

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MEETING AS THE
CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 2nd October, 2025

10.00 am

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



AGENDA

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 2nd October, 2025, at 10.00 am
Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall,
Maidstone

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

Membership

Reform UK (8) Mr W Chapman, Mr J Eustace, Ms I Kemp, Mr T Mole,
 Mr T L Shonk, Dr G Sturley and Vacancy (X2)

Liberal Democrat (2): Mr R G Streatfeild, MBE (Chair) and Mr A J Hook

Conservative (1): Mrs S Hudson

Labour (1): Mr A Brady (Vice-Chair)

Green (1): Mr M A J Hood

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

Parent Governor (2): Ms R Ainslie-Malik and Ms H Carter

County Councillors who are not Members of the Committee but who wish to ask questions at the meeting are asked to notify the Chairman of their questions in advance.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

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

A - Committee Business

- A1 Apologies and Substitutes
- A2 Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this Meeting

B - Scrutiny Committee meeting as the Crime and Disorder Committee

- B1 Kent Community Safety Agreement (Pages 1 - 66)

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel
03000 416814

Wednesday, 24 September 2025

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By: Anna Taylor, Assistant Democratic Services Manager (Scrutiny)

To: Crime and Disorder Committee – 2 October 2025

Subject: Kent Community Safety Agreement

Summary: This report briefly explains the background of Community Safety Agreements and the development of Kent's Agreement. This report also seeks to outline the role of the Committee in scrutinising the Kent Community Safety Agreement and as a 'critical friend' to the Community Safety Partnership.

1. Community Safety Agreements

- 1.1 Community Safety Agreements (CSAs) are mandatory for two tier authorities and are used by the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to meet their statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006). Additionally, the 2006 Act required CSPs to include anti-social behaviour (ASB) and substance misuse within their strategies. The Police and Crime Act 2009 added reducing reoffending to the areas to be addressed by CSPs and most recently the Police, Crime and Sentencing Courts Act 2022 introduced Serious Violence as a statutory duty.
- 1.2 The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 revised the 1998 Act, altering the manner in which District and Borough Council evaluated their Community Safety arrangements. The previous method of three yearly audits was replaced with an annual strategic assessment, triennial partnership plan and public consultations. These district/borough level assessments feed into the higher authority's CSP and influence the Community Safety Agreement.
- 1.3 The broad range of public safety considerations addressed by CSPs requires joint work from the partners that serve as responsible authorities:
 - Police
 - District and Borough Councils
 - County Council
 - Integrated Care Boards (ICB)
 - Fire and Rescue Service
 - Probation Service
- 1.4 The CSA draws together the key strategic aims of all the relevant services in the crime, disorder and public safety sectors, promoting a joint approach that enables more effective and co-ordinated inter-agency planning that will result in improved outcomes.

- 1.5 Each CSA reflects its own areas priorities based on needs assessment and shared intelligence between the partner agencies. Since the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) Community Safety Partnerships must give due regard to the PCC's Police and Crime Plan. The strategic assessments undertaken by local Community Safety Partnerships are reviewed for common issues and priorities, which are then consulted on with relevant stakeholders to confirm their inclusion in the CSA. This engagement with stakeholders also provides opportunities for gaps to be identified and broader cross-cutting themes to be taken into account.

2. Kent Community Safety Agreement

- 2.1 Responsibility for delivering the CSA priorities rests with the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP). The CSA is a rolling document which is reviewed annually and refreshed as appropriate, along with the associated CSA Action Plan.
- 2.2 The Kent CSP has delegated performance monitoring to the senior officer led working group and relevant priority leads from the partner agencies. Any points of concern or anomalies are reported to the KCSP for consideration.
- 2.3 The latest refresh of the Kent CSA took place in April 2025 (see Appendix A). Full details of the review are included in the attached CSA document, however shown below in no particular order are the current list of priorities for 2025/26 which remain unchanged from the previous year:
- Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)
 - Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Serious Violence and Organised Crime
 - Safeguarding Vulnerable People
 - Preventing Extremism and Hate
 - Substance Misuse
 - Road Safety
- 2.4 Details of the relevant Leads for each priority are contained within the main CSA document along with a summary of the key issues identified by the local CSP strategic assessments.
- 2.5 In addition to the refreshed CSA for April 2025 a report is also attached (see Appendix B) which provides a summary of the related actions undertaken during 2024/25 by partners to deliver the priority outcomes from the Kent CSA published last year (April 2024) as well as an overview of planned activities for the current year (2025/26).
- 2.6 In line with the Committee's previous requests the report (Appendix B) includes a brief summary of performance and contextual information

- 2.7 The Kent Community Safety Agreement also works to deliver against the countywide ambitions of the statutory responsible authorities. The core focus on effective partnership working embedded within the Kent Community Safety Partnership and the Agreement reflects the need for continued joint working with relevant agencies to meet the needs of Kent's communities.

3. Committee Role

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee is required to meet annually in the form of the Crime and Disorder Committee to review and scrutinise work undertaken by relevant partner agencies and authorities responsible for managing crime and disorder in the County. This duty arises from the Police and Justice Act 2006 which introduced Crime and Disorder Committees to fulfil this scrutiny function.
- 3.2 The Committee exists as a 'critical friend' of the Community Safety Partnership, considering the strategic level approach on crime and disorder and should not seek to challenge operation level actions.
- 3.3 Reviewing, considering and commenting on the current Community Safety Agreement and the activities undertaken to address the priorities serves as a constructive approach for the Committee to fulfil its statutory requirement to scrutinise the strategic activity in the arena of crime and disorder. The focus of the Committee's scrutiny should be on the collective work of the partnership rather than the activities of the individual agencies.
- 3.4 All district/borough CSPs across Kent have scrutiny functions in place meeting the benchmark for annual scrutiny set out in the legislation; with some local Scrutiny Committees meeting more frequently to review the CSP plans as well as other Community Safety related topics.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee may resolve to:

- Note the refreshed Community Safety Agreement (April 2025) and make no comment.
- Make comment on the refreshed Community Safety Agreement (April 2025) and the year-end action plan and performance summary for 2024/25.
- Offer recommendations to one or more of the responsible authorities.

Appendices:

- Appendix A - Kent Community Safety Agreement April 2025

- Appendix B - Kent CSA Action Plan and Performance Summary 2024/25

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Kent Community Safety Agreement



April 2025

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Version Control

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	April 2017	New Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) – effective from April 2017
2.0-7.0	April 2018 to April 2023	Details of the annual revisions for versions can be found in the previous refresh of the Kent Community Safety Agreement
8.0	April 2024	Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective date changed to April 2024 - Foreword – updated to reflect latest version - Ch.3 – changes made to the landscape, legislation and partnership challenges - Ch.5 – achievements for 2023/24 added - Ch.6 – minor update around latest review - Ch.7 – minor change to the list of leads - Ch.8 – minor changes to the list of plans - Appendix A – strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix containing MoRiLE removed - Appendix B – MoRiLE outcomes to be replaced with Executive Summary Overview (under development) - Appendix C – refreshed horizon scanning
9.0	April 2025	Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective date changed to April 2025 - Foreword – TBC - Ch.3 – changes made to the landscape and legislation - Ch.5 – achievements for 2024/25 added - Ch.6 – new chapter on Kent Police & Crime Plan - Ch.6-9 – renumbered, now Ch.7-10 - Ch.7 – update around latest review and diagram updated - Ch.9 – minor change to the list of plans - Appendix A – strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B – Executive Summary (under development) - Appendix C – refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D – Police & Crime Plan moved to Ch.6 and replaced with accessibility content from Appendix E - Appendix E – removed

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Foreword

As the new Chair of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP), I am pleased to endorse the 2025 Kent Community Safety Agreement. This Agreement reaffirms our shared commitment to the safety and wellbeing of everyone who lives, works, and visits Kent.

Community safety partners play a vital role in protecting our residents—providing reassurance, education, raising awareness, supporting interventions, and, where necessary, enforcement. The Agreement sets out how partners across Kent will work together to address key priorities, identifying shared objectives and outcomes to improve people's lives.

The past year has brought significant change and increasing complexity to the community safety landscape, both locally and nationally. Global events, economic uncertainty, the high cost of living, and migration pressures have placed additional demands on local services and heightened community tensions. Nationally, responses to extremism and hate crime, as well as the spread of misinformation, have presented further challenges, particularly for vulnerable groups. The KCSP recognises these challenges and the need for strong, collaborative partnerships to address both persistent and emerging issues.

Anti-social behaviour remains a priority concern across Kent. The Government's proposed Crime and Policing Bill aims to introduce new measures, including Respect Orders and enhanced enforcement powers, to safeguard public spaces, protect retail workers, and support vulnerable individuals, while strengthening public confidence in policing and community safety services.

The anticipated Local Government Reorganisation also presents both opportunities and challenges for the delivery of community safety. The potential transition to a unitary authority model will require careful planning and collaboration to ensure the continuity and effectiveness of multi-agency partnerships.

All of this is happening in a context of reduced funding for public and voluntary sector services, making partnership working more important than ever to maximise the impact of available resources. The challenges ahead are significant, with many unknowns and uncertainties, but by strengthening existing relationships and building new ones, Kent is well placed to respond.

This Agreement builds on strong foundations, focusing on priorities such as domestic abuse, substance misuse, serious violence, and safeguarding vulnerable people, while also addressing cross-cutting themes like early intervention, mental health, and

community resilience. Our work is guided by local strategies and delivered through a coordinated action plan, ensuring a joined-up approach across the county.

I would like to thank all our partners for their ongoing support, dedication, and collaboration. Their commitment is central to delivering effective community safety interventions and to the success of this Agreement.

Together, we have developed a clear and unified framework for addressing both persistent and emerging challenges. This document reflects the strength of our shared vision and determination to improve safety, wellbeing, and resilience for communities across Kent.

Paul Webb

Chair Kent Community Safety Partnership

Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services

Introduction

- 1.1. The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) is a framework for community safety and outlines the key priorities for Kent. The CSA is reviewed and refreshed annually, so for details of the current version, effective date and changes to previous documents see version control.
- 1.2. The CSA is mandatory for two tier authorities such as Kent and helps us to meet our statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) in which responsible authorities are required to consider crime and disorder in the delivery of all their duties.
- 1.3. This agreement aims to develop a more joined-up approach to public service delivery, to enable more effective and co-ordinated strategic planning across partner agencies and to ensure sustainable and lasting improvements in delivering outcomes. It recognises that community safety issues do not always respect district boundaries, and that coordination of effort can lead to economies of scale, joined up working, and more effective outcomes.
- 1.4. Whilst Medway Unitary Authority does not form part of this agreement, it does undertake a similar process, suitable for unitary authorities, which will include an annual strategic assessment of their community safety issues and production of a Community Safety Plan. Where appropriate, partners in Kent and Medway will work collaboratively to tackle common priorities.

2. Primary Legislation for Community Safety Partnerships

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

- 2.1. The 'Crime and Disorder Act 1998' gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation the responsible authorities referred to as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), were required to carry out three yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies. In addition, there were a number of other sections contained within the Act that gave CSPs various powers, including the power to share information where necessary to fulfil the duties contained in the Act.
- 2.2. The 'Police and Justice Act 2006' introduced scrutiny arrangements in the form of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, as well as introducing a number of amendments to the 1998 Act including the addition of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and substance misuse within the remit of the CSP strategies. Reducing reoffending was subsequently added by the 'Policing and Crime Act 2009', and most recently serious violence was added to the remit of CSPs by the 'Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022'.
- 2.3. The 'Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007' set out further revisions to the 1998 Act, the most notable of which at district/borough level was the replacement of three yearly audits with an annual strategic assessment, triennial partnership plan and public consultations. For two tier authorities such as Kent, a statutory Community Safety Agreement was introduced.
- 2.4. The 'Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011' introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). This brought a requirement for the PCC to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs and for those authorities to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The legislation also brought with it a mutual duty for the PCC and the responsible authorities to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions.
- 2.5. The requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into effect on 13th April 2011 as a result of the 'Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004)'. In Kent and Medway it was agreed that these would be commissioned by the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) utilising pooled funding on behalf of the local CSPs including

Medway. The process is managed, coordinated and administered by the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) with input from a wide variety of partners. As a result of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 the remit of DHRs has changed and are now referred to as Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs).

3. Key Changes to the Community Safety Landscape

In recent years there have been many changes both nationally and locally that impact upon the work of partners involved in community safety. The Chapter below outlines some of the most recent events and issues but this does not negate the impact of topics previously covered within this section that have resulted in changes to priorities, additional duties, new legislation, etc.

National and International

- 3.1. International Conflicts: On 24th February 2025 the UK marked the three-year anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, during this period other international conflicts have taken place. Whilst the most significant impact of these events are on those living in the regions where conflict is taking place, there are knock on effects within the UK, Europe and the rest of the world in terms of supporting the migration of refugees, provision of humanitarian and military aid, cost of living increases as international trade and global commodity prices are impacted, in particular food and energy costs, along with impacts on community tension, civil unrest and geopolitical uncertainty.
- 3.2. Migration: Millions of people migrate every year due to conflict, climate change, and humanitarian crises, putting a strain on host communities and leaving vulnerable individuals open to exploitation. Kent continues to see migrants arriving into the county by small boats, with an increase on the number of crossings in 2024 compared to the previous year. Kent County Council (KCC) has an obligation to look after unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) that arrive in the county requiring the care of the local authority and has called for the government to make further commitments to working with councils to build capacity. Community sentiments and tensions continue to be monitored with a high possibility of both pro and anti-migrant related tensions occurring in Kent, which is consistent with the ongoing media coverage around migration.
- 3.3. Extremism, Hate and Civil Unrest: Following the Southport attack in July 2024, the UK experienced civil unrest, violent disorder, vandalism, and a rise in hate crimes, particularly directed toward marginalised communities. The spread of misinformation targeted small, disenfranchised sections of the population, including young people who feel disconnected from society. The perpetrator of the attack was known to several agencies, and following the attack, a Prevent learning review was undertaken, a new role of Independent Prevent Commissioner was created, and the Government announced the launch of a public inquiry. In December 2024, the Home Secretary announced a package of

measures to better protect the public from radicalisation. These measures aim to strengthen Prevent and ensure that the program keeps pace with the increasingly complex and evolving threats. Kent and Medway remains a Prevent priority area, one of only 20 across the country and the only one in the Southeast. The Prevent team continue to be funded by the Home Office with the responsibility for the Prevent duty, partnership work, implementing training, and leading the Kent and Medway Channel Panel.

