

AGENDA

KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Tuesday, 31st March, 2026, at 10.00 am

Ask for:

**Gaetano
Romagnuolo
gaetano.romagnuolo
@kent.gov.uk**

Online

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 20 November 2025 (Pages 1 - 8)

B. Matters for Information/Discussion

- B1 Kent Community Safety Agreement Review and Refresh Update (Pages 9 - 28)
- B2 Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update (Pages 29 - 34)
- B3 Kent and Medway Serious Violence Duty Update (Pages 35 - 38)
- B4 Refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 Update (Pages 39 - 62)

C. Matters for Information

- C1 Dates of Future Meetings
 - Thursday 23 July 2026 at 10am,
 - Thursday 19 November 2026 at 10am
 - Wednesday 24 March 2027 at 10am
 - Thursday 8 July 2027 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Meeting not open to the press and public and reports not for publication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 Reviews Update
- D2 Counter Terrorism Contest Strategy (Prevent, Protect, Prepare) Update

Monday, 23 March 2026

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

NOTES of a meeting of the Kent Community Safety Partnership held online on Thursday, 20 November 2025, 10am.

PRESENT: Mr P Webb (Chair), Mr J Rivers (Vice-Chair), Mr S Peerbux, , Mr D Paul, DI J Ross, Ms C Bright, Ms A Oates, Mrs M Lawes, Mr S Perez, Mr D Parratt, Mr N Wilkinson, Ms R Button, Ms S Brinson, Mr M Jeynes, Mr R Platt, Mr M Bunting, Ms C Harris, Ms A Robinson, Mr L Guo, Mr S Woolcott, Ms C Collins, Ms S Clare, Mr R Marsh, Ms C Hartwell, Ms J Harman, Ms V Meller and Ms K Weller.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr G Romagnuolo.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

158. Apologies and Substitutes

(Item A2)

Apologies were received from Ms A Broom, Ms S Robson, Cllr L Wright, Cllr D Croxton, Mr S Chapman and Ms E Jones.

159. Declarations of Interest

(Item A3)

There were no declarations of interest.

160. Notes of meeting held on 23 July 2025

(Item A4)

RESOLVED that the notes of the meeting held on 23 July 2025 were a correct record.

161. Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

(Item B1)

1. Mr Peerbux (Head of Community Safety, KCC) explained that local authorities were legally required to hold a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee to review the work of community safety partnerships. KCC's Scrutiny Committee meets annually in its capacity as the Crime and Disorder Committee to scrutinise partnership activity and outcomes from the Community Safety Agreement.
2. The most recent meeting took place on 2 October 2025, where the Committee reviewed the work of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) over the past year.

3. Mr Peerbux expressed his gratitude to all those who attended the meeting and to those that assisted with the production of the accompanying reports to support this process. Mr Peerbux also extended his sincere gratitude to Superintendent Peter Steenhuis who, after many years supporting the partnership has moved onto another role in Kent Police. Superintendent Rob Marsh will now take up the role.
4. Mr Peerbux said that the Committee noted five areas of interest. These were:
 - The visibility of neighbourhood policing.
 - The outreach from services into communities.
 - Access to suicide prevention services.
 - How best to cascade best practice across the county.
 - How Neighbourhood Watch might be included in any future reports.
5. Two more considerations included how communication had been improved with the public and with services outside of the partnership and how monitoring through the dashboard had progressed. All those comments had been taken on board.
6. Mr Peerbux explained that an analyst had been recruited (starting 1st December) into the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) to ensure that the work of the Team and the KCSP would be more data-led and evidence-based moving forward.
7. Ms Shirley Brinson (Community Safety Team Leader, KCC) said that the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) included an action plan which supported delivery of the CSA's priorities. Actions included activities such as the domestic homicide reviews (DHRs)/domestic abuse related death reviews (DARDRs), information sharing, awareness raising and training and other partnerships and boards also help deliver and lead on some of the actions.
8. Other key activities/achievements included:
 - The completion of the consultation on the draft Kent and Medway Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy.
 - A successful visit from the nation-wide Baton of Hope Tour on 22nd September 2025, engaging with the general public and raising awareness of mental health and suicide prevention.
 - Ongoing work with the #KnowSeeSpeakOut Domestic Abuse campaign
 - The MARAC Hub review
 - The monitoring of the Crime and Policing Bill as it progressed through Parliamentary stages before becoming law.
9. Ms Brinson explained that the KCST were in the process of sourcing data from partners for use by the district/borough Community Safety Partnerships in their annual strategic assessment process to help identify key community safety issues, thus also informing the County CSA priorities. The KCST was also planning a data workshop on 10th December for partners involved in producing the local strategic assessments.

10. The next KCSP Working Group meeting in January will be an in-person workshop to review the county Strategic Assessment and consider local CSP priorities and horizon scanning before the proposed CSA priorities are brought to the next KCSP meeting in March 2026.

RESOLVED that the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) members **note** the update.

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

1. Mr Stephen Perez (Community Intelligence and Partnerships Lead, KFRS) explained that he had been appointed as Chair of the KCSP Working Group at the previous meeting of the Working Group in July 2025.
2. In terms of funding, Mr Perez said that the funding to the KCSP for 2025/26 by the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Crime Reduction Grant (CRG), remained the same as in previous years (£39,661). A third of the funding 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.
3. The KCSP Working Group reviewed six projects which received widespread support, with the PCC approving an upfront spending of just over £24K these were:
 - A 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) and
 - Workshop – Involving men and boys in tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (£2,000).
4. 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.
5. 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)
6. The PCC agreed to fund two additional projects which were submitted at a later stage:
 - British Sign Language (BSL) Interpretation to TEPO – Doorstep Crime and Scams Modules (£5,500) and
 - Local Vape Action Retailer Packs (£2,000).
7. Mr Perez said that, if all projects received approval from the PCC, then the majority of the Tactical Pot funding would be allocated.

8. In terms of the KCST Update, Mr Perez said that in the past year the KCST delivered eleven well-attended lunchtime Community Safety Information Sessions which covered a variety of topics, including Kent Police's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Hub, Dangerous Dogs, the Domestic Abuse Champions project and the 16 Days of Activism.
9. The KCST had delivered five Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) learning webinars, including sessions on Caring Dynamics and Dementia, and the case of 'Angela' which discussed the impact of child separation, suicide, and domestic abuse. All of which were well attended with 100% of respondents to the evaluation survey rated them as good, very good or excellent.

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.

163. Review Kent and Medway Road Safety Update
(Item B3)

1. Ms Claire Harris, Road Safety Manager (Kent Fire & Rescue Service) and Coordinator for the Kent and Medway Safer Roads Partnership (KMSRP), delivered a presentation. She explained that the KMSRP had been recently restructured and has a Strategic Board that provided governance and oversight across the partnership which included senior officers and elected members from these organisations. The Board was chaired by the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner. The Tactical Coordination Group Chaired by Ms Harris was instead tasked with the delivery of the actions.
2. In terms of the Vision Zero Strategy, significant progress had been made towards its implementation and the establishment of a Safe System based structure across Kent and Medway. The Strategy had been developed in collaboration amongst partners organisations to align partner visions driving the strategy forward to achieve the Vision Zero goals. One activity was the establishment of a motorcycle working group which aimed reducing the number of motorcycle fatalities on Kent's roads.
3. Mr Mark Bunting (KCC Highways) expanded on the Vision Zero strategy. He said that everybody had the responsibility to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries.
4. The support of Safe System would help with this task. The Safe System was made up of a number of layers of protection. These were:

- Safer Roads and Streets Projects to improve safety, such as School Street Schemes, near-miss recording trials, active travel infrastructure work and highway improvements.
- Safe Speeds Initiatives, such as the Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership collaborative approach and Community Speed Watch.
- Safe Behaviours Road safety education, training and publicity campaigns.
- Post Collision Response Weekly partnership meetings to discuss recent incidents and potential solutions, ensuring coordinated responses and learning from serious collisions.
- Safer Vehicles Fleet engagement and initiatives, such as Driving for Better Business and the new Kent Fleet Forum to promote safer vehicle technology and best practice in fleet safety management.

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

164. Kent Substance Misuse (Drug and Alcohol) Strategy Update (Item B4)

1. The paper reported that there were an estimated 81,000 people taking illegal drugs in Kent of which around 32,000 took Class A drugs. The rate of unmet need of Opiates and Crack (OCUs) was 63%: this was higher than the national average (54%). There was an estimated rate of 11.5 per 1000 in need of alcohol treatment services for dependent drinking (which was slightly lower than the England average of 13.5). New dangerous substances, such as nitrazines and xylazines, were on the increase.
2. Dr Lin Guo, Public Health Specialist, KCC, said that the Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy had 13 priorities. These were:
 - Priority 1 & 2 - Prevention, early intervention and behaviour change
 - Priority 3 - Improving hospital and acute pathways to treatment
 - Priority 4 - Children and young people living with alcohol misusing parents / Preventing inter-generational alcohol misuse
 - Priority 5 - Tackling high rates of suicide and self-harm associated with substance misuse
 - Priority 6 - Continued improvements to Kent treatment and recovery services
 - Priority 7 - Criminal justice routes to substance misuse treatment
 - Priority 8 - Improve treatment and recovery for targeted groups / vulnerable People
 - Priority 9 - Improve pathways to treatment and recovery to rough sleepers
 - Priority 10 - Improving treatment and recovery for people with co-occurring conditions
 - 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
 - Priority 12 - Disrupting supply of illegal drugs
 - Priority 13 - Tackling local alcohol supply.

3. The two overarching governance structures that supported the Strategy were the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Kent Community Safety Partnership. There were also strong governance links to the NHS Integrated Care Board for both prevention and mental health.
4. The Substance Misuse Alliance was tasked with the delivery of the strategy and Chaired by the Lead Member for Social Care and Public Health. The Senior Responsible Officer for the Combating Drugs Partnership was Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health in KCC. Key organisations involved in this initiative included public health specialists, commissioners, Kent police, probation services, substance misuse service providers, and non-profit organisations.

RESOLVED that the KCSP note the progress and actions undertaken through the Kent Combating Drug Partnership and Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy.

165. Dates of future meetings

(Item C1)

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

166. 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.
- Review the DARDR Funding arrangements report paper dated 20th November 2025 (see D2).

167. Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews Funding Arrangements Report

(Item D2)

1. Mr Peerbux provided an update on the funding situation for DHRs/DARDRs and set out the Steering Group recommendations for the funding arrangements for 2026/27, as well as outlining the considerations and options for the future.
2. He said that at the Steering Group meeting in September 2025 it was agreed that, given the increase in caseloads and upcoming changes to the DHR/DARDR

criteria, action had to be taken to ensure the Responsible Authorities could continue to meet their statutory duties.

