KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

NOTES of a meeting of the Kent Community Safety Partnership held in the Online on Tuesday, 31 March 2026.

PRESENT: Mr J Rivers (Vice-Chair), Mr S Peerbux, Ms H Topley, Ms S Brinson, Insp J Ross, Mr S Perez, Mr S Woolcott, Ms S Clare, Mr R Phillips, Supt R Marsh, Mr T Nundy, Ms M Finn, Ch Insp E Jones, Ms J Harman, Ch Insp O Changizi, Ms R Machin, Dr L Guo, Ms C Bright, Ms A Oates, Cllr L Wright, Cllr D Croxton and Ms L Read.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr G Romagnuolo (Clerk).

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Apologies and Substitutes
(Item A2)

Apologies were received from Mr P Webb (Chair), Cllr M Lawes, Ms C Collins, Ms K Castle, Ms L McMahon, Ms S O'Connor, Ms S Robson, Mr S Chapman, Ms S Holt-Castle, Ch/Insp M Hedges **,** Ms M Royle and Mr D Paul.

2. Declarations of Interest
(Item A3)

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Notes of the meeting held on 20 November 2025
(Item A4)

RESOLVED that the notes of the meeting held on 20 November 2025 were a correct record.

4. Kent Community Safety Agreement Review and Refresh Update
(Item B1)

1. Mr Peerbux (Head of Community Safety, KCC) explained that the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlined the countywide priorities and strategic framework for community safety across Kent. The document was reviewed and refreshed annually to ensure its relevance.

2. The CSA was one of the Partnership's statutory responsibilities and demonstrated that collective leadership, shared accountability and alignment across all the Partnership's agencies and services.

3. The annual review and refresh of the CSA had traditionally included the addition of new content to reflect emerging issues and changes in policy and practice; however, this also resulted in the document becoming increasingly lengthy and complex and harder to use as a strategic framework. Through discussions and

collaboration with the KCSP Working Group and wider partners, there was agreement that a streamline of the CSA was needed; with a focus on reducing duplication and improving clarity.

4. Ms S Brinson (Community Safety Team Leader, KCC) said that the CSA review had been informed by evidence and information from local district/borough strategic assessments, partnership data and plans, horizon scanning of emerging issues and discussion and feedback from partners at the in person multi-agency workshop with the KCSP Working Group.

5. While it was established that CSA priorities remained relevant, it was recognised that many were interconnected and was proposed that the priorities within the CSA for 2026–27 be structured around three overarching strategic aims, namely:

    - Stronger, safer and resilient neighbourhoods: addressing ASB, neighbourhood crime, and local concerns – focusing on the issues that most affected everyday life, impacting communities and feelings of safety.
    - Reducing violence, abuse and high-harm offending – including domestic abuse, violence against women and girls and serious violence.
    - Protecting vulnerable people: reducing exploitation, susceptibility, and repeat harm – including safeguarding people, substance misuse, mental health, reoffending and reducing the risk of radicalisation.

6. Feedback from statutory partners had been supportive of the new approach and the proposed changes had therefore been included into the draft CSA presented to the KCSP.

7. A member commented on the positive impact that the new analyst had made with the provision of information, workshop support and input in the report.

8. Mr Peerbux outlined that one of the strengths of moving to three strategic aims gives a clearer platform for assurance and oversight and allows us to develop a proportionate performance framework that underpins the CSA. The next phase of work will be developing the performance framework with partners.

RESOLVED that the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP):

- **consider and comment** on the new draft format of the Kent Community Safety Agreement;
- **agree** the proposed approach, including the three strategic aims;
- **submit** any feedback or proposed changes to the KCST (kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk) by 22nd April 2026;
- **note** the requirement for partners to attend the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee in July 2026.

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

1. Mr Stephen Perez (Community Intelligence and Partnerships Lead, KFRS, and Chair of the KCSP Working Group) explained that the KCSP was supported by a

multi-agency working group whose remit was to prepare and monitor the CSA and manage the Kent Community Safety fund.

2. The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) allocated £39,661 Crime Reduction grant funding to the KCSP to fund projects in 2025/26, focusing on the priorities identified in the Community Safety Agreement and the PCC's Police and Crime Plan for 2025-2029. The Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) received approval for ten projects detailed in the report for a total cost £39,630.60.

3. Mr Perez highlighted some really good budget management with effective venue and trainer procurement with one of the projects which has resulted in a small underspend (£726.40) which was going to be returned to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

4. PCC's Office confirmed that the allocated funding for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 was £39,600. As in previous years, £26,500.00 was allocated to upfront projects while the remaining £13,100.00 was held in a tactical pot.

