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To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 20 November 2025

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. It 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
- Violence against women and girls
- Substance Misuse
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Serious Violence and Organised Crime
- Preventing Extremism and Hate
- Road Safety

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 oversee the delivery of the action plan and are monitoring the progress.
- 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 (DHRs) /

domestic abuse related death reviews (DARDRs), 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, road safety, and preventing extremism.

- 3.3 Activities taking place in relation to some of the other priorities, such as Domestic Abuse, Safeguarding Vulnerable People, and Preventing Neighbourhood Crime and ASB, include:
- The consultation on the draft Kent and Medway Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy is complete, and the strategy is being finalised, with publication due in the new year. Partners are being asked to consider their role in supporting the strategies' actions. In addition, there was a successful visit from the UK wide Baton of Hope Tour on 22nd September 2025, engaging with the general public and raising awareness of mental health and suicide prevention. A video of the day will be shared with partners soon.
 - Work is ongoing with the #KnowSeeSpeakOut campaign and the [16-days of Action](#) Against Domestic Abuse campaign which will be promoted at the Community Safety Information Session in mid-November. In addition, a three month review of the new MARAC case management and hub implementation has been undertaken and an action plan developed with partners to implement recommendations.
 - The progress of the Crime and Policing Bill through Parliament is being monitored, with the aim to work together to implement any changes that impact the KCSP and partner agencies, when the Bill is enacted. The proposed legislation will impact laws on anti-social behaviour, knife crime, public order, sexual offences, and policing powers. It is currently navigating the House of Lords committee stage with sittings scheduled until the end of January 2026.
- 3.4 The action plan remains a live document and can be updated and amended during the year as required.

4.0 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

- 4.1 Under the Police and Justice Act 2006, local authorities are required to establish a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee to review the work of community safety partnerships. In line with this requirement, KCC's Scrutiny Committee meets annually in its capacity as the Crime and Disorder Committee, acting as a critical friend to challenge and scrutinise partnership activity and outcomes from the Community Safety Agreement (CSA).
- 4.2 The most recent meeting took place on 2 October 2025, reviewing the work of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) during 2024/25, commenting on the refreshed CSA (April 2025), and considering activities delivered so far in 2025/26.
- 4.3 A comprehensive written report was provided in advance, detailing a range of data and information on each CSA priority, and actions undertaken by partners during 2024/25 and to date in 2025/26. The meeting opened with a short presentation

outlining the purpose and functions of the KCSP, followed by a focus on two key areas of interest: the neighbourhood policing model and a newly introduced support service for domestic abuse survivors. Committee members then engaged in a question and answer session.

- 4.4 The meeting was held in a hybrid format, with committee members and 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.
- 4.5 The session was webcast live and the printed draft minutes have been published on the Kent.gov website. The committee resolved to note the report and thanked partners for their work and contributions to the report. In addition, the committee highlighted some considerations for next year's report and noted five areas of ongoing interest:

Report Considerations:

- How communications had been improved with the public and with services outside of the partnership.
- How monitoring through the dashboard had progressed and how public confidence in the data within the report could be assured.

Areas of Interest:

- The visibility of neighbourhood policing.
- The outreach from services into communities.
- Access to suicide prevention services.
- How best practice could be rolled out from individual parts of the partnership that were performing extremely well across the county.
- How the Neighbourhood Watch might be included in any future reports.

5.0 Strategic Assessments

- 5.1 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 14th 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.
- 5.2 The KCST is also planning a data workshop on 10th December for partners involved in producing the local strategic assessments (SA's). A calendar invite has been sent to authors of the local SA's and data providers. 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. Further speakers are being identified and finalised, including inputs on road safety and hospital admissions. The KCST has also commissioned the production of a Kent strategic assessment to help support the process and inform the refresh of the CSA.

6.0 Kent Community Safety Agreement

- 6.1 Planning for the review of the current Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) was discussed at the recent KCSP Working Group in October and it has been agreed that the next meeting on 27 January 2026 will be held in-person to facilitate partnership discussions around the review of the CSA.
- 6.2 The refresh will include a review of the current priorities based on the strategic assessment outcomes; horizon scanning which will help identify emerging issues and opportunities; new statutory duties and relevant legislation; and any feedback and recommendations from the recent Scrutiny Committee. In addition, the KCST will work with partners to consider potential options to streamline the document if appropriate, to maintain a focus on the key priority areas.
- 6.3 The KCST will work with partners over the next couple of months to prepare for the review meeting in January. Following those discussions the team will collaborate with agencies to develop a final draft of the new / updated CSA which will be presented at the KCSP meeting in March 2026 for senior partner input.

7.0 Recommendations

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

For Further Information:

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