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**To:** Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) – 31st March 2026

**Classification:** For Information

**Subject:** Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update

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**Summary** This report provides an update on the key activities and projects being managed on behalf of the Kent Community Safety Partnership by the Working Group.

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## **1.0 Background / Introduction**

- 1.1 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 were required to form multi-agency 'Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships' to undertake this activity. Subsequent revisions introduced additional responsibilities to tackle anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reduce reoffending, and the partnerships were renamed Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).
- 1.2 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) operates at a county level, with the overarching purpose to manage the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) on behalf of the responsible authorities in Kent and to deliver safer and stronger communities. The KCSP is supported by a multi-agency working group which has a particular remit to prepare and monitor the Community Safety Agreement, including the action plan and performance reports, as well as managing the Kent Community Safety fund on behalf of the governing group.

## **2.0 KCSP Funding – Crime Reduction Grant 2025/26**

- 2.1 The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) allocated £39,661 grant funding to the Kent Community Safety Partnership to fund projects in 2025/26, focussing on the priorities identified in the Community Safety Agreement and the PCC's Police and Crime Plan for 2025-2029 called Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust. Similar funding was also provided by the PCC to all Community Safety Partnerships across Kent and Medway to help deliver projects in support of local priorities.
- 2.2 This financial year the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) on behalf of the KCSP received approval for ten projects following submission to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), totalling £39,630.60.

2.3 A summary about each of the projects was included in previous reports to KCSP members, the following are brief progress updates:

- **Hateful Extremism Learning Event (£4,000)**

The event took place on 25 February and featured a full agenda with a diverse range of speakers covering both current and upcoming topics. A total of 145 tickets were allocated for in-person attendance, with an additional 267 tickets issued for online participation. Year-end feedback from attendees will be made available in due course.

- **Countering the Extreme Right-Wing Training (£4,182)**

All five training sessions have now been delivered either virtually or in person. Feedback received to date has been positive. Small Steps will produce an evaluation to help assess the overall impact of the training.

- **Kent Community Domestic Abuse Champions – Branding & Resources (£3,703.20)**

To date, 281 Kent Domestic Abuse Champions have been trained, with the final cohort for this financial year scheduled for March. Two Community of Practice sessions have been held. Following a major mail-out in January, all Champions trained between February and December 2025 have now received their badges, lanyards, posters and certificates, along with digital copies of their email banner and learner pack. Feedback has been very positive, and suggested improvements have been incorporated into the training where appropriate.

- **Teacher in Your Pocket (TEPO) – Scams Module (£5,223)**

The TEPO scams module continues to perform strongly, with Facebook activity generating high engagement from Kent residents. The campaign has delivered 2,133 website link clicks, 271,000 video views, and 633,000 impressions, demonstrating strong interaction with the content. All scam-prevention videos now include BSL, and supporting print materials are in circulation.

- **Responsible Authority Training on the Licensing Act 2003 (£5,000)**

The two-day training has now taken place and proved highly informative, bringing together a range of key partners. The collaborative discussions strengthened our shared understanding of Licensing Act responsibilities and will support more tailored and effective representations.

- **British Sign Language (BSL) Interpretation to TEPO – Doorstep Crime and Scams Modules (£5,500)**

The BSL interpretation project continues to perform strongly, with Facebook and Instagram activity generating high engagement, including 73 website link clicks, 214,000 video views, and 488,000 reach. Partner engagement is progressing separately via email and has already resulted in several meetings and the arrangement of a joint partner event.

- **Local Vape Action Retailer Packs (£2,000)**

A further successful launch of the LVA took place in Maidstone in February, involving visits to vape retailers in the town and surrounding areas. During these

visits, businesses were provided with advice and guidance packs covering underage sales, staff training requirements for age-restricted products, the forthcoming single-use vape ban and vape recycling obligations.

- **Violence Against Women & Girls Support Champions (£5,595)**

The programme is linked to the White Ribbon Campaign and will recruit Ambassadors (boys) and Champions (girls) in participating schools. 23 of 39 schools are currently completing registration, with the remainder expected within the next month. Memberships have been purchased and we are awaiting delivery of Ambassador pin badges, posters and leaflets for distribution.

- **The Anti-Racist School (£1,950)**

Schools have until March to complete their use of the Anti-Racist School resource. Once all feedback has been submitted, the Kent and Medway Prevent Team will assess the overall impact using an MS Form specifically developed for this purpose.

- **The Reflect and Connect Project (£2,477.40)**

Strong engagement has been received from local residents regarding increased scooter and e-bike use, and this project has supported positive conversations with young people while improving awareness of road and personal safety. The team will also be highlighting VAWG awareness at the upcoming Be Streetwise community information café on 28 April. Feedback on the lipstick personal safety alarms has been very positive, with women and young people reporting increased confidence when travelling. The alarms complement wider safety and community engagement activity, helping to enhance feelings of personal safety across the community.

