

Kent Community Safety Agreement



DRAFT
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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	April 2018	Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) - Updated document date to April 2018 - Ch.1 - reference added to 1.1 about version control - Ch.5 - achievements for 2017/18 added - Ch.6 - priorities/cross-cutting themes updated effective from April 2018, including refreshed diagram - Ch.7 - priority leads updated - Appendix A - strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B - MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D - Police & Crime Plan details updated
3.0	April 2019	Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) - Effective date changed to April 2019 - Ch.3 - updated legislation and addition of partnership changes and challenges - Ch.5 - achievements for 2018/19 added - Ch.6 - minor changes to the chapter acknowledging the 2019 review - Ch.8 - minor changes to the list of plans - Appendix A - strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B - MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D - minor change acknowledging the latest review of the Police & Crime Plan
4.0	April 2020	Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) - Effective date changed to April 2020 - Foreword – updated to reflect new version - Ch.3 - updated legislation partnership changes - Ch.5 - achievements for 2019/20 added - Ch.6 - minor change to one priority - Ch.7 - minor changes to the list of leads - Ch.8 - minor changes to the list of plans - Appendix A - strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B - MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D - minor change acknowledging the 2020 review - Appendix E – Kent CSA Priorities and Cross Cutting Themes

5.0	April 2021	<p>Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective date changed to April 2021 - Foreword - updated to reflect latest version - Ch.3 - updated legislation and partnership changes - Ch.4 - change to the named responsible authorities - Ch.5 - achievements for 2020/21 added - Ch.6 - addition of a new cross-cutting theme - Ch.9 - change to the named responsible authorities - Appendix A - strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B - MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix E - addition of a new cross-cutting theme - Logos - updated logos to reflect the changes to the responsible authorities
6.0	April 2022	<p>Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective date changed to April 2022 - Foreword – updated to reflect latest version - Ch.3 - changes made to the landscape, legislation and partnership challenges - Ch.5 - achievements for 2021/22 added - Ch.6 - changes made to priorities and cross-cutting themes, and diagram updated - Appendix A – strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B – MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D - new Police and Crime Plan added - Appendix E - amendments to reflect Ch.6 - Logos - updated agency logos added
7.0	April 2023	<p>Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective date changed to April 2023 - Foreword – updated to reflect latest version - Ch.3 – changes made to the landscape, legislation and partnership challenges - Ch.4 - change to the named responsible authorities - Ch.5 – achievements for 2022/23 added - Ch.6 – minor update around latest review - Ch.9 - change to the named responsible authorities - Appendix A – strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B – MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C – refreshed horizon scanning - Logos - updated agency logos added

- 8.0 April 2024 Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA)
- Effective date changed to April 2024
 - *Foreword – to be updated*
 - 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 B – to be updated*
 - Appendix C – refreshed horizon scanning
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Foreword

This page will be updated following consultation with the Chair of the Kent Community Safety Partnership prior to publication.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlines the key community safety 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. Legislation

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 commonly referred to now 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.

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.

National and International

- 3.1. International Conflicts: On 24th February 2024, the UK marked the two-year anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. Since the war began, thousands have been killed in the fighting, millions more have been forced from their homes, with thousands of Ukrainians finding refuge in the UK. Whilst undeniably the most significant impact of the war is on Ukraine and its residents, there are knock on effects across 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 were impacted, in particular food and energy costs. On 7th October 2023 the Israel-Hamas conflict began, with thousands reported killed or injured across Gaza and Israel in the following months and an estimated 1.7million of Gaza's population displaced. The recent conflict has seen political protests in the UK and increases nationally in hate crimes, antisemitism, and the impact surrounding the risk to increased radicalisation concerns. It is important for partners to be aware of any changes in community tensions or a rise in anti-Russian sentiment, antisemitism, islamophobia, and extreme right wing narratives, affecting community relations.
- 3.2. Cost of Living: The cost of living has been increasing across the UK since early 2021 (*House of Commons Research Briefing "The Rising Cost of Living in the UK", January 2024*). The annual rate of inflation reached a 41-year high in October 2022, before subsequently easing. Inflation rates affect the affordability of goods and services for households and whilst inflation rates are slowing or falling currently, the price levels are still higher than the year before. High inflation has been impacted by the global demand for consumer goods following the COVID-19 pandemic, related supply chain disruption, high energy and fuel prices linked in part to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and price rises in many areas of the domestic economy. The impact of the cost of living increases have been significant over the last few years but have had the greatest impact on low-income households who spend a larger proportion than average on energy and food, so are more affected by price increases. Food bank charities have reported an increase in demand. The Bank of England has been raising interest rates to try and lower the inflation rate, however this has led to higher borrowing costs for households, notably on mortgage interest rates. It would not be unexpected if

financial pressures led to increases in certain crime types including scams and fraud, retail crime/shoplifting, exploitation, as well as mental health issues, impacts on physical health, homelessness, etc.

