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To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 23rd July 2025

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 2025/26

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 high cost of living and ongoing funding pressures, the Serious Violence Duty, and the potential impact of the Crime and Policing Bill, currently before parliament. 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 2025) was reviewed and endorsed during the March KCSP meeting. After incorporating suggested amendments, the CSA has been published on Kent.gov.uk. The only remaining item for review within the CSA is the Foreword from the Chair. Following the change to the KCC Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services, and with the new Chair now in post, further work will be undertaken to finalise and publish the Foreword over the coming weeks

3.0 Action Plan Development

- 3.1 Following the development of the updated CSA, the action plan has been refreshed by members of the KCSP Working Group, priority leads and other relevant partners. 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 The plan also includes projects supported by the KCSP in 2025/26 through the Kent PCC's Crime Reduction Grant (CRG) (*shown in purple in the plan*). Further details relating to these projects are provided in the following update report from the KCSP Working Group. Any additional funded projects which gain the support of KCSP partners and approval from the PCC will be incorporated into the plan during the year.
- 3.4 As with the CSA, 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 work together with partner agencies and other multi-agency partnerships to support implementation, with the potential for further development of the plan throughout the year.
- 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 draft action plan via email to the kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk by 8th August 2025 for inclusion in the 2025/26 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 (KCST) is working with the Kent Police Analytical Team to secure an analytical resource to support the Partnership and in-year performance monitoring. An update on the progress of this work will be provided at the next KCSP meeting.

5.0 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The Crime and Disorder Committee is scheduled to meet on 2nd October 2025. The Chair alongside lead agencies for each of the CSA priorities will attend to represent the KCSP and respond to any queries raised. Recommendations or suggested changes arising from Scrutiny will be fed back to the KCSP members and the Working Group for consideration and action as appropriate.

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 8th August 2025, 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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