- 3.4. Cost of Living: Even though inflation is no longer high, the cumulative effect of rising prices means households face a much higher cost of living than in 2021. Households that were struggling before the period of high inflation have been most severely affected. (*House of Commons Research Briefing “High cost of living: Impact on households”, December 2024*). It would not be unexpected if financial pressures led to increases in certain crime types including scams and fraud, retail crime/shoplifting, labour exploitation, etc. as well as impacting mental health, physical health, homelessness, personal resilience, communities, etc. Financial pressures are not just impacting individuals but also businesses, public sector organisations, and the voluntary sector which are heavily relied upon to support service provision.
- 3.5. Violence Against Women and Girls: Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is an umbrella term used to cover a wide range of forms of abuse such as domestic abuse, sexual assault, abuse experienced as a child, honour-based abuse, murder, misogynistic behaviours by Incels (involuntary celibates), harassment, stalking, coercive control, etc. While men and boys also suffer from many of these forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women. In July 2024, the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) published a National Policing Statement declaring that VAWG had reached epidemic levels in England and Wales, in terms of its scale, complexity and impact on victims. The NPCC stated there has been a 37% increase in recorded VAWG-related crimes from 2018/19 to 2022/23 and they estimated that at least 1 in every 12 women will be a victim of VAWG every year (2 million victims) and 1 in 20 adults in England Wales will be a perpetrator of VAWG every year (2.3 million perpetrators). Analysis by the NPCC has identified five critical threats to women and girls: rape and serious sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking and harassment, child sexual abuse and exploitation, and online and tech-enabled VAWG.
- 3.6. Serious Violence: The 'Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022' introduced a new duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence, informed by statutory guidance for responsible authorities on the Serious Violence Duty. Since that time, the Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Board has been established, a Needs Assessment for Kent and Medway has been produced, and a Kent and Medway Serious Violence Strategy developed. This work is supported by the Kent & Medway Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) which continues to be funded by the Home Office in

2025/26 to prevent types of serious violence. The Home Office expects the VRU to offer strategic leadership to coordinate the local response to violence. This includes the development of data sharing platforms that use multi-agency data sets, driving a multi-agency response, ensuring that evidence-based practice is promoted and that there is effective evaluation of activity. The VRU is also required to gather and use community voices to inform the work to prevent violence. In the forthcoming year, the VRU will also lead the work to develop Young Futures Prevention partnerships which are part of the Government's approach to halving knife crime over the next 10 years.

- 3.7. Anti-Social Behaviour: In November 2023, the previous Government published findings and recommendations from a consultation on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), following this, in February 2024, an updated ASB Action Plan was released. In September 2024, the Victims Commissioner reported on the severe impact of persistent ASB on victims, highlighting psychological distress and community disruption. The report included recommendations aimed at supporting victims, improving collaboration among agencies, enhancing reporting mechanisms, and raising awareness about Case Reviews to ensure thorough investigations and accountability. In response, the new Government has pledged to address ASB with increased funding for Police forces as well as proposing new powers under the upcoming Crime and Policing Bill to give law enforcement agencies stronger tools to address and prevent ASB more effectively.

Changes to Legislation

- 3.8. Domestic Abuse: The latest legislative changes relating to Domestic Abuse were introduced as part of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, which introduced a change in the name of DHRs to Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) along with changing the criteria. Draft updated guidance for reviews have been consulted on, but a final version is awaited.
- 3.9. Victims and Prisoners: The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 introduced a new duty to collaborate which will, once implemented, introduce new responsibilities for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), local authorities and integrated care boards (ICBs) to collaborate in the commissioning of community support services in England for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and serious violence. Duty holders must also develop a joint needs assessment and local strategy which demonstrates how they will collaborate to deliver and improve relevant victim support services. Implementation timings are subject to the Spending Review but the Ministry of Justice has indicated that the duty could commence from Spring 2026.

Strategies

- 3.10 Domestic Abuse: In March 2024 a Kent and Medway cross Partnership Domestic Abuse strategy (2024-2029) was launched, developed by working with those with lived experience, and those who support them. The strategy includes clear commitments monitored through the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Executive Board.
- 3.11 Serious Violence: The Kent and Medway Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2027 was published last year with a focus on three key strands including 'Sexual violence and domestic abuse', 'Serious youth violence', and 'Violence linked to drugs and alcohol'. Each strand has an action plan which is currently informing the work to prevent public place serious violence.
- 3.12 Vision Zero (Road Safety Strategy for Kent): Kent County Council launched it's 'Vision Zero' Road Safety Strategy in July 2021 and will be reviewing progress and updating it in 2026. The strategy employs a safe system methodology in line with international best practice standards. Stronger collaboration and partnership working are at the heart of the safe system, and we have been working to improve these areas. To this end, the Kent and Medway Safer Roads Partnership has been refreshed with a safe system structure at its core and a new partnership-wide, safe systems aligned, strategy is being produced.
- 3.13 KMSAB Strategic Plan: The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan runs to the end of 2025. The Board will begin development of a new plan during the upcoming year.

Future Considerations

- 3.13 Crime and Policing Bill: The aim of the bill is to support delivery of the government's Safer Streets Mission to halve knife crime and violence against women and girls in a decade, and increase public confidence in policing and the wider criminal justice system. The bill will implement key commitments, such as introducing respect orders (relating to ASB) and a standalone offence of assaulting a retail worker. It will help to rebuild the public's confidence in policing, by equipping the police with more powers to respond quickly to criminal activity. Some of the measures in the bill build on parts of the Criminal Justice Bill introduced in the 2023/24 session of Parliament. On 25 February 2025, the Home Office and Ministry of Justice published a number of factsheets to provide more detail about the range of measures included in the bill, including: Antisocial behaviour; Child criminal exploitation and 'cuckooing'; Child sexual abuse; Counter-terrorism and national security; Knife crime; Retail Crime; Reducing violence against women and girls; Serious Crime; Spiking; etc.

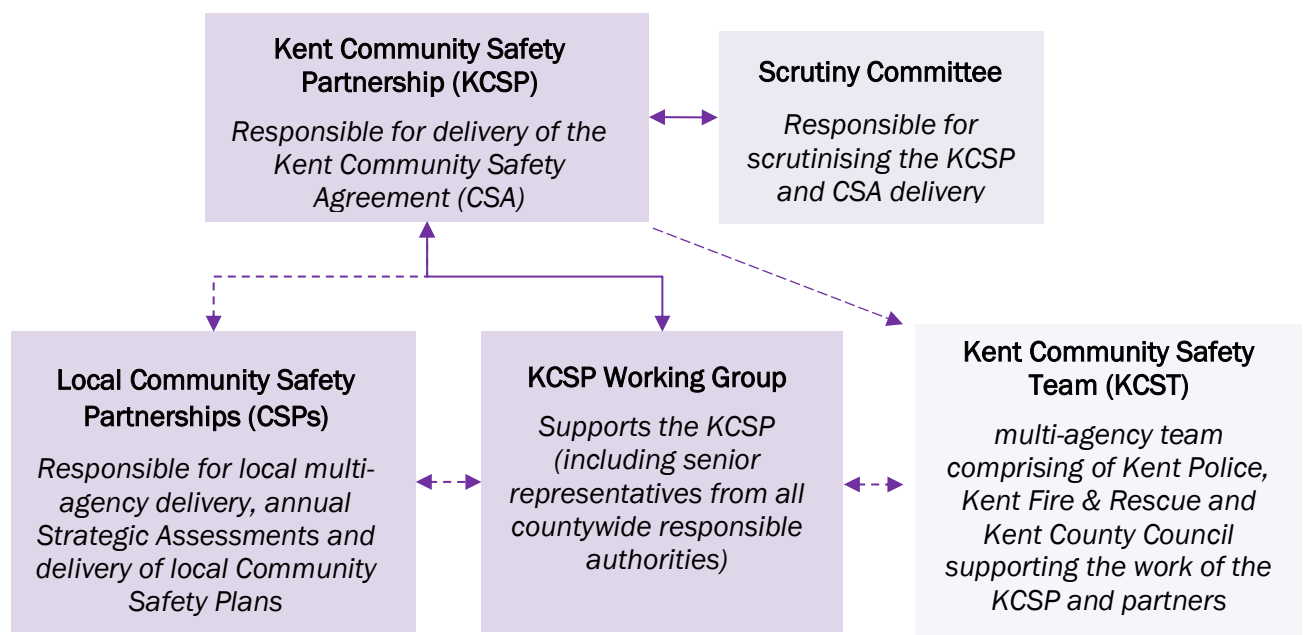
- 3.14 Local Government Reorganisation: On 16 December 2024 the Government published the English Devolution White Paper, setting out the government's vision for simpler local government structures with the aim of better outcomes for residents, saving public funds for reinvestment into public services and improving local accountability. In February 2025 the Government announced the six areas on the Devolution Priority Programme which include several in close proximity to Kent & Medway. Whilst Kent and Medway are not part of the priority programme, all councils in two-tier areas and small neighbouring unitary authorities have been invited to submit initial plans for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in the spring of 2025, followed by full proposals later in the year. Whilst the LGR will have no immediate impact on the work of community safety partnerships for the year ahead, once more is known about these future plans, partners will be better placed to consider any future changes to working arrangements.

4. Governance

- 4.1. The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is responsible for the delivery of the Kent Community Safety Agreement priorities, with membership taken from senior officers across the responsible authorities (see below), local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Chairs and the County Council portfolio holder.

The Responsible Authorities are: Kent Police, District & Borough Councils, Kent County Council, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board and the Probation Service.

- 4.2. The KCSP is supported by a Working Group consisting of senior representatives from all the countywide statutory partners. In addition, the multi-agency Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) which is formed of staff from Police, Fire & Rescue and KCC helps support the work of both county and district partners.
- 4.3. The statutory partners aim to effectively and efficiently deliver the priorities outlined in this agreement and to comply with statutory responsibilities.
- 4.4. The KCC Scrutiny Committee will also serve as the Crime and Disorder Committee as required and therefore will have a statutory responsibility to review and scrutinise delivery of the Community Safety Agreement.



5. Key Achievements

In 2024/25 the key priorities identified as those with the potential to benefit from being supported at a county level included Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse, Safeguarding Vulnerable People, Serious Violence & Organised Crime, Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour, Road Safety, Preventing Extremism & Hate and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The priorities are addressed through a rolling partnership action plan linking into existing multi-agency partnership arrangements where possible. Progress is monitored and reported to the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) on a regular basis by the Working Group.

Some of the progress and key achievements include:

- Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs): During 2024/25 the KCSP published five completed reviews following quality assurance from the Home Office and ensured that actions from across a number of DHRs have been implemented resulting in further DHRs being signed off with all actions completed. The Partnership is committed to ensuring that the learning from these tragic cases are shared with partners to not only help to improve services for all victims of domestic abuse but also to help prevent such homicides in the future. The Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) continues to manage the current caseload on behalf of Community Safety Partnerships across Kent and Medway, these are at various stages of the DHR process. During 2024/25 the KCST organised and delivered three different online seminars to share the learning from the reviews, including a seminar delivered jointly with the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board. Topics explored included co-occurring conditions and domestic abuse, the ongoing risks to victims when perpetrators are in prison/on probation or in the criminal justice system, and parental conflict and domestic abuse.
- Project Funding: In 2024/25 the KCSP used the Crime Reduction Grant funding provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to fund a total of nine projects delivered by a range of partners, these included:
 - Anti-social behaviour training (including tools and powers, and case reviews)
 - Violence Against Women and Girls awareness raising
 - Countering the Extreme Right-Wing training
 - Hateful Extremism CPD event
 - Neurodivergent intimate relationships training for partners
 - Child's Vision volunteer recruitment and training
 - Crime prevention resources
 - Teacher in your pocket video (doorstep crime)
 - Trauma Informed Kent – Ambassador Programme

The achievements and outcomes of these projects are monitored by the KCSP Working Group and reported back to the PCC.

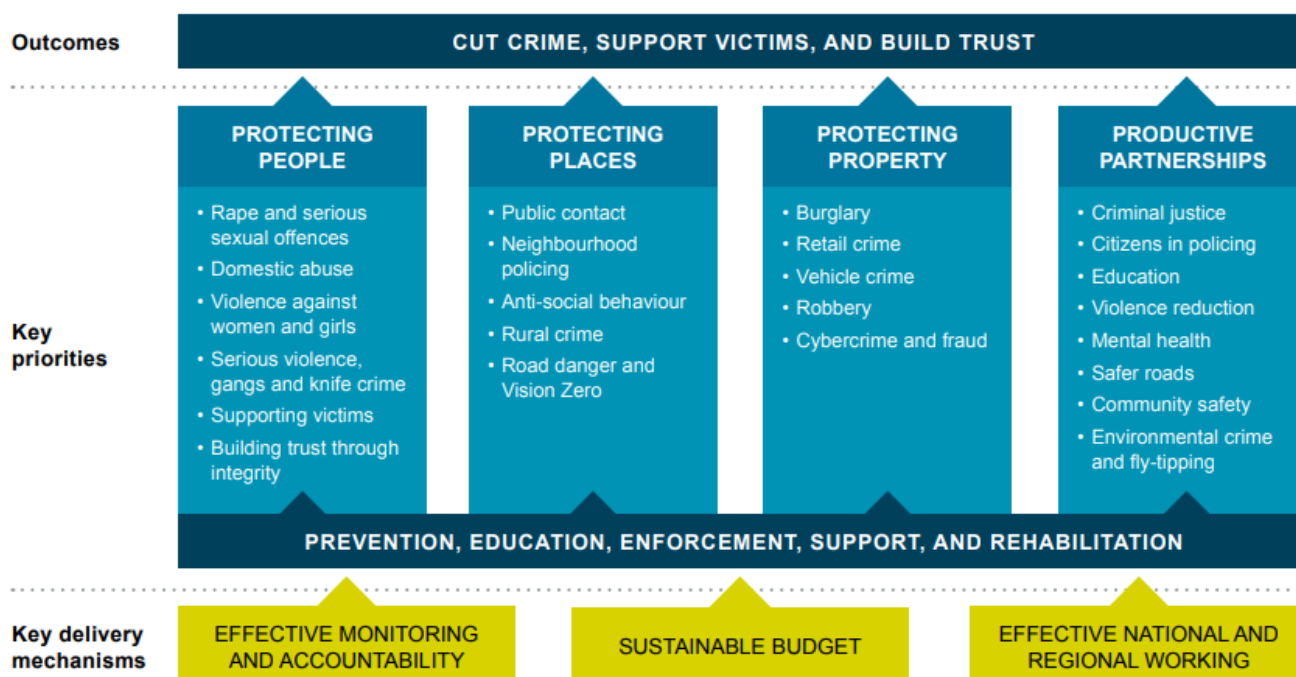
- Violence Against Women and Girls awareness training: Following on from the multi-agency VAWG event delivered by the KCSP in March 2023 and the Victim Blaming Language training sessions in 2023/24, the KCST utilised funding from the PCC to commission a further six online training sessions for partners on VAWG including engaging men and boys in tackling VAWG and creating community interventions.
- Anti-Social Behaviour: Following on from the multi-agency ASB event delivered by the KCSP in March 2024, the KCST utilised funding from the PCC in 2024/25 to commission in-person and online training for partners on ASB tools and powers and case reviews. The training was designed and delivered by ASB Help, a leading national charity, to equip delegates with a thorough knowledge and understanding of best practice in ASB casework and case reviews.
- Workshops / Events: In addition to the above events, during 2024/25 the KCST organised and delivered a number of additional workshops to support partnership delivery including: a Strategic Assessment Data workshop for district/borough colleagues and a series of nine Community Safety Information Sessions (CSIS) delivered as one-hour lunchtime drop-in sessions. Some of the topics covered in the CSIS sessions during 2024/25 included: ASB good practice, Victim Support, South Eastern Rail (community safety), suicide, stalking, lithium-ion batteries, serious and organised crime, male IDVA support service, healthy empowering relationships. The sessions have been well attended and received positive feedback.
- Information Sharing: As part of the KCST's role in sharing good practice and facilitating joint working, the team produces a monthly e-bulletin on Community Safety in Kent, highlighting and promoting partnership working. The bulletins provide brief updates on emerging issues, changes to services, new documentation, data releases, media articles, training opportunities, funding opportunities, etc. Each e-bulletin reaches up to 200 partners involved in community safety across the county.

