

Kent Community Safety Agreement



April 2025

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Version Control

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	April 2017	New Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) – effective from April 2017
2.0-7.0	April 2018 to April 2023	Details of the annual revisions for versions can be found in the previous refresh of the Kent Community Safety Agreement
8.0	April 2024	Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective date changed to April 2024 - Foreword – updated to reflect latest version - 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 containing MoRiLE removed - Appendix B – MoRiLE outcomes to be replaced with Executive Summary Overview (under development) - Appendix C – refreshed horizon scanning
9.0	April 2025	Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective date changed to April 2025 - Foreword – TBC - Ch.3 – changes made to the landscape and legislation - Ch.5 – achievements for 2024/25 added - Ch.6 – new chapter on Kent Police & Crime Plan - Ch.6-9 – renumbered, now Ch.7-10 - Ch.7 – update around latest review and diagram updated - Ch.9 – minor change to the list of plans - Appendix A – strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B – Executive Summary (under development) - Appendix C – refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D – Police & Crime Plan moved to Ch.6 and replaced with accessibility content from Appendix E - Appendix E – removed

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Foreword

As the new Chair of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP), I am pleased to endorse the 2025 Kent Community Safety Agreement. This Agreement reaffirms our shared commitment to the safety and wellbeing of everyone who lives, works, and visits Kent.

Community safety partners play a vital role in protecting our residents—providing reassurance, education, raising awareness, supporting interventions, and, where necessary, enforcement. The Agreement sets out how partners across Kent will work together to address key priorities, identifying shared objectives and outcomes to improve people's lives.

The past year has brought significant change and increasing complexity to the community safety landscape, both locally and nationally. Global events, economic uncertainty, the high cost of living, and migration pressures have placed additional demands on local services and heightened community tensions. Nationally, responses to extremism and hate crime, as well as the spread of misinformation, have presented further challenges, particularly for vulnerable groups. The KCSP recognises these challenges and the need for strong, collaborative partnerships to address both persistent and emerging issues.

Anti-social behaviour remains a priority concern across Kent. The Government's proposed Crime and Policing Bill aims to introduce new measures, including Respect Orders and enhanced enforcement powers, to safeguard public spaces, protect retail workers, and support vulnerable individuals, while strengthening public confidence in policing and community safety services.

The anticipated Local Government Reorganisation also presents both opportunities and challenges for the delivery of community safety. The potential transition to a unitary authority model will require careful planning and collaboration to ensure the continuity and effectiveness of multi-agency partnerships.

All of this is happening in a context of reduced funding for public and voluntary sector services, making partnership working more important than ever to maximise the impact of available resources. The challenges ahead are significant, with many unknowns and uncertainties, but by strengthening existing relationships and building new ones, Kent is well placed to respond.

This Agreement builds on strong foundations, focusing on priorities such as domestic abuse, substance misuse, serious violence, and safeguarding vulnerable people, while also addressing cross-cutting themes like early intervention, mental health, and

community resilience. Our work is guided by local strategies and delivered through a coordinated action plan, ensuring a joined-up approach across the county.

I would like to thank all our partners for their ongoing support, dedication, and collaboration. Their commitment is central to delivering effective community safety interventions and to the success of this Agreement.

Together, we have developed a clear and unified framework for addressing both persistent and emerging challenges. This document reflects the strength of our shared vision and determination to improve safety, wellbeing, and resilience for communities across Kent.

Paul Webb

Chair Kent Community Safety Partnership

Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services

Introduction

- 1.1. The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) is a framework for community safety and outlines the key 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. Primary Legislation for Community Safety Partnerships

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 referred to 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. As a result of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 the remit of DHRs has changed and are now referred to as Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs).

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. The Chapter below outlines some of the most recent events and issues but this does not negate the impact of topics previously covered within this section that have resulted in changes to priorities, additional duties, new legislation, etc.

