

## Appendix B: Horizon Scanning Summary

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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:

- Local Government Reorganisation
- Removal of Police and Crime Commissioners
- Reforms to policing in England & Wales
- National legislation and policy changes (*i.e. Police and Crime Bill, Sentencing Act, Martyns Law*)
- International conflicts and geopolitical uncertainty
- Rising tensions and political polarisation

### Economic:

- Ongoing cost of living pressures
- Fuel and food poverty
- Disproportionate impact on low income and renting households
- Funding pressure on public services and the charity sector
- Financial pressures on businesses and individuals
- Increases in unemployment

### Social / Demographic:

- Changing population demographics
- Cost of living pressures and deprivation
- Homelessness and rough sleeping
- Community cohesion challenges
- Youth vulnerability and exploitation
- Safeguarding and supporting vulnerable members of society
- Health inequalities
- Migration trends
- Social isolation / loneliness
- Mental health pressures
- Trends in crime types (*i.e. business crime*)

### 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:

- Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025
- Licensing Hours Extensions Act 2026
- Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025
- Renters' Rights Act 2025
- Sentencing Act 2026
- Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025

Upcoming legislation and duties:

- Crime and Policing Bill
- Tobacco and Vapes Bill
- Victims and Courts Bill
- Youth Services Bill

### Organisational:

- Reorganisation of local councils
- Future changes to partnership structures and service delivery
- Funding pressures and resource issues
- Implementation of new duties / strategies

## Appendix C: Supporting Evidence for the draft Kent CSA

### Strategic Aim - Stronger, Safer and resilient Neighbourhoods: addressing ASB, neighbourhood crime and local concerns

| Issue                      | Summary   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Anti-social Behaviour      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of ASB incidents recorded in Kent increased when compared to the previous year<sup>1</sup>. (N.B. There were changes to recording practices which have impacted data).</li><li>• Tackling ASB is a priority for the Government and part of the Government's 'Safer Streets Mission'<sup>2</sup>. The Crime and Policing Bill will enhance powers available to the police and other local agencies to tackle ASB<sup>3</sup></li></ul>  |
| Shoplifting / retail crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Theft offences increased overall in Kent when compared to the previous year, with shoplifting offences within this category showing a notable increase<sup>4</sup>. Nationally there was an increase in shoplifting offences in England and Wales<sup>5</sup>.</li><li>• The Crime and Policing Bill will introduce changes that are aimed at tackling rising retail crime and improving protection for shopworkers, with a new standalone offence of assaulting a retail worker and repeal the £200 threshold for prosecuting shoplifters.</li></ul> |
| Road Safety                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of casualties that were Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) on Kent roads increased when compared to the previous year<sup>6</sup>.</li><li>• The 'Vision zero' Strategy aims to reach the target of zero road fatalities by 2050. Along the way, it aims to see a 50% reduction in fatalities and life changing injuries by 2030, with reductions measured over five-year periods<sup>7</sup>.</li></ul>  |
| Community Cohesion         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Government has released a Policy paper 'Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom'<sup>8</sup> with a focus on social cohesion</li><li>• In Kent, a high proportion of hate crime incidents were race-related<sup>9</sup>.</li></ul>  |

<sup>1</sup> Between November 2024 – October 2025 when compared to the previous 12 month period.

<sup>2</sup> [Safer Streets - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Crime and Policing Bill: antisocial behaviour \(ASB\) factsheet - GOV.UK](#) – Updated 4 Feb 2026

<sup>4</sup> Between November 2024 – October 2025 when compared to the previous 12 month period.