The KCSP partners have also worked alongside other multi-agency partnership groups to support the delivery of pieces of work referenced in the Community Safety Agreement action plan, such as Hate Crime Awareness Week, Adult Safeguarding Awareness Week, Domestic Abuse Awareness campaigns and communications, etc.

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

6. Kent Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). Under this legislation, the PCC is required to produce a Police and Crime Plan that sets out the vision and priorities for policing and community safety, as well as the objectives and ambitions that the Police will be held to account on. The legislation also includes a requirement for the responsible authorities making up the CSPs to have regard to the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan as well as a mutual duty to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions.
- 6.2. The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) published the latest [Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029](#) on 1st April 2025.
- 6.3. The PCC's 'Plan on a Page' (shown below), sets out the desired strategic outcomes within the new plan to: **Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust**, which is supported by four key priorities:
- Protecting People
 - Protecting Places
 - Protecting Property
 - Productive Partnerships



See Appendix D for a table display of above diagram

- 6.4 To support delivery objectives in 2025/26 the PCC has recommended to Community Safety Partnerships in Kent and Medway, that the following focus areas are considered:
- Working with residents, 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 support to help them cope and build resilience for the future.
 - Protecting young people through education to keep them safe.
 - Reducing violence and knife crime.
 - Preventing road danger and supporting Vision Zero.
 - Preventing Cybercrime and fraud through education and awareness.
 - Preventing retail crime, vehicle crime, burglary, and robbery.
 - Delivering prevention work to reduce rural crime.
 - Tackling environmental crime.
- 6.5 The priorities and focus areas identified by the Kent PCC align with those identified by the Kent Community Safety Partnership in the next chapter.

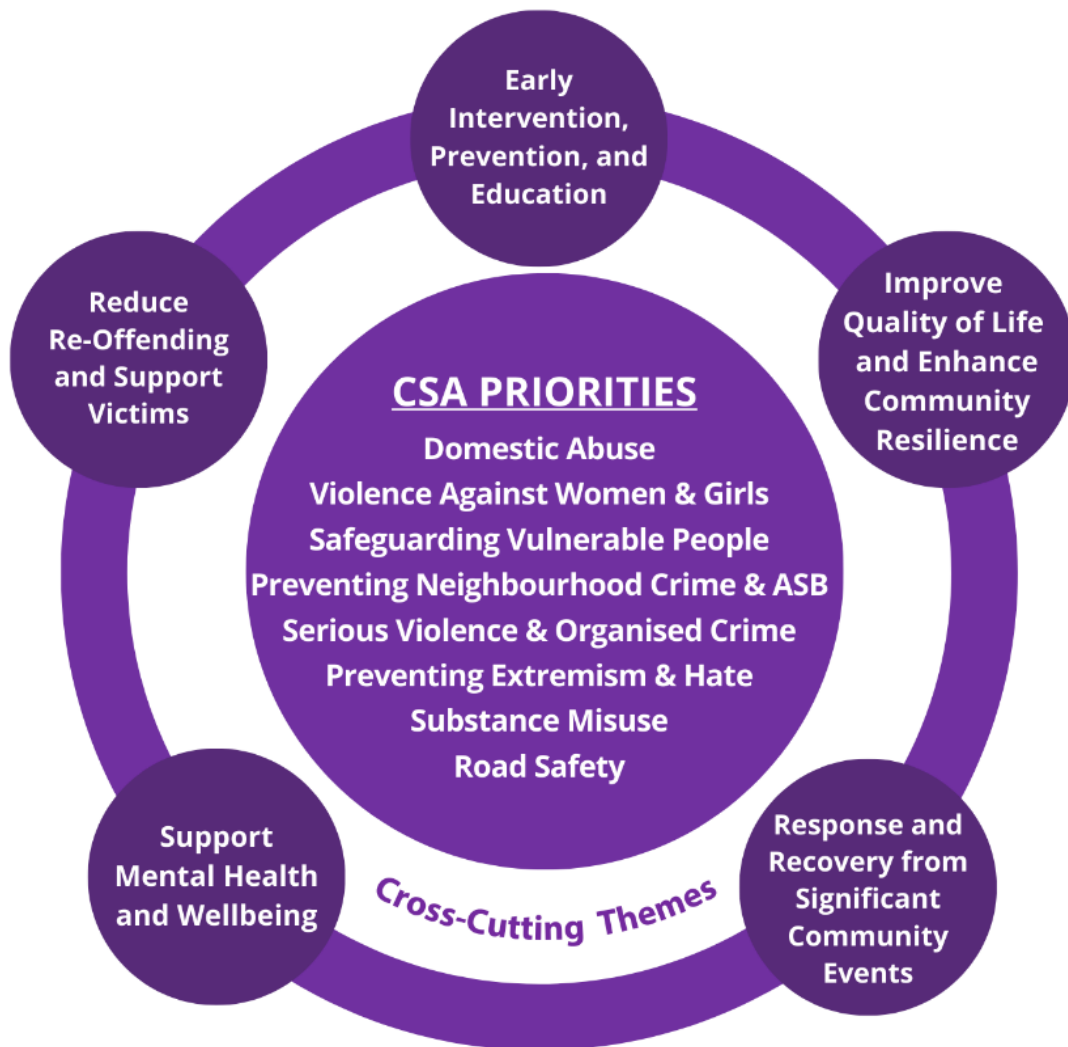
7. County Priorities

- 7.1. This section sets out the key priorities for the Kent Community Safety Partnership for the forthcoming year along with a number of cross-cutting themes to be addressed within each priority as appropriate.
- 7.2. To help identify the community safety priorities for Kent as well as the local district/borough partnerships a wide variety of datasets are sourced from partner agencies and analysed to ascertain the key issues. The review of data is complemented by other sources of information such as horizon scanning (including legislative changes) and partnership plans etc. which all help to identify and formulate the priorities for the forthcoming year.
- 7.3. At a local level, the twelve Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across Kent undertake an annual strategic assessment process to identify the priorities for their own district/borough community safety plans. The outcomes of these assessments for the new financial year are shown in the appendix and have been incorporated into the review of the priorities for the CSA.
- 7.4. Over the years the priorities and themes within the Community Safety Agreement (CSA) have developed from more crime and disorder based priorities to incorporate a wider range of issues. These include a number of safeguarding issues and new duties such as preventing violent extremism, hate crime, gangs, organised crime groups, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, online safety, cybercrime, mental health, vulnerable people, victims etc.
- 7.5. Since the first version of this document was published in April 2017, there have been a number of changes made to the priorities and cross-cutting themes as new issues emerged, with the refreshed CSA being published annually in April:
 - 2018 – A new priority of ‘Preventing Extremism and Hate’ was introduced, which was previously included as part of the ‘Safeguarding Vulnerable People’ priority; In addition a new cross-cutting theme was added to ‘Support Mental Health and Wellbeing’.
 - 2019 – No major changes were made but it was agreed that Violence Reduction and the impact of Brexit would be incorporated into existing priorities i.e. Serious and Organised Crime, Safeguarding Vulnerable People and Preventing Extremism and Hate.
 - 2020 – The priority of Serious and Organised Crime was expanded to become ‘Serious Violence and Organised Crime’ to reflect new proposed duties around Serious Violence and the introduction of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

- 2021 – A new cross-cutting theme was added entitled ‘Response and Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic’ to reflect the impact of the pandemic across all the priorities.
- 2022 – The above cross-cutting theme was retitled as ‘Response and Recovery from Significant Community Events’ to include more than just the pandemic; the Anti-Social Behaviour priority was expanded to become ‘Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB’; and a new priority of ‘Violence Against Women and Girls’ (VAWG) was added to reflect the increased focus on this topic both locally and nationally.
- 2023 and 2024 – No changes were made to the priorities or cross-cutting themes although the cost of living crisis and the associated impacts were noted.

- 7.6. In the latest review for April 2025 no changes have been identified for the overarching priorities or the cross-cutting themes although areas which may benefit from a greater focus as a result of new legislation, government action plans or local concerns, include serious violence, violence against women and girls, and anti-social behaviour. The high cost of living remains worthy of note as an issue that continues to affect all sectors of society including public sector services and charities; as well current geopolitical events and uncertainties. However, any partnership activity relating to the impact of these issues can be incorporated into existing priorities or could be considered as part of the cross-cutting theme ‘Improve Quality of Life and Enhance Community Resilience’.
- 7.7. The only other item to note in relation to the priorities is ‘Road Safety’ as this remains an issue for county partners and the public in general, due to the impact that road safety has on the wider determinants of public health and community safety. The lead for this area of work is the multi-agency ‘Kent & Medway Safer Roads Partnership’, reporting back to the KCSP as necessary. Whilst Road Safety is less likely to be referenced as a standalone priority in district / borough Community Safety Plans, ‘road danger’ is included in the Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 along with Vision Zero (*Road Safety Strategy*).
- 7.8. Whilst the priorities and cross-cutting themes remain unchanged it is acknowledged that work will take place over the year ahead to assess the impact of potential new legislation such as the Crime and Policing Bill, as well as the anticipated publication of new strategic guidance in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews. In the meantime, the action plan which supports the work of the CSA will ensure these key workstreams are included and actioned as appropriate.

- 7.9. The diagram below includes the priorities and cross-cutting themes for the CSA and align closely to the strategic outcomes and priorities identified in the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's new Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 (see Chapter 6).



ASB = anti-social behaviour

Key:

Kent CSA priorities & cross-cutting themes (purple).

See Appendix D for a table display of above diagram.

- Safeguarding Vulnerable People includes: *Child Sexual Exploitation, Adults and Young People at Risk, Fraud, Cybercrime, Scams, Victims, People at Risk of Exploitation*
- Serious Violence & Organised Crime includes: *Serious & Organised Crime, Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), Gangs / Gang Violence, Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking, Violence Reduction, Serious Violence Duty, County Lines, Cuckooing*
- Neighbourhood Crime & ASB includes: *Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime, Neighbour Disputes, Environmental Crime, Deliberate Fires, Criminal Damage*
- Preventing Extremism & Hate includes: *Radicalisation, Extremism, Hate Crimes, Counter-Terrorism, Incels (involuntary celibates), Immigration tensions*
- Substance Misuse – *misuse or abuse of drugs and alcohol, licensing, drug dealing / offences, night-time economy (NTE)*

- 7.10. Several of the identified priorities already have existing multi-agency partnership arrangements in place that are ensuring a coordinated approach across organisations at a strategic level. Including groups such as the *Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group; Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) Steering Group [formerly Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)]; Kent & Medway Safer Roads Partnership; Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP); Kent & Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB); Kent & Medway Joint Exploitation Group (JEG); Prevent Duty Delivery Board; Channel Panel; Hate Crime Forum; Kent & Medway Reducing Offending Board;* etc.
- 7.11. These multi-agency partnerships can be further enhanced with links to the Kent CSA and where necessary suitable co-operative arrangements and joint interventions can be established to deliver shared priorities or issues.

8. Leads

Lead officers for each of the priorities have been identified below and have the responsibility for developing, with partners, the action plans to address the countywide priorities. The leads will also act as a champion for the designated priority and provide regular progress updates for the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) and Scrutiny Committee as required.

Priority	Lead
Domestic Abuse	Temporary Superintendent (Domestic Abuse), Kent Police / Chair of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group
Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)	Chief Superintendent (Violence Against Women & Girls), Kent Police
Safeguarding Vulnerable People	TBC
Serious Violence and Organised Crime	Director of Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) / Head of Crime Command, Kent Police
Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB (<i>Anti-Social Behaviour</i>)	Superintendent of Strategic Prevention, Kent Police
Preventing Extremism and Hate	Assistant Director CONTEST and Serious Organised Crime (SOC)
Substance Misuse	Consultant in Public Health, Kent County Council
Road Safety	Chair of Safer Roads Partnership Tactical Coordination Group

9. Links to Plans

The priorities set out in this Community Safety Agreement link to, and assist in the achievement of a number of national and local partnership plans and strategies including:

- Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029
- Local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Community Safety Plans
- Kent and Medway Serious Violence Strategy
- Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2029
- Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy
- Kent County Council's Strategy: Framing Kent's Future 2022-2026
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service Customer Safety Plan 2021-2031
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Delivery Plan 2025-2029
- Kent Criminal Justice Board Strategic Plan
- Kent and Medway Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending
- Medway Community Safety Plan
- Vision Zero – Road Safety Strategy for Kent
- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan
- Counter-terrorism Strategy (CONTEST)
- Prevent and Channel Duty Guidance
- Prevent Duty Delivery Board Action Plan
- Counter Terrorism Local Profile
- Counter Terrorism Situational Risk Assessment
- Prevent Community Engagement Plan
- Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy
- National Retail Crime Action Plan
- National Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan

10. Responsible Authorities

This agreement has been drawn up on behalf of the Partners of the Kent Community Safety Partnership and in association with the Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner:-

- Kent Police
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)
- Kent County Council
- Local District/Borough Authorities
- NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board
- Probation Service
- Local District/Borough Community Safety Partnerships

Appendix A: Strategic Assessments (2024-25)

Local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) strategic assessments: All statutory partners including Police, Fire and Rescue, Health, Probation, County Council services, Local Authority services provided community safety information for use by the twelve Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Kent during the strategic assessment process to help determine their key priorities. The table below shows the outcome of the 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
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) / Environmental	12
Domestic Abuse	12
Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) (<i>inc. stalking & harassment</i>)	11
Serious Violence (<i>including the serious violence duty and violence reduction</i>)	11
Safeguarding / Supporting Vulnerable People (<i>including adults and young people at risk and exploitation</i>)	10
Strengthening Communities (<i>community resilience, supporting young people, poverty, unemployment, public confidence</i>)	9
Substance Misuse (<i>including drug offences, alcohol abuse, night-time economy</i>)	9
Extremism & Hate (<i>including preventing extremism, radicalisation, and hate crimes</i>)	8
Crime (<i>including acquisitive crime, business crime, and property crime</i>)	8
Serious and Organised Crime (<i>including organised crime groups, county lines, modern slavery/human trafficking</i>)	7
Reducing Offending and Reoffending	6
Public Spaces (<i>safe town centres, places & environment, criminal damage, hot spot locations</i>)	5
Mental Health and Wellbeing	5
Road Safety	2

Appendix B: Executive Summary

Please note this section is under development.

