

To: Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel
Subject: Crime Prevention
Date: 16 December 2025

Introduction:

1. The nine 'Peelian Principles' were established by Sir Robert Peel, who founded the Metropolitan Police Service. The first Principle states 'the basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder'. This is still as valid today as it was in 1829 when the Principles were first set out in the 'General Instructions' issued to every new police officer.
2. Crime prevention is crucial because it helps to reduce the demand on policing resources and increases the chance of being caught, which serves as a deterrent to crime.
3. It is in recognition of its importance that crime prevention is listed as one of the key enablers to delivering the priorities within the PCC's '[Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust](#)' Police and Crime Plan.
4. This paper outlines Kent Police's approach to crime prevention, and also highlights some of the work the PCC supports in this sphere.
5. The PCC is grateful to Kent Police for its assistance with this paper.

Kent Police:

6. At the PCC's Performance and Delivery Board on 26 November, the Chief Constable presented a paper on crime prevention. For Members information, this is attached as Appendix A.
7. Because so much of Kent Police's work is focused on preventing and reducing crime, it is difficult to articulate in one report, therefore the paper focuses on some discrete elements. However, in introducing the paper, the Chief Constable provided an overview of the force's approach¹.
8. As a key enabler to delivering the priorities within the PCC's Police and Crime Plan, crime prevention underpins everything the Force does.
9. It is embedded throughout the entire organisation, with almost every operational team undertaking activity that in some way reduces and/or prevents crime. Examples include the Violence Reduction Unit's work to reduce serious violence through the use of education and enforcement, and the Fraud Protect Officers who help individuals and businesses to become more resistant to cyber-attack.
10. The Force's Strategic Prevention Command is dedicated to reducing and preventing crime. Overseen by the Assistant Chief Constable for Local Policing, it seeks to deliver safer neighbourhoods by combining prevention, deterrence, and enforcement in order to:
 - Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), preventing problems occurring using evidenced based policing to identify 'what works'.
 - Undertake early intervention with children and young people when problems start to emerge through the Child Centred Policing approach.
 - Use a problem-solving approach to manage existing issues and reduce repeat locations, repeat offenders and repeat victims.

¹ The [Chief Constable's introduction](#) to the paper can be viewed on the OPCC YouTube channel.

11. Of course, to deliver safer neighbourhoods requires a team Kent approach, and so the Command does not operate in isolation. The Assistant Chief Constable for Local Policing owns all neighbourhood resources and therefore ensures a synergy across Kent. The Command also has responsibility for, and strategic oversight of key business areas that drive prevention including substance misuse, Licensing, and Integrated Offender Management (IOM).
12. Oversight of the success of the prevention focus is delivered through the Neighbourhood Policing Prevention and Problem-Solving Panel chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable for Local Policing.
13. The work of Community Safety Units is almost exclusively aimed at combating repeat crime and ASB problems. They systematically tackle endemic problems within communities using a structured problem-solving approach called the OSARA model:
 - **Objective:** Define what you aim to achieve. This involves setting clear goals for the problem-solving process, such as reducing crime rates or improving community safety.
 - **Scanning:** Identify and prioritise problems. This step involves gathering data to understand the issues affecting the community, including the frequency and nature of incidents.
 - **Analysis:** Investigate the underlying causes of the identified problems. This includes examining who is involved, where incidents occur, and what factors contribute to the issues. The goal is to understand why the problem persists.
 - **Response:** Develop and implement strategies to address the identified problems. This may involve collaboration with community partners, deploying resources, or creating targeted interventions.
 - **Assessment:** Evaluate the effectiveness of the response. This step involves measuring outcomes to determine if the implemented strategies have successfully addressed the problem and if adjustments are needed for future efforts.

