is £39,661. As usual, a third of the funding (£13,221) had been allocated to a Tactical Pot for in-year spending, with the remaining two-thirds (£26,440) was available for upfront project spend. The tactical pot would be accessible once all the upfront business case projects had been approved.
4. Six project proposals were submitted, and their project leads invited to the working group to present and answer any questions in relation to the projects. The project proposals were then discussed and agreed by the Working Group, Vice-Chair of the Partnership (in the absence of a Chair) and submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for approval. These were:
 - Hateful Extremism Learning Event
 - Countering the Extreme Right-Wing Training
 - Kent Community Domestic Abuse Champions – Branding & Resources
 - Teacher in Your Pocket (TEPO) – Scams Module
 - Responsible Authority Training on the Licensing Act 2003
 - Workshop – Involving men and boys in discussion of Violence Against Women and Girls.
5. All six projects had received approval from the PCC and Mr Peerbux advised that we are liaising with partners to explore potential projects for funding through the tactical pot and would like to encourage partners to send any suggestions of projects to the Kent Community Safety Team.
6. Mr Peerbux said that his report included some of the activities which have been undertaken by the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST).
7. These included the bulletins that the KCST produced on a monthly basis and that contained numerous updates and information relevant to community safety partners. The KCST also organised lunchtime Community Safety Information Sessions, with eight sessions delivered to about 35 to 40 community safety practitioners at each session last year. This year, three sessions had already been delivered and included themes such as the Kent and Medway Resilience Forum, stalking in the workplace and anti-social behaviour. The KCST undertake a huge amount of work in relation to domestic homicide reviews / domestic abuse related

death reviews ranging from case management, publication of cases and sharing the learning from the reviews.

8. Mr Peerbux highlighted that he attended the Police's Strategic Prevention Command Awards the previous month and heard about the outstanding work that had been done by Kent's police officers, police staff and partner agencies. The KCST received an award for their strategic leadership and work over the last two years to address violence against women and girls and anti-social behaviour.
9. Mr Stephen Perez (Community Intelligence and Partnerships Lead at Kent Fire and Rescue Service) introduced himself and confirmed that he would be chairing the Working Group. He looked forward to continuing supporting the delivery of the KCSP's strategic priorities, securing best value when managing the Crime Reduction Grant and being transparent about these activities and their performance.

RESOLVED that the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP):

- Note the progress and actions undertaken by the Working Group and the work of the KCST.
- Contact the KCST kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk with any:
 - Project proposals for the Crime Reduction Grant funding.
 - Suggestions for future speakers / topics that might be of interest for the Community Safety Information Sessions (CSIS).
 - Key updates that might be appropriate to include in future editions of the KCST e-bulletin.

153. Kent Community Safety Partnership Terms of Reference Review (Item B3)

1. Mr Peerbux (Head of Community Safety, KCC) explained that one of the recommendations stemming from an audit a few years ago was to ensure that the KCSP regularly reviewed its terms of reference (ToR) to ensure that they would be fit for purpose and appropriate. The KCSP therefore reviewed its ToR annually, usually in July.
2. In terms of the KCSP's ToR, the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 will require the change of the name of 'Domestic Homicide Reviews' (DHRs) to 'Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews' (DARDRs) along with the change in criteria. As such, the ToR references the Act and acknowledges compliance once the legislation is fully enacted and new updated statutory guidance from the Home Office is issued. The remaining ToR for the KCSP had remained largely unchanged.
3. The KCSP has two sub-groups which it was responsible for overseeing: the KCSP Working Group and the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Steering Group (now known as the DARDR Steering Group). Both sub-groups had reviewed their ToRs.
4. The DARDR Steering Group recently reviewed its ToR In line with the KCSP ToR, the 'Purpose' had been updated to include compliance with the legislation and

Home Office Statutory Guidance in relation to DARDs once enacted and implemented.

5. The KCSP Working Group members also reviewed its ToR. Significant changes included a new section entitled 'Guiding Principles' which outlined the core principles that governed the direction and actions of the KCSP Working Group. Also, the 'Overarching Purpose' had been expanded to align with the new Guiding Principles sections.

RESOLVED that Members of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP):

- Agree the Terms of Reference for the KCSP and the two subgroups (KCSP Working Group and the DARD Steering Groups) Terms of Reference.
- Ensure that all KCSP member organisations shown in the Terms of Reference are signed up to the latest version of the Kent and Medway Information Sharing Agreement.
- Note that the Terms of Reference for the KCSP and its subgroups will be reviewed annually and included as an agenda item at least once a year.

154. Safer Summer and Hotspot Policing Plan Update (Item B4)

1. DI James Ross (Kent Police) provided a verbal update. The Safer Streets Summer Initiative was a government initiative aimed at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in town centres across England and Wales. It ran from 30 June until 30 September 2025 and involved over 500 town centres and high streets.
2. The initiative focused on three strands: visibility, prevention, and enforcement. These aimed at reducing criminality, shop theft, street crime and ASB. It included increased police patrols, local action to tackle high street crime, and targeted enforcement powers. It was part of the government's Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, which aimed to address high street crime and restore faith in police by increasing the presence of police officers in every community. The Initiative was led by Police and Crime Commissioners and was supported by the Home Office in partnership with Chief Constables and other partner organisation such as councils, schools, health services, business, transport and community groups.
3. In terms of visibility, Beat Teams were visible and accessible in local communities. In terms of prevention. Also, the active engagement with local communities through platforms like My Community Voice, Facebook, and X ensured timely and accessible updates on local policing activity. This digital approach reinforced the visibility of community facing officers and supported the Safer Streets initiative to reduce crime and improve public confidence.
4. In terms of prevention, Kent Police promoted multi-agency youth engagement initiatives across the county, focusing on safeguarding, diversionary activities, and proactive interventions to reduce ASB among young people. This included the promotion by the Child Centred Policing Team of early intervention to support young people. The Team would visit schools and local education establishments to support young victims and target those at risk of offending.

5. Mr David Paul (Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) explained that the Commissioner had agreed with the Home Office and with Kent Police that the public Performance and Delivery Board meeting in September 2025, would assess how effective the Safer Summer Streets initiative was in the interest of public scrutiny and will share the findings with the Home Office.

RESOLVED that the Kent Community Safety Partnership **note** the Safer Summer and Hotspot Policing Plan Update.

155. Domestic Abuse Update *(Item B5)*

1. Ms Iona Hunter-Whitehouse (Domestic Abuse Projects & Partnerships Team Lead, KCC) and Ms Rachel Westlake (Senior Commissioner, Adult Social Care and Health, KCC) provided a verbal update and delivered a presentation. They explained that their presentation focused on the specific topics and issues that were covered in the Partnerships, Community Safety Agreement action plan and their key updates around commissioning.
2. Ms Hunter-Whitehouse said that in 2021 a new Domestic Abuse Act (2021) was introduced and, amongst other things, introduced the statutory duty to assess need around domestic abuse, publish a strategy and commission support services for people who were residing in safe accommodation.
3. In Kent and Medway, there were more than 60,000 people who experienced domestic abuse every year. One in five calls to Kent Police were in relation to domestic abuse.
4. Several agencies, including KCC, District/Borough Councils, Kent Police, the OPCC, the Kent Fire and Rescue Service and the Department for Work and Pensions were involved in the Kent and Medway Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy. They worked together to ensure that there was a coordinated response that was effective in safeguarding victims, but also in holding perpetrators to account.
5. The Strategy consisted of three pillars: Early Intervention and Prevention, Immediate Needs and Recovery.
6. In terms of Early Intervention and Prevention, it was crucial to increase awareness. Partnership work could promote coordinated campaigns that simplified and amplified awareness around domestic abuse. There was a partnership campaign. that provided a monthly calendar of campaign assets that were available for any of the partners to use.
7. In terms of Immediate Needs, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) brought professionals together to discuss the highest risk victims and create risk reduction plans. After a series of reviews found weaknesses in the system, a new MARAC Hub process was launched in April 2025. As a result, a new online Case Management System was developed where referrals are easily and speedily retrievable by all organisations that are members of MARAC.

