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**To:** Kent Community Safety Partnership – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**Classification:** For Decision

**Subject:** Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

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**Summary** This report details the annual review of the Kent Community Safety Agreement, recommended priorities for 2022/23 and an update on the current action plan.

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## **1.0 Background**

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

## **2.0 Introduction**

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

2.2 In the last review of the CSA which took place in March 2021 the priorities remained the same as the previous year but a new cross-cutting theme of 'Response and Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic' was added to reflect the impacts that the pandemic had on all the priorities. The current published version took effect from April 2021.

2.3 The following report details the latest review process that has been undertaken including the proposed refresh to the priorities and cross-cutting themes.

## **3.0 CSA Review Process**

3.1 The review of the new Community Safety Agreement has taken into consideration the outcome of local district/borough strategic assessments, partnership plans, emerging issues and new legislation. Details of these elements are included in the draft refresh of the Community Safety Agreement attached.

- 3.2 Local district/borough Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) are in the process of undertaking their annual strategic assessments to identify their priorities and develop local plans for 2022/23. At the time of writing, draft priorities have been received from six CSPs. The assessment process this year has been affected by delays in the centralised sourcing of partnership data due to a staffing issue, which will be resolved ahead of next year's assessment process. The following are some of the main issues that are emerging either as a priority, cross-cutting theme or as part of a broader theme. Whilst many of the overarching key issues faced by community safety partners remain largely the same, it is the focus areas and action plans which tend to change in response to the needs of the community. It should be noted this year, that several CSPs have identified Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) as a focus area within their plans. As some CSPs are still in the process of agreeing their priorities for the coming year, some of themes from the list below may well change however it is not anticipated there will be significant changes to the types of priorities identified:
- Tackling Violence
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Anti-Social Behaviour
  - Safeguarding and Vulnerability
  - Strengthening Communities
  - Serious and Organised Crime
  - Substance Misuse
  - Mental Health
  - Reducing Offending and Reoffending
  - Extremism & Hate
  - Crime
  - Violence Against Women & Girls
- 3.3 In terms of partnership data there has been a delay in undertaking the analysis which would normally be presented as part of this review. This information is currently being reviewed and the CSA appendices will be updated to reflect the outcomes. Despite this, it is not anticipated that the data will show any anomalies that partners have not already identified and fed into the process as part of the refresh. If anything significant does arise which could impact the priorities, KCSP members will be contacted before publication.
- 3.4 Using PESTELO analysis members of the KCSP Working Group helped to identify existing or emerging issues and opportunities that may need to be considered. One area of concern is the ongoing impact of the pandemic and other world events which have led to increases in the cost of living as well as a higher demand for services and support. Another issue which has been identified by partners is Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), this is consistent with the early findings from the local CSPs priorities. Many of the other safeguarding issues which were identified previously such as preventing extremism, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, online safety, looked after children etc. remain an area of focus and reflect the issues being identified within the legislation and partnership plans. A summary of the PESTELO analysis is included in Appendix C of the attached document
- 3.5 In addition, the Police and Crime Plan, which is produced by the Police and Crime Commissioner, has also been taken into consideration when refreshing the CSA as the KCSP has a statutory duty to have due regard to the objectives set out in the plan. The PCC has recently developed a new 3-year plan entitled 'Making Kent Safer' April 2022 to March 2025. The plan includes a set of guiding principles, key priorities and sets out what the PCC will do. As a brief summary, the focus areas for the priorities include: antisocial behaviour, violence against women & girls (VAWG), exploitation and abuse, organised crime & county lines, communities, road safety, and protecting young people. Further details can be found in Appendix D of the attached CSA and the full plan will be available on the Police website in due course.