The model emphasises the importance of understanding the root causes of problems and evaluating the effectiveness of responses to ensure sustainable solutions.
14. The Force's Designing Out Crime Officers also play a crucial role in crime prevention by collaborating with local authorities, architects and developers to create safer environments. With specialist training and accreditation, they are well embedded in planning processes and proactive as evidenced by the 541 applications responded to over the last 12 months.
15. Officers have access to a comprehensive burglary prevention toolkit to support them in giving advice to victims/potential victims on preventing further offences, including distraction burglaries and other fraud offences.
16. Whilst CCTV cameras and the growing use of video doorbells are deterrents in themselves, the Force's CCTV Registry allows officers to access the location and contact information of registered CCTV, doorbell, and other cameras as part of their investigation - a valuable tool. Members of the public, businesses, and local councils can register camera locations via www.cctvregistrykentandessex.co.uk.
17. The Force also uses [My Community Voice](#) to widely promote safety and prevention messages and advise of local surgeries and engagement events. In addition, relevant crime prevention material is made available for down loading.
18. In terms of impact, the Force has continued to see a reduction in a number of recorded offences. For example, comparing October 2024 to September 2025 with the previous 12 months, victim based crime is down 3.3% (-4,560), serious violence 4.0% (-646), and residential burglaries 18.9% (-548). There has also been a significant increase in the use of preventative orders and protection notices, with officers and staff growing in confidence to use them with the aim of stopping certain behaviours, and preventing crime/ASB.

Police and Crime Commissioner:

19. The best way to prevent crime is to stop it happening in the first place, and that is why PCCs have adopted a whole-system approach by working with partners across not just policing, but in health, social care, local authorities, and charities.
20. In Kent, the PCC plays a crucial role in preventing crime and improving community safety by facilitating programmes that address the causes of criminal behaviour through extensive partnership work, commissioning and grant making.

21. The following examples illustrate the PCC's commitment to working in partnership to prevent crime and ASB across the county.

Crime Reduction Grant

22. For 2025/26, the PCC has allocated £1,306,906.74 to the Crime Reduction Grant (CRG). £558,385 is allocated across the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Kent and Medway, with the average CSP award being £39,844. £748,521 is allocated to statutory and third-party providers such as the Youth Justice Teams, Drug and Alcohol Misuse Partnerships and Safeguarding Boards.

23. The CRG must be used to deliver projects/services or interventions that support the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan and they must align to one or more the following areas,

- Working with residents, communities, and businesses to prevent and reduce public disorder, crime, and 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.

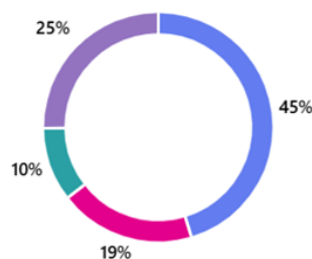
24. Each organisation allocated the CRG must detail how the funding will be utilised, including outcomes to be achieved and how delivery supports the PCCs priorities.

25. For 2025/26, the PCC has approved 76 business case projects totalling £1,054,420 across the CSPs, statutory and third-party providers.

26. The following illustrate the PCC priorities and themes supported through the business case projects.

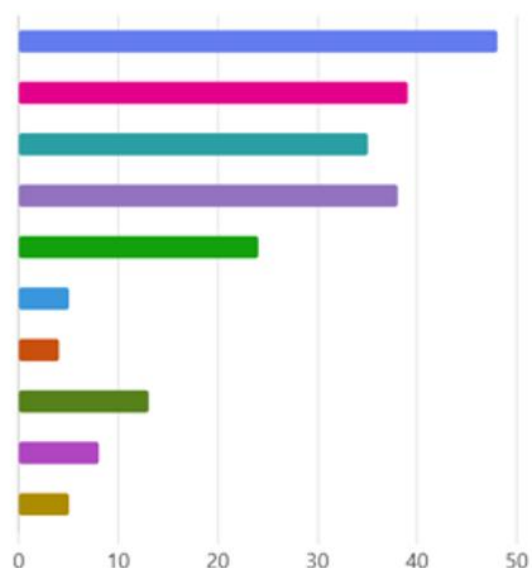
Police & Crime Plan priorities

Protecting People	83
Protecting Places	35
Protecting Property	19
Productive Partnerships	46



Themes

Working with residents, communities, and businesses to prevent and reduce public disorder, crime, and ASB.
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.