8. Ms Westlake discussed some of the services in Kent that supported the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-29. The main commissioning support service was the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS). This was a well-established service that was funded by KCC, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Kent Fire and Rescue and District/Borough Councils. This service provided support for domestic abuse refugees providing a variety of accommodations across the county. Last year, 240 adults and 197 accompanying children were supported in the refuges in Kent. The KIDAS service also provided support, delivered by Outreach Workers; to individuals who remained in their own homes.
9. Since the Domestic Abuse Act came into force in 2021, several new services had been developed to address gaps in service provision. One such gap identified was a stronger safe accommodation offer for men. As a result, a male refuge service opened in December 2023 and offers 3 bed spaces for men and their children.
10. Another smaller but successful project involved engagement with the landlords of the refuges to be able to offer pet friendly spaces within the self-contained flats and dispersed units across the Kent Refuge portfolio. Last year, there were five survivors who were able to have their pet accompany them into refuge.
11. Ms Westlake explained that, in terms of next steps, the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy remained in place until 2029 and delivery continues to be a collaborative effort across all partner organisations. There was a commitment to maintaining momentum and ensuring that the Strategy would translate into meaningful support.
12. The links to the new Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership website and to recent newsletters are provided below:

[Home - Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership](#)

[Kent County Council Domestic Abuse Projects and Partnerships Team](#)

RESOLVED that the Kent Community Safety Partnership **note** the updates in relation to Domestic Abuse activity across Kent.

156. Dates of future meetings

(Item C1)

RESOLVED that the KCSP **note** the dates of future meetings.

157. Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews Update

(Item D1)

1. Mr Peerbux provided an update on the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) cases including recently published case of Rita 2022, updates from the DARDR Steering Group in relation to policy and

procedures, funding, sharing of lessons identified as well as details of national DARDR meetings/forums.

2. The published DARDR cases can be found on the Kent.gov website using the link below:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/information-for-social-care-professionals/adult-safeguarding-for-professionals/domestic-abuse-related-death-reviews>

RESOLVED that the Kent Community Safety Partnership:

- **Note** the updates within this report and progress on all cases.
- **Note** the plans for continued online learning events.
- **Continue to ensure** that their Chief Officers are sighted on the potential increase of 40% to DARDR contributions for 2026/27 should lobbying central government for funding be unsuccessful.
- **Note** the risks to the current funding model.

157. Kent and Medway PREVENT Duty Delivery Board Update (Item D2)

1. Mr Jess Harman (Prevent Coordinator, Prevent, KCC)) provided a verbal update on the local and national context in relation to the Prevent Duty.

RESOLVED that the Kent Community Safety Partnership **note** the update on the activity in regard to the Prevent Duty.

By: Shafick Peerbux - Head of Community Safety, KCC
Shirley Brinson - Community Safety Team Leader, KCC

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 20 November 2025

Classification: For Information

Subject: Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

Summary This report includes details of progress with regards the Kent Community Safety Agreement action plan and the upcoming strategic assessments

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities (KCC/District/Boroughs), Kent Police and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (now Community Safety Partnerships) were required to carry out 3 yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies. A formal review of the 1998 Act took place in 2006, with the result that three year audits were replaced with annual partnership strategic assessments and rolling partnership plans, whilst in two tier authority areas a statutory County Community Safety Agreement was introduced.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlines the key community safety priorities for the county along with the cross-cutting themes that support the identified priorities. It is a rolling document which is reviewed and refreshed annually with the relevant Chapters and appendices being updated as required.

Priorities

- Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB
- Domestic Abuse
- Violence against women and girls
- Substance Misuse
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Serious Violence and Organised Crime
- Preventing Extremism and Hate
- Road Safety

Cross Cutting Themes

- Early intervention, prevention & education
- Reduce re-offending and support victims
- Improve quality of life and enhance community resilience
- Support mental health and wellbeing
- Response and Recovery from Significant Community Events

3.0 CSA Action Plan Update

- 3.1 At the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) meeting in July, members were presented with the refreshed action plan which supports delivery of the CSA priorities. The KCSP Working Group oversee the delivery of the action plan and are monitoring the progress.
- 3.2 At this stage of the year all of the actions are in progress, this includes many activities which are ongoing such as the domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) /

domestic abuse related death reviews (DARDRs), work with other multi-agency groups, information sharing, awareness raising, training, etc. which link to the partnership's role in leading and coordinating on countywide community safety issues. A report on the key outcomes of the action plan will be presented at the next KCSP meeting in March but in the meantime an update on the projects funded by the Crime Reduction Grant has been provided in the KCSP Working Group report. In addition, a number of reports from other multi-agency partnerships which help support delivery of the CSA priorities and the action plan will be presented at the meeting including substance misuse, road safety, and preventing extremism.

- 3.3 Activities taking place in relation to some of the other priorities, such as Domestic Abuse, Safeguarding Vulnerable People, and Preventing Neighbourhood Crime and ASB, include:
- The consultation on the draft Kent and Medway Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy is complete, and the strategy is being finalised, with publication due in the new year. Partners are being asked to consider their role in supporting the strategies' actions. In addition, there was a successful visit from the UK wide Baton of Hope Tour on 22nd September 2025, engaging with the general public and raising awareness of mental health and suicide prevention. A video of the day will be shared with partners soon.
 - Work is ongoing with the #KnowSeeSpeakOut campaign and the [16-days of Action](#) Against Domestic Abuse campaign which will be promoted at the Community Safety Information Session in mid-November. In addition, a three month review of the new MARAC case management and hub implementation has been undertaken and an action plan developed with partners to implement recommendations.
 - The progress of the Crime and Policing Bill through Parliament is being monitored, with the aim to work together to implement any changes that impact the KCSP and partner agencies, when the Bill is enacted. The proposed legislation will impact laws on anti-social behaviour, knife crime, public order, sexual offences, and policing powers. It is currently navigating the House of Lords committee stage with sittings scheduled until the end of January 2026.
- 3.4 The action plan remains a live document and can be updated and amended during the year as required.