## 4.0 Proposed Changes

- 4.1 There have been a number of minor changes within the document (as detailed in the version control) however the most significant updates are in the chapters covering key changes to the community safety landscape, key achievements, and county priorities as well as in appendices C and D which detail the horizon scanning (PESTELO) and the Police and Crime Plan (appendices A and B are still to be updated).
- 4.2 Last year the most significant issue to arise was the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and as mentioned in the introduction above, a new cross-cutting theme of '*Response and Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic*' was added. Although most restrictions in England have been lifted (at the time of writing), and we have moved into the recovery phase, Coronavirus is still present in the community and we are now learning to live with it. It is therefore proposed to retain the theme but to adapt it slightly to acknowledge the potential impacts of other significant events, not just the current pandemic, which could affect the work of community safety partners in the future. Therefore, it is recommended the cross-cutting theme be changed to '*Response and Recovery from Significant Community Events*'.
- 4.3 As highlighted in the above sections, Violence Against Women and Girls' (VAWG) has emerged as a significant concern and it is proposed to incorporate it within the CSA priorities. VAWG is an umbrella term used to cover a wide range of abuses against women and girls such as domestic homicide, domestic abuse, sexual assault, abuse experienced as a child, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, misogynistic behaviours of InCels (involuntary celibates), harassment in work and public life, etc. While men and boys also suffer from many of these forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women. Due to the nature of VAWG it could be included within a number of the existing priorities such as Serious Violence and Organised Crime, however it is proposed to add it to the Domestic Abuse priority and change the name to 'VAWG and Domestic Abuse'. Chapter 6 which details the priorities including the CSA diagram has been updated to reflect this recommendation and the recommendation outlined in 4.2 above.
- 4.4 Similar to last year's review whilst most of the current CSA priorities have been identified in the strategic assessments and community safety plans of local CSPs, 'Road Safety' is rarely listed as a standalone priority. This 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 is still a focus for partners and with the introduction of the Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy last year and the inclusion of the following priority in the new Police and Crime Plan 'Prevent road danger and support Vision Zero', it is recommended that it remain within the CSA. The KCSP is asked to note that the lead for this priority is the Kent and Medway Road Casualty Reduction Partnership and they will report back to the KCSP as necessary.
- 4.5 Conversely whilst Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) remains a specific focus for most local CSPs it should be noted that there are limited opportunities for County partners to contribute to this priority as the operational activities are undertaken by district / borough community safety partners. Whilst the focus of ASB tends to sit with local partners, as the purpose of the CSA is to outline the main priorities for the whole county and ASB is still part of the original remit of CSPs it is recommended that it should remain as a priority in the latest refresh.

- 4.6 It is clear from the latest review that the majority of the current priorities and cross-cutting themes appropriately reflect the key issues for community safety partners and as such it is recommended that they are retained within the CSA with the suggested changes to the Domestic Abuse priority and the cross-cutting theme as outlined below:

#### **Priorities**

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- VAWG\* and Domestic Abuse
- Substance Misuse
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Serious Violence and Organised Crime
- Preventing Extremism and Hate
- Road Safety

#### **Cross Cutting Themes**

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

*\*Violence against women and girls*

### **5.0 Equality Impact Assessment**

- 5.1 As part of the CSA refresh the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is being reviewed. The aim of the CSA is to make Kent's communities safer and stronger by bringing together partners from across the county to agree the key priorities and to develop joined-up approaches. Whilst it is recognised that some people may be more vulnerable and at greater risk of becoming a victim, the CSA is intended to benefit all residents and as such it is not anticipated that any identified group should be adversely impacted by the CSA or the activities within the action plan. In addition, in compliance with current requirements the document will be accessibility checked prior to publication.

### **6.0 CSA Action Plan and Achievements**

- 6.1 Partners are continuing to work towards the activities identified in the current CSA action plan linking in with various organisations and multi-agency groups across the county to help tackle the identified priorities and themes. The KCSP Working Group which meets as a sub-group of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is monitoring the activities set out in the Action Plan and reviewed the latest update at their meeting in January 2022.
- 6.2 Key achievements for 2021/22 delivered by partners are outlined in Chapter 5 of the draft Community Safety Agreement as well as in other papers that will be presented at the meeting including: Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR); project delivery, workshops and events, information sharing, etc. Final feedback on all the actions within the plan will be sought from partners at year-end, and if appropriate some additional details may be added to the key achievements section.
- 6.3 Following the refresh of the Community Safety Agreement, the action plan will also be reviewed and updated for 2022/23 by the KCSP Working Group with the support of the Kent Community Safety Team.

## **7.0 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee**

- 7.1 The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced the requirement for a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee to review the work of the partnership, as such on an annual basis KCC's Scrutiny Committee meets as the Crime and Disorder committee to act as a critical friend to scrutinise and challenge the work of the partnership and the outcomes from the Community Safety Agreement.
- 7.2 The Committee is due to meet on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to review the CSA and the work of the partnership. The lead agencies for each of the CSA priorities will be in attendance to represent the KCSP and respond to any queries raised. Any recommendations or suggested changes arising from Scrutiny will be fed back to the KCSP members and the Working Group for action as appropriate.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

- 8.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is asked to:
- consider and comment on the proposed changes to the refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement;
  - agree the priorities and cross-cutting themes for 2022/23;
  - note the upcoming Scrutiny Committee arrangements.

### **Attachments:**

Appendix A: Draft Refresh of Community Safety Agreement - April 2022

### **For Further Information:**

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