Appendix C: Horizon Scanning

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:

- English Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation
- County Council elections in May 2025
- Geopolitical uncertainty
- War in Ukraine
- EU Entry/Exit System (EES)
- Civil unrest

Economic:

- High cost of living
- Fuel and food poverty
- Funding pressure on public services and the charity sector
- Financial pressures on businesses and individuals
- Increased need for financial support i.e. Universal Credit, and other types of support, i.e. food banks
- Predicted increases in unemployment

Social / Demographic:

- Safeguarding and supporting vulnerable members of society
- Violence against women and girls
- Domestic abuse
- Serious violence
- Anti-social behaviour
- Preventing violent extremism
- Organised crime groups
- Illegal immigration
- Looked after children
- Human trafficking/modern slavery
- Child sexual exploitation
- Drugs and alcohol
- Hate crime
- Mental health (including dementia)
- Social isolation / loneliness
- Business crime (inc. shoplifting)
- Changing population demographics

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:

- Victims and Prisoners Act 2024
- Illegal Migration Act 2023
- Online Safety Act 2023
- Public Order Act 2023
- Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Act 2023
- Police, Crime, Sentencing & Courts Act 2022; *inc. statutory guidance on the Serious Violence Duty*

Upcoming legislation and duties:

- Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill
- Crime and Policing Bill
- Terrorism (Protection of Premises)
- Tobacco and Vapes Bill
- E-scooters (Review and Awareness)
- Lithium-ion Battery Safety Bill

Organisational:

- Reorganisation of council structures
- Funding risks and challenges
- Implementation of new duties / strategies

Appendix D: Kent CSA Priorities and Cross-Cutting Themes

As highlighted in Chapters 6 and 7, Appendix D has been included in the document for digital accessibility purposes. The tables below show the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) priorities and cross-cutting themes and the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's outcomes, priorities and delivery mechanisms from the Police and Crime 2025-2029.

Kent CSA Priorities:

Domestic Abuse

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Safeguarding Vulnerable People

Serious Violence and Organised Crime

Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB (*Anti-Social Behaviour*)

Preventing Extremism and Hate

Substance Misuse

Road Safety

Kent CSA Cross-Cutting Themes:

Early Intervention, Prevention and Education

Improve Quality of Life and Enhance Community Resilience

Support Mental Health and Wellbeing

Reduce Re-Offending and Support Victims

Response and Recovery from Significant Community Events

Kent Police and Crime Plan – Plan on a Page:

Outcomes: Cut Crime, Support Victims, and Build Trust

Key Priorities: Protecting People, Protecting Places, Protecting Property, Productive Partnerships

Key Delivery Mechanisms: Effective monitoring and accountability, Sustainable budget, Effective national and regional working



In partnership with



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



Email: kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk

Tel: 03000 410234

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



The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) has delegated monitoring of the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) to the senior officer led sub-group known as the KCSP Working Group, alongside relevant priority leads from partner agencies. This collaborative approach ensures that the CSA priorities are regularly reviewed, with any significant developments or concerns escalated to the KCSP governing group as part of the reporting cycle.

The following report provides an overview for each priority identified within the Kent Community Safety Agreement, including prevalence data based on national and local datasets; details of the associated strategies and frameworks; and some of the partnership activities undertaken to address the particular priority.

The priorities identified in the Kent Community Safety Agreement (April 2025) and covered within this report are:

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

The following document includes data taken from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), alongside local partnership datasets as well as Government reports and strategic needs assessments. The data is provided as a snapshot to help evidence why priorities have been included in the Community Safety Agreement.

Priority: Preventing Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Context
<p><u>Overview and Prevalence</u></p> <p>National Context</p> <p>According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for the year ending March 2025, 35% of individuals reported experiencing or witnessing incidents of anti-social behaviour. This figure represents no statistically significant change compared to the previous year¹.</p> <p>The CSEW also asks about people’s perceptions of ASB in their local area, in the year-ending December 2024 survey, 24% of people thought ASB was a fairly or very big problem, and 8% felt their area had a high level of ASB, these trends have stayed relatively consistent since 2014, with little change each year.² Rubbish or litter lying around and people using or dealing drugs were the biggest problems perceived in their area³.</p> <p>Police-Recorded ASB Incidents data (year ending December 2024)³:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The police recorded incidents show around a 52% fall in ASB since 2013/2014 from around

Appendix B: Kent Community Safety Agreement - Priorities and Actions 2024/25

2.1m to 1.0m incidents (year ending December 2024). Police recorded incidents of ASB in the year ending December 2024 stayed at a similar level as the previous year (one million incidents)³.

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, trends in ASB incidents recorded by the police show the same downward trend seen in the CSEW. ASB dropped by around 34% when comparing 2013-14 figures to 2019-20³.
- However, some of the more recent acceleration in the downward trend (which started pre-COVID-19 and continues post-COVID-19) is thought to reflect a shift in the recording from ASB into public order offences, following a renewed focus on accuracy of crime recording. The latest year shows a halt in the decline in ASB incidents we have seen in the earlier years³.

Kent Context

In Kent, the prevalence of ASB has shown a marked decline over recent years. Over a four-year period, there was a 52.3% reduction in reported ASB incidents, equating to 29,784 less incidents. This large reduction is attributed to the elevated volumes recorded between April and September 2021, when Covid-19 related incidents were included in ASB statistics⁴.

During 2024/25, Kent recorded a 4.9% decrease in ASB incidents (1,392 less incidents) compared to the previous year. ASB incidents exhibit seasonal fluctuations, with higher volumes typically observed between April and September. The average monthly volume of ASB incidents over the past three financial years stands at approximately 2,300 offences, which is notably lower than the pre-pandemic average of 2,900 per month⁴.

During 2024/25 in the Kent area (excluding Medway):

- Reductions were seen in reported ASB across most district / boroughs in Kent during this period with the exception of Maidstone (up 359, +14%), Dartford (up 114, +7.1%), Folkestone & Hythe (up 27, +2%) and Swale (up 47, +1.7%). Of those areas that saw a decrease in incidents, the greatest reductions were recorded in Gravesham (down 507, -22.5%) and Tonbridge & Malling (down 354, -21.1%),
- The highest number of ASB incidents were recorded in Maidstone (2,926), Swale (2,850) and Thanet (2,532). Whilst the lowest number of incidents were recorded in Sevenoaks (1,090), Tunbridge Wells (1,300), Tonbridge & Malling (1,324) and Folkestone & Hythe (1,398).

The three most prevalent categories of ASB in Kent during 2024/25⁴ were:

- Rowdy or Nuisance Gathering in Public/Impeding Public Access
 - Accounted for 31.4% of total ASB incidents (8,508 cases)
 - Represented a 10.1% reduction compared to the previous year (959 fewer incidents)
- Drunken or Rowdy Behaviour
 - Comprised 21.5% of total ASB incidents (5,821 cases)
 - Reflected a 3.3% increase, equating to 186 additional incidents
- Motor Vehicle Nuisance on Roads, including Noise
 - Represented 18.1% of total ASB incidents (4,916 cases)
 - Showed a 9.1% reduction, with 493 fewer incidents

Following the recommendations outlined in the HMICFRS report (referenced below), Kent Police implemented a revised ASB recognition and recording procedure in July 2025. This new process ensures that each call is assessed for ASB elements, regardless of whether a criminal offence has occurred. The enhanced recording system has led to a more accurate representation of ASB incidents, contributing to an observed increase in recorded cases from summer 2025 onwards.

Between September 2024 and August 2025, ASB records rose by 4.7%, from 27,838 to 29,157 incidents. Notably, June 2025 saw 2,924 incidents, an increase of 251 compared to June 2024, while July 2025 recorded 964 more incidents than the same month in the previous year.

Strategies and Guiding Frameworks

National Context

The **Government's Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee** has been introduced to strengthen community engagement and increase police visibility across the country. In support of this, the **ASB Action Plan** advocates for a targeted 'hotspot' policing approach, whereby uniformed officers are deployed regularly to areas identified as having elevated levels of ASB. Evidence suggests this strategy is effective in reducing crime and enhancing public confidence.

The **Home Office Hotspot Action Funding** (formerly known as Grip) continues to be allocated through 2025/26, with a focus on tackling ASB, serious violence, with the additional element of knife crime. Furthermore, the HMICFRS report titled "*The policing response to antisocial behaviour*" (2024) identified a need for improvement across police forces in the identification and recording of ASB, particularly where it intersects with criminal behaviour. The report emphasised the importance of accurate risk assessments and consistent recording practices.

The **Victims' Commissioner** report '[Still living a Nightmare: Understanding the experiences of anti-social behaviour victims](#)' was published in September 2024, five years after their previous report. The report identifies that for a large proportion of victims experiencing ASB, it is ongoing, with many reporting suffering for over five years, it also highlighted the barriers victims experience when reporting and attempting to resolve the behaviour. In response, the **Home Office** published [revised statutory guidance](#) on ASB powers for frontline professionals, in July 2025, with key updates relating to victim participation and support during the ASB Case Review process, clearer guidance on the role of a single point of contact for victims, alignment with the Victims Code, etc.

Kent Context

In alignment with national priorities, the **Kent Policing Plan 'Making Kent Safer 2022–25'** outlined a comprehensive approach to enhancing neighbourhood policing. Kent Police has embraced the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, resulting in the recruitment of:

- 65 additional police officers
- 80 new Special Constables
- 40 uniformed volunteers serving in visible community safety roles

Each neighbourhood, whether urban or rural, now benefits from a named, contactable officer, and residents and businesses are afforded greater opportunities to influence local policing priorities.

Kent Police has also maintained its commitment to rural communities through the establishment of a dedicated Rural Task Force, a key component of the Neighbourhood Policing Model launched in June 2023. This initiative aims to enhance police visibility and accessibility in rural areas, ensuring that residents and businesses are safeguarded against harm and ASB.

As part of the Home Office hotspot funding for 2025/26 Kent Police reviewed the work within the hotspot areas in 2024/25 and evaluated the necessity to have 24 hotspots going into the following year. Balancing a mixture of current ASB levels, successful interventions and a desire to maximise the resources going forward, along with the new Home Office criteria of making the hotspots no larger than 10,000m², to include knife crime, and a Town Centre, Kent Police refined their approach from 24 hotspots down to 15. These areas benefit from additional funding to support high-visibility patrols and targeted problem-solving initiatives. As a result, ASB across Kent and within hotspot areas decreased by 4.9% by the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

References

- 1) [Crime in England and Wales – Office for National Statistics](#): year ending March 2025
- 2) [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#): year ending December 2024.

Appendix B: Kent Community Safety Agreement - Priorities and Actions 2024/25

3) Crime and Policing Bill: antisocial behaviour (ASB) factsheet - GOV.UK (updated July 2025)

4) Making Kent Safer Plan – Overview of the delivery paper (28 May 2025)

2024/25 Actions	Summary of Partnership Activity – Year End 2024/25
Consideration and implementation of the Government ASB Action Plan and Criminal Justice Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on legislative changes and key reports have been shared with partners, including the introduction of the Crime and Policing Bill (in place of the Criminal Justice Bill) with supporting government factsheets, and the publication of the Victims Commissioner's report on the impact of ASB on victims.
Share resources and best practice arising from the multi-agency ASB event delivered in March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources and recordings from the multi-agency ASB event have been made available to partners via the Safer Communities Portal.
Work with partners to identify and share best practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight Community Safety Information Sessions (CSIS) have been delivered covering a range of topics including: examples of ASB best practice, youth engagement, dangerous dogs, etc.
Understand the communities perception of ASB and share updates with residents through My Community Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new format for the monthly e-bulletin has been successfully trialled using Microsoft Sway with a total of 12 bulletins produced across the year sharing the latest information, including updates on strategies, events, guidance, good practice, training, etc.
Commission and deliver specialised Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) training for multi-agency partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localised surveys have been conducted by Kent Police to identify community priorities, with ongoing feedback provided to residents. • A mix of in-person and online training sessions on ASB tools and powers and Case Reviews were delivered to multi-agency partners by 'ASB Help' during 2024/25 with approximately 185 individuals participating across the five sessions, including police, council, and housing officers
2025/26 Action Plan (in-progress)	
<p>The 2025/26 Action Plan includes a range of partnership activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration and implementation of the Crime and Policing Bill, once enacted • Sharing information about the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee • Working with partners to identify and share best practice • Supporting the development of a Police ASB strategy <p>To date the Crime and Policing Bill has yet to be enacted but the progress through Parliament is being monitored. The Kent Community Safety Team continues to produce regular e-bulletins and to deliver Community Safety Information Sessions to partners across the county, at the June event there was a specific focus on various aspects of ASB including an input on tackling nuisance off road bikes. In addition, Kent Police have used Hot Spot Action funding from the Home Office to deliver problem solving and Problem Oriented Policing (POP) training to managers and supervisors in the Police and partner organisations to help identify how plans have been successful and what future learning can be taken from each plan .</p>	

Priority: Violence Against Women and Girls

Context
<p><u>Overview and Prevalence</u></p> <p>National Context</p> <p>VAWG was officially declared a national emergency by the National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) and College of Policing (July 2024)¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2022/23, over one million VAWG-related crimes were recorded, accounting for 20% of all police-recorded crime, with a 37% increase since 2018 ¹• The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimate 1 in 12 women are victims annually, and 1 in 4 will experience sexual assault in their lifetime²• Between 2009/10 and 2023/24, police-recorded rape and sexual assault offences rose by 264% ²• In the year ending June 2024, there were 194,000 sexual offences, including 69,000 rapes ²• The National Policing Statement for VAWG, commissioned by the National Police Chiefs’ Council and College of Policing, found: Child sexual abuse and exploitation increased by more than 400% between 2013 and 2022.• Domestic abuse affected 1.2 million women and 550,000 men in the year ending March 2024 ²• The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) reported a 20.5% increase in rape charges, totalling 4,636 prosecutions, although the conviction rate slightly declined to 58.8% (July 2025)-⁴• Despite £1.1 billion in funding since 2021, the Public Accounts Committee (May 2025) warns of fragmented coordination and insufficient prevention efforts⁵. A whole-system, cross-sector approach remains essential to address the scale and complexity of VAWG. <p>Kent Context</p> <p>In the 12 months ending July 2025, Kent Police recorded 36,337 VAWG offences, this is a decrease of 1169 (-3.1%) compared to the previous year, with reductions seen across 11 of the 13 districts in Kent and Medway.</p> <p>Of the total VAWG offences recorded, 52.4% were domestic abuse related.</p> <p>In Kent (excluding Medway) there were 30,086 recorded VAWG offences which equates to a 784 reduction (2.5%) compared to the previous year.</p> <p>At a Divisional level, the numbers of recorded VAWG offences over 12 months ending July 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North (excluding Medway): 7982, a decrease of 80 (1%)• East: 13,864, a decrease of 318 (2.2%)• West: 8240, a decrease of 386 (4.5%) <p>Of the total VAWG offences recorded, the number of DA related VAWG offences over 12 months ending July 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North (excluding Medway): 4258, a decrease of 78 (1.8%)• East: 7249, a decrease of 95 (1.3%)• West – 4276, a decrease of 235 (5.2%) <p><u>Strategies and Guiding Frameworks</u></p> <p>Several national strategies and statutory frameworks underpin efforts to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) across England and Wales.</p>

Appendix B: Kent Community Safety Agreement - Priorities and Actions 2024/25

The **Home Office's Tackling VAWG Strategy (2021)** adopts a whole-system approach built around four pillars: *prevention, supporting victims, pursuing perpetrators, and building a stronger system*. It includes commitments to halve VAWG within a decade and improve data collection, victim support, and criminal justice outcomes. [Strategy Document](#)

The **Domestic Abuse Act 2021** introduced a statutory definition of domestic abuse, recognised children as victims, and established the Domestic Abuse Commissioner. It places duties on local authorities to provide accommodation-based support and requires public bodies to follow statutory guidance. [Statutory Guidance](#).