- 3.3. Migration and Resettlement: Kent continues to see small boat crossings arriving in the county, although the numbers crossing in 2023 were lower than the previous year, there is the possibility of increased numbers in 2024. Kent County Council (KCC) has raised concerns about the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) that arrive in the county requiring the care of the local authority and the Home Office response to it, in particular the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) which aims to share the burden of care with other local authorities across the country. In July, the High Court ruled KCC must take “every possible step” to increase its capacity to accommodate and look after all unaccompanied asylum-seeking (UAS) children arriving in the county. As a result, KCC is required to identify accommodation which can be utilised to support UAS children at pace. There are currently a number of sites across Kent with more to be established over the coming year. It should be noted the High Court also found that the NTS and the management of the scheme is inadequate and for large periods unlawful; and the Home Office must resolve the issues and ensure that it works fairly and sustainably in the future. Community sentiments and tensions are being monitored, with some high-profile incidents relating to immigration seen in Kent in recent years. In October 2022 Kent saw a self-initiated terror attack at an immigration processing centre in Dover, the only terrorist attack in the UK for 2022. In addition there have been protests at a number of sites including a protest in Dover in March 2023. Going forward there continues to be the high possibility of both pro and anti-migrant related tensions occurring in Kent, which is consistent with the ongoing media coverage around ‘small boat’ migration.
- 3.4. 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 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 by Incels (involuntary celibates) and harassment in work and public life. While men and boys also suffer from many of these forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women. It is a topic of public interest following several high-profile cases in recent years, including the murders of Sarah Everard, Sabina Nessa, and the Kent Police Community Support Officer, Julia James. In 2021/22 the Home Office published a Strategy on [Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls](#); the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner’s (PCC) Police and Crime Plan entitled ‘[Making Kent Safer 2022-2025](#)’ includes this issue as a priority; alongside this the PCC also set up a Violence Against Women (VAWG) inquiry to develop a series of tangible recommendations to improve practices in Kent. In addition, VAWG was added as a new priority in 2022/23 for the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) as detailed in Chapter 6 of this document.

3.5. UK Strategies to Tackle Drugs and Crime:

In July 2021 the Home Office published the [Beating Crime Plan](#) '*Fewer victims, peaceful neighbourhoods, safe country*'. The plan 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 work on hidden harms, as well as work that the Government has been doing on domestic abuse and national cyber security strategies. Nationally the Government has invested in a number of programmes and funding schemes to help strengthen the ability to tackle these issues, including: Safer Streets Fund, Violence Reduction Units, Supporting Families Fund, and tackling drugs supply and county lines. Some of these funding streams and programmes are being utilised in Kent.

In December 2021 the Government published '[From Harm to Hope](#)' a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives by reducing the supply and demand for drugs and delivering a high-quality treatment and recovery system. The plan is the first Drugs Strategy which committed the whole Government along with public services to work together and share responsibility for creating a safer, healthier and more productive society. The main aims are to break drug supply chains; deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system; and reduce the demand for drugs through changing attitudes in society. Since the publication of the national plan, a significant amount of work has been undertaken in Kent to implement the requirements including the development of the Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy which takes a whole system approach, improving the range of partners signed up to the Kent Alliance for Substance Misuse and making better links to NHS. The strategy aims to prioritise the causes and consequences of drug and alcohol harm, implement a range of harm reduction strategies and ensure there are quality services for very high-risk families, vulnerable people and communities.

3.6. Anti-Social Behaviour: In March 2023 the Government launched a consultation looking at the relationship between Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), the role of CSPs and PCCs in tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) and the expansion of ASB powers. Simultaneously the Home Office published a research report on the Impact of ASB on individuals and communities, an update to the Statutory Guidance for frontline professionals, an update to the ASB principles, and an update on ASB Case Reviews (formerly referred to as Community Trigger). In November 2023, the findings and recommendations from the consultation were published, and as recently as February 2024 an update to the Government's ASB Action Plan was released. New legislation is currently going through Parliament in the form of the Criminal Justice Bill which aims to strengthen the ASB powers currently available to agencies, along with other measures such as tougher action on knife crime and drugs. In addition the Government has confirmed additional funding for Police to tackle ASB, working with partners to take a problem solving approach and engage with communities. Local partners will be working together to assess the

impact of the changes and to consider implementation going forwards into 2024/25.