RESOLVED that the Partnership:

- Consider the detail and various options outlined in this report.
- Support the Steering Group recommendation to stagger the 40% increase – (i) 10% increase in 2026/27 to partially cover the cost of the heightened caseload and ensure a lesser drawdown is required from the reserves at the end of the financial year (maintaining enough in the reserve to cover one or two additional reviews above the expected norm). (ii) Plan for remaining 30% increase in 2027/28 if no central government funding is forthcoming.
- Continue to endorse the use of the DHR Reserves to cover the increased costs associated with the heightened caseload in 2025/26 whilst maintaining a minimum buffer of approximately £12k (to cover the cost of one review).
- Note that, if the above recommendations are adopted and central government funding is not forthcoming, a further revision to contribution levels may be required in 2027/28.

168. Kent and Medway PREVENT Duty Delivery Board Update

(Item D3)

1. Mr Nick Wilkinson (Assistant Director Contest and Serious Organised Crime, KCC) provided a verbal update on the local and national context in relation to the Prevent Duty.

2. The Chair informed the Partnership that this was Nick Wilkinson's last meeting with the KCSP. The Chair thanked Nick for his participation, professionalism and valued contribution to the KCSP over the years.

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

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

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 31st March 2026

Classification: For Decision

Subject: Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

Summary This report outlines the review of the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) and seeks endorsement from the Kent Community Safety Partnership for the revised framework. It summarises the proposed changes for 2026/27, including a streamlined format and a move from eight priorities to three overarching strategic aims to support a more flexible, data-led approach to partnership working.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police and other responsible authorities to work together to reduce crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending within their areas.
- 1.2 In two-tier local authority areas such as Kent, this duty is supported by the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007, which require the preparation of a county-level Community Safety Agreement (CSA) to support coordinated and joint working across district, borough and county partners.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlines the countywide priorities and strategic framework for community safety across Kent. The document is reviewed and refreshed annually to ensure it remains relevant.
- 2.2 Last year's review of the CSA which took place in March 2025, confirmed that the existing eight priorities and five cross-cutting themes remained appropriate. Although changes to the community safety landscape and emerging issues were noted within the updated document, it was agreed that any partnership activity could be incorporated into the existing priorities or themes. The [current published version](#) took effect from April 2025.
- 2.3 The annual review and refresh of the CSA traditionally includes the addition of new content to reflect emerging issues, new statutory duties, changes in policy and practice and updated priorities. While this approach has ensured the CSA remained comprehensive and up to date, it has also resulted in the document becoming increasingly lengthy and complex over time. In recognition of this, partners agreed that this year was an appropriate opportunity to undertake a more fundamental review of the CSA, with a focus on streamlining the document, reducing duplication and improving clarity and usability.

2.4 The following report details the outcome of the latest review of the CSA and the proposed changes for 2026/27.

3.0 CSA Review Process

3.1 The review of the Community Safety Agreement (CSA) has been informed by a range of evidence and engagement including local district/borough strategic assessments, partnership data and plans, horizon scanning of emerging issues and discussion and feedback from partners.

Workshop

3.2 An in-person, multi-agency workshop was held with members of the Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group at the end of January 2026. Providing partners with the opportunity to discuss emerging issues and risks, organisational priorities, the impact of changing legislation, new duties, etc. As well as an opportunity to reflect on the existing structure of the CSA.

Horizon Scanning

3.3 The workshop discussions contributed to the horizon scanning undertaken through a PESTELO analysis. The Working Group discussed a range of emerging issues and organisational priorities which helped inform the horizon scanning review. Including issues such as local government reorganisation; the introduction of new legislation including enacted and emerging bills such as the Sentencing Act 2026 and the Crime and Policing Bill; high cost of living; financial pressures on organisations; global events; polarisation; and both the opportunities and threats such as the use of artificial intelligence in everyday life. A brief summary is included as **Appendix B** to this report.

Strategic Assessment

3.4 Discussions were also informed by the initial county Strategic Assessment produced by the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) Analyst in partnership with Kent Police. The assessment draws together crime data as well as a range of datasets provided by partners including hospital admissions, fire data, road casualties, youth offending data, etc. The assessment, which is marked as 'restricted', has been shared with members of the KCSP Working Group to inform the review of the CSA. A high-level summary of key issues and drivers is included as **Appendix C** to this report.

Partnership Plans

3.5 Following their own strategic assessments, **district/borough Community Safety Partnerships** (CSPs), are in the process of reviewing the priorities and local plans for 2026/27. At the time of writing, draft priorities have been received from all CSPs in Kent and although there may be some amendments prior to finalising the plans, it is not anticipated there will be significant changes. The following are some of the main issues that have been identified either as a priority, cross-cutting theme or as part of a broader theme (included as **Appendix D** to this report):

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Violence Against Women & Girls
- Serious Violence
- Safeguarding and Vulnerability
- Strengthening Communities
- Substance Misuse
- Extremism & Hate
- Crime (including acquisitive crime)

- Serious and Organised Crime
- Reducing Offending & Reoffending
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Public Spaces
- Road Safety

3.6 In line with the statutory duty to have due regard to **Police and Crime Plan**, this has also been considered as part of the CSA review. The Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) [Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029](#) 'Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust' is supported by 4 key priorities: Protecting People, Protecting Places, Protecting Property, and Productive Partnerships.

Workshop Outcomes

3.7 Partners discussed whether the existing priorities remained fit for purpose and how the CSA could better support effective joint working and strategic oversight. It was agreed that a more streamlined document structure around broader themes would provide a clearer and more strategic framework. The KCST was therefore asked to review the CSA and develop a revised proposal reflecting the discussions and feedback from the Working Group.

4.0 Proposed Changes

4.1 The review (as detailed above) confirmed that the issues contained within the Kent CSA priorities (April 2025) remain relevant, including, *neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour; violence against women and girls; domestic abuse; substance misuse; safeguarding vulnerable people; serious violence and organised crime; preventing extremism and hate; and road safety*. However, partners recognised that these issues are interconnected and increasingly complex, and that a long list of individual priorities and cross-cutting themes did not always reflect how community safety activity is delivered in practice.

4.2 It is therefore proposed that the CSA for 2026–27 is structured around three broader **strategic aims**, which are not listed in order of priority:

- **Stronger, safer and resilient neighbourhoods: addressing ASB, neighbourhood crime, and local concerns** – *focusing on the issues that most affect 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.*

4.3 Members of the Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group have been consulted on the proposed changes to the CSA, including the move to broader strategic aims and a more streamlined document. Partners were asked to consider whether the revised approach remained representative of activity across Kent, reflected both local and countywide priorities, and allowed their organisations' statutory responsibilities to be clearly aligned within the new framework.

4.4 Feedback from statutory partners has been positive and supportive of the new approach, and suggested changes and improvements have been incorporated into the draft CSA (**Appendix A**).

5.0 Key Benefits of the New Format

- 5.1 The refreshed CSA introduces a simplified structure based on three strategic aims rather than eight individual priorities, reducing duplication and improving readability.
- 5.2 The document places greater emphasis on statutory purpose, strategic direction and high-level priorities, with stronger alignment to district and borough Community Safety Partnership plans and the Kent Police and Crime Plan.
- 5.3 The revised approach provides improved strategic clarity for partners and scrutiny bodies, greater agility to respond to emerging risks in-year, clearer links between local and countywide priorities, more effective use of partner resources, and enhanced ability to demonstrate compliance with statutory duties.
- 5.4 It is also worth noting that some of the district and borough Community Safety Partnerships have adopted a similar approach, or are moving towards, broader thematic approaches, and that the proposed revision to the CSA appears to align well with local CSPs as well as the Kent Police and Crime Plan.

6.0 Next Steps

- 6.1 The current draft presented to the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is in-development and due to the significant changes to the format of the CSA, members are invited to provide feedback during the meeting or in writing to the KCST kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk by Wednesday 22nd April 2026.
- 6.2 Following discussions at the KCSP meeting on 31st March and receipt of any written feedback received from partners, the draft CSA will be updated accordingly and submitted to the Chair of the KCSP for formal agreement and sign-off.
- 6.3 Once agreed, the KCSP Working Group will work in partnership to develop a data-led action plan aligned to the three strategic aims, focusing on areas where countywide partnership working can add value without duplicating existing arrangements.

7.0 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

- 7.1 The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced the requirement for a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee to review the work of the partnership, as such on an annual basis KCC's Scrutiny Committee meets as the Crime and Disorder committee to act as a critical friend to scrutinise and challenge the work of the partnership and the outcomes from the Community Safety Agreement.
- 7.2 A date for the Crime and Disorder Committee has been set for the 1st July 2026, representatives of the responsible authorities will be in attendance to represent the KCSP and respond to any queries raised. Any recommendations or suggested changes arising from Scrutiny will be fed back to the KCSP members and the Working Group for action as appropriate.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is asked to:

- 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.

Attachments:

Appendix A: Draft Community Safety Agreement - April 2026

Appendix B: Horizon scanning summary

Appendix C: Supporting evidence summary

Appendix D: District / Borough CSP priority summary

For Further Information:

Shirley Brinson
KCC Community Safety Team Leader
shirley.brinson@kent.gov.uk

Shafick Peerbux
KCC Head of Community Safety
shafick.peerbux@kent.gov.uk

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DRAFT

Kent Community Safety Agreement (April 2026)

Foreword

To be confirmed

1. Introduction

This Community Safety Agreement (CSA) sets out the countywide priorities for community safety in Kent and reflects the shared commitment of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) to protect residents, support vulnerable people, and strengthen partnership working. As in previous years, the landscape of community safety continues to evolve; shaped by new legislation, emerging threats, and the wider social and economic environment. The CSA provides a clear framework for partnership working with three identified strategic aims for Kent. It outlines ambitions for the year ahead, and reaffirms the commitment of all responsible authorities to work collectively to keep communities safe.

The responsible authorities to this Agreement are:

- Kent County Council
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service
- Kent Police
- Local District / Borough Authorities
- NHS Kent and Medway
- Probation Service

2. Purpose and Statutory Context

The formation of a Community Safety Agreement (CSA) is a statutory requirement for two-tier areas under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended). Its objective is to provide a high-level framework for community safety across Kent through setting out the shared priorities agreed by responsible authorities at a countywide level. The CSA is intended to be:

- Aligned with local and national priorities, including the Kent Police and Crime Plan
- Clear and accessible for partners and stakeholders
- Focused on outcomes and joint action, not process

The CSA does not replace district/borough Community Safety Plans; rather, it draws together recurring themes, cross-boundary issues and countywide risks identified through local plans, data analysis, horizon scanning, and partner intelligence and

contributions into a cohesive agreement for Community Safety. Informed by this process, the CSA identifies the most significant Community Safety themes across Kent in order to: support strategic coordination; strengthen collaborative working; and help partners collectively fulfil their statutory duties.