In 2024, the **National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC)** launched the **National Framework for Delivery (2024–2027)**, declaring VAWG a national threat. The framework uses the 4P model—*Prepare, Prevent, Protect, Pursue*—to guide forces in strategic planning, perpetrator disruption, and victim-centred policing. [NPCC Framework](#)

The **Operation Soteria inspection report (August 2024)** introduced a National Operating Model to improve rape and serious sexual offence investigations. It promotes suspect-focused, victim-centred policing through enhanced training, digital forensics, and multi-agency collaboration. [Soteria Inspection Report](#)

Locally, **Kent Police** prioritises VAWG within its **Control Strategy 2025**, under the operational priority of *serious violence and harm*, with a focus on predatory sexual offending, rape, and domestic abuse. Child-centred policing is central to this approach. [Kent Control Strategy | Kent Police](#)

Kent Police's Public Protection Strategy 2024–2026 outlines commitments to:

- Prevent VAWG through education and early intervention
- Engage with underrepresented communities
- Expand approaches to VAWG in public spaces
- Eradicate victim-blaming language
- Promote the 'Upstander' programme
- Improve multi-agency risk management
- Enhance responses to predatory sexual offending

VAWG is also a priority in the **Kent PCC's Police and Crime Plan (2022–2025)** and is reflected in the **Annual Report 2023/24**. [Making Kent Safer - the plan overview | Annual Report 23/24 Accessible Version](#)

References:

- 1) *NPCC National Policing Statement, July 2024* [National Policing Statement 2024 For Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) - July 2024 WEBSITE PUBLICATION-2](#). *NPCC Policing Violence Against Women and Girls – The National Framework for Delivery: 2024 – 2027, February 2024* [vawg-framework-for-delivery.pdf](#)
- 2) *House of Commons Library Insight, May 2025* [Commons Library Insight](#)
- 3) *Victims' Commissioner Report on Operation Soteria, Nov 2024*
- 4) *CPS data summary Quarter 4 2024-2025 | The Crown Prosecution Service*
- 5) *Public Accounts Committee Report, May 2025 - PAC Report*

Appendix B: Kent Community Safety Agreement - Priorities and Actions 2024/25

2024/25 Actions	Summary of Partnership Activity – Year End 2024/25
Support local delivery of activities around Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hotspot patrolling is ongoing across the county, increasing police visibility to deter and prevent crime, in particular VAWG, and increasing the opportunity to engage with the community• Licensing checks have been taking place across the county, with additional local projects to deter crime and address VAWG have been implemented by partners including CCTV projects and plainclothes operations.• Information about victim blaming language has been shared by partners and teams through a variety of services and groups.• In 2024/25 six online training sessions were delivered to multi-agency partners. Over 450 people attended the sessions, with positive feedback received from each event (average score of 4.9 out of 5).
Work with partners to explore resources and support in relation to Victim Blaming Language following the training in 2023/24	
Identify and deliver further training to multi-agency partners to continue to raise awareness around VAWG	
2025/26 Action Plan (in-progress)	
<p>The 2025/26 Action Plan includes a range of partnership activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivery of partnership workshops to focus on involving men and boys in tackling VAWG• Working with partners to identify learning from national or local reviews• Promoting and raising awareness of White Ribbon or the principles of White Ribbon• Working with partners to raise awareness and understanding of stalking and associated risk factors <p>To date, the KCST has delivered a Community Safety Information Session for partners with a focus on Stalking in the Workplace, provided by Protection Against Stalking. The team are also in the planning stages to develop and deliver partnership workshops focusing on involving men and boys in tackling VAWG.</p> <p>Kent Police are leading on a range of VAWG activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Community engagement events where members of the public and wider stakeholders engage directly with the force, covering legislative updates, crime trends, VAWG activity in force by the child centred policing team, community safety units and investigative teams○ Walk and Talk events to understand women’s safety concerns in public spaces○ Project Vigilant, targeting predatory behaviour in the night-time economy and targeted areas○ Promotion of the Best Bar None licensing scheme○ Child Centred Policing Team (CCPT) workshops on domestic abuse and healthy relationships, including VAWG champions in schools - a working group of peers to directly tackle and develop strategies in school○ Launch of Pol-Ed, education resources both for police and schools, with 203 VAWG-related lessons to over 6,000 students delivered since May 2025 <p>Across the wider partnership at district and borough level there are a range of initiatives being delivered in partnership.</p>	

Priority: Domestic Abuse

Context

Overview and Prevalence

National

According to the ONS Crime Survey for England and Wales, in the year ending March 2024;

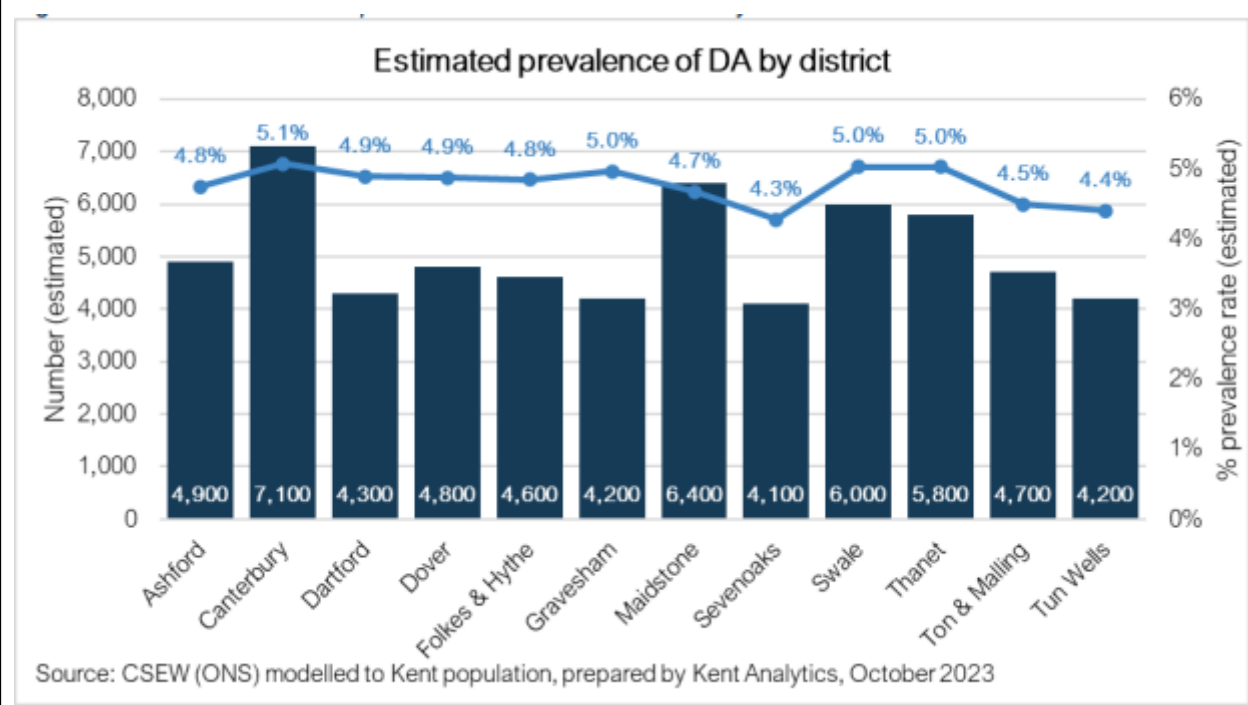
- an estimated 2.3 million people aged 16 and over (1.6 million women, 712,000 men) experienced domestic abuse,
- The prevalence remained statistically unchanged from the previous year.
- Police recorded 851,062 domestic abuse-related crimes - a decrease from 911,248 the previous year - partly due to changes in recording practices.

Local (Kent)

The 2023 Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment for Kent, calculated estimated modelled prevalence of domestic abuse in each district and showed;

- Canterbury had the highest prevalence rate (5.1%) and the highest estimated number of domestic abuse survivors (7,100).
- Sevenoaks had the lowest prevalence rate (4.3%) and estimated number of domestic abuse survivors (4,100).

Estimated modelled prevalence of domestic abuse by district



- By sex, it was estimated that around 43,800 domestic abuse survivors in Kent were female and 17,700 were male.

Commissioned Domestic Abuse Services

- The **Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS)** delivers support to adults (16+) within refuges across the county, including a specialist male refuge and in the community. In 2024-25, KIDAS supported 3,289 adult domestic abuse survivors. Of those supported;
 - 241 reported being a victim of sexual assault

- 206 had experienced rape
 - 887 reported that they were a victim of stalking
 - 107 were victims of honour-based violence
 - 89% reported that their perpetrator was their ex or current intimate partner
 - 7 men were supported via the specialist refuge and a further 87 men were supported in the community.
- The **Sanctuary Access For Eligible Residents Scheme (SAFER)** delivers security advice, installation of equipment and specialist support to enable survivors of domestic abuse, and their children, to remain safely in their own home. In 2024-25, the Scheme received a total of 810 referrals and security was installed across 580 households.
 - The **Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS)** provides therapeutically informed support for Children and Young People (0-19 years, up to 25 with additional needs) who are survivors of domestic abuse and living in Safe Accommodation such as refuges and the SAFER Scheme. This service supported 307 children and young people in 2024-25.

District / Borough

Thanet and Maidstone were the areas where the most survivors were residing at the point of contact with KIDAS community-based services. This can be linked to high levels of deprivation which is often linked to increased stress, housing instability, and reduced access to support - all risk factors for domestic abuse.

Direction of Travel / Trends

Due to new services being commissioned since the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the demand for support services is increasing. Compared to 2023-24 the number of referrals for KIDAS community-based services has increased by 18%. There has been an increase in KIDAS referrals for all risk levels however there has been a greater increase in the number of cases that are assessed to be at **medium risk**. KIDAS data shows an increase in the number of individuals experiencing Coercion and Control compared to 2023-24. The number of individuals experiencing Stalking have also increased considerably.

Key Focus areas

New safe accommodation services are being developed in line with findings of the needs assessment, service data, and stakeholder feedback.

Strategies and Guiding Frameworks

National

- Under the **Domestic Abuse Act 2021**, local authorities in England have several statutory duties aimed at improving support for victims of domestic abuse, particularly in relation to accommodation-based services. This includes assessing the need for accommodation-based support for victims and their children, publishing a domestic abuse support strategy, and evaluating the effectiveness of this strategy.
- The Governments **Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy** was published in 2021, and **Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan** was published in March 2022. The Plan focuses on 4 key objectives, prioritising prevention, supporting victims, pursuing perpetrators, and a stronger system. An updated VAWG Strategy is expected this autumn. The government also published **Supporting Male Victims** – which is a position statement on male victims of crimes.
- The **Women's Health Strategy for England 2022**, set out actions to improve the health and care systems' response to domestic abuse and prioritise the prevention and reduction of violence against women and girls.

Appendix B: Kent Community Safety Agreement - Priorities and Actions 2024/25

- Section 9 of the **Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004** includes a statutory requirement to complete a review of the circumstances in which a person aged 16 or over dies because of violence, abuse, or neglect by a partner or ex-partner, relative, or member of the same household.

Local

The **Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024–2029** is a partnership document embodying the approach of its 20 partners to *‘reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse, and ensure that where domestic abuse takes place, all those affected get the right support, quickly’*.

The strategy includes both statutory requirements for tier one local authorities to support people accessing safe accommodation services and commitments across the partnership to support people impacted by domestic abuse across Kent and Medway.

The strategy is structured around three core pillars:

- 1. Early Intervention and Prevention**
 - Raising awareness and educating communities.
 - Identifying risk factors and intervening before abuse escalates.
 - Supporting professionals to spot signs early.
- 2. Immediate Need**
 - Ensuring access to crisis support and safe accommodation.
 - Coordinating emergency responses across services.
 - Providing trauma-informed care during acute incidents.
- 3. Recovery**
 - Supporting long-term healing and empowerment.
 - Addressing housing, mental health, and financial stability.
 - Promoting resilience and independence for survivors.

A report on the progress achieved in year one of the strategy is available below.

References:
[Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)
[Kent-Domestic-Abuse-Needs-Assessment-2023.pdf](#)
[Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#)
[Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy](#)
[Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2029 Year One Update](#)

2024/25 Actions	Summary of Partnership Activity – Year End 2024/25
Commission and support the Domestic Homicide (DHR/DARDR) process on behalf of CSPs across Kent and Medway with the aim to identify lessons, improve practice and ensure changes are implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During 2024/25, the Kent Community Safety Partnership commissioned six new Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) / Domestic Abuse-Related Death Reviews (DARDRs), five DHRs were published and at year-end the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) were managing and coordinating 24 active cases. In total 85 Kent and Medway actions, and three national actions (from across a number of reviews and recommendations) were signed-off as complete.• Learning from DHRs has been disseminated through

Appendix B: Kent Community Safety Agreement - Priorities and Actions 2024/25

Renew the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Services Website	DHR briefings to professionals and a series of well-attended learning events. Three events were delivered during 2024/25 focusing on specific learning from cases including co-occurring conditions and parental conflict. Two of the events were delivered in partnership with the KMSAB and KSCMP. In total over 600 professionals attend the webinars across the year. Each of the events received positive feedback with 100% of attendees who responded rating the events, good, very good or excellent.
Support the delivery of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback has been submitted to the Home Office consultation on the new statutory guidance for DARRDs. An implementation plan is in development, pending finalisation of Home Office guidance.
Support delivery of the DA partnership media and communications plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and renewal of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Services website was undertaken during 2024/25 with partnership support. The website launched in 2025/26 (see details below).
People experiencing domestic abuse access to equitable high-quality support which meets their needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The delivery plan for the Domestic Abuse Strategy has been developed and shared, with progress monitored and tracked quarterly.
Recommissioning activity is undertaken to co design a new service to be in place by April 2026.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly awareness campaigns have been delivered and shared across all partners. The Kent Domestic Abuse Newsletter has facilitated greater awareness of campaigns and training.
Support One Stop Shop Drop In's delivered to support people affected by abuse to seek advice from a range of services across Kent & Medway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protocols for One Stop Shops have been updated and agreed by the DA Forum Chairs.
Support the implementation of the MARAC Hub Change Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MARAC Hub Change Programme has seen the launch of a new referral system and training resources and a new operating protocol.
Neurodivergent Intimate Relationships Training for partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 80 licences for the Neurodivergent relationships training have been secured, with all licences in use. Positive feedback has been received and monitoring is ongoing.

2025/26 Action Plan (in-progress)

The 2025/26 Action Plan includes a range of partnership activities including:

- Commission and support delivery of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)
- Sharing learning with partners from DHR / DARRD cases to raise awareness and improve practices.
- Implementation of new DARRD (Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews) Statutory Guidance (*subject to Home Office publication*)
- Promotion of the new Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse website
- Promotion of the new Domestic Abuse Community Champions scheme and development of resources
- Support the partner review of the new MARAC case management and hub implementation
- Support Domestic Abuse campaigns

During 2025/26 to date, two DHRs have been published and learning from DHRs has been disseminated to partners through briefings with two webinars being delivered to over 500 attendees. Further DHR learning events are in the planning and delivery stage with the next event for professionals taking place on 3 October.