- 3.7. Retail Crime: In October 2023 a retail crime action plan was launched, commissioned by the Policing Minister, which sets out policing's commitment to tackling shoplifting and includes advice to retailers on how to provide the best possible evidence for police to pursue in any case. The issue of shoplifting has seen much coverage in the media in the last year and whilst the focus of the action plan relates mainly to police and business retailers there may be elements that the wider partnership is able to support or signpost to.

Changes to Legislation

- 3.8. Domestic Abuse: The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021. The Act introduced a Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales with an amendment to the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004), requiring CSPs to send completed DHR reports to the DA Commissioner. In addition, the DA Commissioner's office has developed plans in line with their powers regarding greater oversight of DHRs (particularly the learning and recommendations), as well as other reviews which incorporate DA (such as Safeguarding Adult Reviews). The DA Commissioner has powers to compel public bodies to cooperate with their office and make recommendations for public bodies to respond to within 56 days. The Act gives Tier 1 authorities with support from Tier 2 authorities, statutory requirements linked to support within safe accommodation services, sanctuary, and move-on accommodation. The Act also requires Tier 1 authorities to; create a Local Partnership Board with responsibility for conducting a needs assessment (available [here](#)); b) complete a Domestic Abuse Strategy on safe accommodation (available [here](#)); c) undertake commissioning activity in relation to accommodation-based services for both adult survivors and their children; and d) monitor delivery against the strategy. In March 2022 the Home Office published the [Tackling Domestic Abuse Action Plan](#) which sets out how various aspects of the Domestic Abuse Act will be delivered and will complement the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. In July 2022 the Home Office published [statutory guidance on Domestic Abuse](#) to assist with the implementation of the Act including guidance and support to frontline professionals and sharing of best practice. In March 2024 a Kent and Medway cross Partnership Domestic Abuse strategy was launched, developed by working with those with lived experience, and those who support them. This strategy includes clear commitments which will be monitored through the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Executive Board.
- 3.9. Serious Violence: On 28th April 2022 the 'Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022' introduced a new duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence. In December 2022 the Government published its statutory guidance for responsible authorities on the [Serious Violence Duty](#). The guidance provided information about the new duty including

changes to section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, ensuring preventing and reducing serious violence is a priority for community safety partnerships (CSPs). The guidance also outlined the requirement for strategic needs assessments and Serious Violence Strategies. The KCSP worked in partnership with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and the 20 specified authorities named in the duty, along with the relevant authorities (Education and Prisons) and other key partners across Kent and Medway to meet the requirements set out in the guidance. Since the introduction of the guidance a 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, with a focus on three key strands including 'Sexual violence and domestic abuse', 'Serious youth violence', and 'Violence linked to drugs and alcohol'.

- 3.10. Fire Safety: The Fire Safety Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021 and commenced on 16 May 2022, followed by the Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 which came into force on 23 January 2023. The Act was introduced to clarify who is responsible for managing and reducing fire risks in different parts of multi-occupational residential buildings to prevent future tragedies, such as the Grenfell Tower fire where 72 people lost their lives. The regulations are an important step towards implementing the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. Whilst these pieces of legislation do not directly affect the work of the multi-agency partnership, the requirements of the Act will make it easier for responsible authorities within the KCSP such as the Fire and Rescue Service to enforce the new duties and ultimately make the lives of residents in Kent safer.
- 3.11. Online Safety: The Online Safety Act 2023 received Royal Assent on 26 October 2023 and contains a range of measures intended to improve online safety in the UK, including duties on platforms about having systems and processes in place to manage harmful and illegal content on their sites. The aim is to keep internet users safe from fraudulent and other potentially harmful content and prevent children from accessing damaging material. The Act is intended to keep pace with emerging technologies and will regulate Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated content in much the same way that it does content created by humans.
- 3.12. Future Considerations: National consultations on a variety of community safety related topics may lead to future changes in legislation or statutory guidance. The Government consulted on a Victims Bill which aimed to build on the foundations provided by the Victims Code to improve victims' experiences within the criminal justice system, this is currently progressing through parliament as the Victims and Prisoners Bill. Some of the areas being looked at include community based support services and advocacy support. The Government also announced it will be introducing new legislation as a result of terror attacks in public spaces, such as happened at the Manchester Arena and other smaller scale attacks; with the

aim to consider security measures at publicly accessible locations. The new Protect Duty, known as [Martyn's Law](#) will place a requirement on those responsible for certain locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures. The [Criminal Justice Bill](#) (as mentioned in section 3.6) will strengthen the powers available to the police and other agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour as well as strengthening the accountability of community safety partnerships in relation to ASB. In addition the bill will include a range of measures relating to tougher action on knife crime and drugs, new offences to help tackle violence against women and girls, new powers to tackle serious and organised crime, etc. In December 2023, the Government released '[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)' – a guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children, replacing the 2018 edition. The statutory guidance applies to all organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children, and sets out key roles for organisations and agencies to deliver effective arrangements for help, support, safeguarding and protection. [Advances in technology](#) such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) are also worthy of note for future consideration as an emerging and developing issue which has the potential to impact many areas of our lives both positively and negatively.