National and International

- 3.1. International Conflicts: On 24th February 2025 the UK marked the three-year anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, during this period other international conflicts have taken place. Whilst the most significant impact of these events are on those living in the regions where conflict is taking place, there are knock on effects within the UK, 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 are impacted, in particular food and energy costs, along with impacts on community tension, civil unrest and geopolitical uncertainty.
- 3.2. Migration: Millions of people migrate every year due to conflict, climate change, and humanitarian crises, putting a strain on host communities and leaving vulnerable individuals open to exploitation. Kent continues to see migrants arriving into the county by small boats, with an increase on the number of crossings in 2024 compared to the previous year. Kent County Council (KCC) has an obligation to look after unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) that arrive in the county requiring the care of the local authority and has called for the government to make further commitments to working with councils to build capacity. Community sentiments and tensions continue to be monitored with a high possibility of both pro and anti-migrant related tensions occurring in Kent, which is consistent with the ongoing media coverage around migration.
- 3.3. Extremism, Hate and Civil Unrest: Following the Southport attack in July 2024, the UK experienced civil unrest, violent disorder, vandalism, and a rise in hate crimes, particularly directed toward marginalised communities. The spread of misinformation targeted small, disenfranchised sections of the population, including young people who feel disconnected from society. The perpetrator of the attack was known to several agencies, and following the attack, a Prevent learning review was undertaken, a new role of Independent Prevent Commissioner was created, and the Government announced the launch of a public inquiry. In December 2024, the Home Secretary announced a package of

measures to better protect the public from radicalisation. These measures aim to strengthen Prevent and ensure that the program keeps pace with the increasingly complex and evolving threats. Kent and Medway remains a Prevent priority area, one of only 20 across the country and 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.

- 3.4. Cost of Living: Even though inflation is no longer high, the cumulative effect of rising prices means households face a much higher cost of living than in 2021. Households that were struggling before the period of high inflation have been most severely affected. (*House of Commons Research Briefing “High cost of living: Impact on households”, December 2024*). It would not be unexpected if financial pressures led to increases in certain crime types including scams and fraud, retail crime/shoplifting, labour exploitation, etc. as well as impacting mental health, physical health, homelessness, personal resilience, communities, etc. Financial pressures are not just impacting individuals but also businesses, public sector organisations, and the voluntary sector which are heavily relied upon to support service provision.
- 3.5. 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 such as domestic abuse, sexual assault, abuse experienced as a child, honour-based abuse, murder, misogynistic behaviours by Incels (involuntary celibates), harassment, stalking, coercive control, etc. While men and boys also suffer from many of these forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women. In July 2024, the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) published a National Policing Statement declaring that VAWG had reached epidemic levels in England and Wales, in terms of its scale, complexity and impact on victims. The NPCC stated there has been a 37% increase in recorded VAWG-related crimes from 2018/19 to 2022/23 and they estimated that at least 1 in every 12 women will be a victim of VAWG every year (2 million victims) and 1 in 20 adults in England Wales will be a perpetrator of VAWG every year (2.3 million perpetrators). Analysis by the NPCC has identified five critical threats to women and girls: rape and serious sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking and harassment, child sexual abuse and exploitation, and online and tech-enabled VAWG.
- 3.6. Serious Violence: The 'Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022' introduced a new duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence, informed by statutory guidance for responsible authorities on the Serious Violence Duty. Since that time, the 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. This work is supported by the Kent & Medway Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) which continues to be funded by the Home Office in

2025/26 to prevent types of serious violence. The Home Office expects the VRU to offer strategic leadership to coordinate the local response to violence. This includes the development of data sharing platforms that use multi-agency data sets, driving a multi-agency response, ensuring that evidence-based practice is promoted and that there is effective evaluation of activity. The VRU is also required to gather and use community voices to inform the work to prevent violence. In the forthcoming year, the VRU will also lead the work to develop Young Futures Prevention partnerships which are part of the Government's approach to halving knife crime over the next 10 years.

