KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

NOTES of a meeting of the Kent Community Safety Partnership held in the Online on Thursday, 23 July 2026.

PRESENT: Mr R Palmer (Chair), Mr J Rivers (Vice-Chair), Mr S Peerbux, Ms S Brinson, Insp J Ross, Mr S Perez, Mr R Phillips, Ch Insp E Jones, Ms J Harman, Ch Insp O Changizi, Dr L Guo, Ms A Oates, Ms K Weller, Ms J Taylor, Ms J Hanna, Ms R Reynolds, Ms L McMahon and Ms D Selling.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr G Romagnuolo.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

11. Apologies and Substitutes
(Item A2)

Apologies were received from:

- Rebekah Button (Folkestone & Hythe CSP), who was substituted by Ms D Selling
- Jess Mookherjee (KCC Public Health) who was substituted by Dr L Guo
- Carrie Hartwell (KCC), who was substituted by Jess Harman (KCC, Contest and Serious Organised Crime)
- Rob Marsh (Kent Police)
- Alison Broom (Maidstone CSP)
- Sarah Robson – (Sevenoaks CSP)
- Stephanie Holt-Castle (KCC)
- Cllr Lynne Wright (Dover CSP)
- Catherine Collins (KCC Adult Social Care)
- Tim Woolmer (KCC Policy and Partnerships Advisor)
- Katie Castle (National Probation Service)
- Marie Royle (Canterbury CSP)

12. Declarations of Interest
(Item A3)

There were no declarations of interest.

13. Notes of meeting held on 31 March 2026
(Item A4)

RESOLVED that the notes of the meeting held on 31 March 2026 were a correct record.

14. Kent Community Safety Agreement Update
(Item B1)

1. Mr Peerbux (Head of Community Safety, KCC) explained that the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlined the countywide priorities and the strategic aims for community safety across Kent. The document was reviewed and refreshed annually to make sure that it remained relevant and reflected current issues, statutory duties and policy changes.

2. In March 2026, the KCSP considered a revised draft of the CSA. The report recommended a more fundamental refresh of the document, as the CSA had become increasingly lengthy and complex over time. Partners were therefore asked to consider a more streamlined approach, reducing duplication and improving clarity and usability.

3. It was recognised that the issues contained within the previous eight CSA priorities remained relevant. These included: 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, it was also recognised that these issues were interconnected and increasingly complex, and that a list of specific priorities and cross-cutting themes did not always reflect how community safety activity was delivered in practice.

4. The revised CSA was therefore structured around three broader strategic aims:
   • Stronger, safer and resilient neighbourhoods
   • Reducing violence, abuse and high-harm offending, and
   • Protecting vulnerable people, by reducing exploitation, susceptibility and repeat harm.

5. Mr Peerbux said that this new arrangement was intended to provide more strategic clarity, stronger alignment with district and borough Community Safety Partnership plans and the Kent Police and Crime Plan, greater flexibility to utilise analytical capabilities and carry out detailed analysis in the right areas and promote a more focused impact which will form the Outcome and Delivery Framework.

6. Ms Shirley Brinson (Community Safety Team Leader, KCC) said that the revision from eight priorities to three broader strategic aims had required a more fundamental review of both the content and format of the action plan, and the revised action plan was therefore still in its developmental stage. The aim was for the new 2026/27 Action Plan to focus on strategic, partnership-led activity where the KCSP could add more value and avoid replicating delivery plans of individual partnerships, statutory boards or specialist governance groups. The draft plan reflected the activities in relation to the three strategic aims and included signposting to existing partnership and governance arrangements.

7. Mr Peerbux also provided an update on the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee that took place in early July and wanted to thank the Partnership members for their input into the report and also attendance at the Committee. The Committee members praised the report and the actions undertaken, so much so, that they want the report shared with all KCC Members as it provided a really good overview of community safety in Kent. There were a number of comments that were made throughout the course of that meeting, which they did want us to

take into consideration moving forward as Recommendations and the Kent Community Safety Team will liaise with Democratic Services to establish which ones are appropriate for the Partnership.

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

- The progress made in developing a more data-led and evidence-based approach to support the work of the Partnership, including the development of an Outcome and Delivery Framework.
- The ongoing development of the 2026/27 Kent Community Safety Agreement Action Plan, aligned to the three strategic aims, which will be presented to the KCSP at the next meeting.

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

1. Mr Stephen Perez (Community Intelligence and Partnerships Lead, KFRS, and Chair of the KCSP Working Group) explained that the KCSP is assisted by a multi-agency working group which had the remit of supporting the preparation and monitoring of the Community Safety Agreement, including the action plan and performance reports, as well as managing the Crime Reduction Grant funding allocation from the PCC on behalf of the governing group.