Partnership Changes and Challenges

- 3.13. [Violence Reduction](#): In 2019, the OPCC was successful in being awarded Home Office funding to set up a multi-agency Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in Kent to deliver a range of violence reduction projects. A further three-year funding settlement was received in 2022 enabling the VRU to remain in place until March 2025. In 2022 the Government introduced the Serious Violence Duty which required specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including implementing a strategy for the delivery of this duty. Some of the challenges for partners going forward will be to fully embed the Serious Violence Duty, deliver against the aims of the recently completed strategy and tackle the issue of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). In addition, as the Government funding for the VRU in Kent is currently due to end in March 2025, the Serious Violence Board is working on a financial and cultural sustainability plan.
- 3.14. [Increases in Service Demand / Resource Pressures](#): Due to the legacy of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis the demand and needs for services remain high while costs increase, and budgets are constrained. The pandemic and associated lockdowns created an increased demand for some support services, one example of which was an increased demand for domestic abuse and sexual violence services. The PCC was successful in bidding for additional funding from the Ministry of Justice to support local domestic abuse and sexual violence support service providers which includes increasing the number of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers and Sexual Violence Advisers in Kent as well as gaining Home Office funding for domestic abuse and stalking perpetrator

programmes. Whilst this was welcome news, in general public sector organisations continue to deal with financial challenges and many are having to closely consider the services that are being delivered.

- 3.15. Right Care, Right Person (RCRP): is a new operational triage model that provides guidance on how Police respond to health related calls to ensure that vulnerable people get the right type of support from the correct services to assist with their needs. Under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA), the police will work with other services (such as the ambulance service, NHS, social services, mental health services and the fire service) to help give vulnerable people the care and support they need from the right agency. RCRP is being adopted by all forces in England and Wales and Kent Police are working closely with partners to deliver the new initiative to ensure vulnerable people receive the specialist health support they need from the appropriate agency
- 3.16. NHS Kent and Medway: In April 2021, NHS England formally accredited Kent and Medway as an Integrated Care System (ICS) as a successor to the STP. On 28 April 2022 the Health and Care Act 2022 received Royal Assent moving the ICS to a statutory footing with the establishment of Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs). As of 1 July 2022, Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in the NHS in England. The Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (referred to as NHS Kent and Medway) is a statutory organisation that plans and buys healthcare services to meet the needs of the Kent and Medway population and brings the NHS together locally to improve population health and establish shared strategic priorities within the NHS. When NHS Kent and Medway ICB replaced the CCG it became a statutory partner within the Kent Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.17. Kent and Medway Prevent: Kent and Medway remains a Prevent priority area, 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. The strategic Prevent Duty Delivery Board and internal KCC and Medway Cross Directorate Groups continue to meet regularly. Following the [Independent Review of Prevent](#) (IRP) the Government published updated documentation including the CONTEST strategy (July '23), the Prevent Guidance (September '23) and Channel Guidance (October '23). Whilst the guidance has been updated at a national level the Kent and Medway Prevent Team continue to work with partners locally to implement any relevant changes and to update the latest Counter-Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) which sets the priorities for Kent and Medway 2024/2025 along with the Counter-Terrorism Strategic Risk Assessment (CTSRA) which will be shared with partners (as appropriate) to help raise the profile and understanding of the issues. February 2024 saw the [year on review](#) by the Home Office of the IRP showing the significant progress in implementing the review's recommendations, with 30 of the 34 recommendations now

completed. This has in turn delivered a renewed Prevent capability, which holds the mission of tackling terrorist ideologies at its core and responds confidently to emerging threats facing the UK. Prevent will continue to deliver the high standards we have committed to, and remains agile in responding to the ever-changing threat picture in the UK.