- 3.7. Anti-Social Behaviour: In November 2023, the previous Government published findings and recommendations from a consultation on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), following this, in February 2024, an updated ASB Action Plan was released. In September 2024, the Victims Commissioner reported on the severe impact of persistent ASB on victims, highlighting psychological distress and community disruption. The report included recommendations aimed at supporting victims, improving collaboration among agencies, enhancing reporting mechanisms, and raising awareness about Case Reviews to ensure thorough investigations and accountability. In response, the new Government has pledged to address ASB with increased funding for Police forces as well as proposing new powers under the upcoming Crime and Policing Bill to give law enforcement agencies stronger tools to address and prevent ASB more effectively.

Changes to Legislation

- 3.8. Domestic Abuse: The latest legislative changes relating to Domestic Abuse were introduced as part of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, which introduced a change in the name of DHRs to Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) along with changing the criteria. Draft updated guidance for reviews have been consulted on, but a final version is awaited.
- 3.9. Victims and Prisoners: The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 introduced a new duty to collaborate which will, once implemented, introduce new responsibilities for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), local authorities and integrated care boards (ICBs) to collaborate in the commissioning of community support services in England for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and serious violence. Duty holders must also develop a joint needs assessment and local strategy which demonstrates how they will collaborate to deliver and improve relevant victim support services. Implementation timings are subject to the Spending Review but the Ministry of Justice has indicated that the duty could commence from Spring 2026.

Strategies

- 3.10 Domestic Abuse: In March 2024 a Kent and Medway cross Partnership Domestic Abuse strategy (2024-2029) was launched, developed by working with those with lived experience, and those who support them. The strategy includes clear commitments monitored through the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Executive Board.
- 3.11 Serious Violence: The Kent and Medway Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2027 was published last year with a focus on three key strands including 'Sexual violence and domestic abuse', 'Serious youth violence', and 'Violence linked to drugs and alcohol'. Each strand has an action plan which is currently informing the work to prevent public place serious violence.
- 3.12 Vision Zero (Road Safety Strategy for Kent): Kent County Council launched it's 'Vision Zero' Road Safety Strategy in July 2021 and will be reviewing progress and updating it in 2026. The strategy employs a safe system methodology in line with international best practice standards. Stronger collaboration and partnership working are at the heart of the safe system, and we have been working to improve these areas. To this end, the Kent and Medway Safer Roads Partnership has been refreshed with a safe system structure at its core and a new partnership-wide, safe systems aligned, strategy is being produced.
- 3.13 KMSAB Strategic Plan: The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan runs to the end of 2025. The Board will begin development of a new plan during the upcoming year.

Future Considerations

- 3.13 Crime and Policing Bill: The aim of the bill is to support delivery of the government's Safer Streets Mission to halve knife crime and violence against women and girls in a decade, and increase public confidence in policing and the wider criminal justice system. The bill will implement key commitments, such as introducing respect orders (relating to ASB) and a standalone offence of assaulting a retail worker. It will help to rebuild the public's confidence in policing, by equipping the police with more powers to respond quickly to criminal activity. Some of the measures in the bill build on parts of the Criminal Justice Bill introduced in the 2023/24 session of Parliament. On 25 February 2025, the Home Office and Ministry of Justice published a number of factsheets to provide more detail about the range of measures included in the bill, including: Antisocial behaviour; Child criminal exploitation and 'cuckooing'; Child sexual abuse; Counter-terrorism and national security; Knife crime; Retail Crime; Reducing violence against women and girls; Serious Crime; Spiking; etc.