<sup>5</sup> Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 29 January 2026, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2025](#)

<sup>6</sup> Between July 2024 – June 2025 when compared to the previous 12 month period

<sup>7</sup> [Vision Zero Kent - Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom - GOV.UK](#) – Published 9 March 2026

<sup>9</sup> Between November 2024 – October 2025

## Strategic Aim - Reducing Violence, abuse and high-harm offending

| Issue                                   | Summary  |
|---|--|
| Domestic Abuse                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic Abuse offences has seen a reduction compared to the previous year<sup>10</sup>.</li> <li>There was an increase in One Stop Shop (OSS) visitors in Kent and Medway compared to the previous year<sup>11</sup></li> <li>The 'Kent Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2023' noted that when comparing domestic abuse related victims to the estimated prevalence there was a potential gap in reporting to the police, with fewer crime victims than estimated for the time period reviewed<sup>12</sup>.</li> </ul>   |
| Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government has outlined an ambition to halve VAWG offences in ten years, with a focus on three objectives; prevention and early intervention, the pursuit of perpetrators, and support for all those affected by violence and abuse<sup>13</sup></li> <li>Domestic Abuse accounted for approximately half of all VAWG offences in Kent<sup>14</sup>. This is in line with the previous year.</li> <li>There has been a downward trend in VAWG offences in Kent in the last three years<sup>14</sup>.</li> </ul>   |
| Violence                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Violent crime (offences of violence against the person, sexual offences, and robbery) accounted for the greatest proportion of total crimes in Kent<sup>14</sup>.</li> <li>The Government's 'Safer Streets Mission' includes an ambition to halve knife crime in a decade and new legislation under the Crime and Policing Bill<sup>15</sup></li> <li>Kent and Medway has a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) funded by the Home Office, taking a preventative approach to tackling the causes of serious youth violence. VRU's operate in 20 police force areas<sup>16</sup>.</li> </ul> |
| Organised Crime                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Crime Agency's 'National Strategic Assessment 2026'<sup>17</sup> recognises Serious &amp; Organised Crime as a national security threat, causing significant levels of harm to individuals and communities. The format of the assessment changed this year from a threat focus to a domains focus, and includes 'SOC in Communities' sections for harm to individuals and harm to society.</li> <li>The Kent Police Control Strategy 2025<sup>18</sup> and the Kent Police &amp; Crime Plan 2025-2029<sup>19</sup> include aspects of serious organised crime</li> </ul> |

<sup>10</sup> Between November 2024 – October 2025 when compared to the previous 12 month period.

<sup>11</sup> Between July 2024 - June 2025 when compared to the previous 12 month period

<sup>12</sup> [Kent Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2023](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Freedom from violence and abuse: a cross-government strategy - GOV.UK](#). Published December 2025, Last updated 3 February 2026

<sup>14</sup> Between November 2024 – October 2025

<sup>15</sup> [Crime and Policing Bill:knife crime and crossbows factsheet - GOV.UK](#). Updated 4 February 2026

<sup>16</sup> [Violence Reduction Units year ending March 2024 evaluation report - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>17</sup> [NSA 2026 - Home - National Crime Agency](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Kent Control Strategy | Kent Police](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Kent Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029](#)

**Strategic Aim – Protecting vulnerable people: reducing exploitation, susceptibility and repeat harm**

| Issue                          | Summary  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Safeguarding Vulnerable People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kent County Council Adult Social Care &amp; Health (ASCH) Safeguarding activity report for 2024/25 highlighted significant growth in safeguarding activity, demographic trends, and evolving risk patterns<sup>20</sup>.</li> <li>• Doorstep crime and cold calling is a priority area for the National Trading Standards Control Strategy 2026-27<sup>21</sup></li> <li>• The ‘Health Needs Assessment of Adults with Multiple Disadvantages in Kent 2024/25’<sup>22</sup> notes that those facing complex needs are among the most marginalised individuals in society and often face a combination of difficulties including substance misuse, offending, and domestic abuse.</li> </ul> |
| Substance Misuse               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of adults in treatment in Kent increased slightly<sup>23</sup>. Two thirds of new presentations stated that they had a mental health treatment need<sup>24</sup></li> <li>• A significant proportion of referrals to substance misuse treatment services comes from the criminal justice system<sup>25</sup>.</li> </ul>   |
| Preventing extremism and Hate  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The South East region accounted for the highest proportion of Prevent referrals made in England and Wales<sup>26</sup></li> <li>• Kent and Medway remains a Prevent priority area, the only one in the Southeast region.</li> </ul>   |
| Offending and re-offending     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new ‘Sentencing Act’<sup>27</sup> aims to reduce the number of short prison sentences (where appropriate) and implement tougher community punishments, expansion in tagging and the use of restriction zones, financial penalties and unpaid work within the community.</li> </ul>  |