2. The funding allocation to the KCSP for 2026/27 by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) remained similar to those in previous years, that is, £39,600. As in previous years, a third of the funding (£13,100) had been allocated to a Tactical Pot for in-year spending, with the remaining two-thirds (£26,500) available for upfront project spend.

3. The Crime Reduction Grant was distributed to Community Safety Partnerships across Kent and Medway by the PCC to help deliver the priorities as set out in his Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029. In order to support the priorities, interventions had to be aligned to one or more of areas including: working with communities, and businesses to prevent and reduce public disorder, crime, and anti-social behaviour (ASB); reducing violence against women and girls (VAWG); Safeguarding victims and providing them with support, and; tackling environmental crime.

4. To date, three projects had progressed through the funding process and received approval from the OPCC:

    - Hateful Extremism Learning Event
    - Supporting Young People Affected by Domestic Abuse: School Guidance helping a friend
    - Youth Scam and Financial Exploitation Prevention Programme.

5. Mr Perez advised that the KCSP Working Group had received some project proposals for consideration at their last meeting and will update the partnership further on these at the next meeting. The KCSP Working Group are actively encouraging partners to continue submitting project ideas or suggestions for funding.

6. Mr Perez said that, the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) continues to sharing good practice and facilitating joint working via the monthly bulletin but has also delivered 9 Community Safety Information Sessions in 2025/26. These included topics such as Stop Loan Sharks, delivered by the England Illegal Money Lending Team; Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in Heritage Crime, delivered by Historic England; and Cybercrime Prevention, presented by Kent Police.
7. In addition, a webinar was delivered jointly with the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB) about the key learning from the cases of Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Lesley and the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) Renee, including the distinction between carer breakdown and domestic abuse. Two more webinars were scheduled for September 2026 to cascade learning from recent DHRs and SARs.

8. Mr Perez finished by highlighting the recent event held on the 8th July to celebrate 10 years of the KCST. The event brought partners past and present together and reflected on a decade of strong collaboration. The KCST would like to thank all partners, past and present, for their continued support, collaboration and commitment.

RESOLVED that 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.

16. KCSP and Subgroups Terms of Reference Review Update
(Item B3)

1. Mr Peerbux said that the KCSP Terms of Reference (ToR) were last updated and approved by the Partnership in July 2025 and that, since then, there had been no significant legislative changes that would impact the governance arrangements for the Partnership.

2. The KCSP ToRs have been updated to reflect the move to a data-led and evidence-based approach with a performance framework to measure impact and outcomes.

3. Additionally, the Roles and Responsibilities have been updated to strengthen the responsibility of members to proactively share relevant information from their respective agency/organisation with the KCSP and act as a two-way conduit between the KCSP and their organisation. As such, the Meetings section has also been updated to ensure partners are able to suggest items on the Partnership agenda.

4. In terms of the KCSP's two subgroups - the KCSP Working Group (KCSP WG) and the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Steering Group - both had their own ToRs which had been aligned with that of the KCSP and had recently been reviewed too.

5. The KCSP Working Group ToRs have been updated to align with the KCSP in regard to moving to a data-led and evidence-based approach with a Performance Framework and to strengthening the responsibility of members to encourage information sharing to enable coordination across partner agencies and associated partnerships.

6. The DHR Steering Group ToR reflect current practice in lieu of the enactment of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 and associated Home Office statutory guidance for the conduct of DHRs. However, have been updated to reflect the need for members to deliver their safeguarding duties in relation to their agencies learning from domestic abuse and safeguarding related harm ensuring a consistent emphasis on safeguarding accountability, learning, and continuous service improvement.

RESOLVED that:

- The KCSP members agree the Terms of Reference for the Kent Community Safety Partnership and approve the Terms of Reference for the KCSPs two subgroups (KCSP Working Group and the DHR Steering Groups).

- All KCSP member organisations shown in the Terms of Reference ensure that they are signed up to the latest version of the Kent and Medway Information Sharing Agreement.

- The KCSP members note that the Terms of Reference for the KCSP and its subgroups will be reviewed annually and included as an agenda item at least once a year.

17. Police and Crime Commissioner - Verbal Update
(Item B4)

9. Mr Rob Phillips (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) said that the Home Office had distributed some of its funds in a different way. For example, the Kent Commissioner's Office (OPCC) now had to bid for funding allocated for DA perpetrator programmes which was normally allocated in previous years.

10. As a consequence of these added complexities, the OPCC had to spend additional time and resources putting bids together and had delayed the PCC's approval of funding for other business cases (CRG Funding). He clarified that the CRG funding came with a set terms and conditions and that, if these initiatives were passed onto other organisations, they were also required to sign up to the same terms and conditions.

11. The Commissioner had recently took over the Property Fund and received a large number of good applications for local projects and ended up distributing over £120k to fund 66 local organisations. The PCC

believed that this would make a real difference, especially in smaller communities, community projects, and decided to distribute additional funding sometime in the autumn.