The statutory framework for **delivery** of community safety activity is primarily set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended), as well as the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011. Collectively this legislation specifies the requirement for responsible authorities and co-operating bodies to form partnerships at both a District and County level to address Community Safety issues. Thereby meeting the requirements of:

- **Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**, which places a duty on responsible authorities to work together to formulate and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder.
- **The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007**, which require a **county-level Community Safety Agreement** in two-tier areas.
- **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**, which requires authorities to consider crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour) in all their functions.
- **The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011**, which requires Community Safety Partnerships and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to have regard to each other's priorities.

2. How Community Safety Works in Kent

Community safety in Kent is currently delivered through a structured two-tier partnership framework designed to ensure both local responsiveness and effective countywide coordination.

At a countywide level, the **Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP)** provides strategic leadership, coordination and oversight. The KCSP adds value where issues extend beyond local boundaries, where collective action strengthens impact, or where consistency and alignment across Kent are required.

At a district and borough level, **Local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)** are responsible for identifying and addressing local priorities. These priorities are informed by annual Strategic Assessments and are delivered through locally agreed **Community Safety Plans** and targeted interventions.

3. Kent's Community Safety Strategic Aims

The strategic aims detailed below encompass the Community Safety issues that benefit from a coordinated strategic approach and where shared insight, learning and collaboration add value. The three strategic aims have been numbered for reference purposes only.

- **Strategic Aim 1** - Stronger, safer and resilient neighbourhoods: addressing ASB, neighbourhood crime, and local concerns.
- **Strategic Aim 2** – Reducing violence, abuse, and high-harm offending.
- **Strategic Aim 3** – Protecting vulnerable people: reducing exploitation, susceptibility, and repeat harm.

These strategic aims enable previous priorities from the 2025 Kent Community Safety Agreement to be incorporated into a simpler, more accessible framework by bringing together local and county-wide priorities as well as aligning with the Kent Police and Crime Plan. The strategic aims, including key drivers, are explored below.

Strategic Aim 1: Stronger, safer and resilient neighbourhoods: addressing ASB, neighbourhood crime and local concerns

Feeling safe in your local area matters. This strategic aim is about creating places where people feel safe, supported and confident, and where communities are resilient and inclusive. It focuses on the issues that most affect everyday life, including anti-social behaviour (ASB), environmental crime (i.e. fly tipping), neighbourhood crime, retail crime / shoplifting, hate crime, community cohesion, and road safety.

Key drivers:

- **Statutory Duty:** CSPs have a statutory duty to address crime and disorder including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment.
- **Community Safety Plans:** All district/borough CSPs in Kent identified ASB as a priority or core business within their Community Safety Plans, and most have explicitly referenced hate crime and Prevent (reducing the risk of radicalisation), as well as communities, and public spaces within their priorities
- **Policing Priorities:** The strategic aim aligns with 'Protecting Places' and 'Protecting Property' within the Kent Police and Crime Plan including ASB, road danger and vision zero, retail crime, etc.
- **Horizon scanning:** Rising tensions and community cohesion fuelled by misinformation were noted as emerging issues in the horizon scanning process. A recent Government policy paper sets out the steps the Government is taking to improve social cohesion and protect what matters:

“Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom”.

- **Upcoming changes:** The Crime & Policing Bill aims to introduce new ASB powers as well as changes that are aimed at tackling rising retail crime and improving protection for shopworkers.
- **Community views:** Resident surveys commonly identify issues such as ASB as one of the top concerns. In Kent’s Annual Policing Survey 2025, over 50% of respondents had experienced ASB with the most common types experienced were ‘Rowdy Inconsiderate Behaviour’, ‘Littering’ and ‘Vehicle Nuisance’¹.

Strategic Aim 2: Reducing violence, abuse and high-harm offending

This strategic aim brings together work to prevent and respond to the most serious forms of violence and abuse, particularly where harm is severe, persistent or escalating, including Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), Domestic Abuse (DA), Serious Violence and Serious and Organised Crime.

Key drivers:

- **Statutory Duty:** The Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced the Serious Violence Duty for CSPs. Organised crime is recognised as a driver of serious violence and exploitation. CSPs have a statutory duty to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews².
- **Community Safety Plans:** All (or almost all) district/borough CSPs in Kent have identified VAWG, Violence / Serious Violence and Domestic Abuse (DA) as priorities within their Community Safety Plans.
- **Policing Priorities:** It aligns with ‘Protecting People’ within the Kent Police and Crime Plan including DA, VAWG, Serious Violence, etc.
- **Horizon scanning:** The Government has committed to halve both ‘violence against women and girls’ (VAWG) and ‘knife crime’ within a decade. The Home Office and the National Police Chiefs’ Council have described VAWG as a national emergency.
- **Crime rates:** Violent crime offences represent 47% of all police recorded crime in Kent (exc. Medway). For Domestic Abuse related offences, 83% are Violent crime offences. 22% of all recorded crime in Kent is VAWG related³.

¹ [Annual Policing Survey Report - 2025](#)

² The KCSP fulfils county-level responsibilities on behalf of all Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Kent and Medway for **Domestic Homicide Reviews**. These arrangements are transitioning to Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews under the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, ensuring that learning is captured and used to drive system-wide improvement.

³ Between November 2024 – October 2025

Strategic Aim 3: Protecting vulnerable people: reducing exploitation, susceptibility, and repeat harm

This strategic aim focuses on protecting people who are vulnerable and susceptible to harm, exploitation and/or repeat victimisation. It brings together safeguarding, substance misuse, mental health, family need, and interventions that reduce youth and adult reoffending. It includes activity to address: safeguarding vulnerable people, substance misuse, reducing reoffending, preventing / or reducing the risk of radicalisation and extremism, exploitation (including Serious Organised Crime (SOC) related harm), mental ill health, etc.

Key drivers:

- **Statutory Duty:** CSPs have a statutory duty to address the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in an area and to reduce reoffending.
- **Community Safety Plans:** The majority of district/borough CSPs in Kent have included a priority relating to safeguarding vulnerable people within their Community Safety Plans and approx. half have explicitly identified issues such as substance misuse, serious and organised crime (exploitation), mental health & wellbeing, reducing or preventing offending and re-offending within their priorities.
- **Policing priorities:** It aligns with 'Protecting People' within the Kent Police and Crime Plan including supporting victims.
- **Prevent Duty:** Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are not specified authorities and do not hold a statutory Prevent duty. However, all CSP responsible authorities are specified bodies under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and are individually subject to the Prevent duty, which is often coordinated through CSP governance arrangements. Kent remains the only Prevent priority area for the South East.

4. Delivering the Agreement

The strategic aims set out in this Agreement will be delivered through a coordinated, partnership-led approach, as outlined below:

- Oversight and direction provided by the responsible authorities through the Kent Community Safety Partnership.
- Strong engagement with countywide multi-agency partnership groups*, supporting delivery, partnership working, and coordinated campaigns.
- Working closely with district and borough Community Safety Partnerships to identify shared priorities and opportunities for joint working.
- Strategic alignment with the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities supporting delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.
- Use of shared data and intelligence to identify emerging risks and ensure a consistent data-led approach to planning and decision-making.
- Promotion of shared learning and good practice across all partners to support continuous improvement and strengthen partnership effectiveness.

Many of the focus areas identified within the strategic aims are already supported by established multi-agency governance and delivery arrangements as detailed below. These provide oversight, system leadership, joint working and a coordinated approach to action across partner organisations. The following list is not exhaustive:

Strategic Aim 1

- Kent & Medway Safer Roads Partnership
- Kent & Medway Prevent Duty Delivery Board (PDDDB)
- District / Borough Community Safety Partnerships (local level)
- Kent Police Hate Crime Forum

Strategic Aim 2

- Kent & Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group
- Kent & Medway DHR / DARDR Steering Group
- Kent & Medway Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Board

Strategic Aim 3

- Kent & Medway Channel Panel
- Kent & Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB)
- Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP)
- Kent Substance Misuse Alliance
- Kent & Medway Reducing Reoffending Board

Where appropriate, these existing arrangements can be further strengthened through clearer links to the Kent Community Safety Agreement, including the development of suitable cooperative arrangements and joint interventions to address shared priorities or emerging issues. Collectively, these partnerships work collaboratively, alongside other key stakeholders, to deliver the commitments set out in this Agreement.

5. Governance, Accountability and Assurance

The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) provides the strategic forum for responsible authorities to fulfil their statutory duties and coordinate countywide activity. In doing so, the Partnership provides assurance in relation to statutory community safety responsibilities. The KCSP has ownership of the Kent Community Safety Agreement and oversight of partnership activities and performance.

The Partnership is supported by governance and delivery structures, including the KCSP Working Group and the multi-agency Kent Community Safety Team (KCST). These structures play a vital role in facilitating collaboration, sharing intelligence, and providing practical support to partners. The KCSP Working Group is responsible for developing the Kent Community Safety Agreement, the associated action plans⁴.

⁴ To ensure clarity and accessibility, detailed delivery plans and operational activity will be maintained outside of this Agreement.

and monitoring progress and performance which will help inform future priorities and actions.

While Local district/borough Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) remain independent in setting their own priorities, they provide essential insight through local plans and strategic assessments. This structure ensures that countywide activity is informed by local need, while recognising that delivery takes place at multiple levels across the system.

The KCSP is subject to democratic oversight through the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, which meets annually to review partnership activity and performance. The Committee acts as a critical friend, providing constructive challenge, scrutiny and assurance in relation to the effectiveness of the Partnership's governance, priorities and delivery.

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



Email: kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk

Tel: 03000 410234

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

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Appendix B: Horizon Scanning Summary

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

Political:

- Local Government Reorganisation
- Removal of Police and Crime Commissioners
- Reforms to policing in England & Wales
- National legislation and policy changes (*i.e. Police and Crime Bill, Sentencing Act, Martyns Law*)
- International conflicts and geopolitical uncertainty
- Rising tensions and political polarisation

Economic:

- Ongoing cost of living pressures
- Fuel and food poverty
- Disproportionate impact on low income and renting households
- Funding pressure on public services and the charity sector
- Financial pressures on businesses and individuals
- Increases in unemployment

Social / Demographic:

- Changing population demographics
- Cost of living pressures and deprivation
- Homelessness and rough sleeping
- Community cohesion challenges
- Youth vulnerability and exploitation
- Safeguarding and supporting vulnerable members of society
- Health inequalities
- Migration trends
- Social isolation / loneliness
- Mental health pressures
- Trends in crime types (*i.e. business crime*)

Technological:

- Cyber-crime and cyber-enabled crime
- Online safety
- Increased demand
- Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Environmental (and Geographical):

- Insufficient housing stock
- New developments and infrastructure
- Extreme weather events, *i.e.* flooding
- Activism and awareness raising around environmental issues.