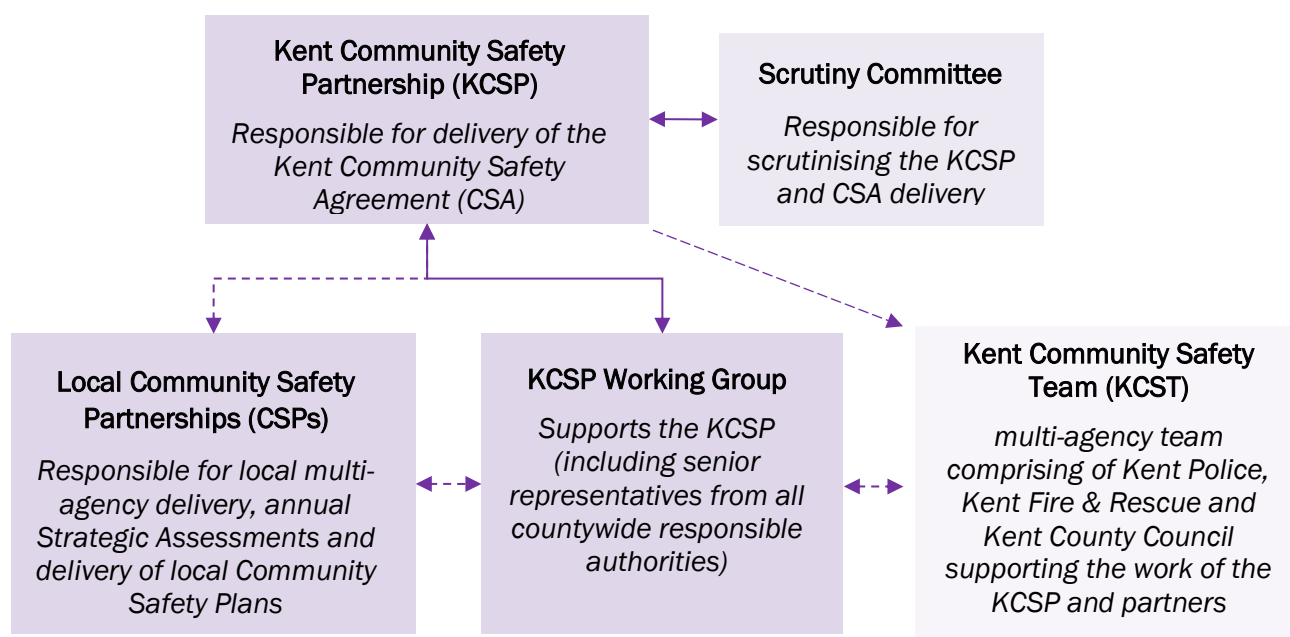
- 3.14 Local Government Reorganisation: On 16 December 2024 the Government published the English Devolution White Paper, setting out the government's vision for simpler local government structures with the aim of better outcomes for residents, saving public funds for reinvestment into public services and improving local accountability. In February 2025 the Government announced the six areas on the Devolution Priority Programme which include several in close proximity to Kent & Medway. Whilst Kent and Medway are not part of the priority programme, all councils in two-tier areas and small neighbouring unitary authorities have been invited to submit initial plans for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in the spring of 2025, followed by full proposals later in the year. Whilst the LGR will have no immediate impact on the work of community safety partnerships for the year ahead, once more is known about these future plans, partners will be better placed to consider any future changes to working arrangements.

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 2024/25 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 2024/25 the KCSP published five completed reviews following quality assurance from the Home Office and ensured that actions from across a number of DHRs have been implemented resulting in further DHRs being signed off with all actions completed. The Partnership is committed to ensuring that the learning from these tragic cases are 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 Kent Community Safety Team (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 2024/25 the KCST organised and delivered three different online seminars to share the learning from the reviews, including a seminar delivered jointly with the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board. Topics explored included co-occurring conditions and domestic abuse, the ongoing risks to victims when perpetrators are in prison/on probation or in the criminal justice system, and parental conflict and domestic abuse.
- Project Funding: In 2024/25 the KCSP used the Crime Reduction Grant funding provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to fund a total of nine projects delivered by a range of partners, these included:
 - Anti-social behaviour training (including tools and powers, and case reviews)
 - Violence Against Women and Girls awareness raising
 - Countering the Extreme Right-Wing training
 - Hateful Extremism CPD event
 - Neurodivergent intimate relationships training for partners
 - Child's Vision volunteer recruitment and training
 - Crime prevention resources
 - Teacher in your pocket video (doorstep crime)
 - Trauma Informed Kent – Ambassador Programme