Appendix B: Kent Community Safety Agreement - Priorities and Actions 2024/25

New DARDR Statutory Guidance from the Home Office is still in development.

The **Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Services website** is complete and launched in July 2025 providing guidance and support for residents and practitioners. [Home - Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership](#).

Recommissioning activity is ongoing, with extensive stakeholder engagement, survivor and market engagement completed. The timeline for this has been reviewed and a new contract is required to be in place by April 2027.

Priority: Serious Violence and Organised Crime

Context
<p>Serious Violence</p> <p><u>Overview and Prevalence</u></p> <p>In March 2019 the Home Secretary announced £100 million Serious Violence Fund, with around a third of the funding (£35million) being invested in Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) in 18 police force areas across the Country including Kent. The funding has been renewed on an annual basis to date, and Kent received £1.6 million in 2025/26 to tackle serious violence. The VRU is a multi-agency approach bringing together police, health, local authorities, to work together to reduce violence using a public health approach.</p> <p><u>National Context</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nationally the ONS report on Crime in England and Wales (12 months ending March 2025), demonstrated that police recorded 1.9 million offences of violence against the person, a decrease of -4% compared with 12 months ending March 2024 (2 million offences)¹.• Violence with injury offences (a sub-category of violence against the person), 12 months ending March 2025 (520,071 offences) has decreased by -7% compared with 12 months ending March 2024 (558,360 offences)¹.• Knife enabled serious violence recorded by police, 12 months ending March 2025 (53,047 offences) decreased by -1% compared with 12 months ending March 2024 (53,685)¹.• The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides an alternative view of the overall trend in violent Crime. Estimates from the CSEW for 12 months ending March 2025, compared 12 months ending March 2024, showed that there were no statistically significant changes across the different types of violence experienced (Violence with or without injury)². <p><u>Local Context</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Kent, violent crime (aggregated offences of violence against the person, sexual offences, and robbery) account for the greatest proportion of total crime³.• Violent crime in the 12 months ending August 2025, has experienced a decrease of -2.8% (-2,164 offences) compared to the previous 12 months ending August 2024³.• The vast majority of violent crime falls within violence against the person (89%), followed by sexual offences (9%) and then robbery (2%). However, not all categories have experienced a decrease, sexual offences have increased by 8% and robbery 6.9% (robbery increase is due to an increase in Business related robberies)³.• Most serious violence has decreased -5.9% (-71 offences)³.• At district level in Kent for violent crime, in the 12 months ending August 2025, compared to the previous 12 months ending August 2024 the following districts have increased: Dartford (6.7%,

Appendix B: Kent Community Safety Agreement - Priorities and Actions 2024/25

+312), Swale (3.3%, 226), Thanet (4.6%, 350) and Tonbridge/Malling (1.2%, +40), all other districts have evidenced decreases³.

- Serious violence is unevenly spread across the County with districts on the North Kent coastline being those most affected.
- Suspects of serious violence are mainly male (74%), 18% were aged 18-24 and 24% were children.
- Victims of serious violence are mainly male (64%), 13% were aged 18-24 and 29% were children.
- Knife crime involves 46% that are under 25. Suspects of knife crime were mostly male (80%) and is most frequently males aged 15-17 years old. Victims of knife crime indicated that 37% were female⁴.

Strategies and Guiding Frameworks

- In July 2021 the Government introduced the [Beating Crime Plan](#) which sets out the strategic approach to: cutting homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime; exposing and ending hidden harms; and building capability and capacity to deal with fraud and online crime. It complements other existing strategies and sits alongside other work on hidden harms.
- The **Serious Violence Duty (SVD)** was introduced through the **Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022**, to commence on 31st January 2023. The duty places several requirements upon local areas, including agreeing a partnership to lead on the duty, a definition of serious violence, having consistent data sharing, analytical processes to produce a Strategic Needs Assessment, and production of a Strategy to set out how the duty will be implemented locally.
- **Ronan's Law** was introduced into Parliament on March 27, 2025, as **part of the Crime and Policing Bill**, following a review into online knife sales sparked by the 2022 murder of Ronan Kanda. The legislation made it illegal to possess, manufacture, import, or sell "ninja swords" from August 1, 2025, and includes tougher penalties for selling knives to under-18s.
- The government's ambition is to halve knife crime within a decade under its "**Safer Streets Mission**". This mission involves several key strategies, including strengthening laws for online knife sales, cracking down on gangs involved in child exploitation and county lines, introducing new youth hubs to steer young people away from crime, banning specific weapons like ninja swords, and increasing police powers to remove offensive weapons from streets. The government is also exploring civil penalties for online platforms that fail to remove illegal content and has launched a coalition to tackle knife crime.
- The current UK government, led by the Labour party, has publicly stated an ambition to halve violence against women and girls (VAWG) within a decade. This ambition, part of its "Safer Streets" mission, was outlined by the Home Office and is supported by a new, comprehensive 10-year strategy. The strategy, in development since mid-2025, aims for long-term change by focusing on prevention, better support for victims and survivors, and a tougher response to perpetrators through the criminal justice system.

The **Serious Violence Board**, which is chaired by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) with senior leaders from the specified authorities in attendance, have agreed:

- A definition of serious violence for the purposes of the duty which is: 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.
- The Terms of reference for the Board and how the Board will work collaboratively with existing multi-agency meetings where risk factors relating to serious violence are addressed.
- To support a data sharing platform.
- The [Strategic Needs Assessment](#) (SNA) and [Strategy](#) via consultation along with the specified and relevant authorities. Finalised on 31st January 2024 and published to the OPCC and VRU Websites as well as being shared with the CSPs.

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Kent and Medway's Serious Violence Duty (SVD) priorities are:

- Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse
- Serious Youth Violence a 0-25 approach
- Violence linked to drugs and alcohol

A nominated lead is in place for each strand (priority) and is responsible for driving forward an action plan and updating the board on the results.

Serious and Organised Crime (SOC)

Overview and Prevalence

A variety of organisations, including the Police and Local Authorities, have a statutory responsibility as a 'first responder organisation' to identify potential victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) and to refer them to the Home Office via the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), in line with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The 2024 full year data for referrals of potential victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) to the Single Competent Authority (Home Office) via the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) were released in March 2025

The 'headline' figures for the 2024 data are as follows⁵.

- Total national referrals – 19,125 which is a 13% increase on 2023. The number of referrals made in this year is the highest in a year since the NRM began.
- 43% (8,268) of potential victims claimed that they were exploited exclusively in the UK
- Local authorities accounted for 22% (4,206) of referrals, mostly for children
- The most common nationalities referred in 2024 were UK (23%; 4,441), Albanian (13%; 2,492) and Vietnamese (11%; 2,153)
- Kent Police force area referrals = 2,344 (including both adults and children)
- County lines accounted for 10% of all referrals received. The majority (76%; 1,396) of these referrals were for male children (at age of referral).

Quarter 1 and 2 data for 2025 has also been released.

- Total national referrals for Q1 were 5,297, for the Kent Police area 742.
- There was a significant shift in the most common nationalities referred, with Albanians not featuring in the top 3 for the first time since the start of the NRM data series in 2014.
- The top 3 referred nationalities were UK (23%; 1,210), Vietnamese (12%; 645) and Eritrean (10%; 553). This was the highest number of referrals for UK and Vietnamese nationals in a quarter since the NRM began.
- Total referrals for Q2 were 5,690 referrals nationally. This is a 7% increase on Q1 2025, and a 32% increase on Q2 2024, and is the highest single quarter figure ever recorded. There were 1107 referrals for the Kent Police area (including Medway).
- The most common nationalities referred this quarter were UK (23%; 1,286), Eritrean (11%; 641) and Vietnamese (11%; 599).

Full data tables for 2024/2025 NRM referrals can be found [here](#)⁵

Strategies and Guiding Frameworks

[Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's \(IASC\) Strategic Plan 2024-2026](#) - published in February 2025, the IASC's Strategic Plan outlines three core objectives: Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution, supported by two cross-cutting themes—embedding lived experience in policy and enhancing understanding of modern slavery. Within the plan the Commissioner aims to

encourage public bodies to voluntarily emulate the transparency of supply chain provisions that The Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires of businesses in the UK’.

Home Office [Action Plan on Modern Slavery](#) (2025) - Released in April 2025, the Plan sets out the UK Government’s strategic priorities for tackling modern slavery. It focuses on four key pillars: prevention, victim identification reform, tailored support services, and improved criminal justice outcomes. It includes 15 targeted actions such as reducing the NRM backlog, expanding victim support, enhancing supply chain transparency, and introducing legislation on child criminal exploitation. The Plan emphasises cross-sector collaboration, survivor engagement, and data-driven policy reform.

Legislative Update: [Cuckooing Offence](#) - In 2025, the UK government introduced a significant amendment to the **Crime and Policing Bill** to formally criminalise cuckooing—the exploitation of vulnerable individuals by taking over their homes for criminal purposes. The offence carries a maximum five-year sentence and promotes a multi-agency safeguarding approach, recognising the complex vulnerabilities of victims. This legal shift reflects a broader commitment to safeguarding vulnerable individuals and dismantling the networks that exploit them through home takeovers.

[Economic Crime Priorities](#) - The National Crime Agency (NCA) and Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) have outlined nine priorities under the UK’s second **Economic Crime Plan**, focusing on threats such as money mule exploitation, cash-based money laundering, and overseas fraud. Backed by the Home Office, HM Treasury and UK Finance, the strategy helps firms allocate resources effectively while maintaining regulatory responsibilities and enhancing the fight against financial crime and terrorist financing. Further guidance will follow to support.

[Global Irregular Migration Sanctions Regime](#) - Launched in July 2025 by the UK Government, this is the world’s first dedicated sanctions regime targeting people-smuggling and organised immigration crime. Sanctions were imposed on 25 individuals and entities involved in smuggling operations. The move aims to disrupt criminal networks, block financial flows, and protect vulnerable migrants.

References:

1) [Office for National Statistics](#). *Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2025* (published 24 July 2025).

2) *Crime Survey for England and Wales: [The nature of violent crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2024](#)* (published 26 September 2024).

3) *Kent Police Data Hub. Published Data: year ending August 2025. Accessed on 11 September 2025.*

4) *Kent and Medway Serious Violence Prevention Partnerships. [Strategic Needs Assessment 2024/25 Executive Summary](#).*

5) [National Referral Mechanism Statistics](#)

2024/25 Actions	Summary of Partnership Activity – Year End 2024/25
Work with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and the Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Board to implement the Serious Violence Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Serious Violence Strategy has been agreed and is being delivered in partnership with the Violence Reduction Unit and the Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Board (SVPP). Three key areas now have appointed leads and report to the SVPP Board on progress.• The VRU and SVPP worked with children and young adults to understand how they are affected

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Improve the sharing of data so that there is a common understanding of serious violence informed by a multi-agency data set	<p>by sexual violence and their feedback has helped inform the sexual violence prevention work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Don't Disrespect' campaign launched in February 2025 and has been viewed more than 15,000 times. • A plan to work with partners to understand the links between drugs, alcohol and violence has been agreed.
Reduce the harm experienced by communities linked to knives and weapons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-agency data sharing platform is in development and is being tested, supporting improved analysis and case management. • Knife violence data indicates significant reductions in offences, and the knife surrender scheme continues. The Safer Knife Replacement Scheme (pointless) is now receiving National Interest.
Work in partnership to share information on the exploitation of adults and children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly meetings on exploitation are held, and a new Child Exploitation Oversight Group has been established. This group will be exploring ways to improve data collection and sharing of information relation to child exploitation
Work with partners to deliver the Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2023-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership engagement on serious and organised crime remains ongoing, with training delivered and public health representatives involved.
Work with organisations to effectively engage partners to improve intelligence reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intelligence reporting mechanisms have been strengthened, with the SOC Intelligence analyst now working closely with colleagues from Kent Police intelligence function and Serious Crime Directorate to contribute to the development of SOC Local Profiles by sharing relevant data.
Work in partnership to improve understanding of Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) inc. Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness training on modern slavery and human trafficking has been delivered.
Raise awareness of the national Retail Crime action plan with community safety partners to facilitate joint working.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The retail crime action plan has been reviewed and partnership engagement coordinated

2025/26 Action Plan (in-progress)

The 2025/26 Action Plan includes a range of partnership activities including:

- Working with the Violence Reduction Unit and the Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Board
- Sharing data and an understanding of serious violence
- Working with partners to improve intelligence reporting around organised crime
- Improving the understanding of Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) including Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT)

In August 2025, the Home Office provided additional funding to the VRU to pilot the Young Futures Prevention Panels. The aim of the scheme is to provide swift support and intervention to children who have come to Police attention (but are not subject to a judicial outcome) or who are at risk of school exclusion. The pilot area is in Medway and will be in operation at the end of September. Learning from the pilot will help inform future activity.

Within KCC the SOC team continue to engage proactively across multiple strands of work. This includes regular attendance at Serious Organised Crime panels to ensure coordinated responses to emerging threats, alongside ongoing participation in specialist training to strengthen operational

knowledge. Collaborative efforts with both internal departments and external partners remain central to our approach in addressing threats and risks identified with a focus that across community safety such as tackling anti-social behaviour and working closely with frontline safeguarding. Delivery of targeted training sessions to education providers and safeguarding teams to build awareness and resilience. Preparations are also underway for a multi-agency awareness event scheduled for October, aimed at enhancing public understanding and professional practice around organised crime and exploitation.

Priority: Safeguarding Vulnerable People

Context

Overview and Prevalence

Safeguarding vulnerable people is a broad and cross-cutting priority that underpins many elements of the Community Safety Agreement. It requires a strategic, multi-agency approach to protect individuals and communities from harm, exploitation, and neglect. A range of statutory boards and partnerships hold accountability for addressing these complex issues, ensuring that safeguarding efforts are coordinated and effective.

To avoid duplication and maximise impact, the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) has chosen to focus its efforts on two specific areas within this priority: **fraud** and **suicide prevention**. These areas have been identified as requiring targeted attention due to their increasing relevance and the potential for significant harm to vulnerable individuals.

Fraud

According to the National Strategic Assessment 2025 of Serious and Organised Crime (produced by the National Crime Agency (NCA): Fraud remains a significant problem for the UK, and is still the most prevalent crime against individuals in England and Wales¹ accounting for an estimated 41% of crime reflected in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (year ending September 2024)¹. Only an estimated 14% of frauds against individuals are reported to Action Fraud or the police. The majority of unreported frauds are likely high in volume but low in value.¹

In the latest Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) year ending March 2025, there were an estimated 4.2 million fraud incidents². This was a 31% increase, compared with the previous year's survey (3.2 million incidents) and was mainly because of a 30% increase in bank and credit account fraud (to about 2.4 million incidents) and a 23% increase in consumer and retail fraud (to about 1.1 million incidents). Out of the estimated 4.2 million incidents of fraud, around three million incidents involved a loss. Victims were fully reimbursed in 2.1 million of these cases².