Legislation:

Recent legislation and statutory duties:

- Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025
- Licensing Hours Extensions Act 2026
- Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025
- Renters' Rights Act 2025
- Sentencing Act 2026
- Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025

Upcoming legislation and duties:

- Crime and Policing Bill
- Tobacco and Vapes Bill
- Victims and Courts Bill
- Youth Services Bill

Organisational:

- Reorganisation of local councils
- Future changes to partnership structures and service delivery
- Funding pressures and resource issues
- Implementation of new duties / strategies

Appendix C: Supporting Evidence for the draft Kent CSA

Strategic Aim - Stronger, Safer and resilient Neighbourhoods: addressing ASB, neighbourhood crime and local concerns

Issue	Summary
Anti-social Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of ASB incidents recorded in Kent increased when compared to the previous year¹. (N.B. There were changes to recording practices which have impacted data). Tackling ASB is a priority for the Government and part of the Government's 'Safer Streets Mission'². The Crime and Policing Bill will enhance powers available to the police and other local agencies to tackle ASB³
Shoplifting / retail crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theft offences increased overall in Kent when compared to the previous year, with shoplifting offences within this category showing a notable increase⁴. Nationally there was an increase in shoplifting offences in England and Wales⁵. The Crime and Policing Bill will introduce changes that are aimed at tackling rising retail crime and improving protection for shopworkers, with a new standalone offence of assaulting a retail worker and repeal the £200 threshold for prosecuting shoplifters.
Road Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of casualties that were Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) on Kent roads increased when compared to the previous year⁶. The 'Vision zero' Strategy aims to reach the target of zero road fatalities by 2050. Along the way, it aims to see a 50% reduction in fatalities and life changing injuries by 2030, with reductions measured over five-year periods⁷.
Community Cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government has released a Policy paper 'Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom'⁸ with a focus on social cohesion In Kent, a high proportion of hate crime incidents were race-related⁹.

¹ Between November 2024 – October 2025 when compared to the previous 12 month period.

² [Safer Streets - GOV.UK](#)

³ [Crime and Policing Bill: antisocial behaviour \(ASB\) factsheet - GOV.UK](#) – Updated 4 Feb 2026

⁴ Between November 2024 – October 2025 when compared to the previous 12 month period.

⁵ Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 29 January 2026, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2025](#)

⁶ Between July 2024 – June 2025 when compared to the previous 12 month period

⁷ [Vision Zero Kent - Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership](#)

⁸ [Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom - GOV.UK](#) – Published 9 March 2026

⁹ Between November 2024 – October 2025

Strategic Aim - Reducing Violence, abuse and high-harm offending

Issue	Summary
Domestic Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Abuse offences has seen a reduction compared to the previous year¹⁰. There was an increase in One Stop Shop (OSS) visitors in Kent and Medway compared to the previous year¹¹ The 'Kent Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2023' noted that when comparing domestic abuse related victims to the estimated prevalence there was a potential gap in reporting to the police, with fewer crime victims than estimated for the time period reviewed¹².
Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government has outlined an ambition to halve VAWG offences in ten years, with a focus on three objectives; prevention and early intervention, the pursuit of perpetrators, and support for all those affected by violence and abuse¹³ Domestic Abuse accounted for approximately half of all VAWG offences in Kent¹⁴. This is in line with the previous year. There has been a downward trend in VAWG offences in Kent in the last three years¹⁴.
Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violent crime (offences of violence against the person, sexual offences, and robbery) accounted for the greatest proportion of total crimes in Kent¹⁴. The Government's 'Safer Streets Mission' includes an ambition to halve knife crime in a decade and new legislation under the Crime and Policing Bill¹⁵ Kent and Medway has a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) funded by the Home Office, taking a preventative approach to tackling the causes of serious youth violence. VRU's operate in 20 police force areas¹⁶.
Organised Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Crime Agency's 'National Strategic Assessment 2026'¹⁷ recognises Serious & Organised Crime as a national security threat, causing significant levels of harm to individuals and communities. The format of the assessment changed this year from a threat focus to a domains focus, and includes 'SOC in Communities' sections for harm to individuals and harm to society. The Kent Police Control Strategy 2025¹⁸ and the Kent Police & Crime Plan 2025-2029¹⁹ include aspects of serious organised crime

¹⁰ Between November 2024 – October 2025 when compared to the previous 12 month period.

¹¹ Between July 2024 - June 2025 when compared to the previous 12 month period

¹² [Kent Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2023](#)

¹³ [Freedom from violence and abuse: a cross-government strategy - GOV.UK](#). Published December 2025, Last updated 3 February 2026

¹⁴ Between November 2024 – October 2025

¹⁵ [Crime and Policing Bill:knife crime and crossbows factsheet - GOV.UK](#). Updated 4 February 2026

¹⁶ [Violence Reduction Units year ending March 2024 evaluation report - GOV.UK](#)

¹⁷ [NSA 2026 - Home - National Crime Agency](#)

¹⁸ [Kent Control Strategy | Kent Police](#)

¹⁹ [Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029](#)

Strategic Aim – Protecting vulnerable people: reducing exploitation, susceptibility and repeat harm

Issue	Summary
Safeguarding Vulnerable People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kent County Council Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH) Safeguarding activity report for 2024/25 highlighted significant growth in safeguarding activity, demographic trends, and evolving risk patterns²⁰. • Doorstep crime and cold calling is a priority area for the National Trading Standards Control Strategy 2026-27²¹ • The ‘Health Needs Assessment of Adults with Multiple Disadvantages in Kent 2024/25’²² notes that those facing complex needs are among the most marginalised individuals in society and often face a combination of difficulties including substance misuse, offending, and domestic abuse.
Substance Misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of adults in treatment in Kent increased slightly²³. Two thirds of new presentations stated that they had a mental health treatment need²⁴ • A significant proportion of referrals to substance misuse treatment services comes from the criminal justice system²⁵.
Preventing extremism and Hate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South East region accounted for the highest proportion of Prevent referrals made in England and Wales²⁶ • Kent and Medway remains a Prevent priority area, the only one in the Southeast region.
Offending and re-offending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new ‘Sentencing Act’²⁷ aims to reduce the number of short prison sentences (where appropriate) and implement tougher community punishments, expansion in tagging and the use of restriction zones, financial penalties and unpaid work within the community.

²⁰ [Kent and Medway safeguarding adults board annual report](#)

²¹ [Accessible NTS 2025 Strategic Assessment.pdf](#)

²² [Adults-with-Multiple-Disadvantages-HNA-Jan-2026.pdf](#)

²³ [NDTMS - ViewIt - Adult](#) – For 2025. Geographic area: Kent. Includes opiate, non-opiate only, alcohol only, non-opiate & alcohol.

²⁴ [NDTMS - ViewIt - Adult](#) – For 2025. Geographic area: Kent.

²⁵ [Adults-with-Multiple-Disadvantages-HNA-Jan-2026.pdf](#) (Page 8)

²⁶ [Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme, April 2024 to March 2025 - GOV.UK](#). Published November 2025

²⁷ [Sentencing Act ensuring punishment cuts crime gets Royal Assent - GOV.UK](#). Published January 2026

Appendix D: Local Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessments

The table below shows the outcome of the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) strategic assessments with the key issues identified locally, either as a main priority, cross-cutting theme, or part of a broader theme.

Priority	No. of CSPs
Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) (inc. stalking and harassment)	12
Violence and/or Serious Violence (inc. Serious Violence Duty, reduction, preventing harm, youth violence, exposure to violence, weapon enabled crime, and gang violence)	12
Anti-Social Behaviour ('ASB') (inc. environmental and heritage crime, community triggers, holistic response to concerning behaviours, and ASB case reviews)	12
Domestic Abuse (inc. stalking and harassment)	11
Vulnerable People - Safeguarding / Protecting / Supporting (inc. high risk, victims of crime, exploitation, child sexual exploitation, mental health vulnerabilities, building resilience, diversionary activities, education, positive role models, adults and young people)	10
Extremism & Hate (inc. Prevent, hate crime, and radicalisation)	9
Communities (inc. safer people, cohesive communities, public confidence, supporting families, unemployment, resilience, housing, promoting positive relationships inc. neighbourhood events, encouraging youth voice and civic participation, fire safety and building safety checks)	8
Substance Abuse / Misuse (inc. drugs, alcohol, licensing, rehabilitation, night time economy issues)	8
Mental Health and Wellbeing (inc. trauma informed and public health approach, health inequalities, isolation, trained staff and specialist interventions)	7
Crime (inc. acquisitive, property and business crime, rural crime, and environmental crime not referenced with ASB)	7
Public Spaces (inc. safer places, designing out crime and target hardening, safety planning in regeneration, safe town centre, and night time economy where not referenced elsewhere)	6
Serious & Organised Crime (inc. County Lines, child sexual exploitation, Organised Crime Groups, cuckooing, modern day slavery and human trafficking, financial crime including fraud)	6
Reducing / Preventing Offending & Re-Offending (inc. the drivers of crime, rehabilitation, prison releases)	6
Road Safety	1
Funding risks	1

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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) – 31st March 2026

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 Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) allocated £39,661 grant funding to the Kent Community Safety Partnership to fund projects in 2025/26, focussing on the priorities identified in the Community Safety Agreement and the PCC's Police and Crime Plan for 2025-2029 called Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust. 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 This financial year the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) on behalf of the KCSP received approval for ten projects following submission to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), totalling £39,630.60.

2.3 A summary about each of the projects was included in previous reports to KCSP members, the following are brief progress updates:

- **Hateful Extremism Learning Event (£4,000)**

The event took place on 25 February and featured a full agenda with a diverse range of speakers covering both current and upcoming topics. A total of 145 tickets were allocated for in-person attendance, with an additional 267 tickets issued for online participation. Year-end feedback from attendees will be made available in due course.

- **Countering the Extreme Right-Wing Training (£4,182)**

All five training sessions have now been delivered either virtually or in person. Feedback received to date has been positive. Small Steps will produce an evaluation to help assess the overall impact of the training.

- **Kent Community Domestic Abuse Champions – Branding & Resources (£3,703.20)**

To date, 281 Kent Domestic Abuse Champions have been trained, with the final cohort for this financial year scheduled for March. Two Community of Practice sessions have been held. Following a major mail-out in January, all Champions trained between February and December 2025 have now received their badges, lanyards, posters and certificates, along with digital copies of their email banner and learner pack. Feedback has been very positive, and suggested improvements have been incorporated into the training where appropriate.

- **Teacher in Your Pocket (TEPO) – Scams Module (£5,223)**

The TEPO scams module continues to perform strongly, with Facebook activity generating high engagement from Kent residents. The campaign has delivered 2,133 website link clicks, 271,000 video views, and 633,000 impressions, demonstrating strong interaction with the content. All scam-prevention videos now include BSL, and supporting print materials are in circulation.