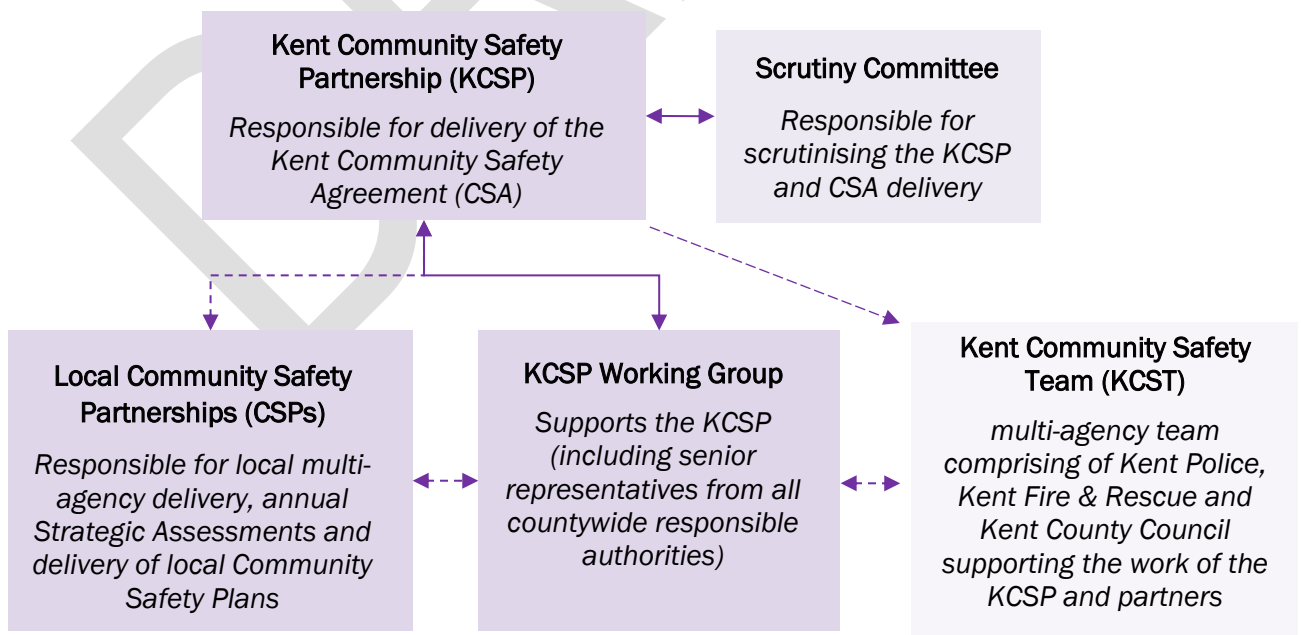
- 3.18. Vision Zero (Road Safety Strategy): In July 2021 'Vision Zero – The Road Safety Strategy for Kent 2021 – 2026' was formally adopted by Kent County Council, taking into account new approaches in the road safety industry and with an emphasis on shared responsibility. The strategy uses a Safe System methodology, which 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. Vision Zero has been included as a priority within the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's current plan and many partners are working towards its delivery through the Kent & Medway Safer Roads Partnership Strategic Board, now chaired by the Kent PCC.
- 3.19. Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs): In March 2022, the Home Secretary published the recommendations from Part 2 of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Review. The findings included a recommendation to “undertake a full review of CSPs to initially improve their transparency, accountability, and effectiveness before assessing their position within the wider landscape of local partnerships across England and Wales”. As a result the Government launched a Community Safety partnerships review in March 2023 to consider information sharing between CSPs and PCCs with a phase two of the survey launched in November 2023 to better understand how CSPs currently work. The findings from the first survey have been published including recommendations for closer working between CSPs and the PCC, although detailed guidance on the implementation required has not been received as yet. In addition, the findings from the second phase of the survey have also not been published as yet. Partner agencies should be aware that the functions and demands on CSPs are likely to be affected in the future as a result of the recent consultations but the full impact of the changes remain unclear at this time.

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 2023/24 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 2023/24 the KCSP published three completed reviews following quality assurance from the Home Office and ensured that over 152 actions from across a number of DHRs have been implemented resulting in two further DHRs being signed off with all actions completed. The Partnership is committed to ensuring that the learning from these tragic cases is 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 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 the 2023/2024 the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) organised and delivered three online seminars to share the learning from the reviews. The seminars were themed on a range of topics which arose from recently published reviews Jean 2018, Kitty 2020 and Leanne 2019 (joint event with Kent & Medway Safeguarding Adults Board), including domestic abuse and trauma, the victims voice, engagement with family, perpetrator management, non-fatal strangulation and carers. Over 350 professionals and frontline staff attended the seminars with 96% rating the event as excellent, very good or good.
- Project Funding: In 2023/24 the KCSP used the Crime Reduction Grant funding provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to fund a total of eight projects delivered by a range of partners, these included:
 - Reducing abusive behaviour policy training
 - Domestic abuse bitesize training videos
 - Tackling victim blaming language training,
 - Hateful Extremism CPD event
 - Multi-agency Approach to Anti-Social Behaviour Workshop
 - Online gaming (gaming bus) interactive awareness sessions in schools
 - Community Safety Information Sessions
 - Pilot project extending an existing Business Crime Reduction Partnership into more rural locations