In the Chief Constable's report to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance and Delivery Board in May 2025³, it was reported that during the four-year period from April 2021 to March 2025 there has been an -8.1% decrease (118 less offences) for Fraud reports referred to Kent Police (from Action Fraud)³. During 2024/25, there was a 10.5% increase (128 more offences) compared to the previous year. Fraud typically sees an increasing trend from October to September with a reduction before increasing again. However, there was no reduction in October 2024 with quarterly offence volumes continuing to rise.³

Doorstep Crime in Kent

Fraud such as doorstep crime, is often committed by organised criminal gangs. As detailed in a report to Kent County Council's Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet

Appendix B: Kent Community Safety Agreement - Priorities and Actions 2024/25

Committee Meeting in March 2025⁴:

- The total financial loss from doorstep crime in the UK could be as high as £1.3 billion per year.
- 42% of Kent residents are considered likely to be targeted by doorstep criminals.
- The average loss per victim of doorstep crime in Kent is £15,700.
- Home Office research shows that most victims of doorstep crime are over 65 and are two and a half times more likely to be in care or die within two years because of the impact of this type of victimisation:

Suicide in Kent

According to the consultation document for The Kent and Medway Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy 2026-2030⁵, the Office of National Statistics data (August 2024) shows that both Kent and Medway appear to have higher suicide rates than the national average. However rates in Kent are falling at a time when national rates are increasing⁵.

Suicide rate comparison, 3-year suicide rolling rates per 100,000⁵

	2020 to 2022	2021 to 2023
England	10.3	10.7
Kent	12.1	11.7
Medway	10.6	12

Further analysis of the records of people who have died in Kent and Medway between 2020 and 2024 (contained within the Real Time Suicide Surveillance system (RTSS) shows that of those who have died by suspected suicide in Kent and Medway, 75% were male, 69% were not known to secondary mental health services, 33% had been impacted by domestic abuse (either as victim or perpetrator), 21% were known to misuse alcohol or drugs, 14% were 25 or under⁵.

Strategies and Guiding Frameworks

The priority of Safeguarding Vulnerable People continues to reflect the outcome of strategic assessments undertaken by local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), with many choosing safeguarding and/or vulnerability either as a stand-alone priority or integrating elements within their broader plans.

While CSPs play a role in this area, the Partnership is by no means the lead. Several multi-agency groups lead on specific safeguarding issues. These include the **Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP)**, **Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB)**, and the **Joint Exploitation Group (JEG)**. The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) continues to link into these boards and subgroups, supporting and implementing actions and monitoring performance through reciprocal reporting arrangements. These links ensure that safeguarding efforts are coordinated,

Fraud

Fraud remains one of the most significant threats to UK citizens and businesses. The **UK Fraud Strategy 2023** published under the previous government, aimed to reduce fraud by 10% compared to 2019 levels by December 2024. In April 2025, the current Government announced plans to publish a new, expanded fraud strategy as part of the government’s Plan for Change.

In Kent, a **Multi-Agency Approach to Fraud (MAFF)** panel has been established bringing a range of organisations together to discuss combined efforts to tackle the prevalence of Fraud in Kent. Centred around joined-up community warning messages, education initiatives, financial institute liaison, strategies to tackle high areas of harm such as Doorstep Crime, allocating call blockers to vulnerable residents, etc. Organisations involved in MAFF, include Kent County Council, Kent Police, Kent PCC’s Office, Crime Stoppers, Victim Support, National Trading Standards Scams

<p>team, Age UK.</p> <p><u>Suicide</u></p> <p>The Suicide prevention strategy for England: 2023–2028 was published in September 2023 under the previous government with aims to prevent self-harm and suicide.</p> <p>Locally, the Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Strategy 2021–25 continues to guide multi-agency efforts, led by KCC’s Public Health team. The current strategy focuses on seven priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reducing the risk in high-priority groups2. Tailor approaches to improve mental health and wellbeing3. Reduce access to the means of suicide4. Support research, data collection and monitoring5. Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide6. Providing better information and support for those bereaved by suicide7. Demonstrate system leadership and quality improvement <p><u>References:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) NSA 2025 - Fraud - National Crime Agency2) Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics: Year ending March 20253) Chief Constable’s Report to the Police and Crime Commissioners Performance and Delivery Board (May 2025) – Making Kent Safer Plan 2022-25 Report4) Report to Kent County Council’s Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee Meeting, 6th March 20255) Draft Strategy Consultation: The Kent and Medway Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy 2026-2030 Let’s Talk Kent	
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2024/25 Actions	Summary of Partnership Activity – Year End 2024/25
Support the work being undertaken by the Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promotional materials for suicide prevention have been updated,• Suicide Prevention training has been refreshed and bespoke training packages available on request.• The Amparo service has been included in referral pathways, and ongoing analysis supports early intervention.• The Real-Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance System (RTSS) analysis to identify patterns and trend as they emerge is ongoing which supports interventions at the earliest opportunity.• System leadership continues including sharing best practice, undertaking quarterly meetings, producing a monthly newsletter and delivering an annual conference to over 200 stakeholders, which was well received.• Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week (SAAW)

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Work in partnership with the Safeguarding Boards to raise awareness of safeguarding issues and link into local and national campaigns.	<p>was supported by partners through events, communications, and achieving significant social media reach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support SAAW the KCST delivered a Community Safety Information Session with a focus on healthy empowering relations advisory service, a VAWG training session (as part of series of training sessions) and a DHR/SAR learning webinar jointly delivered by the KCST / KMSAB / KCC Public Health • The KCST includes a link to the KMSAB newsletters within the KCST bulletin as well as any specific articles linked to published Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs), events, and policies. Similarly the KMSAB include details of published DHRs and events within their newsletter.
Develop Teacher in your Pocket (TEPO) online training around Doorstep Crime to enhance awareness for vulnerable and digitally excluded individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online training on doorstep crime has been developed and launched, with high engagement, seeing over 50,000 social media reach and 88,000 video plays. In addition, Trading Standards Officers and Community Wardens have delivered a number of face-to-face training events.
Provision of Crime Prevention Resources (utilised by Kent Community Wardens) to support elderly or vulnerable residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Wardens have attended a number of events and delivered safety advice and resources to large and varied audiences. Feedback has been positive especially around the drink spiking information and resources and also the purse chains and bells with the elderly.
Child's Vision – Supporting children who have adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) as a result of domestic abuse or violence in the home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child's Vision programme has supported 50 children across workshops, 1:1 support and the childrens Freedom programme, with five new volunteers recruited. Positive feedback has been received across all programmes with reports that children feel more confident to speak to family, Police, social workers, etc. following an incident..
Trauma Informed Kent - Ambassador Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trauma Informed Kent Ambassador Programme training has been delivered to a new cohort with positive feedback from those involved.

2025/26 Action Plan (in-progress)

The 2025/26 Action Plan includes a range of partnership activities including:

- Supporting the ongoing work undertaken by the Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Programme
- Working in partnership with the Safeguarding Boards and Partnerships to raise awareness and support local and national campaigns
- Funding the development of the Teachers in your Pocket (TEPO) online training around Scams

As the current suicide prevention strategy is coming to an end, a new [draft Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm Strategy 2026-2030](#) has been developed and is currently out for consultation. The strategy has been created with the Kent and Medway Suicide and Self-Harm Network, which consists of over 250 partners working together to reduce the number of suicides in Kent and Medway for both adults and children and young people.

Priority: Preventing Extremism and Hate

Context
<p>Preventing Extremism</p> <p><u>Overview and Prevalence</u></p> <p>The current threat level remains at ‘Substantial’, an attack is likely, and has been at this level since February 2022. It is assessed that an attack would most likely be conducted by a ‘self-initiated terrorist’ (S-IT) acting independently of an established terrorist group or organisation. It should be noted that the threat level of Substantial is still classified as a ‘heightened’ threat level.</p> <p>Over the last 9 years there has been disruption to 43 late-stage attack plots¹ and as before this is a mixture of different ideologies and extremism such as extreme right-wing, Islamist extremism and predominantly self-initiated terrorist attacks.</p> <p>The 2024 Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) (released April 2025) provides the key threats, risks and vulnerabilities within Kent & Medway between January and December 2024. The document focuses on individual districts where isolated or emerging incidents of note have occurred. The CTLP is used to determine priorities and inform local Prevent delivery plans in Kent and Medway.</p> <p>The priorities remain as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overarching threat of Islamist Extremism terrorism• Extreme Right-Wing terrorism• Self-Initiated attacks• Online terrorist use of the internet• Extremism within the Prison estate and prison releases <p>Nationally we have seen several threats that have occurred over the last few years, such as Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Israel and Hamas conflict, increase in antisemitism and islamophobia, incident in Southport July 2024 and the summer riots, increase of Extreme Right Wing (ERW) rhetoric, immigration and the impact of mis and disinformation.</p> <p>Following the summer 2024 riots there have been several national reviews and publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southport Inquiry: terms of reference• Prevent learning review: Southport attack• Prevent learning review: Sir David Amess attack <p>The most recent of the reports (Independent report: Lessons for Prevent) may see a number of changes brought for Prevent delivery over the coming year. There has been a lack of clarity on the thresholds within which Prevent operates. To support frontline professionals and practitioners, the Home Office has brought together existing guidance into the Key Principles of Prevent document, alongside FAQs which have been shared to the Kent and Medway Prevent team.</p> <p>We have seen the proscription of several organisations such as Palestine Action - Proscribed terrorist groups or organisations – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>The Netflix series ‘Adolescence’ released in March 2025, received significant focus, highlighting the rise in toxic masculinity and InCeldom, as a result there has been an increase in requests for the delivery of training on: <i>"InCels: Online Subculture of Misogyny."</i></p> <p>The latest Prevent statistics between April 2023 and March 2024², show there was an increase in</p>

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Prevent referrals compared to the previous year (*further increases are expected to be seen with the release of the April 2024 – March 2025 stats later this year*).

- 6,922 referrals made to Prevent in the year ending 31 March 2024, in England and Wales
- 1,200 referrals made to Prevent in the Southeast, which accounted for the highest proportion of all referrals made (17%; 1,200 of 6,922)

Strategies and Guiding Frameworks

CONTEST - the Government's [UK counter-terrorism strategy](#) (known as CONTEST) was most recently updated in 2023 with an overarching aim to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK, its citizens and interests overseas.

PREVENT forms part of the CONTEST strategy and aims to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, Prevent work also extends to supporting rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism. The **Prevent Duty is statutory** and places a legal obligation on certain public bodies including [local authorities](#).

Prevent Duty Guidance (PDG)

The objectives of Prevent are to:

1. tackle the ideological causes of terrorism.
2. intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation.
3. enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

The [Channel Programme](#) is part of PREVENT. Channel uses a multi-agency approach to;

- identify people at risk.
- assess the nature and extent of that risk
- develop the most appropriate support plan for the person concerned.

Channel provides early support for anyone who is at risk of radicalisation, supporting terrorist organisations, or committing acts of terrorism, regardless of age, faith, ethnicity, or background. People can receive support before they begin on, or once they are on a trajectory towards participating in terrorist related activity. Cases should not be adopted onto Channel where no such terrorism concerns exist.

The [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#) (CTSA) placed the **Channel program** on a **statutory** footing and created a **duty on each local authority** in England and Wales to ensure that there is a panel in place for its area. **Statutory guidance** for Channel panels was originally published in March 2015. The success of Channel is dependent on the co-operation and coordinated activity of partners.

Prevent Priority Area (*designated by the Home Office*) - Since April 2019 Kent and Medway has remained a designated Prevent priority area which brings with it additional Home Office funding to increase local resources, namely a Prevent Coordinator, Prevent Education Officers and a Prevent Community Engagement Officer. For the year ahead (2025/26) Kent and Medway continues to receive priority status, one of a number across the country and the only priority area in the Southeast.

The **Kent and Medway Prevent Team** deliver Prevent activity across the county, including managing the Channel process, providing training and awareness, engaging with schools, other educational establishments, community groups and many other settings. The team also monitor online sentiment, support agencies locally in understanding and responding to the risk of terrorism and radicalisation as well as delivering and leading on work for teams within KCC and Medway Unitary Authority and commissioned services under the Prevent Duty.

Hate Crime

Overview and Prevalence

Hate crime is defined as ‘any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. There are 5 centrally monitored strands of hate crime including: race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and transgender identity. An offence may also be motivated by hatred towards a characteristic that is not currently centrally monitored and therefore does not form part of the nationally collected data, for example, age or gender.

The Home Office report on [Hate Crime in England and Wales](#) (year ending March 2024)³ reported:

- Overall Hate Crimes: 140,561 hate crimes recorded, a 5% decrease from the previous year (147,645). This marks the second consecutive annual decline.
- Trend Overview: Prior to the recent declines, hate crime reports had been rising steadily from 2013 (42,255 offences) to 2022 (155,841 offences), largely due to improvements in crime recording practices and better identification of what constitutes hate crime.
- Race Hate Crimes: These made up the majority (7 in 10) of all hate crimes. There were 98,799 offences, down 5% from 103,625 the previous year. The drop was mainly in offences involving public fear, alarm or distress, and malicious communications.
- There were falls in 4 of the monitored strands (race, disability, sexual orientation and transgender) and an increase in religious hate crimes over the past year.
- Religious Hate Crimes: increased by 25%, from 8,370 to 10,484 offences, driven by a rise in offences against Jewish people, and to a lesser extent Muslims, particularly since the Israel-Hamas conflict began.³

In the Chief Constable’s report to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner’s Performance and Delivery Board in May 2025⁴ it was reported that Hate Crime experienced a decrease of -22.8% with 1,129 less offences over a 4-year period from 2021/22 to 2024/2025. During 2024/25, there were 3,813 recorded hate crimes in Kent, a -9.8% decrease (415 less offences) compared to the previous year. There is an overall decreasing trend with peaks in July to September and lower volumes in January to March (as with overall VBC)⁴.

Police recorded data does not necessarily provide the true prevalence of hate crime, as many incidents go unreported. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) is considered a better measure as it captures unreported incidents through a face-to-face victimisation survey, and is unaffected by changes in recording practices¹. However, the last available data from the CSEW covered the period up to the end of 2020 and the next dataset is not expected to be released until later in 2025.

Strategies and Guiding Frameworks

The UK published a Hate Crime Action plan in 2016 which was last updated in 2018 and whilst there is no single strategy currently in place to tackle Hate Crime, the UK government’s approach is embedded within many broader frameworks,

National Hate Crime Awareness Week is a national campaign taking place annually in October to bring people together across the UK to advocate against all forms of hate crime and make communities a safer place to be.

Kent does not have a standalone hate crime strategy but embeds hate crime and support for victims within broader strategic documents such as the Police and Crime Plan 2025 – “Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust” and the Kent Community Safety Agreement.