4.0 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

- 4.1 Under the Police and Justice Act 2006, local authorities are required to establish a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee to review the work of community safety partnerships. In line with this requirement, KCC's Scrutiny Committee meets annually in its capacity as the Crime and Disorder Committee, acting as a critical friend to challenge and scrutinise partnership activity and outcomes from the Community Safety Agreement (CSA).
- 4.2 The most recent meeting took place on 2 October 2025, reviewing the work of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) during 2024/25, commenting on the refreshed CSA (April 2025), and considering activities delivered so far in 2025/26.
- 4.3 A comprehensive written report was provided in advance, detailing a range of data and information on each CSA priority, and actions undertaken by partners during 2024/25 and to date in 2025/26. The meeting opened with a short presentation

outlining the purpose and functions of the KCSP, followed by a focus on two key areas of interest: the neighbourhood policing model and a newly introduced support service for domestic abuse survivors. Committee members then engaged in a question and answer session.

- 4.4 The meeting was held in a hybrid format, with committee members and partners who presented on the focus topics attending the Council Chambers in person, whilst the leads of other priorities were available if needed via video conferencing to respond to any additional questions.
- 4.5 The session was webcast live and the printed draft minutes have been published on the Kent.gov website. The committee resolved to note the report and thanked partners for their work and contributions to the report. In addition, the committee highlighted some considerations for next year's report and noted five areas of ongoing interest:

Report Considerations:

- How communications had been improved with the public and with services outside of the partnership.
- How monitoring through the dashboard had progressed and how public confidence in the data within the report could be assured.

Areas of Interest:

- The visibility of neighbourhood policing.
- The outreach from services into communities.
- Access to suicide prevention services.
- How best practice could be rolled out from individual parts of the partnership that were performing extremely well across the county.
- How the Neighbourhood Watch might be included in any future reports.

5.0 Strategic Assessments

- 5.1 Sourcing of data from partner agencies for the annual strategic assessment process is in progress and the KCST has contacted statutory partners to provide data for use by the district/borough Community Safety Partnership's (CSPs) in their strategic assessments to help identify key community safety issues. The data is due to be received by 14th November and will be made available to local partners via the Safer Communities portal on MS Teams. This data and the outcomes from the local assessments will help inform the annual review of the CSA priorities.
- 5.2 The KCST is also planning a data workshop on 10th December for partners involved in producing the local strategic assessments (SA's). A calendar invite has been sent to authors of the local SA's and data providers. The Kent Police Central Analytical Team have confirmed they will be attending to explain what their data is showing in terms of trends, hotspots, emerging issues, etc. and to give partners a chance to ask questions. Further speakers are being identified and finalised, including inputs on road safety and hospital admissions. The KCST has also commissioned the production of a Kent strategic assessment to help support the process and inform the refresh of the CSA.

6.0 Kent Community Safety Agreement

- 6.1 Planning for the review of the current Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) was discussed at the recent KCSP Working Group in October and it has been agreed that the next meeting on 27 January 2026 will be held in-person to facilitate partnership discussions around the review of the CSA.
- 6.2 The refresh will include a review of the current priorities based on the strategic assessment outcomes; horizon scanning which will help identify emerging issues and opportunities; new statutory duties and relevant legislation; and any feedback and recommendations from the recent Scrutiny Committee. In addition, the KCST will work with partners to consider potential options to streamline the document if appropriate, to maintain a focus on the key priority areas.
- 6.3 The KCST will work with partners over the next couple of months to prepare for the review meeting in January. Following those discussions the team will collaborate with agencies to develop a final draft of the new / updated CSA which will be presented at the KCSP meeting in March 2026 for senior partner input.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) members are asked to note the update.

For Further Information:

Shirley Brinson
KCC Community Safety Team Leader
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Shafick Peerbux
KCC Head of Community Safety
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By: Stephen Perez – Community Intelligence and Partnerships Lead,
Kent Fire & Rescue Service
(Chair of KCSP Working Group)

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) - 20th November 2025

Classification: For Information

Subject: Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update

Summary This report provides an update on the key activities and projects being managed on behalf of the Kent Community Safety Partnership by the Working Group.

1.0 Background / Introduction

- 1.1 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 were required to form multi-agency 'Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships' to undertake this activity. Subsequent revisions introduced additional responsibilities to tackle anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reduce reoffending, and the partnerships were renamed Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).
- 1.2 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) operates at a county level, with the overarching purpose to manage the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) on behalf of the responsible authorities in Kent and to deliver safer and stronger communities. The KCSP is supported by a multi-agency working group which has a particular remit to prepare and monitor the Community Safety Agreement, including the action plan and performance reports, as well as managing the Kent Community Safety fund on behalf of the governing group.

2.0 KCSP Funding – Crime Reduction Grant 2025/26

- 2.1 The funding allocation to the KCSP for 2025/26 by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), remained the same as in previous years (£39,661). As part of the terms and conditions a third of the funding (£13,221) was placed in a tactical pot for in-year spending. Similar funding was also provided by the PCC to all Community Safety Partnerships across Kent and Medway to help deliver projects in support of local priorities.
- 2.2 In late April 2025, the KCSP Working Group reviewed six projects suggested by partners. All six projects (listed below) received a consensus of support and the PCC approved upfront spending of £24,108.20. A short summary about each of the projects was included in the last report to KCSP members in July 2025, further progress updates can be found in *Appendix 1*.

- Hateful Extremism Learning Event (£4,000)
 - Countering the Extreme Right-Wing Training (£4,182)
 - Kent Community Domestic Abuse Champions – Branding & Resources (£3,703)
 - Teacher in Your Pocket (TEPO) – Scams Module (£5,223)
 - Responsible Authority Training on the Licensing Act 2003 (£5,000)
 - Workshop – Involving men and boys in tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (£2,000)
- 2.3 The remaining upfront budget of £2,332.26 was added to the Tactical Pot leaving the KCSP with £15,553.26 for in year use. Further project proposals were subsequently submitted by partners and considered by the KCSP Working Group across two meetings. (See Appendix 2 for details of the recommended tactical pot projects)
- 2.4 Two projects were discussed at the July meeting and following clarification of a few queries, the PCC has approved funding for:
- British Sign Language (BSL) Interpretation to TEPO – Doorstep Crime and Scams Modules (£5,500)
 - Local Vape Action Retailer Packs (£2,000)
- 2.5 Additional projects were presented and discussed at the October meeting. However, due to limited funding, a voting process was undertaken to prioritise them. Two projects were selected to proceed and have been endorsed by the KCSP Chair and submitted to the PCC for consideration:
- Violence Against Women & Girls Support Champions (£6,095)
 - The Anti-Racist School (£1,950)
- 2.6 At this point it was anticipated, that if all projects received approval from the PCC, the majority of the Tactical Pot funding would have been allocated, with approximately £7.80 remaining. However subsequent to these discussions, and as part of the mid-year monitoring, the KCST has been advised that the VAWG workshop, for which £2,000 had initially been allocated, is unable to proceed as originally planned within the required timeframe. The OPCC has been informed of the change in delivery plans and it is anticipated that the £2,000 will be returned to the tactical pot.
- 2.7 As a result, the KCSP Working Group will continue to work with partners to review any potential projects that could benefit from the remaining funding. However, it should be noted that access to the funding will close at the end of December 2025. Partners are welcome to submit any projects or other suggestions for funding opportunities, training and/or collaborative working to the KCST: kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk

3.0 Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) Update

- 3.1 In 2025, the KCST delivered eleven well-attended lunchtime Community Safety Information Sessions (CSIS), covering a range of topics. Since the last update to KCSP members in July, sessions have featured inputs from the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), Kent Police's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Hub, Dangerous Dogs, Rogue Trading, catapult-related concerns (with legal and RSPCA input), KCC's Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy (2026–2031), the Domestic Abuse Champions project, and the 16 Days of Activism. Two final

sessions are scheduled for 21st January and 26th February 2026, with topics and speakers being confirmed.