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

- **Tackling Victim Blaming Language Training:** Following on from the Violence Against Women and Girls Conference delivered by the KCSP in March 2023, the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) utilised funding from the PCC to commission six online training sessions for partners on the topic of Victim Blaming Language. To date four of the six sessions have been delivered to over 300 attendees and received positive feedback with 98% rating the sessions as excellent or very good.
- **Multi-Agency Partnership Approach to Anti-Social Behaviour:** Following the release of the Government's action plan on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), the Home Office consultation on ASB, and the planned Criminal Justice Bill, the KCSP developed a multi-agency event for partners on the topic of ASB. The hybrid event will take place in March 2024 with partners attending both in person and online. The event will enable partners to hear from a range of speakers covering the government action plan, new opportunities, case studies as well as providing an opportunity to discuss good practice and develop future working arrangements.
- **Workshops / Events:** In addition to the above events, during 2023/24 the KCST organised and delivered a number of additional workshops to support partnership delivery including: a Strategic Assessment Data workshop for district/borough colleagues; two OSARA problem solving training sessions; and new for this year a series of Community Safety Information Sessions (CSIS) delivered as one-hour lunchtime drop-in sessions. Some of the topics covered in the CSIS included the Neighbourhood Policing model for Kent, Scams, Dangerous Dogs, Hate Crime, E-scooters, Co-occurring conditions, Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes, etc. 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 regular e-bulletins on Community Safety in Kent, highlighting and promoting partnership working. During 2023/24 the KCST produced regular e-bulletins across the year aimed at providing brief updates on emerging issues, changes to services, new documentation, data releases, media articles, 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 development and delivery of key pieces of work referenced in the Community Safety Agreement action plan, such as the new Domestic Abuse Strategy, the Serious Violence Strategy, the Kent Drug & Alcohol Strategy, Vision Zero, Hate Crime Awareness Week, Adult Safeguarding Awareness Week, Domestic Abuse Awareness campaigns and communications, etc.

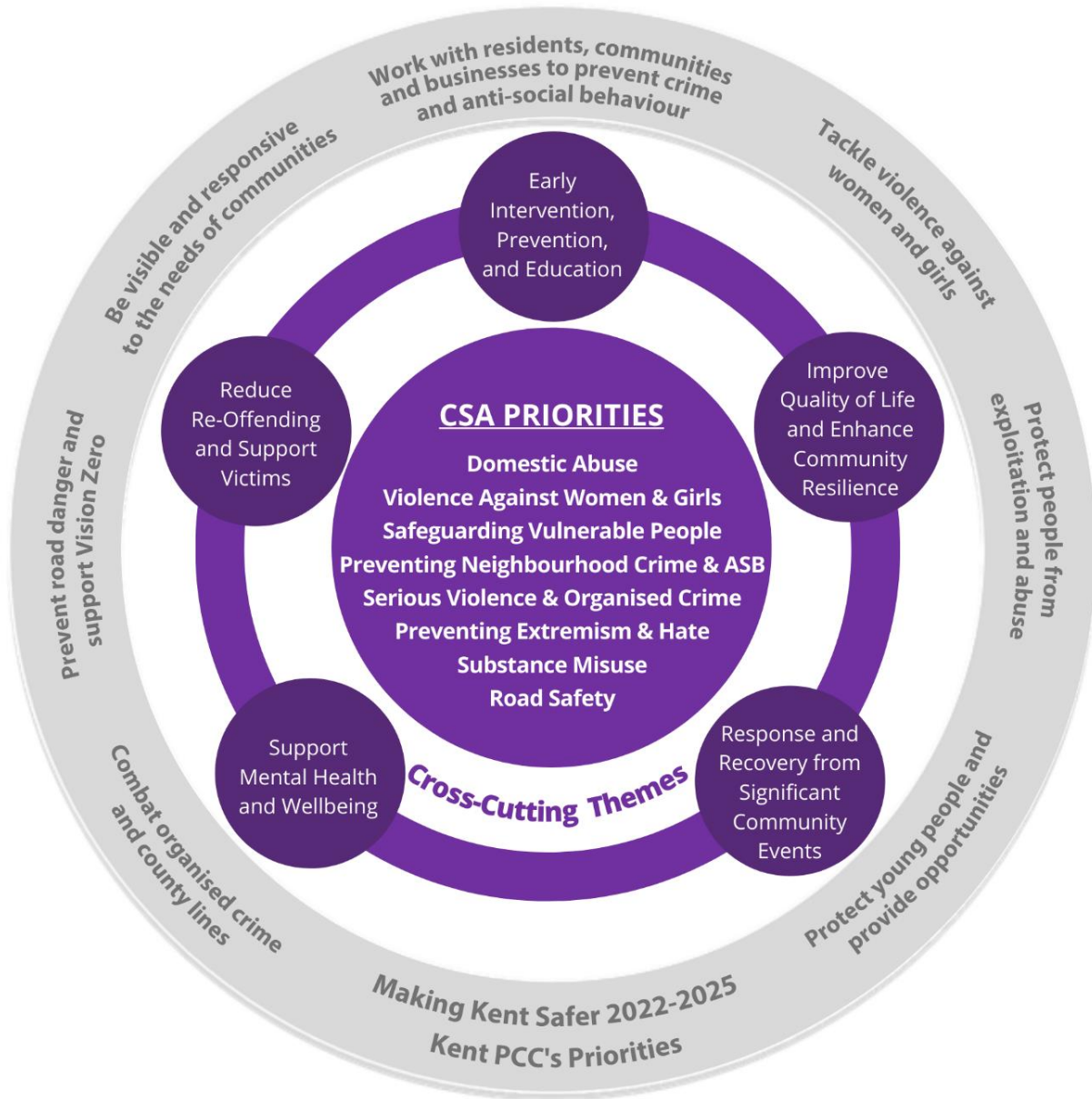
Whilst the CSA action plan sets out how partners aim to address the overarching priorities across the county, each local CSP in Kent has their own community safety plan and associated initiatives aimed at tackling the most relevant issues for their residents.