Appendix B: Kent Community Safety Agreement - Priorities and Actions 2024/25

References:

- 1) Counter Terrorism Policing: [Media Release](#) (13 March 2025)
- 2) [Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme, April 2023 to March 2024 - GOV.UK](#)
- 3) [Hate crime, England and Wales, year ending March 2024](#) (published October 2024)
- 4) [Chief Constable's Report to the Police and Crime Commissioners Performance and Delivery Board \(May 2025\) – Making Kent Safer Plan 2022-25 Report](#)

2024/25 Actions	Summary of Partnership Activity – Year End 2024/25
Work in partnership to share information about Prevent and Channel alongside the referral process to reassert the overall objective of stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and Channel updates and action plan have been shared with partners, via the Prevent Duty Delivery Board, through Community Safety Partnerships, and wider engagement • The Counter Terrorism Local Profile and Situational Risk Assessment have been completed for 2024 and briefings shared with partners. • The Kent and Medway Prevent team continue to raise awareness of the issue across Kent and Medway and to cascade information and learning.
Work with partners to understand the key issues from the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) and Counter Terrorism Situational Risk Assessment (CTRSA) and encourage intelligence reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kent and Medway Prevent Education Officers (PEO's) have delivered training to thousands of people across the county including professionals and community organisations. • The Prevent Community Engagement Officer has worked with CSPs and partners across the county. • In 2024/2025 the fifth successful Hateful
Delivery of a Hateful Extremism CPD event sharing best practice and raising awareness and understanding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremism conference was delivered in February 2025, with 150 delegates attending in-person, and many more attending virtually. A wide range of agencies were in attendance on the day including Kent Police, Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue Service, charities, and some community members and voluntary organisations
Delivery of Countering the Extreme Right Wing Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five sessions on Countering the Extreme Right Wing were delivered during 2024/25 in various locations across Kent providing awareness training for adults to help upskill attendees to understand the Extreme Right Wing and how to address it.
Work in partnership to educate and raise awareness to increase the reporting of hate crime; increase access to support for victims; to provide safeguarding and support for hate crimes, early identification of other vulnerabilities, and to improve the operational response to hate crimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly hate crime surgeries for frontline police officers and working groups have addressed barriers to reporting, and a podcast is in development. • The Hate Crime Booklet developed for use within educational settings has been enhanced, and a Local Hate Crime Forum has been established.

The 2025/26 Action Plan includes a range of partnership activities including:

- Sharing the learning and outcomes from national reviews and changes to statutory guidance
- Raising awareness of Martyn’s Law
- Promoting Prevent and SOC Awareness week and associated training and communications
- Working with partners to understand the key issues
- Delivery of the Hateful Extremism event and Countering the Extreme Right Wing Training

The Prevent Education Officers (PEO’s) have worked on a new training strategy with the aim to offer more to Secondary Education settings.

The Prevent Community Engagement Officer (PCEO) continues to work alongside all 12 Kent district/borough Community Safety Units and Medway Community Safety Unit as well as working with the Kent Police Community Liaison Officers to ensure Prevent is embedded across the county. This allows for local context information to be escalated directly to the PCEO when there are concerns.

Due to the continued success of the Hateful Extremism event over the last five years, plans are in place to deliver the next event in February 2026 partially funded by the KCSP using some of the Crime Reduction Grant allocated by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner.

Priority: Substance Misuse

Context
<p>Overview and Prevalence</p> <p>A national review by Dame Carol Black estimated the UK illicit drugs market at £9.4 billion annually, with around 2.9 million people aged 16–59 using drugs in the past year, including 1 million using Class A drugs.^{1,2} In Kent, approximately 81,000 people use illegal drugs, with 32,000 using Class A drugs such as heroin and crack cocaine. The estimated number of opiate and/or crack users (OCUs) is 5,647, with a 63% unmet treatment need—higher than the national average of 54%.³</p> <p>Between January 2020 and December 2022, Kent recorded 205 drug misuse deaths, with a direct age-standardised rate (DSR) of 4.5 per 100,000—higher than the South East average (4.1), but lower than the England average (5.2). In 2023/24, Kent saw 194 alcohol-specific deaths, a slight increase from the previous year. While Kent’s drug-related mortality remains below national levels, the emergence of synthetic opioids like nitazenes—hundreds of times more potent than heroin—poses a growing threat. These substances are increasingly found in adulterated drug supplies and contribute to rising mortality. In response, Kent County Council (KCC) Public Health is working closely with partners including police, hospitals, and substance misuse providers through the Local Drug Information System (LDIS). This multi-agency network enables rapid sharing of intelligence, warnings, and guidance to help keep people safe. KCC also collaborates with councils across the country to share best practices for tackling dangerous copycat substances.</p> <p>Drug and alcohol addiction continue to drive complex and costly social issues, including homelessness and rising demand on children’s social care.¹ Nationally, the drugs market is linked to half of all homicides and acquisitive crimes.⁴ Mental health needs are widespread among those accessing treatment, with 72% of new entrants reporting co-occurring conditions such as anxiety, depression, or severe mental illness. Housing insecurity is also significant: 39% of opiate users and</p>

23% of psychoactive substance users are at risk of homelessness.⁵ Locally, KCC Public Health is working with the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Board on the Alcohol Thematic Review. This partnership has identified growing concerns around individuals presenting with alcohol dependency, mental health challenges, and alcohol-related cognitive impairment. These insights are informing strategies to improve early intervention, integrated care pathways, and safeguarding responses.

The Department of Health estimates a £3 social return for every £1 invested in alcohol treatment.⁶ Public Health England guidance highlights how commissioners can use Social Return on Investment (SROI) evaluations to demonstrate the economic and social benefits of treatment, including reduced crime, improved health outcomes, and stronger community resilience.⁷

Strategies and Guiding Frameworks

In response to the Professor Dame Carol Black review mentioned above, the government published its **10 year drugs plan** to combat illegal drugs titled '**From Harm to Hope**' sets out how national and local partners will focus on delivering three strategic priorities: Break drug supply chains; Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system; Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs".⁸

In line with the 2021 national drug strategy, the **Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy**⁹ was produced to run from 2023 to 2028 and was informed by extensive stakeholder involvement—including law enforcement, healthcare providers, and community support services—with the aim of combat drug-related and alcohol related harm. The strategy has a stakeholder Alliance and a strategic executive group (which acts as the Combatting Drugs Partnership) in Kent. The **Substance Misuse Alliance**; the stakeholder engine room for delivering the strategy, is Chaired by Diane Morton, Lead Member for Social Care and Public Health and meets quarterly. The Senior Responsible Officer for Combatting Drugs Partnership is, Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health, supported by representatives from public health consultant and specialist, commissioners, local police, probation services, substance misuse service providers, and non-profits focused on drug and alcohol dependency. Its governance ensures that objectives align with both national and local priorities, fostering collaboration among key community partners. The senior executive group meets quarterly and drives the substance misuse strategy and gets reports from each of the sub groups. All of the key groups include police and police partnerships. In addition the Police leadership have their own structures where they lead on county lines, prevention and organised crime. The Kent strategy for tackling substance misuse has 13 key priorities and is delivering positive outcomes.

The 13 Priorities for the Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy are:

- Improve Prevention, early intervention and behaviour change
- Early Help: Create better Prevention to Treatment Pathways
- Improve hospital and acute pathways to treatment
- Better support for children and young people living with alcohol misusing parents / Preventing inter-generational alcohol misuse
- Tackling High Rates of Suicide and Self Harm associated with substance misuse
- Continue Improvements to Treatment and Recovery Services
- Improve Criminal Justice Routes to Substance Misuse Treatment
- Improve Treatment and Recovery for Targeted Groups/ Vulnerable People
- Improve Pathways to Treatment and Recovery to Rough Sleepers
- Improve treatment and recovery for people with co-occurring conditions
- Work 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
- Disrupt Supply of Illegal Drugs

Appendix B: Kent Community Safety Agreement - Priorities and Actions 2024/25

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

References:

1) Home Office. Independent Report (Dame Carol Black) – Review of drugs: Summary (updated 17 September 2020); Review of drugs: summary (accessible version) - GOV.UK

2) Office for National Statistics (ONS), Drug misuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2024. ONS Drug Misuse Report

3) National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). Adults – drug commissioning support pack 2023-24: key data

4) Dept. of Health & Social Care. Independent Report - Review of Drugs part two: prevention, treatment, and recovery (updated 2 August 2021)

5) Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Adult substance misuse treatment statistics 2023 to 2024: report. (Published 28 November 2024) - Adult substance misuse treatment statistics 2023 to 2024: report - GOV.UK

6) Kent Public Health Observatory Alcohol Needs Assessment (December 2021)

7) Public Health England (2016). Social return on investment of alcohol and drug treatment: A guide for commissioners. Social return on investment of alcohol and drug treatment - GOV.UK

8) UK Gov. Policy Paper. From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives (updated 29 April 2022)

9) Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2023-2028. Substance-misuse-strategy-2023-to-2028.pdf

2024/25 Actions	Summary of Partnership Activity – Year End 2024/25
Work in partnership to deliver the national 10 year ‘From Harm to Hope’ drugs strategy and the Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2023-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Combatting Drug Partnerships and Kent Substance Misuse Alliance meeting are held regularly to support the delivery of the national and local substance misuse strategies.• A pilot project focusing on preventing alcohol-related falls among older people is in the planning stages.• Work is ongoing with partners to increase the number of opiate patients in treatment• Subgroups have been established to drive forward the 13 priorities (detailed above) around drug and alcohol reduction. This includes agreeing terms of reference for each group and establishing regular partnership meetings.• Partners and stakeholders have been invited to participate in the creation of delivery plans to address the priority themes. This work is ongoing and now includes a children and young people workstream.• An in-person conference on alcohol-related brain damage was delivered in March 2025, with over 300 attendees at the event. The key note speaker on the day was Dame Carol Black who is a great advocate within central Government for people with substance misuse issue. Following the event resources are being developed.

2025/26 Action Plan (in-progress)
<p>The actions detailed in the 2024/25 action plan are continuing for 2025/26 with ongoing activities focused around supporting partnership delivery of the Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy.</p> <p>The KCSP is using some of the funding provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver training to responsible authorities in the use and powers of the Licensing Act 2003, to upskill new staff and as a refresher for those already involved in licensing. Alcohol Awareness Week took place in July 2025 and included promotion of the ‘know your score campaign’ to raise awareness of the support services available in Kent for adults seeking to reduce their intake through a brief intervention assessment. Evaluation of the campaign is in progress. Ongoing collaborative work with the Police on drug projects through the community safety partnership.</p>

Priority: Road Safety

Context
<p>Overview and Prevalence</p> <p>Road Safety is often raised by communities as a key concern, especially the perception of road danger and speeding vehicles. Whilst most local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) do not include road safety as a priority within their local plans it is not simply because it is not a concern but that local partnerships are limited in their ability to impact on this particular issue. At a county level Road Safety remains a priority within the CSA.</p> <p>Joint working between agencies is key to supporting Road Safety and in Kent the ‘Kent and Medway Safer Roads Partnership (KMSRP)’ brings together key partners to coordinate road safety interventions, enforcement, engineering and supporting publicity. The Kent and Medway Safer Roads Partnership are currently developing a joint strategy, which will support Vision Zero and the Safe System. It is governed by a Strategic Board that is chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent and includes a Cabinet Member and Head of Service for KCC, Chairman of Kent & Medway Fire and Rescue Authority, Assistant Director for Customer & Building Safety, Customer Engagement & Safety from Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS).</p> <p>Data from personal injury crashes is collected by Kent Police and then cleansed and validated by Kent County Council. Following this, the data is sent to the Department for Transport (DFT) for final review against national figures before it is made public.</p> <p>At the time of writing the Department for Transport (DFT) is yet to publish the Annual Road Casualty Statistics for 2024, however the Reported Road Casualties Great Britain, provisional estimates can be found at the following link: Reported road casualties in Great Britain, provisional estimates: 2024 - GOV.UK</p> <p>Provisional data for 2024 shows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3,803 total Casualties (13 Fatal, 587 Serious and 2,903 Slight) resulting from collisions on Kent and National Highways Roads (excluding Medway).• Compared to 2023 data there was an overall decrease in casualties of 719 (-16%).across all severities.• Since the introduction of Kent County Council’s Vision Zero strategy in September 2021, Killed or Very Seriously Injured Casualties (KVSII) are being looked at more closely rather than the traditional KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured). On this basis there was an increase in

Fatal casualties of 2 and a decrease of 56 KVSIs compared to 2023.

- The 36% decrease in KVSIs in 2024 compared to 2023 is set against an estimated 2% year-on-year increase in Kent's traffic levels¹ (*Data sourced from DfT road traffic estimates TRA8901*).

Strategies and Guiding Frameworks

In September 2021 KCC adopted a **five year Road Safety Strategy for Kent** and a **30 year vision**². The long-term vision behind the strategy is that by 2050 there will be zero, or as close as possible, road fatalities or life-changing injuries on our road network. The strategy uses a safe system approach. **Safe System** is an approach to road safety and traffic management that starts with the idea that everyone has the right to be safe on the highway network. This is rooted in the belief that every traffic death reflects a failure in the system, and that none are acceptable. It is a methodology that sees all aspects of the system interacting with each other and looks at network risks to prioritise interventions. The Safe System Approach is a proactive methodology to achieve zero deaths. This approach comprises the following themes:

- Safe roads and streets – designing our highway network to reduce the chances and consequences of collisions.
- Safe speeds – designing roads and enforcing speed limits appropriate to the usage and environment.
- Safe behaviour – education, training, publicity, engineering, enforcement, and technology to improve the way people use Kent's roads and streets.
- Safe vehicles – ensure the vehicles on the Kent network are as safe as they can be by promoting safer technology for car and goods vehicle fleets.
- Post collision response – react as quickly as possible to crashes, study the causes of the most serious collisions, and provide support for the victims of road crashes.

As part of exploring options for a more proactive approach to road safety engineering, enforcement and behavioural change interventions, trials of new and emerging technology and tools have been undertaken to consider if and how they can be incorporated in our safe system approach. These have included trials in the use of average speed camera technology and AI seatbelt and mobile phone enforcement cameras. We are actively identifying data sources to supplement our use of collision and casualty data- examples include connected vehicle data to identify risks and a trial using British Horse Society data on highway related incident and near miss location collected by their members.

The structure of the **Kent and Medway Safer Roads Partnership** (KMSRP) reflects the safe system structure and methodology, with working groups for each of the five system themes as well as over-arching working groups focusing on the following:

- Tactical Coordination of the partnership.
- Communication and engagement.
- Performance monitoring.
- Weekly partnership activity.

The KCSP will continue to work with partners to support the road safety agenda including raising awareness with partners around the Vision Zero strategy. The following actions and progress updates highlight just some of the key areas that partners have already worked on together to help address road safety.

References:

- 1) *Road traffic estimates (TRA) - GOV.UK (TRA8901: Motor vehicle traffic by local authority). Published 12 June 2025.*
- 2) *Vision Zero – The Road Safety Strategy for Kent*

Appendix B: Kent Community Safety Agreement - Priorities and Actions 2024/25

2024/25 Actions	Summary of Partnership Activity – Year End 2024/25
Raise awareness of road safety campaigns across partnerships to facilitate joint working.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During 2024/25, partnership engagement in road safety has increased, with local Community Safety Partnerships requesting updates and involvement at meetings.• Road safety campaigns have been disseminated through corporate communications teams, and preparations are underway to develop campaign toolkits for consistent messaging across partner organisations and social media platforms.• The Kent & Medway Safer Road Partnership continues to review working group outcomes and ensure the application of the safe system approach. The first draft of the joint Kent & Medway road safety strategy is currently under review, with publication pending
Support delivery of Vision Zero	
2025/26 Action Plan (in-progress)	
The actions detailed in the 2024/25 action plan are continuing for 2025/26 with ongoing activities focused around sharing information about road safety campaigns and supporting the delivery of Vision Zero led by KCC Highways and the multi-agency Road Safety Partnership	