- **Responsible Authority Training on the Licensing Act 2003 (£5,000)**

The two-day training has now taken place and proved highly informative, bringing together a range of key partners. The collaborative discussions strengthened our shared understanding of Licensing Act responsibilities and will support more tailored and effective representations.

- **British Sign Language (BSL) Interpretation to TEPO – Doorstep Crime and Scams Modules (£5,500)**

The BSL interpretation project continues to perform strongly, with Facebook and Instagram activity generating high engagement, including 73 website link clicks, 214,000 video views, and 488,000 reach. Partner engagement is progressing separately via email and has already resulted in several meetings and the arrangement of a joint partner event.

- **Local Vape Action Retailer Packs (£2,000)**

A further successful launch of the LVA took place in Maidstone in February, involving visits to vape retailers in the town and surrounding areas. During these

visits, businesses were provided with advice and guidance packs covering underage sales, staff training requirements for age-restricted products, the forthcoming single-use vape ban and vape recycling obligations.

- **Violence Against Women & Girls Support Champions (£5,595)**

The programme is linked to the White Ribbon Campaign and will recruit Ambassadors (boys) and Champions (girls) in participating schools. 23 of 39 schools are currently completing registration, with the remainder expected within the next month. Memberships have been purchased and we are awaiting delivery of Ambassador pin badges, posters and leaflets for distribution.

- **The Anti-Racist School (£1,950)**

Schools have until March to complete their use of the Anti-Racist School resource. Once all feedback has been submitted, the Kent and Medway Prevent Team will assess the overall impact using an MS Form specifically developed for this purpose.

- **The Reflect and Connect Project (£2,477.40)**

Strong engagement has been received from local residents regarding increased scooter and e-bike use, and this project has supported positive conversations with young people while improving awareness of road and personal safety. The team will also be highlighting VAWG awareness at the upcoming Be Streetwise community information café on 28 April. Feedback on the lipstick personal safety alarms has been very positive, with women and young people reporting increased confidence when travelling. The alarms complement wider safety and community engagement activity, helping to enhance feelings of personal safety across the community.

2.4 Project funding for the 2025/26 financial year is now closed. A review of KCSP-funded projects has identified a small overall underspend. A total of £30.40 remains from unspent project funding. In addition, £5,000 was allocated to support the delivery of Responsible Authority Training on the Licensing Act 2003; following completion of this project, there was an underspend of £696, arising from lower than anticipated trainer and venue hire costs. This results in a total underspend of £726.40, which will be returned to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

3.0 KCSP Funding – Crime Reduction Grant 2026/27

3.1 In September 2025, the PCC highlighted the financial challenges impacting commissioning and the potential effect on Crime Reduction Grant (CRG) allocations for 2026–27. Following receipt of the government grant settlements for policing and victim services, the PCC has reviewed the commissioning budget available for the next financial year.

3.2 Kent CSP has now received written confirmation from the PCC's office that the allocated funding is £39,600 in CRG funding for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027. As in previous years, £26,500.00 is allocated for upfront projects with the remaining £13,100.00 being held in a tactical pot.

- 3.3 Tactical pot funding will be used to support projects that respond to emerging needs and demands identified during the financial year. The tactical pot will only become accessible once all business case applications have been reviewed and approved.
- 3.4 For 2026–27, the CRG application and grant management process has moved to a new online commissioning portal called SUMs. Funding will only be confirmed once the CSP submits an application through the new system and receives formal approval.
- 3.5 Partner agencies have been contacted to request submission of project proposals for the initial business case for consideration by Wednesday 8th April 2026 to allow sufficient time for these to be reviewed and circulated before the next KCSP working Group.
- 3.6 The project proposals will be discussed by the multi-agency KCSP Working Group at their next meeting on Monday 27th April 2026 and the group's recommendations will be presented to the KCSP Chair for approval prior to submission as a business case to the OPCC.
- 3.7 The KCST is working with partners to identify suitable projects for the forthcoming financial year. If any members of the KCSP are interested in putting forward a project to address any of the priorities identified in the Community Safety Agreement and the Police and Crime Plan please contact the kentcommunitysafteyteam@kent.gov.uk.

4.0 Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) Updates

- 4.1 In 2025/26, the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) delivered nine Community Safety Information Sessions (CSIS) in the shortened lunchtime learning format. Since the November KCSP report, sessions have included presentations from the Violence Reduction Unit on the Safer Knife Replacement Scheme; Kent Fire and Rescue Service and Kent County Council on Road Safety, including Vision Zero and Safe Systems; and briefings from Tell MAMA and the Community Security Trust regarding the protection of Muslim and Jewish communities. Attendance has remained strong throughout the financial year, with over 300 participants. Of those attendees who completed the post-session feedback polls, the majority rated 4 or above, indicating that sessions were assessed as very good or excellent. Planning for the 2026/27 programme is now underway.
- 4.2 As part of its commitment to promoting good practice and strengthening partnership working, the KCST produces monthly e-bulletins to provide partners with up-to-date community safety information, relevant news, recent publications, and legislative developments. A total of nine e-bulletins have been published during this financial year. The most recent edition, [Kent Community Safety Team Bulletin March 2026](#) includes key community safety updates and highlights forthcoming training opportunities, including Domestic Homicide Review and Safeguarding Adults Review learning events, the 'Lesley and Renee' webinar, and the KMSAB 'Nik' session. It also highlights the Clear Minds, Safer Homes campaign week, offering multiple safeguarding webinars on cannabis-related risks, alongside trauma-informed leadership training and Youth Mental Health First Aid. Further opportunities include Extreme Right-Wing awareness sessions and staff wellbeing workshops. The bulletin

also features updates on local initiatives and new resources available through the Safer Communities Portal.

- 4.3 Learning from published Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) is shared with partners through a range of methods including briefing documents and learning webinars. During the period of January to March 2026, the KCST delivered two Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) learning webinars. The first webinar was held on 4th February and focused on the story of Rita, who experienced coercive control and co-occurring conditions. The webinar included presentations by LookAhead and Kent Police exploring the barriers coercive control and co-occurring conditions can cause when seeking support and interventions to reduce risk. Over 140 frontline professionals attended from across all different agencies, including a number of attendees from outside Kent and Medway. Feedback was very positive, with 100% of those who responded to the poll, rated the event as excellent, very good or good. The next planned event takes place on Wednesday 25th March 2026 exploring Carer Breakdown vs Domestic Abuse delivered jointly with the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board and focused on the learning from DHR & Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) cases for Lesley & Renee. 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 next few months.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 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:

Stephen Perez
KFRS Community Intelligence and Partnerships Lead
stephen.perez@kent.fire-uk.org

Shafick Peerbux
KCC, Head of Community Safety
shafick.peerbux@kent.gov.uk

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Title: Serious Violence Duty Update

Author: Cl Lizzie Jones – Director, Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 31 March 2026

Classification: Unclassified

The paper provides a summary of the strategy that was agreed by the Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Board and progress against the action plan. The Kent Community Safety Partnership are asked to note the contents of the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 ('the PCSC Act') received Royal Assent in April 2022. Part 2 of the PCSC Act creates a requirement for specified authorities to collaborate and plan to reduce or prevent serious violence. The Duty requires the following specified authorities within a local government area to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence:
- Chief Officers of Police for police areas in England and Wales
 - Probation Services
 - Youth Offending Teams
 - All fire and rescue authorities operating in England and Wales
 - Integrated Care Boards in England
 - Local authorities including district councils and county councils
- 1.2 The arrangements for how the collaboration and planning would be delivered were agreed by the specified authorities in April 2023. All the named authorities, except for Gravesham Borough Council, agreed to establish a Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Board (SVPP Board) to be chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Gravesham Borough Council chose to deliver their arrangements through their Community Safety Partnership at which all specified authorities are represented.
- 1.3 The SVPP Board agreed a definition of serious violence: '*Specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, robbery and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent such as in domestic abuse, sexual offences, gangs, county lines and drug supply*'. In January 2024 the Serious Violence strategy was discussed and agreed by the SVPP Board.





2. Serious Violence Strategy

2.1 The strategy has three key strands which are:

- Sexual Violence
- Serious Youth Violence which considers public place violence involving those aged under 25
- Violence linked to drugs and alcohol

3. SVD Updated Guidance 2026/2027

3.1 A summary of updates is as follows:

Area	Last Year	This Year
Scope of Violence	Focus on traditional offences	Expanded to include emerging trends
Partnership Roles	General expectations	Clearer, more specific roles
Data Requirements	Basic reporting	Enhanced, real-time data use
Community Engagement	Limited	Increased emphasis
Prevention Focus	Some mention	Stronger focus, more examples
Accountability	Annual reports	Continuous monitoring and evaluation
Legal Alignment	Previous legislation	Reflects latest laws and policies

4. Serious Violence Strategy Key Strand Updates

4.1 **Sexual Violence** - The Board lead for the work is Kent Police.

- The VRU Strategic Needs Assessment displays that Rape, Sexual Assault and Non-Contact sexual offences have fallen.
- In total, **sexual violence has fallen by 16%**.
- Most suspects are male aged between 13 and 17.
- Most victims are female aged between 10 and 17.
- Peaks in sexual violence occur in January, May and June.
- Rape and sexual offences often increase during major holidays and social gatherings, such as Christmas, Spring and Summer.
- Exposure offences increase in the May to September months.





The VRU and SVPP Board have worked with children and young adults to understand how they are affected by sexual violence and their feedback has helped inform the preventative work of the partnership.

Sexual violence leads from the specified authorities have been agreed. These leads will use the data and young people's feedback to agree additional actions to tackle or prevent sexual violence.

4.2 **Serious Youth Violence** - The Board lead is Kent County Council.

- The VRU Strategic Needs Assessment displays that **knife enabled serious violence for under 18s has reduced by -22.9%. For 18–25-year-olds, it has reduced by -4.5%.**
- Reductions have been seen in: Aggravated burglary Homicide Public Order Rape (knife/firearm, stranger, drink spike) Robbery (personal) Violence with injury (assault with injury) Violence with injury (assault with intent to cause serious harm).
- Over the last two years clear reductions in volumes of serious violence made savings to the criminal justice system and police of in cases of violence with injury £3,743,933.55 in cases of robbery (personal) £1,569,680.37.

4.3 **Violence linked to drugs and alcohol** - The Board lead is Medway Council.

Serious violence associated with drug use and supply chains is complex, violence associated with alcohol use is all too common. The causes and opportunities to tackle it fall outside the remit of any single agency, but an evidence based collaborative approach is likely to achieve the greatest impact to prevent it. This work is being led by Medway's Public Health team, and they are supported by all specified authorities in the Serious Violence Duty.

The aim of the strategy, starting in Medway, is to identify strategies, priorities, resources, and system governance that already seeks to achieve the same aims. Develop an evidence-based, system response with clear, shared and measurable objectives.