- 3.2 The KCSP commission Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) on behalf of the district/borough Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across Kent and Medway, with the KCST managing the process. Published DHRs are available on the [KCC](#) and [Medway Council](#) Websites. So far two DHR has have been published this financial year [DHR RITA](#) and [DHR SAFTA](#).
- 3.3 During the current financial year, the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) has delivered three Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) learning webinars. Since the last update to Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) members, two further sessions have taken place.
- **30th June Webinar – Caring Dynamics and Dementia**
Delivered in partnership with the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB), this session focused on the complex dynamics of caring relationships and dementia. It featured specialist input from Aberystwyth University on the intersection of domestic abuse and dementia, and was attended by 286 frontline professionals.
 - **3rd October Webinar – The Case of ‘Angela’**
This session explored the case of ‘Angela’, highlighting the impact of child separation, suicide, and domestic abuse, with a particular focus on the established links to suicidality. Guest speakers included Liz Hanlon, Independent DHR Chair, and Dr Rachael Grey from Project Lighthouse, a charity dedicated to understanding the effects of child removal in the context of domestic abuse. The webinar was attended by 170 frontline professionals. Of the 61 attendees who completed the evaluation, 100% rated the session as either excellent, very good, or good.
- 3.4 The recordings of the events are available on the [Safer Communities Portal](#)*. Further webinars are being prepared in line with cases that are going to be published over the rest of the financial year. **Partner agencies accessing the portal for the first time will be notified that they need permission to access the relevant item. Once approved, officers should be able to view future items posted on the portal.*
- 3.5 As part of its commitment to promoting good practice and supporting partnership working, the KCST produces monthly e-bulletins featuring the latest community safety updates, relevant news, publications, and legislative changes. The most recent edition ([KCST Bulletin October 2025](#)) included updates from partners such as Teacher in Your Pocket (TEPO) on scam prevention, the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board on newly published Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and their revised online referral form, as well as updates on Prevent, training opportunities, upcoming events, partner newsletters, and awareness campaigns. These included Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week and 16 Days of Activism Against Violence and Abuse.
- 3.6 The KCST is currently working with partners in the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB) on the annual [Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week](#) (SAAW) campaign (17th - 21st November). The KCST has engaged with colleagues within the Kent Community Warden service and at a local district level regarding events/activities which are taking place during the week as well as sharing details about the resources and social media plan.

- 3.7 In addition, the team are working with colleagues to support and promote the 16 days of activism which runs 25th November to 10th December 2025. This year's theme is 'UNiTE to End Digital Violence against All Women and Girls', and the team will be sharing information with colleagues across Kent and Medway about the webinars that are taking place and available resources.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Members of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) are asked to:

- a) Note the progress and actions undertaken by the Working Group and the work of the KCST.
- b) Contact the KCST kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk with any:
 - Project proposals for the Crime Reduction Grant funding.
 - Suggestions for future speakers / topics that might be of interest for the Community Safety Information Sessions (CSIS).
 - Key updates that might be appropriate to include in future editions of the KCST e-bulletin.

For Further Information:

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Appendix 1: Summary of approved projects with current progress updates (Initial Business Cases)

- **Hateful Extremism Learning Event**
The venue has been secured for the event, which is scheduled to take place on 25th February 2026. A sound company has also been contracted, as their support will be essential to the successful delivery of the hybrid format. Work is currently underway to draft the agenda and identify suitable speakers.
- **Countering the Extreme Right-Wing Training**
Liaison with Small Steps is ongoing to support project delivery. A total of 11 sessions have been allocated, with dates and times currently being finalised in coordination with trainers to ensure optimal coverage of target locations.
- **Kent Community Domestic Abuse Champions – Branding & Resources**
142 individuals are now trained Kent Domestic Abuse Champions, including professionals, volunteers, VCS organisations, churches, and non-professionals. Monthly training and quarterly Communities of Practice sessions support ongoing development. The design specification has been drafted and discussed with the designer with final amendments underway before design begins.
- **Teacher in Your Pocket (TEPO) – Scams Module**
The project is on track. The campaign website is live with 560 views and 73,913 video plays. Over 6,000 emails have been sent (42% open rate), targeting internal KCC teams and external partners. Social media content is live, with ads running until March 2026. The email campaign is scheduled through January 2026. Leaflets are in design and a press release is pending approval.
- **Responsible Authority Training on the Licensing Act 2003**
Event planning is underway, with delivery scheduled for February 2026. The suitability of a venue in Maidstone has been assessed and is now in the process of being confirmed. Planning and preparations are progressing and remain on track.
- **WITHDRAWN: Workshop – Involving men and boys in tackling Violence Against Women and Girls**

Appendix 2: Summary of Projects (Tactical Pot)

- **British Sign Language interpretation to TEPO (teacher in your pocket) modules - Doorstep Crime and Scams (£5,500)**
Funding to add British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation to two Teacher in Your Pocket safety video modules (Doorstep Crime and Scams) making them fully accessible to Deaf users
- **Local Vape Action Retailer Packs (£2,000)**
Funding to produce and distribute Local Vape Action retailer packs, supporting efforts to prevent underage vape sales in Kent. Led by local authorities and the IBVTA, the initiative equips retailers with legal guidance, safety tips, and de-

escalation tools, while reinforcing police presence in hotspot areas. The pilot will inform a national rollout, promoting youth safety, responsible retailing, and community wellbeing.

- **Violence Against Women & Girls Support Champions (£6,095)**

The project aims to fund 39 Kent secondary schools to become White Ribbon supporters, promoting respect and safety for women and girls. Each school will appoint VAWG Support Champions (two per year group) and a lead. Working with child-centred policing officers, and collaborating with local partners to address concerns. The initiative aims to reach over 41,000 students and includes funding for White Ribbon support membership, badges, posters, and leaflets.

- **The Anti Racist School (£1,950)**

This is a video-based training initiative aimed at teachers, and professionals working in schools, to give foundational knowledge to recognise how racism shows up in the classroom, curriculum and school settings. The project will deliver sessions to 30 schools, reaching up to 900 educators. Those involved will be able to work through a toolkit of resources to deal with everyday racism and includes school-based scenarios and case studies including safeguarding reviews.

By: Claire Harris (Kent Fire and Rescue Service) and Mark Bunting (Kent County Council)

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 20th November 2025

Classification: For Information

Subject: Kent and Medway Road Safety Update

This paper provides an update on the Vision Zero Strategy and the Kent and Medway Safer Roads Partnership. The Kent Community Safety Partnership are asked to note the contents of the report.

1. Kent County Council - Vision Zero Strategy

Kent County Council launched its Vision Zero Strategy in 2021, with the following objectives:

The long-term vision included:

- Zero road fatalities or life-changing injuries by 2050.
- Safe System as the norm.
- Safe and easy walking and cycling.
- Kent as a leader in road safety innovation.