<sup>20</sup> [Kent and Medway safeguarding adults board annual report](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Accessible NTS 2025 Strategic Assessment.pdf](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Adults-with-Multiple-Disadvantages-HNA-Jan-2026.pdf](#)

<sup>23</sup> [NDTMS - ViewIt - Adult](#) – For 2025. Geographic area: Kent. Includes opiate, non-opiate only, alcohol only, non-opiate & alcohol.

<sup>24</sup> [NDTMS - ViewIt - Adult](#) – For 2025. Geographic area: Kent.

<sup>25</sup> [Adults-with-Multiple-Disadvantages-HNA-Jan-2026.pdf](#) (Page 8)

<sup>26</sup> [Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme, April 2024 to March 2025 - GOV.UK](#). Published November 2025

<sup>27</sup> [Sentencing Act ensuring punishment cuts crime gets Royal Assent - GOV.UK](#). Published January 2026

## Appendix D: Local Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessments

The table below shows the outcome of the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) strategic 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 |
|--|-------------|
| <b>Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)</b> (inc. stalking and harassment)  | 12          |
| <b>Violence and/or Serious Violence</b> (inc. Serious Violence Duty, reduction, preventing harm, youth violence, exposure to violence, weapon enabled crime, and gang violence)  | 12          |
| <b>Anti-Social Behaviour ('ASB')</b> (inc. environmental and heritage crime, community triggers, holistic response to concerning behaviours, and ASB case reviews)   | 12          |
| <b>Domestic Abuse</b> (inc. stalking and harassment)   | 11          |
| <b>Vulnerable People - Safeguarding / Protecting / Supporting</b> (inc. high risk, victims of crime, exploitation, child sexual exploitation, mental health vulnerabilities, building resilience, diversionary activities, education, positive role models, adults and young people)         | 10          |
| <b>Extremism &amp; Hate</b> (inc. Prevent, hate crime, and radicalisation)   | 9           |
| <b>Communities</b> (inc. safer people, cohesive communities, public confidence, supporting families, unemployment, resilience, housing, promoting positive relationships inc. neighbourhood events, encouraging youth voice and civic participation, fire safety and building safety checks) | 8           |
| <b>Substance Abuse / Misuse</b> (inc. drugs, alcohol, licensing, rehabilitation, night time economy issues)  | 8           |
| <b>Mental Health and Wellbeing</b> (inc. trauma informed and public health approach, health inequalities, isolation, trained staff and specialist interventions)   | 7           |
| <b>Crime</b> (inc. acquisitive, property and business crime, rural crime, and environmental crime not referenced with ASB)   | 7           |
| <b>Public Spaces</b> (inc. safer places, designing out crime and target hardening, safety planning in regeneration, safe town centre, and night time economy where not referenced elsewhere)   | 6           |
| <b>Serious &amp; Organised Crime</b> (inc. County Lines, child sexual exploitation, Organised Crime Groups, cuckooing, modern day slavery and human trafficking, financial crime including fraud)  | 6           |
| <b>Reducing / Preventing Offending &amp; Re-Offending</b> (inc. the drivers of crime, rehabilitation, prison releases)   | 6           |
| <b>Road Safety</b>   | 1           |
| <b>Funding risks</b>   | 1           |