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To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 23rd July 2026

Classification: For Information

Subject: Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

Summary This report provides an update on the development of the Kent Community Safety Agreement Action Plan for 2026/27 and the emerging Outcome and Delivery Framework. It follows the report presented to the Kent Community Safety Partnership in March 2026, which outlined the proposed move from eight individual priorities to three broader strategic aims, supporting a more streamlined, flexible and data-led approach.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended, gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police and other responsible authorities to work together to reduce crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, re-offending and most recently serious violence, within their areas. In two-tier local authority areas such as Kent, this duty is supported by the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007, which require the preparation of a county-level Community Safety Agreement to support coordinated and joint working across partners.
- 1.2 The Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlines the countywide priorities and the strategic aims for community safety across Kent. The document is reviewed and refreshed annually to ensure it remains relevant and reflects emerging issues, statutory duties, changes in policy and practice, and updated partnership priorities.
- 1.3 In March 2026, the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) considered a revised draft of the CSA. The report recommended a more fundamental refresh of the document, recognising that while the CSA had remained comprehensive and up to date, it had become increasingly lengthy and complex over time. Partners were therefore asked to consider a more streamlined approach, reducing duplication and improving clarity and usability.

2.0 Revised Kent Community Safety Agreement (April 2026)

- 2.1 The review confirmed that the issues contained within the previous eight CSA priorities remained relevant, including neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour, violence against women and girls, domestic abuse, substance misuse, safeguarding vulnerable people, serious violence and organised crime, preventing extremism and hate, and road safety. However, partners recognised that these issues are interconnected and increasingly complex, and that a list of individual priorities and cross-cutting themes did not always reflect how community safety activity is delivered in practice.

- 2.2 The revised CSA is therefore structured around three broader strategic aims, which are not listed in order of priority:
- **Stronger, safer and resilient neighbourhoods:** addressing ASB, neighbourhood crime and local concerns;
 - **Reducing violence, abuse and high-harm offending:** including domestic abuse, violence against women and girls, and serious violence;
 - **Protecting vulnerable people:** reducing exploitation, susceptibility and repeat harm, including safeguarding, substance misuse, mental health, reoffending and reducing the risk of radicalisation.
- 2.3 The revised approach is intended to provide improved strategic clarity, stronger alignment with district and borough Community Safety Partnership plans and the Kent Police and Crime Plan, greater flexibility to respond to emerging risks in-year, and clearer links between local and countywide priorities.

3.0 Action Plan Development

- 3.1 In previous years, the July meeting has usually provided members with an opportunity to review the refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement Action Plan for the year ahead. For 2026/27, the move from eight priorities to three broader strategic aims has required a more substantive review of both the content and format of the action plan. The revised plan is therefore still in development to ensure it reflects the updated CSA, while remaining proportionate and focused.
- 3.2 The intention is for the 2026/27 Action Plan to focus on strategic, partnership-led activity where the KCSP adds value. It will not seek to replicate delivery plans held by individual partnerships, statutory boards or specialist governance groups.
- 3.3 The draft structure currently being developed aligns activity under the three strategic aims and includes signposting to relevant existing partnership and governance arrangements. These include the Kent and Medway Safer Roads Partnership, the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group, the Kent and Medway Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Board, Safeguarding Boards/Partnerships, the Kent Substance Misuse Alliance, the Prevent Duty Delivery Board, and other relevant countywide or multi-agency arrangements. This approach is intended to support strategic coordination, shared learning, assurance, and data-led problem solving.
- 3.4 Work is continuing with the Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group, and other relevant partners to identify the most appropriate actions and measures for inclusion. Consistent with previous years, the Action Plan will remain a live document and may be refined during the year as activity, data and priorities evolve.
- 3.5 It is anticipated that the 2026/27 Action Plan will be brought to the next meeting of the KCSP in November 2026. Members can be assured that partnership activity continues in the meantime through the KCSP Working Group, the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST), and existing partnership boards, strategies and delivery arrangements across the county.

4.0 Outcome and Delivery Framework

- 4.1 Alongside the development of the revised action plan, work is also underway to develop an Outcome and Delivery Framework for the CSA. This reflects the Partnership's intention to strengthen its use of data and move towards a more intelligence-led approach to identifying issues, monitoring activity and understanding impact.
- 4.2 The Outcome and Delivery Framework is expected to include both indicators and delivery measures, recognising that some areas of activity will be easier to quantify than others. It will also need to reflect the availability, quality and limitations of different datasets, particularly where data is owned or provided by partner agencies. Partner input will therefore be important in shaping how non-Kent Police data is used and presented, including baselines, reporting frequency and any limitations.
- 4.3 Initial development is focussing on readily available data, including published Kent Police data, with the potential to incorporate additional partner datasets over time where these are available, appropriate and can be processed proportionately. Some data gaps are expected and will be worked through as the framework develops.
- 4.4 Further consideration will also be needed around how the framework, including any contextual indicators or dashboard, is shared or published. This will require clarity and agreement with partners on how any shared data is used, particularly where information is drawn from multiple agencies.
- 4.5 The development of the framework will be a gradual process. The initial focus will be on creating a useful first iteration that supports discussion with the Working Group and helps partners understand what information adds most value. Further refinement will follow once the 2026/27 Action Plan has been agreed.

5.0 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

- 5.1 The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced the requirement for a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee to review the work of the partnership. KCC's Scrutiny Committee meets annually as the Crime and Disorder Committee to act as a critical friend, scrutinising and challenging the work of the partnership and the outcomes from the Community Safety Agreement.
- 5.2 Members were advised at the March 2026 meeting that the Crime and Disorder Committee was scheduled for 1 July 2026 and that representatives of the responsible authorities would attend to represent the KCSP and respond to any queries raised. A number of comments, observations and areas for further consideration were identified during the Scrutiny process. These will be reviewed by the KCSP Working Group and, where appropriate, reflected in the ongoing development of the 2026/27 Action Plan and the Outcome and Delivery Framework, with updates provided to the KCSP as work progresses.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) members are asked to note:

- the progress made in developing a more data-led and evidence-based approach to support the work of the Partnership, including the development of an Outcome and Delivery Framework;
- the ongoing development of the 2026/27 Kent Community Safety Agreement Action Plan, aligned to the three strategic aims, which will be presented to the KCSP at the next meeting.

For Further Information:

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