The shorter-term goals for 2021-2026 were:

- Reduce fatalities and serious injuries.
- Develop an evidence base through research and trials.
- Improve collaboration between partners.
- Embed the Safe System approach.
- Promote Vision Zero to the public.
- Increase safety for walking and cycling.

Safe System Approach

The strategy is based on international best practice and utilises the 'Safe System' approach to road safety. This involves designing roads and streets to minimise collision risks, enforcing appropriate speed limits, promoting safe behaviour through education and technology, ensuring vehicle safety, and providing post-collision response.

Progress on Vision Zero Strategy Implementation:

Leadership and Collaboration

An internal restructure within Kent County Council's Transportation Service led to the formation of the Road Safety and Active Travel Group, enhancing resource allocation for community engagement and road safety research. The Kent and Medway Casualty Reduction Partnership was refreshed and renamed the Kent and Medway Safer Roads Partnership, with the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner as chair.

Data-Driven Decision Making

We have developed an internal data platform to integrate traffic and incident data, supporting evidence-based decision-making for road safety improvements. This platform helps identify high-risk collision routes and prioritize interventions. As the Safe System demands more proactive methodology, we have researched and invested in gathering data from sources other than crash statistics, such as information from connected vehicles to help us to identify higher risk areas on our network before incidents become apparent.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The development of Safety Performance Indicators (SPIs) has assisted in understanding collision risks and identifying unsafe locations on the network and within road user groups. These indicators help apply mitigation measures proactively.

Promotion

Presentations and short films have been commissioned to raise awareness of Vision Zero among internal staff, contractors, and the public.

Supporting Safe System Layers

The Safe System is made up of layers of protection. These layers are listed below along with notes of the kind of ongoing work that supports them:

- ***Safer Roads and Streets***
Projects to improve safety include School Street Schemes, near-miss recording trials, active travel infrastructure work, and highway improvements.
- ***Safe Speeds***
Initiatives like the Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership collaborative approach, Community Speed Watch, and average speed camera trials aim to enforce and encourage appropriate speeds.
- ***Safe Behaviours***
Road safety education, training, and publicity campaigns, including cycle training and pedestrian skills training, are key components to this layer.
- ***Post Collision Response***
Weekly partnership meetings discuss recent incidents and potential solutions, ensuring coordinated responses and learning from serious collisions. Lessons learnt from these meetings are developed by partnerships working groups. We are currently in the process of setting up a formal safe system fatal collision review panel in line with recently established national guidance.
- ***Safer Vehicles***
Fleet engagement and initiatives like 'Driving for Better Business' and our new Kent Fleet Forum promote safer vehicle technology and best practice in fleet safety management.

Conclusion

Significant progress has been made towards implementing the Vision Zero Strategy and establishing a Safe System based structure across Kent and Medway. Collaboration with partners and internal champions will continue to drive the strategy forward, ensuring that gaps are identified and addressed to achieve the Vision Zero goals.

2. Kent and Medway Safer Roads Partnership (KMSRP)

The KMSRP supports the Vision for Zero road fatalities in Kent by 2050 and the delivery of a Safe System.

The Partnership has recently commissioned the development of a joint strategy that will bring together all partners with a formalised agreement and a cohesive vision – the anticipated adoption of this strategy will be in early 2026.

Background

The KMSRP is made up of key stakeholders who identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration. The Strategic Board provides governance and oversight across the partnership, the Strategic Board comprises of senior officers and elected members from these organisations. Whilst the Board, chaired by Kent's Police & Crime Commissioner provides governance to the Partnership, delivery plans are developed and actioned by the Tactical Coordination Group. This group oversees the outputs from the safe system working groups (outlined above), and other working groups which support key messages to all user groups across the County.

KMSRP Key Partners:

- Kent Police
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Kent County Council
- Medway Council
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service
- National Highways

Collaborative working

The KMSRP partners support key campaigns across the year that are outlined in the NPCC National Roads Partnership Operations Calendar. Utilising assets that have been created by partners to ensure that consistent and key messages are shared with the public. Some examples of collaboration projects below:

Operation Voice – Drink and Drug Drive Campaign

- Collaborative campaign launched in December 2023, as part of the Operation Voice project. The project aimed at tackling drink and drug driving with a focus on violence against women and girls, and the nighttime economy.
- Partners of the KMSRP supported with a campaign refresh, buying in targeted social media messaging and distribution of pub packs.
- Partners continue to utilise the refreshed artwork twice a year to support Summer and Winter Drink & Drug Drive Campaigns.

Young Driver and Passenger Course (YDPC)

- The YDPC is the only intervention delivered across Kent to young drivers – this has been agreed by the KMSRP as best practice.
- KCC hosted the first 'parent of a young driver' webinar in October – which was supported by all partners, with Kent Police providing a PS from the Road Safety Unit to provide information on legislation.

- Partners have contributed funding to support development of the YDPC, the project is underway to create a multi-agency fifth session.

3 Recommendations

The Kent Community Safety Partnership are asked to note the contents of this report.

From: Jessica Mookherjee, Assistant Director / Consultant in Public Health & Dr Lin Guo, Specialist in Public Health KCC.

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) – 20th November 2025

Classification: For Information

Subject: Kent Substance Misuse (Drug and Alcohol) Strategy Update 2025

Summary This report provides update on each objective of the Kent drug and alcohol strategy [Substance Misuse \(Drug and Alcohol\) strategy - Kent County Council](#) and the progress made as well highlighting key areas of concern and improvement.

1.0 Background / Introduction

1.1 In line with the 2021 national drug strategy, the Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy was produced to run from 2023 to 2028 and was informed by extensive stakeholder involvement—including law enforcement, healthcare providers, and community support services—with the aim of combat drug-related and alcohol related harm. The strategy has a stakeholder Alliance and a strategic executive group (which acts as the Combatting Drugs Partnership) in Kent. This partnership aims to address the growing challenges within Kent's communities by integrating prevention, treatment, recovery, and enforcement efforts. The Kent strategy for tackling substance misuse has 13 key priorities – there are detailed action plans for each priority area. Subgroups have been established to drive forward the 13 priorities around drug and alcohol reduction. This includes agreeing terms of reference for each group and establishing regular partnership meetings.

2.0 Update on the 13 Priorities for Kent's Drug and Alcohol Strategy ([Substance Misuse \(Drug and Alcohol\) strategy - Kent County Council](#))

2.1 **Priority 1 & 2 - Prevention, early intervention and behaviour change:** Between April 2024 and May 2025, a series of stakeholder meetings were held, with the most recent priority-setting session taking place on 1 May 2025. These meetings have continued to strengthen cross-sector collaboration across prevention, intervention, and behaviour change. The One You Kent (OYK) service presented its comprehensive referral pathways, helping to raise awareness and improve access to support services for clients. Additionally, the Lived Experience Recovery organisation (ROAR) shared the impact of its volunteer-led initiatives, including drop-in sessions, cooking skills programmes, and creative groups. These creative sessions—facilitated by poets and individuals in recovery—use writing as a therapeutic tool for healing and reflection. ROAR also supports the development of SMART Recovery groups, all of which are accessible to individuals in treatment. Looking ahead, a pilot project addressing alcohol-related falls among older adults is planned for 2026. Delivered in collaboration with GPs and the OYK service, the project will target identified hotspot areas across

Kent. A robust evaluation, incorporating data linkage, is planned to assess outcomes and inform future interventions. ROAR will work to establish connections with Healthy Living Centres across Kent, further expanding access to community-based recovery support.