5. Partner agencies had been contacted to request submission of project proposals for the initial business case for consideration by early April 2026. The project proposals would be discussed by the KCSP Working Group at their meeting on 27th April 2026; the group's recommendations will be presented to the KCSP Chair for approval prior to submission as a business case to the OPCC.

6. Mr Perez also highlighted some other elements of work the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) had undertaken throughout 2025/26 which included nine Community Safety Information Sessions delivered with presentations from the VRU on the Safer Knife Replacement Scheme and from the KFRS and KCC on Road Safety, and briefings from Tell MAMA and the Community Security Trust regarding the protection of Muslim and Jewish communities. The sessions were well attended and were rated as very good or excellent. Planning for the 2026/27 programme was underway. Additionally, recognition of the continued success of the Domestic Homicide Review webinars. The latest webinar held on 4th February told the story of Rita and explored coercive control and co-occurring conditions. It was attended by over 140 people including a number of attendees from outside Kent and Medway who are involved in these reviews in other parts of the country who complimented the planning and delivery of the event. Overall feedback was very positive with 100% of those responding to the event evaluation rated the event as excellent, very good or good.

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

a) **Note** the progress and actions undertaken by the Working Group and the work of the Kent Community Safety Team (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.

6. Kent and Medway Serious Violence Duty Update
(Item B3)

1. Ch/Insp Lizzie Jones (Kent Police) said that the Serious Violence Strategy consisted of three key strands:
   - Sexual Violence
   - Serious Youth Violence involving those aged under 25
   - Violence linked to drugs and alcohol.

2. In terms of sexual violence, the VRU Strategic Needs Assessment showed that Rape, Sexual Assault and Non-Contact sexual offences had fallen by 16% in total.

3. With regard to Serious Youth Violence, there was a reduction of knife-enabled serious violence for both the under 18s and the 18–25-year-olds.

4. Violence linked to drugs and alcohol was complex and could only be tackled through the collaboration of different agencies. An evidence-based collaborative approach was likely to achieve the greatest impact to prevent it. This work was led by Medway's Public Health team.

5. The annual budget of the Violence Reduction Unit had been fully spent, so there was no underspend to return to the Home Office.

6. Two initiatives - the Buddy Tag system, which protects children from exploitation, and the Safer Knives replacement scheme had been featured in the College of Policing as best practice examples and is being implemented in locations across the UK and also abroad too.

7. The VRU also led the Young Futures Pilot programme aimed at identifying vulnerable children who could be at risk of permanent exclusion or entering the criminal justice system. A panel comprising of VRU, Police, Youth Justice, NHS, school leads and KFRS representatives would assess the children's needs and tailor programmes to meet them. The pilot operated in 2 schools in Medway and is in its last financial year. The aim is to have a successful pilot and upscale throughout Kent.

8. Ms Jones advised that funding has been confirmed for the year 2026-2027 and a delivery plan was being submitted to the Home Office imminently.

RESOLVED that the Kent Community Safety Partnership **note** the contents of the report.

7. Refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 Update
(Item B4)

7. Mr Rob Phillips (Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) said that the purpose of a Police and Crime Plan was to communicate the PCC's vision and objectives.

8. On 1 April 2025, the PCC published his 'Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust: Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029'. The PCC was legally required to keep the

plan under review, particularly considering changes to the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) issued by the Secretary of State and any recommendations made by the Kent & Medway Police and Crime Panel.

9. In approaching the refresh, the PCC encouraged feedback from victims, communities and partner agencies. The Annual Policing Survey was launched in September and ran until the beginning of December 2025. Its aim was to reach out to, and hear from, Kent residents. The responses were very positive and supportive of the four pillars:
10.
    - Protecting People
    - Protecting Places
    - Protecting Property
    - Productive Partnerships.

11. As a result, the Plan had not been fundamentally altered and was presented to the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel in February, alongside budget and precept proposal, all was unanimously approved.

12. The refreshed 'Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust: Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025 – 2029' would become effective from 1 April 2026 and be published on the Office of the Kent PCC website (https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/).

RESOLVED that the KCSP **note** the Refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029.

8. Dates of Future Meetings
(Item C1)

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

9. 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 and updates from the DARDR Steering Group in relation to policy and procedures, funding and sharing of lessons identified.

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.
- **Note** the heightened risks and pressures on funding for DHRs.

10. Counter Terrorism Contest Strategy (Prevent, Protect, Prepare) Update *(Item D2)*

1. Mr Woolcott (Assistant Director Contest and Serious Organised Crime, KCC) provided an update on the local and national context in relation to the Counter Terrorism Contest Strategy, focusing on the Prevent Duty, and the Protect and Prepare strands of the Strategy.

RESOLVED that the KCSP **note** the update on the activity regarding the Prevent Duty/Contest.

END