12. Mr Phillips advised that there was a report on victims that went to the Police and Crime Panel earlier this week and suggested partners read this and that an update on the PCCs Annual Report will be provided next time.

RESOLVED: that the KCSP note the update.

18. Domestic Abuse - Verbal Update
(Item B5)

13. Ms Jenny Hanna (Domestic Abuse Projects & Partnerships Team, KCC) delivered a presentation on Domestic Abuse. She said that, under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, KCC was required to assess need, publish a strategy and commission safe accommodation support. KCC's five-year strategy for domestic abuse recognised that domestic abuse required coordinated early intervention and prevention, immediate response and recovery activity across agencies.

14. Both the strategy and the annual partnership delivery plan were organised around those three priorities. Her team had just completed the second year of the delivery and was now in the third year.

15. Focusing on Year 2 of the delivery, she said that one of the key successes was the development of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Services website. This went live in the summer of 2025 and provided a user-friendly platform that supported those who were affected by domestic abuse and seeking support. They have received feedback from Young People and via their survivor voice ambassadors who told them that they felt it was clear, accessible, non-judgemental, easy to use and more importantly that they were sharing it.

16. In order to reflect the commitment in the Community Safety Agreement Action Plan to sharing learning with partner organisations around DHRs/DARDRs, the Domestic Abuse Projects and Partnerships team contributed to the delivery of five multi-agency learning events, these covered key themes including counter allegations, caring dynamics and dementia, and coercive control and suicide. Over 1,000 frontline professionals from a range of agencies attended them, and their feedback was very positive.

17. The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership 'End Domestic Abuse' Learning webinar series, coordinated by her team provided a comprehensive year-round programme of free, professional development for practitioners. These webinars attracted 1,350 registrations in Year 1 and nearly 700 attendees in Year 2.

18. Alongside the series of webinars, the team also run he Kent Domestic Abuse Champions Programme. The Programme was open to anyone who lived and worked in Kent and provided expert training to help

champions become trusted points of contact for signposting to support. By the end of last year, there were over 300 champions, and that number had grown to about 380.

19. In terms of campaigns work, the service aimed at increasing visibility of domestic abuse support in the community and across agencies. The coordinated 'Know, See, Speak Out' campaign, involved the use of simple, practical campaign materials such as posters and QR stickers which were placed in public places such as schools and community venues. The campaign reinforces our messaging around utilising digital assets which are accessed through a social media calendar and professionals newsletter that's now reaching 1700 practitioners. It keeps those safeguarding messages and pathways really consistent and clear in terms of what it is that we're saying and those messages that we want to get across to our partners.

20. During the National 16 days of activism, the largest annual campaign that we support; our survivor-led social media and partner messaging extended the reach across education, health and community networks. Last year, reached by over 3 million people through our social media work and it reinforced that early recognition of these messages are really key in order to help people to access help.

21. The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership also oversees significant system-wide improvements and commissioned support services. This includes the MARAC Hub model, which enhances multi-agency management of high-risk domestic abuse cases through improved information sharing and action planning. The team also supports the delivery of Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Services (KIDAS), providing refuge, outreach and specialist support for adult survivors, and the SAFER programme, which enables victims to remain safely in their own homes through security enhancements and practical safety measures. More recently, the introduction of the Cyber Sanctuary pilot has strengthened responses to technology-enabled abuse, while specialist services for children and young people ensure that those affected by domestic abuse receive therapeutic and emotional support to aid recovery and build resilience.

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

19. Countywide Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership Forum
(Item B6)

1. Inspector James Ross (Kent Police) presented a report which outlined work undertaken to explore the establishment of a countywide Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Partnership Forum. The purpose of this proposed Forum was to strengthen partnership working and promote the sharing of information and good practice.

2. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) continued to have a significant impact on local communities and remains a key issue. The proposed Forum would provide a regular multi-agency arena for police and local authority staff working on ASB to develop a shared understanding of the ASB picture across Kent, share intelligence and emerging issues, identify opportunities for joint activities and exchange learning and good practice. The Forums ToR were in their development stage and would be

refined through engagement between police, local authority and other partner organisations.

RESOLVED: That the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) members note the work being undertaken to explore the establishment of a countywide Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership Forum.

20. Dates of future meetings
(Item C1)

RESOLVED that the KCSP note the dates of future meetings.

21. 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.
- Continue to ensure Chief Officers are sighted on the possible 30% increase for 2027/28 if government funding is not forthcoming (annual review of funding arrangements due at the September Steering Group).

Note the heightened risks and pressures on funding for DHRs

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

1. Ms Jess Harman (Prevent and Channel Manager, KCC) provided an update on the local and national context in relation to the Counter Terrorism Contest Strategy, focusing on the Prevent Duty, and the Protect and Prepare strands of the Strategy.

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