- 2.2 **Priority 3 - Improving hospital and acute pathways to treatment:** A series of stakeholder meetings for this priority group took place between April 2024 and September 2025. These sessions featured presentations from both North Kent and East Kent acute hospitals, which outlined current local Alcohol Care Team (ACT) models and highlighted key operational challenges. East Sussex also contributed valuable insights by sharing best practice examples and evaluation findings from their own ACT implementation. Locally, the ACT at Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital (QEQM) has demonstrated promising outcomes, reinforcing the effectiveness of the model and its potential for wider adoption across Kent. Building on this momentum, an initial discussion has taken place with Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW) to explore the introduction of alcohol liaison nurses or a full ACT model. This proposal is currently being considered internally by MTW's Senior Management Team and A&E teams and aligns with the Trust's strategic priorities to improve patient flow and reduce hospital readmissions.
- 2.3 **Priority 4 - Children and young people living with alcohol misusing parents / Preventing inter-generational alcohol misuse:** The stakeholder group for this priority area, including the associated Children and Young People (CYP) workstreams, has been developed through a series of collaborative meetings. The CYP Needs Assessment has been circulated to partners for feedback, and a summary of recommendations will be available for stakeholder comment by July 2025. This group brings together a broad range of stakeholders working across both internal and external CYP workstreams. Presentations delivered to date have covered key topics such as child-centred policing, the i-THRIVE model, and contributions from the Participation Team, with a particular emphasis on the school setting. Pathway integration is beginning to take shape through the efforts of the stakeholder group. Scoping and mapping of existing services is underway to identify the most effective approaches to service alignment for this strategic priority. Stakeholder analysis for the CYP workstreams has also commenced. Ongoing work around Family Hubs and Children's Services integration remains a prominent focus. The CYP substance misuse service, With You, continues to be a valuable partner in shaping this work and has provided strong support to the recent Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership cannabis campaign.
- 2.4 **Priority 5 - Tackling high rates of suicide and self-harm associated with substance misuse:** We continue to monitor and analyse suicides in Kent and Medway where substance misuse is identified as a contributing factor, using data from the Real-Time Suicide Surveillance system. Where possible, targeted interventions are being developed in response to emerging trends related to substance misuse and suicide. To support prevention efforts, the risks associated with substance misuse are being embedded across a range of Kent County Council (KCC) Public Health training programmes, including Everyday Mental Health, Identifying and Responding to Trauma, Domestic Abuse, and Suicide Prevention. A public-facing campaign is also in development to challenge the stigma surrounding poor mental health, with a particular

focus on its links to substance misuse. The Better Mental Health Network event was well received and provided a valuable platform for shared learning and collaboration.

2.5 Priority 6 - Continued improvements to Kent treatment and recovery services

- Housing Support Service is now embedded with 632 people in treatment supported with housing related needs between Oct 24-Sep 25.
- Individual Placement and Support Service also embedded with 169 individuals supported to look for employment as part of their treatment journey between Jan 24- Sep 25 (54 successful job starts thus far).
- Reach Out and Recover (ROAR) – Kent's LERO is now established as a Community Interest Company (CIC). ROAR support with quality improvement and advocacy for individuals in treatment and recovery across all services they may interact with.
- KCC website has been updated to make it more accessible and informative, with the aim to support increased referrals into treatment services. A campaign to promote the website is also currently active. Future comms work will focus on those who are not digitally included.
- Both adult services now have Quality Improvement Managers in post who assess quality and areas for improvement within their own services then share learning with each other so it can be utilised across Kent.
- The services continue to conduct testing and support clients into treatment for Hepatitis C. Micro elimination of Hep-C has now been achieved across Dover, Folkestone and Ashford. Continued work will look to maintain this achievement and analyse current data to identify the requisite level of investment and testing to help achieve this across Kent as a whole.
- During Q2 Forward Trust have secured additional space in the Canterbury area, supporting efforts to better engage the local rough sleeping community.
- Dover, Thanet, Sittingbourne and Ashford hubs all now have a dedicated women's workshop running.
- The first "Own My Life Course" was delivered and completed by clients in West Kent. This is a 12-week educational course for women who are in, or have been in, abusive and coercive controlling relationships, supporting them to regain ownership of their lives.
- In collaboration with NHS Substance Misuse Leads, CCL has worked across NHS Trust sites including within acute mental health settings, to improve integration and continuity of care for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use needs. The evolving partnerships address long-standing barriers by embedding a collaborative care model that spans hospital admission through to community reintegration on discharge.
- Challenges
 - Staff recruitment: Delays due to the time required to recruit and embed new staff, particularly in specialist roles.
 - Clinical capacity: Limited availability of clinical staff to support the anticipated increase in treatment demand.
 - Funding timeline: Late confirmation of OHID grant funding (received on 2nd April), which impacted planning and implementation timelines.
- Opportunities
 - Service development: Potential to design and deliver more holistic, person-centred services that better address the complex needs of individuals requiring treatment.

- Strategic focus shift: OHID's emphasis on service quality over volume for 2025/26 creates space to prioritise meaningful outcomes and sustainable improvements.

2.6 **Priority 7 - Criminal justice routes to substance misuse treatment**

- Kent and Medway Continuity of Care Group (CofC) meeting established Early 2024 and takes place quarterly. The CofC protocol is consistently reviewed and updated to reflect various pathways across CofC. The 2025 target for Kent CofC is 58%. Current performance, as of August 2025, is 51%. The CofC group has agreed to focus on reviewing the pathways for offenders with housing issues as a recent audit indicated a vast number of prison releases do not have secure accommodation. Prisoners being released out of area also appear to be impacting performance against the target.
- Co-location for drug and alcohol services at probation continues and community drug and alcohol services will continue to work with offenders prior to release within Kent prisons and post-release. The focus is gaining prison clearance for staff allowing them to be key holders, allowing direct access to those in prison and increasing 3-way meetings with probation on release to help transitions into the community and treatment. Where prison in-reach service is limited, Criminal Justice teams are utilising all opportunities to maximise engagement with prison leavers including use of legal visits, video links, pin phone access, email a prisoner, tele recovery and letters.
- COFC travel fund has been developed to assist those with drug support needs leaving prison travel to their appointments across Kent, their travel is funded and where possible accompanied by Connecting Communities staff to appointments including substance misuse and probation services. Additional funding has been allocated in Q2 for this purpose.
- KCC commissioners lead on the Custody pathway. KCC, Kent Police, CGL and Forward Trust have ongoing conversations regarding the low Drug Testing on Arrest (DTOA) conversion rate and have revised pathways and enhanced offers designed to improve transitions into treatment. Both drug and alcohol services continue to offer group work, one to one support for those testing positive.
- Crime Reduction Grant (CRG) continues for 25/26 and is uplifted by DATRIG funding. November's CRG return has now been submitted.
- The ATR/DRR pathway meeting is now called Community Sentencing Treatment Requirement meeting, led by Probation. Community services have introduced women-only support options for individuals on community orders, including dedicated women-only groups and increased one-to-one sessions, replacing mixed groups for vulnerable women.
- A dedicated working group has been established to address communication challenges between Probation and West Kent Community Criminal Justice teams regarding ATR/DRR clients. Probation service plans to establish a physical presence at the Maidstone hub to strengthen collaboration and improve service delivery.
- Kent Police's Make Time Count app is rolling out in a pilot in Medway. Although the pilot will take place in Medway it will involve both services providers across Kent due to arrests and drug tests of individuals who are not Medway residents
- Challenges/opportunities - Kent Police has experienced a reduction in drug testing funding and is working with services to identify strategies that ensure testing remains relevant, avoids duplication, and positively impacts treatment referrals. Police

continue to follow up on cases of non-compliance with Drug Testing on Arrest (DTOA) requirements. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Crime Reduction Grant may face reductions in 2026 due to anticipated budget cuts. Positive DTOA test referrals for prescribed opiate medications remain a persistent challenge.

