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To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 4th July 2024

Classification: For Information

Subject: Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

Summary This report includes details of the refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement draft action plan for 2024/25

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 most recent review of the CSA it was agreed to retain the existing priorities and cross-cutting themes:

Priorities

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

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

2.3 Whilst the priorities were unchanged some of the emerging issues which partners felt worthy of specific note included the cost of living crisis, the Serious Violence Duty, and the potential impact of recommendations from the Government's reviews around CSPs and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). These issues were included in the updated

Chapter on the Community Safety Landscape along with a range of other existing and emerging issues.

- 2.4 The Kent Community Safety Agreement (April 2024) was discussed and agreed at the March meeting of the KCSP and following any suggested changes and a refresh of the foreword, the CSA has been published on Kent.gov.

3.0 Action Plan Development

- 3.1 Following the development of the new CSA, the action plan has been refreshed by members of the KCSP Working Group, priority leads and other relevant partners to ensure that it appropriately reflects the updated priorities and cross-cutting themes. A draft of the refreshed plan is attached for information (Appendix A).
- 3.2 The action plan includes the key pieces of work that are being delivered by community safety partners across the county linking in with other multi-agency groups and strategies where possible, including the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group, the Kent and Medway Safer Roads Partnership, the Substance Misuse Alliance, the Joint Exploitation Group, the Prevent Duty Delivery Board, Safeguarding Boards/Partnerships, the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) etc. Activities and links related to groups and strategies are referenced throughout the action plan, (*shown in green*), to help support multi-agency delivery and partnership working and may be updated in-year subject to revisions and changes that take place within those groups and plans.
- 3.3 At this stage the action plan does not currently include the projects which the KCSP has proposed to support in 2024/25 using the Kent PCC's Crime Reduction Grant (CRG). The proposed projects are detailed in the KCSP Working Group report, however if funding is approved they will be added to the action plan for ongoing monitoring (*to be highlighted in purple in the plan once confirmed*).
- 3.4 Like the Community Safety Agreement itself, the action plan is also a rolling document and as such contains a number of actions that are ongoing or which take place annually and are directly linked to the KCSP's core functions, such as delivery of Domestic Homicide Reviews and sharing of lessons identified; Strategic Assessments; or coordination of cross county community safety issues such as Information sharing; Raising awareness of campaigns etc.
- 3.5 New actions that have been added to the plan, include a number of activities which are being delivered by partners in relation to Domestic Abuse, Anti-Social Behaviour and Serious and Organised Crime. KCSP members will be working together with partner agencies and other multi-agency partnerships to support implementation, which may result in the action plan being developed further in-year to reflect additional areas of work that the KCSP could help to deliver.
- 3.6 The refreshed plan details the overall aim for each priority, the planned outcomes, the actions to be taken, how delivery will be measured and reported and who is responsible for coordinating activity or feedback. This will remain a live document, which the KCSP Working Group and the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) will be monitoring throughout the year and updating if required.

- 3.7 KCSP members are invited to feedback on the content of the draft action plan via email to the kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk by 19th July 2024 for inclusion in the 2024/25 action plan; Or at any point during the life of the plan should they identify a potential new action that might be appropriate for inclusion.

4.0 Performance Monitoring

- 4.1 The Kent Community Safety Team (KCS) is working with the Kent Police Analytical Team to secure an analytical resource to support the annual strategic assessment process and in-year performance monitoring. In the meantime an assessment was commissioned to support the recent refresh of the CSA and further work is being explored to look at the potential Home Office requirements to publish an executive summary of the annual strategic assessment.

5.0 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee took place on 5th June 2024 to review the work of the Kent Community Safety Partnership during 2023/24 in relation to last year's Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA), and to comment on the refreshed CSA (April 2024) for the year ahead.
- 5.2 A comprehensive written report was supplied to the committee ahead of the meeting providing a range of data and information about each of the CSA priorities as well as the actions undertaken by partners to address them during 2023/24. The meeting began with a presentation from partners on a number of focus topics and was followed by questions from the committee members. At the request of the committee, this year there was a focus on Anti-Social Behaviour, Preventing Extremism and Hate, Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls.
- 5.3 The committee was held as a hybrid meeting, with committee members and the partners who presented on the focus topics attending the Council Chambers in person, whilst the leads of other priorities were available if needed via video conferencing to respond to any additional questions.
- 5.4 The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee was webcast live and the minutes will be published in due course on the Kent.gov website. Partners were thanked by the committee for their attendance and work over the past year. Whilst the members provided feedback and comments to the partners, the Committee formally agreed to note the work of the KCSP and make no comment / recommendations.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) members are asked to note the refreshed action plan which supports delivery of the refreshed Community Safety Agreement.
- 6.2 KCSP members are invited to provide feedback on the content of the draft action plan via email to kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk (KCST) by 19th July 2024, or at any time in-year if new actions emerge.

Attachments:

Appendix A: Draft Community Safety Agreement (CSA) Action Plan

For Further Information:

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