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

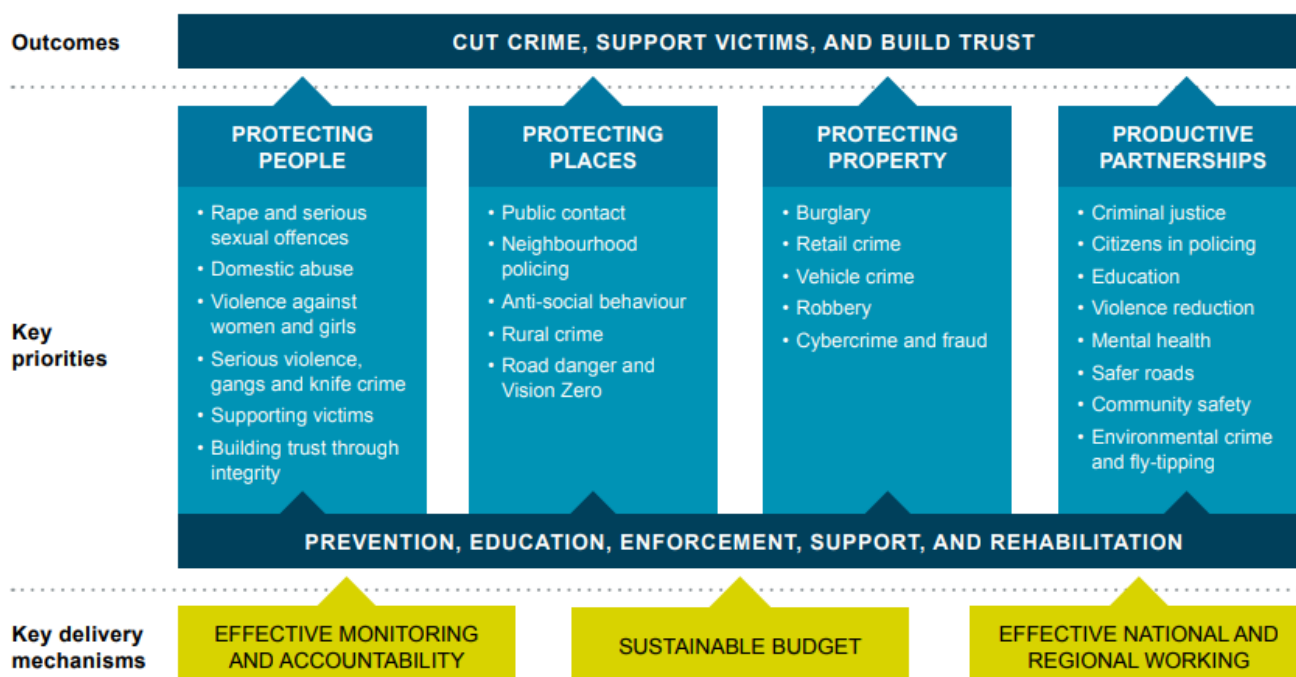
- Violence Against Women and Girls awareness training: Following on from the multi-agency VAWG event delivered by the KCSP in March 2023 and the Victim Blaming Language training sessions in 2023/24, the KCST utilised funding from the PCC to commission a further six online training sessions for partners on VAWG including engaging men and boys in tackling VAWG and creating community interventions.
- Anti-Social Behaviour: Following on from the multi-agency ASB event delivered by the KCSP in March 2024, the KCST utilised funding from the PCC in 2024/25 to commission in-person and online training for partners on ASB tools and powers and case reviews. The training was designed and delivered by ASB Help, a leading national charity, to equip delegates with a thorough knowledge and understanding of best practice in ASB casework and case reviews.
- Workshops / Events: In addition to the above events, during 2024/25 the KCST organised and delivered a number of additional workshops to support partnership delivery including: a Strategic Assessment Data workshop for district/borough colleagues and a series of nine Community Safety Information Sessions (CSIS) delivered as one-hour lunchtime drop-in sessions. Some of the topics covered in the CSIS sessions during 2024/25 included: ASB good practice, Victim Support, South Eastern Rail (community safety), suicide, stalking, lithium-ion batteries, serious and organised crime, male IDVA support service, healthy empowering relationships. 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 a monthly e-bulletin on Community Safety in Kent, highlighting and promoting partnership working. The bulletins provide brief updates on emerging issues, changes to services, new documentation, data releases, media articles, training opportunities, 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 delivery of pieces of work referenced in the Community Safety Agreement action plan, such as 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. Kent Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) published the latest [Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029](#) on 1st April 2025.
- 6.3. The PCC's 'Plan on a Page' (shown below), sets out the desired strategic outcomes within the new plan to: **Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust**, which is supported by four key priorities:
- Protecting People
 - Protecting Places
 - Protecting Property
 - Productive Partnerships