2.7 Priority 8 - Improve treatment and recovery for targeted groups / vulnerable

People: Improving treatment and recovery for vulnerable groups in substance misuse services requires tailored, inclusive approaches that address specific barriers. Groups such as women, LGBTQ+ individuals, ethnic minorities, older adults, people with disabilities, and those in rural areas often face challenges accessing effective care. Women may experience trauma, caregiving pressures, and stigma; gender-specific programmes like the “Own My Life” course—now delivered in West Kent—offer safe, empowering spaces. Dedicated women’s workshops are now running in Dover, Thanet, Sittingbourne, and Ashford. Partnership working is key. There is active engagement with the Adult Safeguarding Board, district housing teams, and the DWP link worker. KCC has commissioned a Residential Recovery Housing service, delivered by CGL. Outreach to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities is improving, and CGL continues to support veterans. Collaboration with the ICB is underway to improve healthcare access. Joint work with Sexual Health services on ChemSex-related issues is ongoing.

2.8 Priority 9 - Improve pathways to treatment and recovery to rough sleepers:

Rough sleepers experience significantly higher rates of co-occurring conditions, including substance misuse, mental and physical health issues, and criminal justice involvement. In Kent, 139 individuals were estimated to be sleeping rough during the autumn 2024 single night count, with uneven distribution across districts and a rising trend. These individuals often face barriers to accessing preventive and primary care, and many present with complex, under-treated needs.

Specialist tenancy support is provided by East and West Kent SMS Tenancy Support Teams (Forward Trust and CGL), co-located with local housing authorities. They support individuals engaging with or willing to engage in treatment who:

- Have entered or are on a path to entering a housing crisis, i.e. they are at risk of losing a tenancy – preventative support
- Have recently moved into new accommodation, ensuring they are equipped with the skills and support to maintain that tenancy - maintenance support.
- Are in temporary accommodation or with no fixed abode (e.g. sofa surfing), in which case the service offers support to prevent these clients from becoming rough sleepers and helps them into drug and alcohol treatment whilst working on establishing more stable housing solutions.

2.9 Priority 10 - Improving treatment and recovery for people with co-occurring conditions:

Implementation of co-occurring protocol: We are progressing implementation of the co-occurring conditions protocol through multi-agency complex case reviews, focusing on individuals at risk due to limited service engagement, repeated admissions, or poorly managed mental health or substance misuse. Partners include housing, probation, GPs, KCC, and substance misuse services. We promote shared risk, support training, and highlight occupational therapy’s role. Collaboration

continues with ICB, Darent Valley Hospital, and KCC. We are advocating for formal data sharing agreements to improve coordination and care pathways across services.

Alcohol-related brain damage (ABRD) leaflet and patient engagement: An ABRD leaflet was developed to support patient information but awaits governance approval. Due to patients' complex cognitive and health needs, leaflet use is currently limited. If funding is secured for an Alcohol Care Team, we plan to implement these materials as part of a wider preventative engagement strategy.

Partnership working and case management: We continue close collaboration with substance misuse services and case managers to strengthen multidisciplinary care. This includes support for Multi-Professional Meetings (MPMs), MDT advice, and promoting ACE-III and multiple errands tests. We advocate assessing executive over decisional capacity. Complex case discussions enhance acute and community care by enabling thorough information sharing—ensuring key details inform comprehensive assessments that might otherwise be missed without this collaborative approach.

Data: One key challenge remains the formal diagnosis and recording of ABRD. At present, we have no consistent coding for alcohol-related brain damage (ETOH) or occupational therapy involvement within the patient record system. We are working with the CQI Team to address this so that we can generate accurate data.

Referrals and service access: Referrals to CGL are made via the REACH team or online portal, though communication on acceptance can be inconsistent. While no major issues persist, patients often face barriers such as limited mobility or social isolation. Social care referrals via Short Term Pathways may not meet long-term needs. Outreach remains limited; REACH attends DGT weekly but lacks consistent home follow-up. NICE guidance recommends psychological support within two weeks post-withdrawal, yet delays are common. Many patients cannot attend due to cognitive or physical impairments. More intensive, flexible post-detox support is needed, especially for unplanned withdrawals, which require a different, more proactive approach.

- 2.10 **Priority 11 - Working in partnership to share data and intelligence in order to identify those at risk of drug / alcohol related harm & exploitation and to provide safeguarding and intensive support:** The first meeting of this priority group was held on 29 May 2025, featuring presentations on advancing analytics and the importance of linked data. These provided an overview of the current data linkage landscape in Kent. Several linked datasets were highlighted, including the Kent and Medway Care Record (KMCR), KERNAL, the West Kent Integrated Dataset (led by the West Kent Health and Care Partnership), and Xantura. Further updates on both KMCR and Xantura were also presented to support understanding of how these tools can inform service planning and delivery. Substance misuse data needs to link with KMCR (integrated health dataset) to help identify patterns and trends across multiple partnerships and providers around substance use in Kent. There is significant potential to use data linkage across a range of council-commissioned programmes and services, enabling more meaningful impact evaluation and capacity modelling—beyond the limitations of standalone KPI reporting. While the ICB currently leads on data integration, their focus remains primarily on NHS data and priorities. The NHS-led Information Governance (IG) forum appears to have limited participation from local

authority and wider public sector IG leads, creating a gap in cross-sector collaboration. Furthermore, there is no clear operating model for the sharing and linkage of non-NHS, non-social care person-level data with NHS datasets. West Kent Integrated Dataset, led by the West Kent Health and Care Partnership, and the KCC Research, Innovation, and Improvement team's work to build an evaluation function. Both initiatives are currently in the development phase, with ongoing discussions involving SHcAB and the Information Governance Forum around governance and technical setup. Additionally, work on Xantura risk stratification is progressing to enhance predictive analytics and targeted interventions.