27. Examples of the types of projects being delivered include,

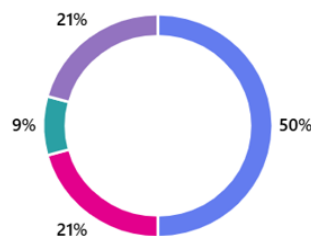
- Youth outreach and diversionary activity including, drugs, alcohol, hate crime, prejudice (misogyny, antisemitism, islamophobia) and personal safety workshops. Sports interventions and diversionary activities in ASB hotspots.
- CCTV, including supporting mobile CCTV deployments.
- VAWG activities, including women and girls' safety events, domestic abuse awareness raising and support provision.
- Retail and nighttime economy interventions such as taxi marshals, town ambassadors, street pastors and licensing training for professionals.
- Environmental improvements including graffiti removal.
- Statutory safeguarding reviews, audits and professionals training.
- Drug and alcohol treatment programmes.
- Prevent and hateful extremism learning events to support frontline staff.

28. The CSPs also have a third of their grant allocated to tactical pots, which enables them to bid for funding throughout the year to deliver responsive projects based on need. To date, funding for 37 tactical pot projects has been requested, totalling £143,908.

29. The following illustrate the PCC priorities and themes supported through the tactical projects.

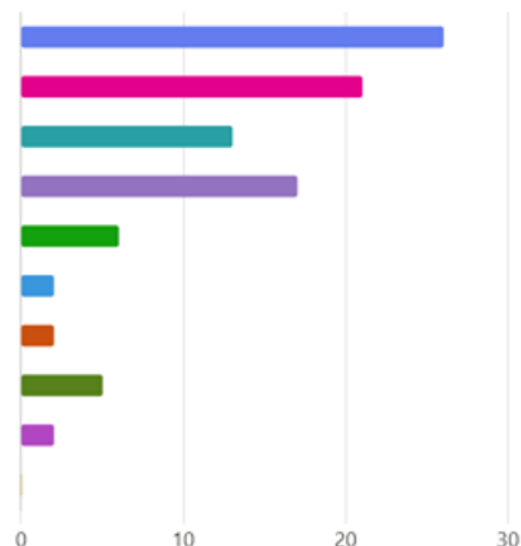
Police & Crime Plan priorities

Protecting People	41
Protecting Places	17
Protecting Property	7
Productive Partnerships	17



Themes

Working with residents, communities, and businesses to prevent and reduce public disorder, crime, and ASB.
Reducing VAWG.
Safeguarding victims and providing support to help them cope and build
Protecting young people through education to keep them safe.
Reducing violence and knife crime resilience for the future.
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.



30. Examples of the types of projects being delivered include,

- Community engagement and reassurance activities, including activities in hotspot areas, street ambassadors and crime prevention items e.g. personal alarms, purse chains etc.
- Communication campaigns and awareness raising, including VAWG 16 days of action, BSL interpretation on scams and doorstep crime, women's empowerment and safety training, human trafficking and exploitation training and training in Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB).
- Youth engagement, outreach and engagement activities, including diversionary interventions, mentoring activities and behavioural support.
- Nighttime and daytime economy activities, including VAPE Action Retailer Packs, Zero Tolerance implementation, Walksafe Safety Mapping and CCTV improvements.
- Victim services including wellness programme for domestic abuse victims.