See Appendix D for a table display of above diagram

- 6.4 To support delivery objectives in 2025/26 the PCC has recommended to Community Safety Partnerships in Kent and Medway, that the following focus areas are considered:
- Working with residents, communities, and businesses to prevent and reduce public disorder, crime, and anti-social behaviour (ASB).
 - Reducing violence against women and girls (VAWG).
 - Safeguarding victims and providing support to help them cope and build resilience for the future.
 - Protecting young people through education to keep them safe.
 - Reducing violence and knife crime.
 - Preventing road danger and supporting Vision Zero.
 - Preventing Cybercrime and fraud through education and awareness.
 - Preventing retail crime, vehicle crime, burglary, and robbery.
 - Delivering prevention work to reduce rural crime.
 - Tackling environmental crime.
- 6.5 The priorities and focus areas identified by the Kent PCC align with those identified by the Kent Community Safety Partnership in the next chapter.

7. County Priorities

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. 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.
- 7.5. 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 and 2024 – No changes were made to the priorities or cross-cutting themes although the cost of living crisis and the associated impacts were noted.

- 7.6. In the latest review for April 2025 no changes have been identified for the overarching priorities or the cross-cutting themes although areas which may benefit from a greater focus as a result of new legislation, government action plans or local concerns, include serious violence, violence against women and girls, and anti-social behaviour. The high cost of living remains worthy of note as an issue that continues to affect all sectors of society including public sector services and charities; as well current geopolitical events and uncertainties. However, any partnership activity relating to the impact of these issues can be incorporated into existing priorities or could be considered as part of the cross-cutting theme ‘Improve Quality of Life and Enhance Community Resilience’.
- 7.7. The only other item to note in relation to the priorities is ‘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, ‘road danger’ is included in the Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 along with Vision Zero (*Road Safety Strategy*).
- 7.8. Whilst the priorities and cross-cutting themes remain unchanged it is acknowledged that work will take place over the year ahead to assess the impact of potential new legislation such as the Crime and Policing Bill, as well as the anticipated publication of new strategic guidance in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews. In the meantime, the action plan which supports the work of the CSA will ensure these key workstreams are included and actioned as appropriate.

- 7.9. The diagram below includes the priorities and cross-cutting themes for the CSA and align closely to the strategic outcomes and priorities identified in the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's new Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 (see Chapter 6).



ASB = anti-social behaviour

Key:

Kent CSA priorities & cross-cutting themes (purple).

See Appendix D for a table display of above diagram.

- Safeguarding Vulnerable People includes: *Child Sexual Exploitation, Adults and Young People at Risk, Fraud, Cybercrime, Scams, Victims, People at Risk of Exploitation*
- Serious Violence & Organised Crime includes: *Serious & Organised Crime, Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), Gangs / Gang Violence, Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking, Violence Reduction, Serious Violence Duty, County Lines, Cuckooing*
- Neighbourhood Crime & ASB includes: *Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime, Neighbour Disputes, Environmental Crime, Deliberate Fires, Criminal Damage*
- Preventing Extremism & Hate includes: *Radicalisation, Extremism, Hate Crimes, Counter-Terrorism, Incels (involuntary celibates), Immigration tensions*
- Substance Misuse – *misuse or abuse of drugs and alcohol, licensing, drug dealing / offences, night-time economy (NTE)*

- 7.10. 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 Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) Steering Group [formerly Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)]; 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.
- 7.11. 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.