2.11 Priority 12 - Disrupting supply of illegal drugs: The project plan is being aligned with the Kent Community Safety Agreement, with ongoing intelligence sharing and updates on the local drug market profile. Work is underway to integrate Priorities 12 and 13, in collaboration with Kent Police, focusing on disrupting alcohol and drug supply chains and strengthening links with the Local Drug Information System (LDIS). Support from Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) panels is vital, providing insight into organised crime groups operating in high-risk areas—key drivers for targeted interventions. CGL is actively working with community safety teams, police, and other partners to reduce drug-related retail crime, particularly in Maidstone, with similar approaches being explored in East Kent. These efforts aim to enhance local intelligence, improve coordination across agencies, and ensure that enforcement activity is informed by public health priorities. The integration of treatment, recovery, and enforcement strategies is essential to reduce harm, disrupt supply, and improve safety in affected communities.

2.12 Priority 13 - Tackling local alcohol supply: A document capturing the themed outcomes from the steering group's interactive session has been developed. This document is intended to evolve over time, with steering group members agreeing to take ownership of specific thematic areas to shape it into a comprehensive action plan. Support from Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) panels remains a key driver, particularly in enhancing understanding of organised crime groups operating in identified hotspot areas. To support more efficient responses to alcohol licensing applications within Kent County Council (KCC), an online dashboard has been developed. This tool will soon be shared with wider stakeholders for consultation. In addition, Kent Police and the Community Safety Partnership are exploring the delivery of alcohol licensing training for frontline staff to strengthen local enforcement and safeguarding efforts.

3.0 LDIS and synthetic opiate:

Synthetic opiate and adulterated drugs are now becoming the norm. Our LDIS system is being used more frequently than ever. This impacts on our capacity as more partnership and administrative time is taken up tackling this threat. One of the challenges we are currently facing is the limited prioritisation of synthetic opioids within our local emergency response structures. While we've engaged with the Kent and Medway Resilience Forum to explore options for an out-of-hours response via the Local Drug Information System (LDIS), the Forum does not currently view synthetic opioids as a priority area.

However, there is a positive development: our health protection function is set to become part of the Resilience Forum. We hope this integration will provide an opportunity to embed LDIS within the health protection framework, enabling a more coordinated and responsive approach to emerging threats such as synthetic opioids.

This shift could help address current gaps in preparedness and ensure that synthetic opioids are considered within broader public health and emergency planning efforts.

The use of naloxone needs to become more normalised, and also the double doses of naloxone however the chemicals in the synoptic opiate keeps changing, we do need good partnership working locally and nationally to keep the abreast of it all.

4.0 Success Criteria - progress is evaluated through:

- 4.1 Reduction in drug-related deaths:** Nationally Drug deaths have reached an all-time high. Between January 2020 and December 2022, Kent recorded 205 drug misuse deaths, with a direct age-standardised rate (DSR) of 4.5 per 100,000—higher than the South East average (4.1), but lower than the England average (5.2). In 2023/24, Kent saw 194 alcohol-specific deaths, a slight increase from the previous year.

Between March 2024 and February 2025, Kent's treatment services reported 50 drug-related deaths (including those involving opiates, crack, opiates and crack, non-opiates and alcohol, and non-opiates only). This marks an increase from a baseline of 30 deaths in March 2022, a trend also observed regionally and nationally.

The majority of drug deaths in Kent are from opiates and cocaine and the average profile is a white man aged between 40 and 70 with complex health and social care problems and is often refused or experience barriers to mental health, substance misuse or health care recovery services. The average age of death to a person with OCU addiction is 55 years old.

According to our recent local surveillance data, reported drug and alcohol-related deaths in Kent have decreased in 2024/25 compared to 2023/24—from 383 to 300. This reduction may reflect improvements in treatment access, harm reduction efforts, and multi-agency collaboration, though continued monitoring and targeted interventions remain essential to sustain progress.

- 4.2 Adults in treatment in Kent:** As of September 2024 to August 2025, there were 5,733 adults in substance misuse treatment in Kent, an increase from a March 2022 baseline of 5,108.
- 4.3 Numbers of OCU in Kent Substance Misuse Treatment Services:** As of September 2024 to August 2025, there were 916 opiate only clients in Kent's drug and alcohol treatment services, 862 OCUs (opiate and crack), and 2,188 alcohol only clients. The unmet treatment gap for opiate only clients is 63% (which amounts to 3,760 people, OCUs is 4,725 people, alcohol only is 12,447 people). It is estimated that around 200 people in Kent will need Inpatient detox per year.
- 4.4 Number of residential rehabilitation and inpatient detox in Kent:** Between September 2024 and August 2025, Kent recorded 101 residential rehabilitation

admissions—an increase from the baseline of 38 in March 2022, reflecting expanded access and improved referral pathways. During the same period, 117 individuals accessed inpatient detox services, up from 94 in March 2022. These increases suggest growing engagement with structured treatment options and enhanced service capacity across the county.

5.0 Engagement with the Local Community

- **Community Outreach:** The partnership actively shares updates and information through local media channels and community events, helping to raise public awareness and promote transparency around its work.
- **Resident Involvement:** The Kent CDP ensures that local residents, especially those affected by drug-related harm, have meaningful opportunities to shape local plans. This includes collaboration with Lived Experience Recovery Organisations (LEROs) and open forums that welcome input from individuals with lived experience, their families, and wider community members.
- **ROAR – Kent's LERO:** Reach Out and Recover (ROAR), now established as a Community Interest Company (CIC), plays a key role in supporting quality improvement and advocacy for people in treatment and recovery. ROAR works across services to ensure that individuals navigating multiple systems receive coordinated and compassionate care. More information is available at [ROAR LERO Kent | Alcohol and drug Support \(roarkent.com\)](https://roarkent.com)

6.0 Context

- 6.1 The two overarching governance structures Kent Drug and Alcohol strategy are the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Kent Community Safety Partnership. There are also strong governance links to the Integrated Care Board for both prevention and mental health.
- 6.2 **The Substance Misuse Alliance;** the stakeholder engine room for delivering the strategy, is Chaired by Diane Morton, Lead Member for Social Care and Public Health and meets quarterly. The Senior Responsible Officer for Combatting Drugs Partnership is, Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health, supported by representatives from public health consultant and specialist, commissioners, local police, probation services, substance misuse service providers, and non-profits focused on drug and alcohol dependency. Its governance ensures that objectives align with both national and local priorities, fostering collaboration among key community partners. The senior executive group meets quarterly and drives the substance misuse strategy and gets reports from each of the sub groups. All of the key groups include police and police partnerships. In addition the Police leadership have their own structures where they lead on county lines, prevention and organised crime.
- 6.3 There are an estimated 81,000 people taking illegal drugs in Kent of which around 32,000 take Class A drugs. The modelled estimate of numbers for opiate and / or crack users (OCUs) in Kent is 5,647. The rate of unmet need of OCUs is 63%, and this is higher than the national average of 54%. The rate for people addicted to opiates and crack (OCU) in Kent is 5.9 (compared to England's 8.9 per 1,000) . There is an estimated rate of 11.5 per 1000 in need of alcohol treatment services for dependent

drinking (slightly lower than England average of 13.5). This is 14,000 people. New threats such as nitrazines and xylazines are on the increase.

- 6.4 There are three main substance misuse providers in Kent, CGL in the West, Forward Trust in the east, and we are with you: the children's service. Kent drug and alcohol services are generally performing better than the national average on a range of indicators.
- 6.5 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 which link across more than one priority.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 The KCSP is asked to note the progress and actions undertaken through the Kent Combating Drug Partnership and Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy.

For Further Information:

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