Violence Reduction Unit

31. The Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) is a partnership between the police, local councils, health service providers and other key partners. The aim of the VRU is to develop a public health, preventative approach to serious violence across the county. Its work is carried out in line with the Home Office's 'All Systems Approach', and the elements that underpin it are:
- Driving and coordinating a multi-agency response to serious violence.
 - Sophisticated data sharing.
 - Involving young people and communities.
 - Commissioning and delivering evidence-based activities and evaluating those activities where an evidence base does not yet exist.
32. The VRU identifies what is driving violent crime through the sharing of data. Using this model, it is better able to understand which partners are best able to support with a prevent or protect response.
33. Violence is not something that just happens, nor is it normal or acceptable in society. Many of the key risk factors that make individuals, families or communities vulnerable to violence are changeable, including exposure to adverse experiences in childhood and subsequently the environments in which individuals live, learn and work throughout youth, adulthood and older age.
34. The public health approach adopted by the VRU is an evidence-based four step process:
- What's the problem? - gather data to reveal the who, what, why, where and when of the problem. This can be crime data but also information from hospitals, schools and a range of other sources.
 - What are the causes? - look for evidence on the factors that put people at risk of experiencing, or perpetrating, violence as well as the factors that can protect them.
 - What works and for whom? - using the data gathered design, implement and (crucially) evaluate interventions.
 - Scale it up! - if an intervention works, then scale it up while evaluating how well it works and its cost-effectiveness.
35. The VRU commissions county-wide and locally designed services to deliver its prevention and intervention approach. Examples include:
- **Young Futures**
A programme designed to identify children at risk of entering the criminal justice system and/or school exclusion. The pilot area is Medway and Young Futures are working with two schools for whom the VRU receive referrals for assessment. A bespoke programme of mentorship is allocated to children via Sport on Your Doorstep and the Youth Service. Programmes include football, boxing, photography, and bike building. The VRU is also supporting the pilot schools more generally with support from the Paramount Foundation who will deliver theatre-based workshops. The next stage is to introduce whole family therapy to the cohort.
Detailed data is being gathered to assess the effectiveness of the scheme and to advise upscaling the programme when indicated by the Home Office.
 - **School workshops**
The VRU fund and support four main education schemes: Pol-Ed, Commando Chef presentations, and Mizen and St Giles inputs. The latter is a collaboration between the VRU and the OPCC and focuses on knife crime and exploitation. Whilst the VRU has predominantly worked in secondary schools, it is now offering more input in primary schools, as concerns around children's violence and misogynistic language has increased. The two VRU-funded KCC Participation Workers engage with children to understand their views, and this informs VRU strategies.
 - **#Pointless – Safer Knife Replacement Scheme (SKRS)**
Police and partner agencies can offer the SKRS to eligible households or businesses. In exchange for all the pointed knives within the property, it provides a pack of four knives or a single 5" rounded-end kitchen knife, alongside safety advice and guidance. The scheme reduces the risk in the home and makes them less attractive for street-based knife crime. The scheme has already swapped over 400 knives from vulnerable premises and with more swaps happening every day, is making Kent a safer place.

Criminal justice

36. The Kent Criminal Justice Board, chaired by the PCC, brings together chief officers from criminal justice (CJ) agencies and wider partners and is responsible for overseeing CJ across Kent with the purpose of delivering effective, efficient and fair justice.
37. One area of focus is preventing crime in the future, by reducing levels of reoffending following imprisonment. With support from the Board, and £25k 'seed' funding from the PCC, work is currently underway to establish a Prisoners Building Homes (PBH) programme in the county.
38. Sponsored by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Ministry of Justice, the programme aims to address housing shortages while simultaneously providing prisoners with training and employment opportunities that will support their reintegration into society.
39. The PBH mission is to:
- Deliver Homes - by building high-quality, low-cost homes which help address housing pressures for local communities and vulnerable people.
 - Reduce Reoffending - by upskilling prisoners and providing them with formal construction qualifications so they are more likely to find employment on release.
 - Change Lives - by providing affordable and social housing, creating safer communities and turning around the lives of prisoners and their families.
 - Support Modular Housing - by developing a pipeline of sites for PBH modular housebuilders.
 - Deliver Net Zero - by building sustainable, low carbon, energy-efficient homes for tomorrow.
40. Nationally, to date, the programme has 700+ homes on 90+ sites in the pipeline, partnerships with 14 modular housebuilders, 11 prisons accredited, with 70+ prisoners upskilled.
41. Evidence indicates 85%+ of prisoners' secure employment in construction upon release and the reoffending rate to be less than 10% (compared to a national average of 27%).
42. Crime deeply affects individuals, families, and communities, which is why the PCC's partnership work, commissioning, and funding decisions focus on making a tangible difference for the people of Kent.
43. On behalf of the public, the PCC is determined to maintain an unwavering focus on preventing crime.

Recommendation:

44. The Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel is asked to note this report.

Chief Constable's Report
to
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance and Delivery Board

Prevention Paper

Wednesday 26th November 2025

To achieve the national objective of Prevention '*fewer victims, fewer offences and reduced demand on policing, by addressing underlying causes and using partnership-oriented problem solving*' Neighbourhood Policing activity implemented by Kent Police prioritises prevention, deterrence, and enforcement, to deliver safer neighbourhoods by:

- Reducing crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), preventing problems occurring using evidenced based policing, identifying 'what works'
- Undertaking early intervention with children and young people when issues begin to emerge through our Child Centred Policing approach
- Use of a problem-solving approach for managing existing issues to reduce repeat locations, repeat offenders and repeat victims