5. **Future Planning**

5.1 **Young Futures Pilot** - The current lead is the Violence Reduction Unit.

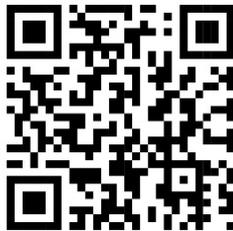
The pilot aims to identify vulnerable children who could be at risk of permanent exclusion or entering the criminal justice system. The pilot has operated in 2 schools within Medway. It receives referrals directly from schools and Police databases. A panel comprising of VRU, Police, Youth Justice, NHS, school leads, and Kent Fire and Rescue meet to assess the children's needs and offer programmes specific to the child's interests and needs. Support is trauma-informed and progress tracked by VRU coordinators. A 'Connect and Discover' event





was hosted at a Medway school, bringing together Commissioned Services and partners within the Local Authority, to promote the pilot and gain key insights into the local offers to support our children and young people. Funding will continue into 2026-2027 and expansion of the scheme is intended.

- 5.2 The VRU's funding has been confirmed for the year 2026-2027. The VRU will continue to use a data-led and evaluation-based approach to reducing serious youth violence. This year will focus on improving efficiencies and eliminating duplication of provisions across the county.
- 5.3 At the time of writing the report the services to be commissioned by the VRU have yet to be finalised with the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 5.4 For more information about the work of the VRU, please visit our website <https://kentandmedwayvru.co.uk> :



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



To: Kent Community Safety Partnership
Subject: Refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2025 – 2029
Date: 31 March 2026

Background:

1. In March 2025, the Kent Community Safety Partnership received a copy of the Police and Crime Plan 2025 – 2029 and a covering paper explaining how it was developed by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).
2. This paper explains the process through which the Plan has been refreshed for 2026/27, and outlines the most significant changes made to it.

Introduction:

3. The [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#) (PRSRA 2011) sets the requirement for PCCs to issue a Police and Crime Plan that covers their term of office.
4. The purpose of a Police and Crime Plan is to communicate a PCC's vision and objectives. The Police and Crime Plan impacts upon a wide variety of stakeholders and has a number of intended audiences, including: the public; victims of crime and witnesses; police officers and staff; the Secretary of State; Police and Crime Panels; community safety partners; criminal justice agencies; and the private and voluntary sector.
5. A Police and Crime Plan must set out the following:
 - the PCC's police and crime objectives;
 - the policing of the area which the Chief Constable is to provide;
 - the financial and other resources the PCC is to provide to the Chief Constable to exercise their functions;
 - the means by which the Chief Constable will report to the PCC on the provision of policing;
 - the means by which the Chief Constable's performance in providing policing will be measured; and
 - the services, including any grants and conditions associated with them, which are to be provided by virtue of section 143 of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014¹.
6. On 1 April 2025, the PCC published his 'Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust: Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025 – 2029'.
7. In accordance with the PRSRA 2011, the PCC is required to keep the plan under review, particularly in light of government commitments, changes to the [Strategic Policing Requirement](#) (SPR) issued by the Secretary of State, and/or recommendations made by the Kent & Medway Police and Crime Panel. More formally, the PCC has determined the plan will be refreshed annually and be re-published on the 1 April each year.

Refreshing the Police and Crime Plan:

8. In approaching each refresh, the PCC is keen to encourage feedback from victims, communities and partner agencies. Therefore, 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 as many of Kent's communities as possible. In total, 5,401 responses were received, which against Kent and Medway's population of circa 1.9 million is considered statistically significant at the 95% confidence level (a commonly accepted level of probability).
9. A report outlining the survey methodology and the full results can be viewed [here](#) on the OPCC website.

¹ Those services that will secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction; or help victims, witnesses and other persons affected by crime and antisocial behaviour.

10. In particular though, the following is worthy of note:
- With an average of 7.3/10, respondents felt safer where they live than in 2024 (7.0/10).
 - With an average of 5.9/10, respondents felt safer in their nearest town centre than in 2024 (5.8/10).
 - With an average of 6.5/10, respondents had more trust in Kent Police than in 2024 (6.4/10).
 - With an average of 6.1/10, respondents felt Kent Police were performing better than in 2024 (5.8/10).
 - There was very strong agreement with the PCC's current Police and Crime Plan priorities.
 - The percentage of respondents who had experienced ASB as either a victim or witness was 51.5%, a decrease of 3.6 percentage points compared to 2024.
11. As well as the survey results, a number of other documents and factors were considered by the PCC, including:
- The requirements of the PRSRA 2011, in particular those relating to securing an efficient and effective police force and holding the Chief Constable to account.
 - The SPR which sets out the national threats and the appropriate national policing capabilities required to counter them.
 - Feedback and observations from the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel.
 - The Government's Safer Streets Mission and ambition to halve knife crime and violence against women and girls within a decade.
 - Findings and recommendations from independent public inquiries, such as Angiolini.
 - Emerging local threats and risks.
 - The priorities of local criminal justice bodies (the PCC is Chair of the Kent Criminal Justice Board).
 - The priorities and views of community safety partners, as well as wider stakeholders.
12. In addition, the refresh took account of feedback received throughout the year from engagements undertaken by the PCC as well as the thousands of pieces of correspondence received by his office.
13. The Chief Constable was also consulted, and of course the PCC's own ambitions and objectives, as well as overall vision for policing and community safety in the county remain at its core.

Changes to the 'Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust' Police and Crime Plan:

14. Please find attached the refreshed 'Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust: Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025 – 2029'.
15. Importantly, based on the survey results there remained strong support for the priorities that centre around four key areas:
- Protecting People
 - Protecting Places
 - Protecting Property
 - Productive Partnerships
16. As a result, the plan has not been fundamentally altered since the priorities drive the work of Kent Police, partners and the Office of the PCC (OPCC), and it continues to reflect the PCC's strategic direction for policing and community safety in the county.
17. It has however been updated where necessary to remain contemporary, with the most significant changes being as follows:
- Page 4 - survey data updated based on the Annual Policing Survey results.
 - Page 8, VAWG - first bullet amended to incorporate Recommendation 23 of the Angiolini Inquiry, Part 2 First Report: PCCs should ensure that the prevention of sexually motivated crimes against women in public spaces is an essential part of their Police and Crime Plan.
 - Page 12, Neighbourhood policing - first bullet updated to incorporate elements of the Government's Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.
 - Page 12, ASB - second bullet added to reflect elements of the Government's Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.
 - Page 18 - updated based on proposed 2026-27 budget.
 - Page 19, Devolution - updated to reflect the Government's announcement that PCCs will be abolished in 2028.
 - Page 20 - updated to reflect that the OPCC is now on LinkedIn and TikTok.

18. As a public facing, strategic document, the plan is underpinned by a performance framework. This supports the PCC in holding the Chief Constable to account, including via his quarterly [Performance and Delivery Board](#) – a meeting held in public – at which the Chief Constable is required to provide a written update evidencing how Kent Police is delivering the priorities.
19. At their meeting on the 5 February 2026, the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel reviewed the refreshed plan and unanimously approved it.
20. On the 1 April 2026, the refreshed ‘Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust: Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025 – 2029’ will come into effect, and be published on the [Office of the Kent PCC website](#).

Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust



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Kent Police and Crime Plan
2025-2029

Revised February 2026



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Foreword

I am honoured to have been re-elected for a third term as your Police and Crime Commissioner. At the election, I pledged to **cut crime**, **support victims**, and **build trust** in the police.

The next four years will be challenging for policing, both at national and local levels. Crime is becoming ever more complex; the criminal justice system is under enormous pressure; and there will be significant funding challenges.

This plan sets out my priorities for meeting these challenges, and keeping Kent safe for the next four years. I will work closely with the Chief Constable to deliver these priorities, which centre around four key areas:

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Protecting People

Protecting Places

Protecting Property

Productive Partnerships

The plan is underpinned by my continued commitment to working with regional and national policing partners, delivering a sustainable budget, and open and transparent governance.



Matthew Scott – Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent



Building my plan

To help shape this plan and its priorities, I have consulted widely with individuals, families, partners, and community representatives. My annual survey shows the issues that concern people most are: rape or sexual assault; knife crime; child sexual exploitation; violence and assault; drugs; domestic abuse and violence; anti-social behaviour; and burglary.

Other findings from my most recent survey in 2025 include:

- **Feeling safe where they live:** average score of 7.3 out of 10, compared to 7.0 in 2024 and 6.3 in 2023;
- **Feeling safe in their nearest town centre:** average score of 5.9 out of 10, compared to 5.8 in 2024;
- **Trust in Kent Police:** average score of 6.5 out of 10, compared to 6.4 in 2024 and 6.0 in 2023; and
- **Performance of Kent Police:** average score of 6.1 out of 10, compared to 5.8 in 2024.

I have also listened to concerns and feedback from groups with common interests such as retailers and other businesses, farmers and rural communities, schools, parents and children.

They highlighted the importance of 'getting the basics right' – providing a responsive and visible police presence to prevent crime and provide

reassurance to communities; a prompt response when people call; and enforcement by officers who are effective at investigating crime.

Prevention must be at the heart of Kent Police's approach – solving problems within communities and stopping people becoming victims. It requires effective partnerships to succeed – which is why it is one of the four key areas in my plan – and good communication. I have also made prevention the cornerstone of my work with parents and schoolchildren about sensible smartphone usage. Stopping children becoming victims of bullying or more serious crimes is vital in our increasingly digital world.

My challenge, and the challenge for Kent Police, is to get the balance right in addressing the issues that many people are aware of, while also tackling the problems that most people don't experience but which can cause significant harm to a much smaller number of vulnerable people who need to be protected and supported.

Kent is a safe place to live, visit, and work. My plan will keep it that way.



Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust – My plan on a page

Outcomes

CUT CRIME, SUPPORT VICTIMS, AND BUILD TRUST

Page 6
Key priorities

PROTECTING PEOPLE

- Rape and serious sexual offences
- Domestic abuse
- Violence against women and girls
- Serious violence, gangs and knife crime
- Supporting victims
- Building trust through integrity

PROTECTING PLACES

- Public contact
- Neighbourhood policing
- Anti-social behaviour
- Rural crime
- Road danger and Vision Zero

PROTECTING PROPERTY

- Burglary
- Retail crime
- Vehicle crime
- Robbery
- Cybercrime and fraud

PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

- Criminal justice
- Citizens in policing
- Education
- Violence reduction
- Mental health
- Safer roads
- Community safety
- Environmental crime and fly-tipping

PREVENTION, EDUCATION, ENFORCEMENT, SUPPORT, AND REHABILITATION

Key delivery mechanisms

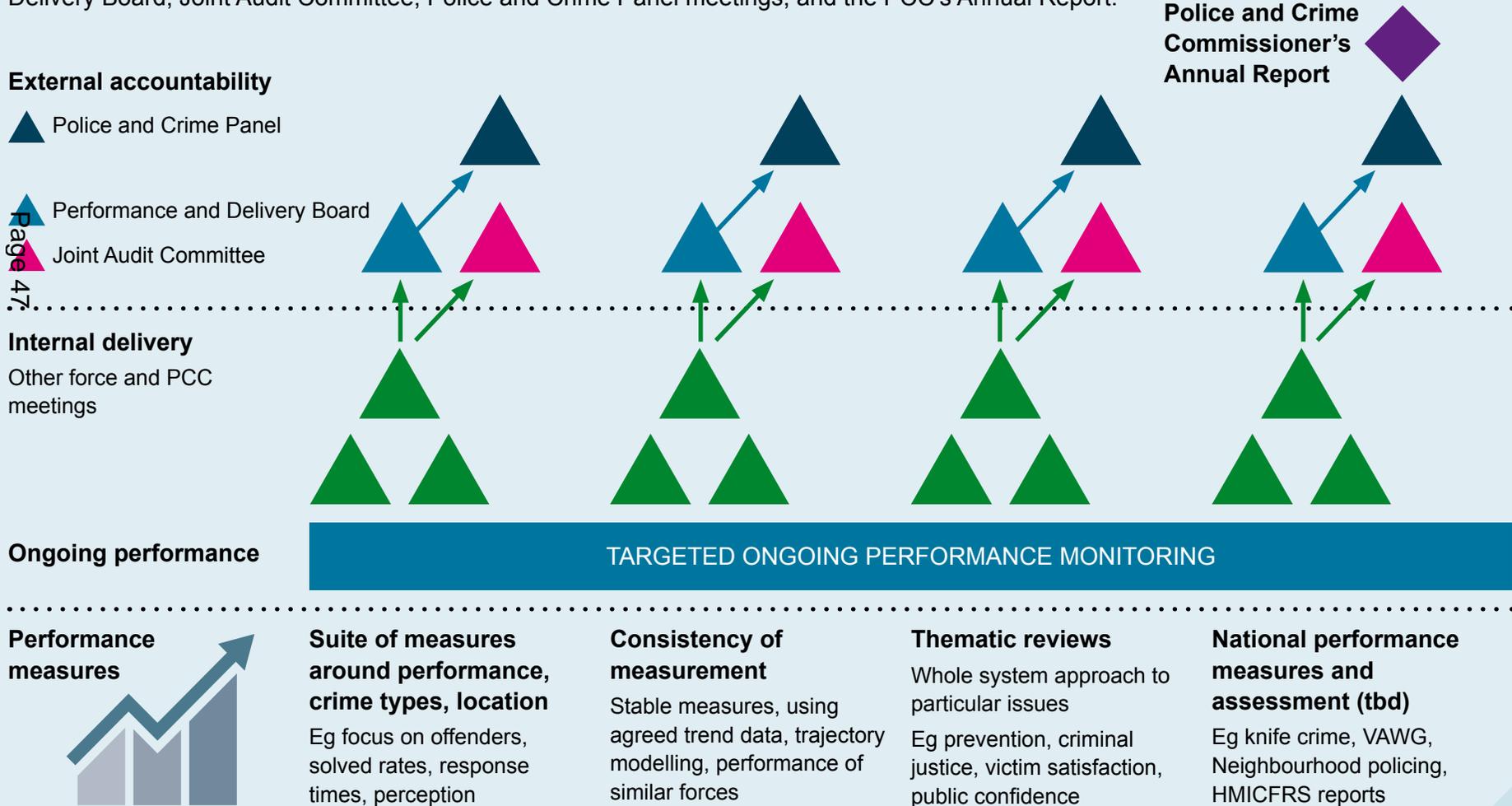
EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SUSTAINABLE BUDGET

EFFECTIVE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL WORKING

How we will monitor delivery

The plan is a public facing, strategic document, and will be underpinned by a more detailed Delivery Plan. This will form the basis of a renewed Performance and Delivery framework (using a balanced and consistent suite of performance measures, trend and trajectory data) that will support the PCC in holding the Chief Constable to account, and will start in April 2025. Ongoing force performance management will be carried out in line with the priorities in this plan. External accountability for performance will be provided through the Performance and Delivery Board, Joint Audit Committee, Police and Crime Panel meetings, and the PCC's Annual Report.



Protecting People

Being a victim of crime can affect people in different ways. Not only can it cause lifelong physical and emotional trauma, but it can also leave a person vulnerable to further harm.

That is why we will identify criminal activity wherever and whenever it occurs, pursue and bring offenders to justice, take action to safeguard victims of all ages, and ensure they receive support to help them cope and build resilience for the future.

Visible patrols in hotspot areas, the proactive identification of offenders, and strong police enforcement will make Kent a hostile environment for gangs and those who carry knives or other weapons. The ongoing monitoring of individuals through Integrated Offender Management, as well as behavioural change programmes aimed at reducing re-offending will also be key to making our county safer.

Victims must feel confident they will receive a timely response from the police, they will be listened to and taken seriously, that they will be protected from further harm, and where necessary, the police will arrest and charge the offender.

As PCC, I also recognise the importance of my statutory responsibility to provide trauma informed support services for victims, regardless of whether a crime has been reported to the police. This includes services for those who have experienced domestic abuse, sexual abuse and child sexual abuse.

It is also vital to build public trust and confidence in policing, and I will hold the Chief Constable to account for the highest standards across Kent Police.



The force is conducting visible patrols in hotspot areas.

In 2024/25, over 89,000 victims were referred to services that I commission.



Protecting People

Priority	How this will be achieved
Rape and serious sexual offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working with the Chief Constable, I will ensure Kent Police uses research from Operation Soteria to provide a better response to victims.• Kent Police will be relentless in its pursuit of offenders and tackle the exploitation of children.• Kent Police will investigate with compassion and professionalism to achieve very high levels of satisfaction and improve criminal justice outcomes for victims.• I will deliver an Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) Service which supports children, young people and adults.
Domestic abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through investment in technology, Kent Police will ensure all victims receive a timely and effective response.• Victims will be safeguarded through the use of police powers and civil orders/notices.• Kent Police will target offenders robustly and use all available powers to hold offenders to account.• I will work with partners to continue to provide domestic and stalking perpetrator interventions beyond March 2026.• I will provide a Stalking Advocacy Service.
Violence against women and girls (VAWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kent Police will prevent sexually motivated crimes against women in public spaces and use all available powers to bring offenders to justice.• Through engagement with women and girls, I will address issues that require effective partnership working.• I will invest in victim services that support women and girls.• I will help to raise awareness and deal with the harm caused by stalking and harassment.• Working with the Chief Constable and partners, I will explore options to continue to build awareness about healthy relationships to young people.• Kent Police will tackle modern day slavery and human trafficking.

Protecting People

Priority

How this will be achieved

Serious violence, gangs and knife crime

- Kent Police will ensure an active and visible presence in hotspot areas.
- Kent Police will robustly tackle serious violence and knife crime, making Kent a hostile environment for gangs and those who carry weapons.
- Kent Police will bring together proactive teams to target organised crime, county lines and other serious offenders.
- I will bring partner agencies together to prevent and reduce serious violence, and to fulfil the obligations under the Serious Violence Duty.
- Working with the Chief Constable, I will deliver a Gangs and County Lines Service which provides preventative interventions and supports those involved in gangs to safely exit.
- I will work with partners to continue to deliver awareness to young people on the risks of serious violence and gangs.

Supporting victims

- I will provide a Victims Advocacy and Support Service for all victims of crime in Kent and Medway regardless of whether a crime has been reported to the police or when the crime took place.
- I will provide a Restorative Justice Service to bring those harmed by crime together with their harmer where agreed, to help both parties move forward.
- I will develop services to support male victims of offences in the VAWG category.
- I will commission specialist domestic abuse and sexual violence support services.
- Working with partners, I will provide a dedicated offer for children and young people impacted by crime.
- Working with partners, I will explore collaborative commissioning opportunities with public sector organisations.

Protecting People

Priority

How this will be achieved

Building trust through integrity

- Kent Police will ensure that complainants are contacted promptly.
- Kent Police must have an effective process for learning from complaints to improve the service delivered.
- I will ensure that my Office responds to complainants' requests for review in a timely fashion and that any learning is shared with Kent Police.
- I will continue to provide an Independent Custody Visitors service, with volunteers who visit Kent Police's custody suites, and that their findings are used to maintain standards and improve where necessary.
- I will continue to support the work of the county's Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews.
- I will continue to seek the confiscation of ex-officers' pensions, where they have committed criminal offences in connection with their service.
- I remain committed to the Nolan Principles, and my Oath of Office.

Protecting Places

Crime and ASB are issues that communities care deeply about and this is reflected through my engagement and consultation.

Whilst it is only a small minority who make the lives of others a misery, cause a nuisance and blight communities, perception can create fear that has a real impact on people's lives. Rural, urban and coastal communities want the police to listen to their concerns, understand the impact, and take action so they not only feel safer, but are safer.

Neighbourhood policing will continue to form the bedrock of policing in the county, keeping town centres and villages safe. Every community will have a named Beat Officer responsible for addressing local concerns and providing a reassuring presence. Dedicated teams within every district will also ensure there is effective community engagement, long-term problem solving to prevent issues escalating, and targeted activity when necessary.

Whilst targeted prevention activity and visible patrols are important, enforcement is also crucial, and not solely the remit of the police. Local councils and partners can and must play a significant role in tackling ASB, such as fly tipping, that has a detrimental impact on both the environment and quality of life.

There is also a need to protect communities from those who use our roads in a dangerous or negligent manner.



Every community will have a named Beat Officer.

Thanks to increased investment and strong leadership, Kent Police now has one of the most improved force control rooms in the country, answering 999 and 101 calls more quickly than almost any other force.



Protecting Places

Priority	How this will be achieved
Public contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Chief Constable, I will prioritise public contact. • Kent Police will ensure calls are answered promptly and front counters serve their communities effectively. • I will invest in technology to facilitate effective two-way communication with Kent Police. • Working with the Chief Constable, I will improve communication with the public, including the timely provision of information to victims.
Neighbourhood policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Police will ensure every community has a named Beat Officer who is accessible to the public they serve; and it responds promptly to queries from communities and businesses. • Kent Police will engage with partners and use all available powers to keep town centres and villages safe. • Kent Police will continue to target offenders robustly.
Anti-social behaviour (ASB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Police will ensure an active and visible presence in hotspot areas. • Kent Police will ensure it has a dedicated lead officer for ASB; and an ASB action plan that addresses local concerns, such as nuisance vehicles, and the illegal use of e-scooters. • I will work with stakeholders to ensure that the right agencies are using their full powers to tackle ASB. • I will continue to raise awareness of the ASB Case Review to residents. • I will provide a mediation service for those impacted by repeat and persistent neighbour disputes.
Rural crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will work with Kent Police, councils and partners to tackle fly tipping. • Kent Police will undertake targeted prevention work to reduce theft and other criminal activity. • Kent Police will work to improve the application and renewals processing time for firearms licensing. • I will strengthen partnership working through a Rural Crime Board.
Road danger and Vision Zero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Police will reduce road danger and support Vision Zero. • I will work with councils and other agencies to deliver the Vision Zero strategy.