2.4 Project funding for the 2025/26 financial year is now closed. A review of KCSP-funded projects has identified a small overall underspend. A total of £30.40 remains from unspent project funding. In addition, £5,000 was allocated to support the delivery of Responsible Authority Training on the Licensing Act 2003; following completion of this project, there was an underspend of £696, arising from lower than anticipated trainer and venue hire costs. This results in a total underspend of £726.40, which will be returned to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

### **3.0 KCSP Funding – Crime Reduction Grant 2026/27**

3.1 In September 2025, the PCC highlighted the financial challenges impacting commissioning and the potential effect on Crime Reduction Grant (CRG) allocations for 2026–27. Following receipt of the government grant settlements for policing and victim services, the PCC has reviewed the commissioning budget available for the next financial year.

3.2 Kent CSP has now received written confirmation from the PCC's office that the allocated funding is £39,600 in CRG funding for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027. As in previous years, £26,500.00 is allocated for upfront projects with the remaining £13,100.00 being held in a tactical pot.

- 3.3 Tactical pot funding will be used to support projects that respond to emerging needs and demands identified during the financial year. The tactical pot will only become accessible once all business case applications have been reviewed and approved.
- 3.4 For 2026–27, the CRG application and grant management process has moved to a new online commissioning portal called SUMs. Funding will only be confirmed once the CSP submits an application through the new system and receives formal approval.
- 3.5 Partner agencies have been contacted to request submission of project proposals for the initial business case for consideration by Wednesday 8th April 2026 to allow sufficient time for these to be reviewed and circulated before the next KCSP working Group.
- 3.6 The project proposals will be discussed by the multi-agency KCSP Working Group at their next meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and the group's recommendations will be presented to the KCSP Chair for approval prior to submission as a business case to the OPCC.
- 3.7 The KCST is working with partners to identify suitable projects for the forthcoming financial year. If any members of the KCSP are interested in putting forward a project to address any of the priorities identified in the Community Safety Agreement and the Police and Crime Plan please contact the [kentcommunitysafteyteam@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentcommunitysafteyteam@kent.gov.uk).

#### **4.0 Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) Updates**

- 4.1 In 2025/26, the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) delivered nine Community Safety Information Sessions (CSIS) in the shortened lunchtime learning format. Since the November KCSP report, sessions have included presentations from the Violence Reduction Unit on the Safer Knife Replacement Scheme; Kent Fire and Rescue Service and Kent County Council on Road Safety, including Vision Zero and Safe Systems; and briefings from Tell MAMA and the Community Security Trust regarding the protection of Muslim and Jewish communities. Attendance has remained strong throughout the financial year, with over 300 participants. Of those attendees who completed the post-session feedback polls, the majority rated 4 or above, indicating that sessions were assessed as very good or excellent. Planning for the 2026/27 programme is now underway.
- 4.2 As part of its commitment to promoting good practice and strengthening partnership working, the KCST produces monthly e-bulletins to provide partners with up-to-date community safety information, relevant news, recent publications, and legislative developments. A total of nine e-bulletins have been published during this financial year. The most recent edition, [Kent Community Safety Team Bulletin March 2026](#) includes key community safety updates and highlights forthcoming training opportunities, including Domestic Homicide Review and Safeguarding Adults Review learning events, the 'Lesley and Renee' webinar, and the KMSAB 'Nik' session. It also highlights the Clear Minds, Safer Homes campaign week, offering multiple safeguarding webinars on cannabis-related risks, alongside trauma-informed leadership training and Youth Mental Health First Aid. Further opportunities include Extreme Right-Wing awareness sessions and staff wellbeing workshops. The bulletin

also features updates on local initiatives and new resources available through the Safer Communities Portal.

- 4.3 Learning from published Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) is shared with partners through a range of methods including briefing documents and learning webinars. During the period of January to March 2026, the KCST delivered two Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) learning webinars. The first webinar was held on 4th February and focused on the story of Rita, who experienced coercive control and co-occurring conditions. The webinar included presentations by LookAhead and Kent Police exploring the barriers coercive control and co-occurring conditions can cause when seeking support and interventions to reduce risk. Over 140 frontline professionals attended from across all different agencies, including a number of attendees from outside Kent and Medway. Feedback was very positive, with 100% of those who responded to the poll, rated the event as excellent, very good or good. The next planned event takes place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 exploring Carer Breakdown vs Domestic Abuse delivered jointly with the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board and focused on the learning from DHR & Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) cases for Lesley & Renee. The recordings of the events are available on the Safer Communities Portal. Further webinars are being prepared in line with cases that are going to be published over the next few months.

## 5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) are asked to:
- a) Note the progress and actions undertaken by the Working Group and the work of the KCST.
  - b) Contact the KCST ([kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk)) with any:
    - Project proposals for the Crime Reduction Grant funding.
    - Suggestions for future speakers / topics that might be of interest for the Community Safety Information Sessions (CSIS).
    - Key updates that might be appropriate to include in future editions of the KCST e-bulletin.

### For Further Information:

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