Overview and Governance

The Strategic Prevention Command has responsibility for and strategic oversight of key business areas which support and drive prevention focus. These include:

- Neighbourhood Policing
- Serious Violent Crime
- Substance Misuse
- Mental Health
- Licensing
- Antisocial behaviour
- Child Centred Policing
- Integrated Offender Management (IOM)
- Crime Prevention,
- Working with stakeholders in Community Safety Partnerships, Public Health Integrated Care Partnerships, Business crime Reduction Partnerships, Probation, and Youth services

Many of the thematic areas have their own governance to drive activity such as the Business Crime Advisory Group, Kent and Medway Reducing Reoffending board and the Youth Justice Boards. Oversight of the success of the prevention focus is delivered through the Neighbourhood Policing Prevention and Problem-Solving Panels chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable for Local Policing. This governance supports the identification and sharing of best practice, highlighting work for escalation to the College of Policing Practice Bank or Knowledge Hub.

Training

To ensure a focus on prevention the force has delivered training focused on engagement and problem-solving enabling Kent Police to identify the issues which matter most to the community and help prevent and deter the continued criminal and anti-social activity through a problem-solving approach. To date the training has included:

- Community Resolution training
- Athena Investigations and N26 / Investigative Habits Refresher training
- PREVENT Training
- NRM training
- VRU Awareness
- Young Street Groups
- Community Speedwatch
- Mobile First
- Proactive Management Plans (PMPs) and OSARA
- Outcome 22
- Intervention workbooks
- Right Care Right Person
- My Community Voice
- National Intelligence Model
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG): Sexual Risk Orders, Victim Blaming Language, Project Vigilant
- Metal Theft legislation

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Kent Police has continued to prioritise prevention and early intervention across the county during the recent summer months and times of high demand, focusing on reducing ASB, improving safety in public spaces, and tackling drug-related harm through multi-agency collaboration and targeted operations.

Significant operational activity has been focussed on tackling VAWG and associated ASB in town centre public spaces, through collaborative efforts and innovative policing strategies. Notably, Project Vigilant has focused on the prevention of sexual violence in the night-time economy (NTE) by identifying and disrupting predatory behaviour before it escalates into criminal offences. Running alongside covert tactics, Operation Pilot has been utilised with overt tactics to promote safety in the NTE across multiple districts including Canterbury, Ashford, Dover, Folkestone, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks. The operation targets drug use and possession in licensed premises using tactics such as passive drugs dogs, drug swabbing, knife detection and high-visibility policing.

One such deployment in Canterbury resulted in:

- One arrest
- Seven stop searches
- Three out-of-court resolutions
- Significant engagement with both licensees and users of the NTE.

The operation strengthened venue safety, supported responsible management, and gathered valuable intelligence on individuals and locations linked to drug use and supply. With the support of Corporate Communications, the prevention activity has been widely publicised, resulting in exceptionally high levels of engagement across social media. One licensee wrote directly to the CSU praising their efforts.

*"I'm writing to extend a sincere thank you to your team for the visit on Friday evening. Having the officers and sniffer dogs on-site was not only reassuring for us as publicans but also sends a strong message to customers. Managing a busy venue, particularly with some of the younger patrons, can be challenging at times, and it's a huge support to know we have the police backing us up."***Licensee, Whitstable.**

Tackling ASB is a policing priority in Kent's coastal locations during the summer period due to increased tourism, warmer weather, and seasonal events that drive higher public activity. This often leads to spikes in reports of street drinking and youth-related disturbances, which can significantly affect residents' quality of life due to increased perception of intimidation, and a reduced sense of safety. Kent Police focussed on prevention during this period to protect communities, manage demand, and maintain public trust and confidence.

A key element of the prevention strategy is the targeted use of enforcement orders, which play a vital role in reducing the likelihood of reoffending. These orders are not only reactive measures but are embedded within a long-term suite of preventative interventions. Enforcement orders help to interrupt cycles of offending and support individuals in making sustained behavioural changes. This preventative approach ensures that enforcement is used constructively, reinforcing the commitment to safeguarding communities and promoting lasting public safety. This year saw an increase in all enforcement orders issued across the county, including section 34 dispersal orders issued to direct people to leave an area to prevent crime, Community Protection Notices and Warnings, section 59 warnings for vehicle related activity and closure orders.