8. 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

9. 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:

- Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029
- Local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Community Safety Plans
- Kent and Medway Serious Violence Strategy
- Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2029
- 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 Delivery Plan 2025-2029
- 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 and Medway Integrated Care Strategy
- National Retail Crime Action Plan
- National Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan

10. 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 (2024-25)

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.

Priority	No. of CSPs
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) / Environmental	12
Domestic Abuse	12
Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) (<i>inc. stalking & harassment</i>)	11
Serious Violence (<i>including the serious violence duty and violence reduction</i>)	11
Safeguarding / Supporting Vulnerable People (<i>including adults and young people at risk and exploitation</i>)	10
Strengthening Communities (<i>community resilience, supporting young people, poverty, unemployment, public confidence</i>)	9
Substance Misuse (<i>including drug offences, alcohol abuse, night-time economy</i>)	9
Extremism & Hate (<i>including preventing extremism, radicalisation, and hate crimes</i>)	8
Crime (<i>including acquisitive crime, business crime, and property crime</i>)	8
Serious and Organised Crime (<i>including organised crime groups, county lines, modern slavery/human trafficking</i>)	7
Reducing Offending and Reoffending	6
Public Spaces (<i>safe town centres, places & environment, criminal damage, hot spot locations</i>)	5
Mental Health and Wellbeing	5
Road Safety	2

Appendix B: Executive Summary

Please note this section is under development.

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:

- English Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation
- County Council elections in May 2025
- Geopolitical uncertainty
- War in Ukraine
- EU Entry/Exit System (EES)
- Civil unrest

Economic:

- High cost of living
- Fuel and food poverty
- Funding pressure on public services and the charity sector
- Financial pressures on businesses and individuals
- Increased need for financial support i.e. Universal Credit, and other types of support, i.e. food banks
- Predicted increases in unemployment

Social / Demographic:

- Safeguarding and supporting vulnerable members of society
- Violence against women and girls
- Domestic abuse
- Serious violence
- Anti-social behaviour
- Preventing violent extremism
- Organised crime groups
- Illegal immigration
- Looked after children
- Human trafficking/modern slavery
- Child sexual exploitation
- Drugs and alcohol
- Hate crime
- Mental health (including dementia)
- Social isolation / loneliness
- Business crime (inc. shoplifting)
- Changing population demographics

Technological:

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

Environmental (and Geographical):

- Insufficient housing stock
- New developments and infrastructure
- Extreme weather events, i.e. flooding
- Activism and awareness raising around environmental issues.

Legislation:

Recent legislation and statutory duties:

- Victims and Prisoners Act 2024
- Illegal Migration Act 2023
- 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*

Upcoming legislation and duties:

- Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill
- Crime and Policing Bill
- Terrorism (Protection of Premises)
- Tobacco and Vapes Bill
- E-scooters (Review and Awareness)
- Lithium-ion Battery Safety Bill

Organisational:

- Reorganisation of council structures
- Funding risks and challenges
- Implementation of new duties / strategies

Appendix D: Kent CSA Priorities and Cross-Cutting Themes

As highlighted in Chapters 6 and 7, Appendix D has been included in the document for digital accessibility purposes. The tables below show the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) priorities and cross-cutting themes and the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's outcomes, priorities and delivery mechanisms from the Police and Crime 2025-2029.

Kent CSA Priorities:

Domestic Abuse

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Safeguarding Vulnerable People

Serious Violence and Organised Crime

Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB (*Anti-Social Behaviour*)

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

Kent Police and Crime Plan – Plan on a Page:

Outcomes: Cut Crime, Support Victims, and Build Trust

Key Priorities: Protecting People, Protecting Places, Protecting Property, Productive Partnerships

Key Delivery Mechanisms: Effective monitoring and accountability, Sustainable budget, Effective national and regional working



In partnership with



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



Email: kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk

Tel: 03000 410234

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