6. County Priorities

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. 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.
- 6.4. 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.
- 6.5. 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 – No changes were made to the priorities or cross-cutting themes although the ‘cost of living crisis’ and the associated impacts were noted.
- 6.6. In the latest review for April 2024 no changes have been identified for the overarching priorities or the cross-cutting themes although some areas which may require a greater focus as a result of new legislation, government action plans or local concerns, include serious violence, acquisitive crime, and anti-social behaviour. In addition, the ‘cost of living crisis’ remains worthy of note as an issue that continues to affect all sectors of society including public sector services. However any partnership activity relating to these issues can be incorporated into existing priorities such as ‘Serious Violence & Organised Crime’, ‘Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB’, ‘Safeguarding Vulnerable People’ or could be considered as part of the cross-cutting theme ‘Improve Quality of Life and Enhance Community Resilience’.
- 6.7. The only other item to note in relation to the priorities relates to ‘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, it is included in the Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 along with the Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy.
- 6.8. Whilst the priorities and cross-cutting themes remain unchanged it is acknowledged that work will take place over the year ahead to implement a number of new strategies and legislative changes outlined in documents such as the Kent and Medway Serious Violence Strategy; and to assess the impact of planned developments such as the strengthening of anti-social behaviour powers and potential changes to Community Safety Partnerships. In the meantime the action plan which supports the work of the CSA will ensure these key workstreams are included and actioned as appropriate.

6.9. The diagram below not only includes the priorities and cross-cutting themes for the CSA as detailed above but also shows those identified in the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner’s current Police and Crime Plan entitled ‘Making Kent Safer’ 2022-25. This reflects the statutory requirement to have due regard for each other’s priorities.



ASB = anti-social behaviour

Key:
 Kent CSA priorities & cross-cutting themes (purple).
 Kent PCC’s priorities from Making Kent Safer 2022-2025 (grey).
 See Appendix E for a table display of above diagram.

- Safeguarding Vulnerable People includes: *Child Sexual Exploitation, Fraud, Cybercrime, Victims, Vulnerable People at Risk of Exploitation*
- Serious Violence & Organised Crime includes: *Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), Gangs, Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking, Violence Reduction, Serious Violence Duty, County Lines and Drug Dealing (which also links to the Substance Misuse priority)*
- Neighbourhood Crime & ASB includes: *Anti-Social Behaviour, Neighbour Disputes, Environmental Crime, Deliberate Fires, Criminal Damage*
- Preventing Extremism & Hate includes: *Preventing Violent Extremism, Hate Crimes, Radicalisation, Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism, Incels (involuntary celibates), Immigration tensions*
- Substance Misuse – *this is a specific duty placed upon Community Safety Partnerships*
- *Response & Recovery from Significant Community Events includes: COVID-19 pandemic*

- 6.10. 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 Homicide Review Steering Group; 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.*
- 6.11. 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.

7. 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

8. 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:

- Making Kent Safer 2022-2025 (Kent Police and Crime Plan)
- Local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Community Safety Plans
- Kent and Medway Serious Violence Strategy
- Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2029
- Kent and Medway Gangs Strategy
- 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 Assessment 2024
- 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 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy
- National Retail Crime Action Plan
- National Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan

9. 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 (2023-24)

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.

Please note the details below are draft and may be subject to change.