Following dispersals being issued in the coastal locations, officers visited the homes of 65 children to engage with their parents and carers. These visits involved an officer from the local Neighbourhood Policing Team attending the address with a letter regarding ASB and to carry out educational discussion regarding ASB, being dispersed and the risks around wider offending. Arrests, drug seizures, and Community Resolutions were also utilised to tackle ASB and disorder. Consequently, Thanet saw a decrease of 8.9% in serious violence impacting those under 25 years old, as of September, compared to the previous year.

Partnership working was vital in managing the surge in ASB across Kent's coastal towns during the summer, helping to share demand across agencies and deliver more effective, targeted interventions. Collaborative working between the police and local authorities addressed street drinking and rough sleeping, while licensing agreements with local stores helped reduce alcohol-related ASB. This collaborative approach enabled swift enforcement, including the issuing of banning notices to problematic youths, where five notices were issued in total, banning individuals from all shop safe premises, ensuring a coordinated response that protected community wellbeing and maintained public confidence during a high-demand period.

The ASB Team continue to review the top 20 retail offenders and seek positive interventions and enforcement opportunities using ASB tool kit. Over the summer period eight CBOs linked to town centres (six linked directly to retail crime) have been submitted to the CPS and in the same period 41 CPNs were issued across the county for various issues including:

- Persistent begging in Rochester High Street and Ashford town centre
- Continuous consumption of alcohol, drunkenness and ASB around Dover town centre
- ASB and drinking in Chatham High Street
- ASB and drinking around Gillingham High Street
- Repeated Nuisance behaviour in Subway, Dartford

The culmination of efforts and preventative activity ensured reductions in serious violence, seen in the first quarter of the year, were maintained. For those aged under 25 years and measuring violence outside of the home, for the rolling quarter (July-September 2025) compared to the previous year, there has been a decrease of 14.1% across the county.

Youth Justice and Prevention Initiatives

Young people are a key part of Kent Police's prevention activity, with priorities focussed on early intervention, education, and safeguarding to reduce vulnerability and prevent crime. Through a child-centred policing approach, the Force works closely with schools, youth outreach services, and community partners to identify emerging risks and provide positive pathways that divert young people from offending. Initiatives such as youth engagement programmes, school-based inputs, and trauma-informed practices, ensure that young voices are heard and supported, reinforcing trust and building long-term resilience within communities.

Kent Police continue to utilise intervention workbooks that follow a process of reflective practice and allow a police officer to spend time with the child to try to understand any reasons for their behaviour or identify risk factors that can then be addressed for low level matters. An internal review last year found that 92% of children who participate in a workbook do not go on to receive a further formal outcome. A further review is planned with help from the Centre for Justice Innovation. Between July and Sept 2025, workbooks were delivered in the following categories:

Category	Count
Knives and weapons	11
Violent behaviour	56
Sending nudes	0
Hate crime	17
Animal welfare	2
Arson	3
Acquisitive crime	32
Wasting police time	0
ASB	5
Assault emergency worker	2
Fraud	1
Understanding consent	2
Total	131

From August 2025 Kent Police commenced use of the Pol-Ed system, providing police related education inputs into schools (both primary, secondary, PRUs and outside providers such as sports hubs for excluded pupils). Funding from the Violence Reduction Unit, allowed the service to be offered to schools free of charge. To date over 400 schools have signed up and are actively using the system. Kent Police have delivered 52 lessons across Kent to 4510 students and schools have independently delivered 1115 lessons to 34650 students (77 of which were Medway to 2310 students). The top three categories were:

- Relationships (735 deliveries to 22050 students)
- Keeping safe (233 deliveries to 6990 students)
- Law (187 deliveries to 5210 students)

Reframe is a drugs intervention programme and between the months of July and September 2025, 49 children were referred into the programme, which aims to support children through education rather than punishment for lower-level drugs offending or involvement.

Youth Justice manage a deferred outcome scheme that is designed for children involved in lower level first time offending, whereby their outcome is deferred into an intervention programme rather than entry into the justice system. If children do not comply with the programme, the matter is then returned for a formal outcome. This scheme is currently being reviewed and refreshed with the help of the Youth Endowment Fund and in this quarter, 23 children were offered the opportunity to participate. During this period, Kent Police secured the opportunity to become one of four force areas being supported by the Youth Endowment fund whole area model. This supports the assessment of the processes and effectiveness when interacting with children and will help with implementing relevant improvements.