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Protecting Property

For victims of property crime, such as burglary, there is not just the economic cost of losing possessions, it can also impact on how safe and secure they feel in their own home.

That is why crime prevention activity, such as seasonal campaigns are so important, investigative opportunities must be maximised, and offenders brought to justice through targeted enforcement. Victims must also be able to access support to help them cope, build resilience and move forwards.

Contrary to some people's view, retail crime is not victimless – it can have a profound impact on staff, customers and the economy. As an under-reported crime we need to gain a better understanding of the 'true' scale of the problem. It is also important that the police support retailers and businesses by delivering the Retail Crime Action plan and targeting offenders robustly.

Digital technology has enhanced our lives in many positive ways, but organised criminals are exploiting it. Traditional policing is not adequate to tackle such threats, so specialist capacity and capability must be maintained, both locally and nationally. Through schools and other establishments we will also ensure young people have the necessary information to understand the online world and the risks associated with it.



Protecting Property

Priority	How this will be achieved
Burglary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kent Police will combat burglary of people's homes, helping people feel safer.• Kent Police will continue to target offenders robustly.• Kent Police will attend every house burglary in a timely manner.• I will ensure access to trauma informed support provision.• I will hold the force to account for delivering the NPCC house burglary pledge.
Retail crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kent Police will deliver the Retail Crime Action plan.• Kent Police will target offenders robustly.• I will commission support for retail workers who experience abusive or violent behaviour.• I will strengthen partnership working across public and private sectors through a Retail Crime Board.
Vehicle crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I will work with representative groups, the trade and owners to reduce the theft of vehicles, including motorcycles.• Kent Police will investigate all offences that have reasonable lines of inquiry.
Robbery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kent Police will target offenders robustly.• Kent Police will ensure an active and visible presence in hotspot areas.
Cybercrime and fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working with the Chief Constable, we will continue to maintain a specialist capability to tackle cybercrime.• I will work with schools to educate young people and parents on the risks associated with online activity.• I will ensure victims of fraud can access support to help them cope and build resilience.

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Productive Partnerships

Policing is not a self-contained service. Success in making Kent safer will be dependent on joined-up thinking and action across multiple agencies.

PCCs are uniquely well placed to bring partners together and ensure each agency plays to its strengths in preventing crime and ASB, protecting people from harm, supporting those affected, and delivering justice.

I will continue to work with partners in the Criminal Justice System to deliver more rapid justice, and reduce reoffending. I will commission services and target support towards supporting victims, and breaking the cycle of continued offending through targeted interventions.

I will be a strong advocate for cross-organisational data-sharing to identify vulnerability and intervene quickly to support victims and target offenders.

I will work with regional partners to disrupt and dismantle serious organised crime gangs and prevent potential terrorist activity.

I will work with a wide range of partners and stakeholders (such as businesses for Retail Crime, and parents and schoolchildren to encourage online safety).



Productive Partnerships

Priority	How this will be achieved
Criminal justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the work of the Kent Criminal Justice Board, I will focus efforts on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reducing the court backlog; - improving victims' experiences of the CJ system. • I will co-commission services that reduce re-offending. • I will ensure victims have access to appropriate support throughout their CJ journey. • I will ensure criminal justice organisations deliver their Victims Code requirements through effective reporting. • I will deliver an Appropriate Adult Service for vulnerable adults in Custody.
Citizens in policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will work with the Chief Constable to maximise opportunities for volunteers to contribute to policing and community safety in the county. • Kent Police will continue to invest in Special Constables who provide a valuable service to local communities.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will support Kent Police's school engagement programme. • I will help to ensure there are comprehensive school programmes to help educate the next generation on keeping safe.
Violence reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with partners, I will develop a public health, preventative approach to serious violence across the county. • I will commission services to support prevention and intervention activity.
Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will build on the existing relationship between NHS partners and Kent Police to embed Right Care Right Person so the most vulnerable receive the help they need.
Safer roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will work with key stakeholders to identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration in support of Vision Zero. • I will encourage volunteering, including Community Speedwatch.
Community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will bring partners together to implement strategies that tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour. • I will engage with local residents, voluntary and faith organisations, and charities to understand and address the needs of communities within Kent.
Environmental crime and fly-tipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will work with Kent Police, councils and partners to disrupt and deter criminal activity that has a detrimental impact on both the environment and quality of life.

Effective monitoring and accountability

BUILDING TRUST AND CONFIDENCE WITH THE PUBLIC



- Each of the three parties in the chart contributes to building the public's trust and confidence through effective monitoring and accountability.
- The Chief Constable will be held to account for delivering the priorities for policing set out in this plan and the Strategic Policing Requirement.
- The OPCC will review progress in the previous year, set out current and emerging issues and challenges, and how Kent Police intends to address them.
- Evidence on progress will be gathered from a number of sources including the force's own performance data, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) reports, government reports and datasets, audit findings, data from partners and public surveys.
- I will publish performance data and hold Performance Meetings where I will hold the Chief Constable to account for delivery and which will be available online. Governance statements, policies and procedures, decision records and details of expenditure and contracts are all accessible at www.kent-pcc.gov.uk
- Progress against this plan will be regularly reported to the Police and Crime Panel and an Annual Report will be published.

A sustainable budget

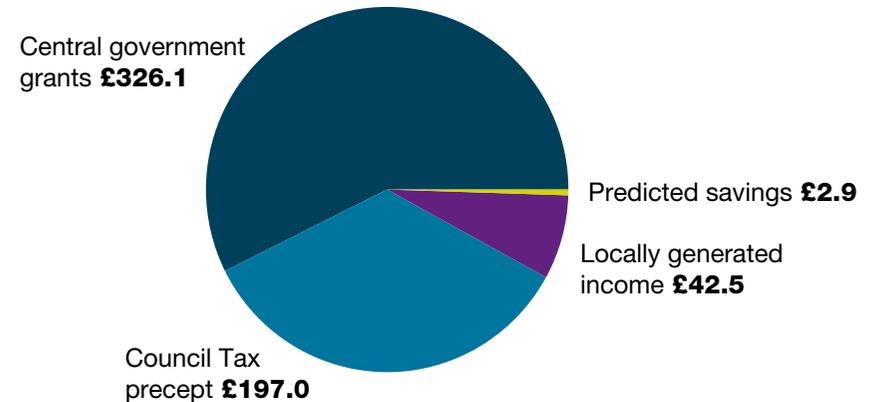
The total Police & Crime budget I hold is £568.5m for 2026/27. This budget is not just for policing – I have broader statutory responsibilities to prevent crime and support victims with services delivered independently of the police.

My overall budget is funded from government grants and the council tax alongside other income. 99% of the funding is given to the Chief Constable to deliver policing across Kent. The remainder is held by me to deliver my responsibilities and to commission services for victims. This includes my core victim support service as well as specialist services for victims of crime; prevention work; supporting community safety initiatives and joint working with partners to support victims of domestic abuse and other crimes. In 2024/25, over 89,000 victims were referred these services.

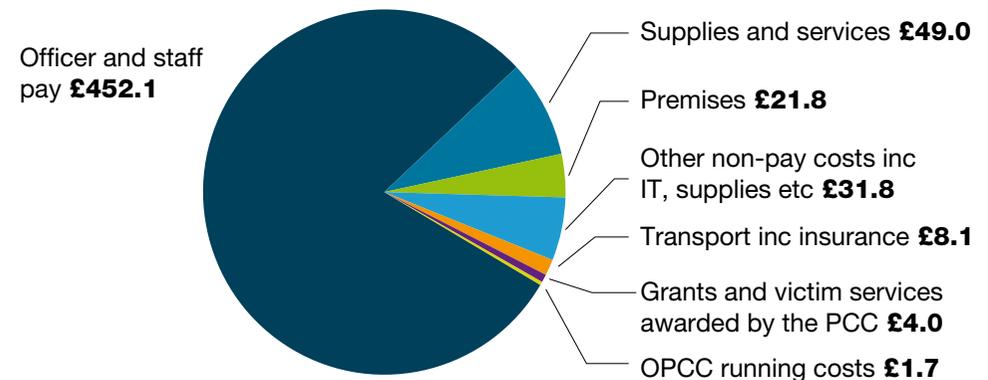
The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) looks ahead in order to predict the overall funding position over the life of this plan. The MTFP is continually reviewed to take account of changes in the financial environment, the operational priorities of the Chief Constable and emerging challenges.

The future is challenging with £40m of savings needed to be made over the next few years.

Income £m 2026/27



How that money is spent £m



Effective national and regional working

Strategic Policing Requirement

Many threats Kent faces can be tackled locally, but some require a coordinated national approach.

Set out in the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR), the biggest threats to public safety are:

- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Terrorism
- Cyber
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Public Disorder
- Civil Emergencies

The Chief Constable and PCC must have 'due regard' to the SPR and ensure Kent Police is in a state of readiness to respond when necessary. This may include sharing and pooling resources with other forces to tackle such threats.

BlueLight Commercial

Established in 2020, BlueLight Commercial is a not-for-profit organisation that works in collaboration with blue light organisations. This includes all PCCs.

It provides commercial support across procurement functions, including contract management in core areas such as aviation, fleet, equipment and uniform, and ICT.

In 2024/25, across its membership BlueLight Commercial delivered £58.1m of financial benefits.

Police Digital Service

The Police Digital Service (PDS) aims to create a more digitally enhanced service that exploits data and technology to strengthen operational effectiveness, drive value for money and better safeguard and protect the public.

Collaboration with other forces

Kent Police has a strong and effective collaboration with Essex Police, including shared functions. These include the Serious Crime Directorate, HR, IT and Estates.

It also works in collaboration with the seven forces in the eastern region in areas such as procurement and forensics, and with the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU) to tackle serious and organised crime.

Devolution

In November 2025, the Government announced that PCCs will be abolished at the end of their current term in 2028. Police governance functions will be transferred either to Mayors of Strategic Authorities or, where that is not possible, to elected council leaders through new Police and Crime Boards.

We will work with local and national partners to ensure effective police governance is maintained under any new model.

Contacting your Police and Crime Commissioner

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, I'm happy to help or answer your questions.

Please get in touch with me:



Email

contactyourpcc@kent.police.uk



Instagram

[@pcc_kent](https://www.instagram.com/pcc_kent)



Write

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Kent Police HQ, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9BZ



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