Priority	No. of CSPs
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) / Environmental	12
Serious Violence (including the serious violence duty and violence reduction)	12
Domestic Abuse	11
Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) (inc. stalking & harassment)	11
Safeguarding and Vulnerability (including child sexual exploitation, vulnerable people, support for victims)	9
Substance Misuse (including drug supply, alcohol abuse, night-time economy)	9
Crime (including acquisitive crime, business crime, property, doorstep crime & scams)	8
Extremism & Hate (including preventing extremism, counter-terrorism & hate crimes)	8
Serious and Organised Crime (including gangs, organised crime groups, county lines, modern slavery/human trafficking)	7
Reducing Offending and Reoffending	6
Mental Health and Wellbeing	6
Strengthening Communities (cohesion, resilience, reassurance)	5
Young People (youth engagement, diversionary activities)	5
Road Safety	2

Other focus areas identified include: food and fuel / cost of living crisis, unemployment, safe town centres, improving public confidence, hot spot locations, communication, information sharing, health, etc.

Appendix B: Crime Data Summary

Please note this section is in development.

DRAFT

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:

- Local Council elections in May 2024
- PCC election in May 2024
- General election before end 2024/25
- War in Ukraine
- Middle East Conflict
- Impact on trade and travel rules following EU exit

Economic:

- Cost of living increases
- Fuel Poverty
- Funding pressure on public services
- Financial pressures on businesses and individuals
- Increased need for financial and other types of support, i.e. food banks
- Recession
- Strike action
- Predicted increases in unemployment

Social / Demographic:

- Safeguarding and supporting vulnerable members of society
- violence against women and girls
- domestic abuse
- preventing violent extremism
- child sexual exploitation
- human trafficking/modern slavery
- looked after children
- organised crime groups
- serious violence
- drugs and alcohol
- hate crime
- mental health (including dementia)
- social isolation / loneliness
- retail crime / shoplifting
- anti-social behaviour
- deliberate fire setting
- changing population demographics

Technological:

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

Environmental (and Geographical):

- New developments
- Extreme weather events, i.e. flooding
- Impact of Brexit on transport routes.

Legislation:

Recent legislation and statutory duties:

- 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*
- Nationality and Borders Act 2022
- Building Safety Act 2022
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021; *inc. statutory guidance on Domestic Abuse duties*
- Counter-Terrorism & Sentencing Act 2021
- Stalking Protection Act 2019

Upcoming legislation and duties:

- Criminal Justice Bill
- Data Protection and Digital Information Bill
- Victims and Prisoners Bill
- Protect Duty (Martyn's Law)

Organisational:

- Public sector restructures
- Impact of new ways of working
- Implementation of new duties / strategies
- Changes to Community Safety Partnerships

Appendix D: Police & Crime Plan (2022-2025)

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.

The following is an extract from the new Police and Crime Plan entitled '[Making Kent Safer](#)' April 2022 to March 2025.

The guiding principles of the plan are:

- Crime is important no matter where it takes place - urban, rural or coastal communities
- Victims and witnesses at the heart of everything we do
- Ensure that vulnerable people and those suffering mental ill health get support from the right agency

Kent Police's priorities are to:

- Work with residents, communities and businesses to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour
- Tackle violence against women and girls
- Protect people from exploitation and abuse
- Combat organised crime and county lines
- Be visible and responsive to the needs of communities
- Prevent road danger and support Vision Zero
- Protect young people and provide opportunities

The Police and Crime Commissioner will:

- Hold all agencies to account for the delivery of an effective and efficient criminal justice system
- Work in partnership with the police and others to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour
- Be responsive to emerging issues and trends through innovation
- Secure the funding that Kent needs through specific grants and funding formula review
- Support volunteering
- Commission services for victims that are needs-led

The Police and Crime Plan priorities included in the diagram on p.20 of the Community Safety Agreement reflect the Kent PCC's priorities detailed above.

Appendix E: Kent CSA Priorities and Cross-Cutting Themes

As highlighted on page 22, Appendix E has been included in the document for digital accessibility purposes. The below tables show the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) priorities and cross-cutting themes as well as the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities from the Police and Crime Plan 'Making Kent Safer'.

Kent CSA Priorities:
Domestic Abuse
Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
Safeguarding Vulnerable People
Serious Violence and Organised Crime
Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB (<i>Anti-Social Behaviour</i>)
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

Making Kent Safer (2022 – 2025) – Kent PCC's Priorities:
Work with residents, communities and businesses to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour
Tackle violence against women and girls
Protect people from exploitation and abuse
Combat organised crime and county lines
Be visible and responsive to the needs of communities
Prevent road danger and support Vision Zero
Protect young people and provide opportunities



Kent Fire & Rescue Service



Kent Police

In partnership with



Probation Service



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



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Tel: 03000 410234

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