Case study – Buddi Tag

IOM have secured funding for 15 x Buddi tags. This is a voluntary GPS ankle device used by police and partner agencies to monitor the movements of individuals, typically under 25, who are at risk of criminal exploitation or repeat offending, helping deter harmful behaviour and support rehabilitation. The tags are primarily managed by IOM, however, they are utilised across wider commands and teams, and include offenders managed by MOSOVO, Priority Nominals managed by Neighbourhood Task Forces and wider probation offenders. In addition, the VRU fund eight tags for use on young people, as part of a wider preventative approach to deter young people from crime and reduce the risks of exploitation. The following study of 15-year-old "Chloe" highlights Buddi's recent successful use:

Chloe was a 15-year-old girl increasingly involved in anti-social behaviour, including public disturbances, verbal abuse, vandalism and shoplifting alcohol often while under the influence of alcohol. Following the breakdown of family relationships, she disengaged from school and support services. Her behaviour was significantly influenced by peer pressure. She had fallen in with a group of older youths who encouraged her to take risks, often drinking alcohol in public spaces and carrying weapons on behalf of others, despite not fully understanding the risks or consequences which often escalated due to intoxication and group dynamics. Her vulnerability and desire to fit in made her susceptible to manipulation, further distancing her from protective adults and services. Following a multi-agency meeting involving Kent Police, the Youth Offending Team, and social services, she was visited and a Buddi Alco tag was discussed as part of a tailored intervention plan. She agreed as she realised her actions had gone too far and she didn't know how to come back from the expectations her peers had of her. The benefits of the Buddi Alco tag were:

- *Allowed her to use it as an excuse to remove herself from peers encouraging bad behaviour*
- *Allowed her to take more control of her own decisions*
- *Encouraged a positive change in her behaviour*
- *Shoplifting incidents ceased entirely*
- *Alcohol use became non-existent*
- *ASB reports dropped significantly, with no further incidents recorded during the monitoring period*
- *Weapon carrying stopped, as she distanced herself from the peer group that had encouraged it and spent more time with family including attending her grandad's allotment*
- *Her relationship with her mother and youth worker improved*
- *Fewer confrontations and more stability, they were able to engage in family support sessions including a local mentoring programme and attendance at school improved.*

The success of Chloe's case was rooted in strong collaboration, conversation, care and support. Chloe's story highlights how technology like the Buddi Alco tag can be a powerful tool in early intervention. By combining real-time monitoring with compassionate, multi-agency support, it's possible to redirect young people away from harmful behaviours.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is the cornerstone of effective prevention work, as it builds trust, encourages information sharing, and strengthens relationships between the police and the public. By actively involving communities in identifying concerns and shaping local responses, Kent Police can deliver more targeted interventions and foster a shared sense of responsibility for safety. Engagement also helps to increase visibility, reassure residents, and promote early reporting of issues, allowing for quicker, more collaborative problem-solving before behaviours escalate.

Examples of engagement activity specifically targeted to drive crime prevention throughout the summer period, include such campaigns as the 'Clock it, Check it, Change it' campaign aimed at young people, encouraging them to safely intervene and challenge behaviour and prevent violence, has seen high levels of engagement on social media. Whilst on a local level, the Sittingbourne CCPT ran a successful 'Swale Police Open Day', which brought together officers, staff, and partner agencies to highlight the breadth of policing work and foster public confidence. The day featured interactive displays, demonstrations, and opportunities for residents to engage directly with officers, offering a behind-the-scenes look at local policing. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with the High Sheriff and other dignitaries commending the initiative.

Future Winter Planning

Kent Police is currently reviewing prevalent ASB offences that typically arise during the Christmas and winter period. This analysis is helping shape the planned operational activity to ensure it is both targeted and effective. By understanding seasonal crime patterns, Kent Police will be able to proactively prevent ASB, safeguard communities, and maintain public confidence throughout the festive season, this will include the use of effective engagement supporting campaigns, both National and local, such as 'Ask Angela' to support delivery and encourage reporting and feelings of safety.