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To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 21st November 2024

Classification: For Information

Subject: Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

Summary This report includes details of progress with regards the Kent Community Safety Agreement action plan and the upcoming strategic assessments

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 (see below). The CSA is a rolling document which is reviewed and refreshed annually with the relevant chapters and appendices being updated as required.

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

3.0 CSA Action Plan Update

3.1 At the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) meeting in July, members were presented with the refreshed action plan which supports delivery of the CSA priorities. The KCSP Working Group continues to monitor the activities identified and reviewed the latest updates at their meeting in October 2024. The next review will take place at their meeting in January 2025.

- 3.2 At this stage of the year all of the actions are in progress, this includes many activities which are ongoing such as the domestic homicide reviews, work with other multi-agency groups, information sharing, awareness raising, training, etc. which link to the partnership's role in leading and coordinating on countywide community safety issues. A report on the key outcomes of the action plan will be presented at the next KCSP meeting in March but in the meantime an update on the projects funded by the Crime Reduction Grant has been provided in the KCSP Working Group report. In addition, a number of reports from other multi-agency partnerships which help support delivery of the CSA priorities and the action plan will be presented at the meeting including substance misuse, serious violence, and preventing extremism.
- 3.3 Activities taking place in relation to some of the other priorities, such as Domestic Abuse and Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, include:
- The [16-days of Action](#) Against Domestic Abuse campaign, planning for the renewal of a domestic abuse services website, recommissioning activity, partnership work on MARACs (multi-agency risk assessment conferences), development of a new data capture process for one-stop-shops.
 - Work around neighbourhood crime and ASB has included sharing of resources following the ASB workshop in March this year; delivery of community safety information sessions with a focus on sharing good practice around tackling ASB; and planning training for partners (funded through the Crime Reduction Grant).
- 3.4 Other activities within the plan which have taken place recently, or are due to take place, include learning sessions around Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG); and supporting delivery of awareness events such as [Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week](#), and 16-days of action (mentioned above).
- 3.5 The action plan remains a live document and can be updated and amended during the year as required.

4.0 Strategic Assessments

- 4.1 Sourcing of data from partner agencies for the annual strategic assessment process is in progress and the KCST has contacted statutory partners to provide data for use by the district/borough Community Safety Partnership's (CSPs) in their strategic assessments to help identify key community safety issues. The data is due to be received by 15th November and will be made available to local partners via the Safer Communities portal on MS Teams. This data and the outcomes from the local assessments will help inform the annual review of the CSA priorities.
- 4.2 The KCST is also planning a data workshop on 11th December for partners involved in producing the local strategic assessments (SAs). A calendar invite has been sent to authors of the local SA's and data providers have been invited to speak. The Kent Police Central Analytical Team have confirmed they will be attending to explain what their data is showing in terms of trends, hotspots, emerging issues, etc. and to give partners a chance to ask questions. Other confirmed speakers will be covering Serious Violence, Domestic Abuse, Rail Safety, and Road Safety. Further speakers are being identified. The KCST has also commissioned the production of a Kent strategic assessment to help support the process and inform the refresh of the CSA.

5.0 Kent Community Safety Agreement

- 5.1 Planning for the review of the current Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) was discussed at the recent KCSP Working Group in October. Following the review of CSPs and ASB powers undertaken by the Home Office, it was anticipated that the recommendations would result in legislative changes for CSPs or the development of new statutory guidance. Since the change in government, there have been no further announcements, although ASB remains a key focus.
- 5.2 It is worth noting that the Victims Commissioner released a report in September 2024 “Understanding the experiences of victims of anti-social behaviour”, which included at least two recommendations to the Home Office in relation to CSPs:
- *The Home Office should fully implement the measures to strengthen CSPs which it consulted on in Phase 1 of its Community Safety Partnerships review. The Home Office should also publish its proposed new guidance for CSPs for consultation.*
 - *The Home Office should update the statutory guidance for CSPs to encourage the use of integrated IT systems that allow for data sharing of ASB reports and victim risk assessments between agencies at a local level.*
- 5.3 It is hoped that further guidance may be forthcoming in 2025/26, as such members of the Working Group agreed with the proposal to refresh the current CSA, with a full review in the next financial year incorporating any changes required by the Home Office (if announced), as well as incorporating the new Kent Police and Crime Plan, and a full review of the priorities identified by the local district/borough CSPs.
- 5.4 In the interim, the planned refresh for this year will include a review of the current priorities based on the strategic assessment outcomes; horizon scanning which will help identify emerging issues and opportunities; and a review of the statutory duties and relevant legislation. In addition, the KCST will work with partners to consider potential options to streamline the current version, through editing of the content, with a particular focus on Chapter 3 the ‘Community Safety Landscape’, whilst ensuring the most relevant information is retained and updated.
- 5.5 The KCST will work with partners over the next couple of months to refresh the current CSA document, with the KCSP Working Group reviewing the first draft at their next meeting on 30th January 2025. Following any revisions, the final draft will be presented at the KCSP meeting in March 2025 for senior partner input.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) members are asked to note the update.

For Further Information:

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