

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. TITLE

For the purposes of the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007, the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) will serve as the 'County Strategy Group'.

2. OVERARCHING PURPOSE

The KCSP is responsible for addressing community safety issues through coordinating the work of countywide 'responsible authorities' and other partner agencies to tackle identified priorities and deliver safer and stronger communities.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- To prepare a County Community Safety Agreement annually based upon an aggregation of the local Community Safety Partnerships strategic assessments and other information sources as appropriate, having due regard to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan,
- To address community safety issues through joint working, recognising the importance that stronger communities can have to delivering safer communities,
- To provide guidance on major cross agency projects and management information support systems,
- The co-ordination of community safety activity in a data-led and evidence-based approach to achieve county wide priorities as set out in the Kent Community Safety Agreement,
- To performance manage the community safety agreement and the associated action plan on behalf of the responsible authorities for Kent to measure impact and outcomes.
- To attract resources from appropriate funding streams including the Police and Crime Commissioner's Crime Reduction Grant and have robust financial arrangements in place to support the management of these funds.
- To fulfil the statutory requirements as set out in Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) regarding the initiation and undertaking of Domestic Homicide Reviews on behalf of all Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Kent and Medway. (For compliance to be continued once the move to Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR) under the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 has been enacted, and the supporting updated Home Office statutory guidance released and implemented).
- To fulfil statutory requirements/duties set out in new and emerging legislation that directly impacts the work of the Kent Community Safety Partnership for example the Serious Violence Duty introduced in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The KCSP shall consist of a core membership of representatives appointed by one or more of the 'responsible authorities' in the county area, namely:

- Kent County Council (KCC)
- Kent Police
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
- Local Authorities (District / Borough Councils)
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)
- NHS Kent and Medway
- The Probation Service
- Chairs of Local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

The KCSP may also be attended by persons who represent co-operating and participating persons and bodies for the areas in the county area and such other persons as the county KCSP invites.

These can include but not limited to a representative from:

- Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)
- Medway Community Safety Partnership.
- Kent Housing Group
- Kent and Medway Prevent Duty Delivery Board
- Kent and Medway Joint Exploitation Group
- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB)
- Kent Safeguarding Children's Multiagency Partnership (KSCMP)
- Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group
- Kent Criminal Justice Board (KCJB)
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Safer Roads for Kent Partnership
- Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)
- Kent Substance Misuse Alliance
- Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Steering Group
- Kent and Medway Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Board

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

All representatives attending KCSP meetings must have sufficient seniority within their own organisations to be able to make decisions, implement change and where appropriate commit resources on behalf of the body or group which they represent. Substitute members are assumed to have that capability delegated to them.

All members of the KCSP should be able to commit to regular attendance and represent their organisation effectively.

All members of the KCSP have the responsibility for proactively sharing relevant information, intelligence, updates and/or feedback from their agencies and associated partnerships, boards and groups to inform the work of the KCSP. Members will also act as a two-way conduit between the KCSP and the organisations and partnerships they represent, ensuring timely communication, effective information sharing, and alignment of priorities and activities.

The KCC Scrutiny Committee meets annually as the Crime and Disorder Committee to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken by the responsible authorities with regards to their crime and disorder functions; with adequate notice, KCSP members may be required to provide information and/or make themselves available to attend the meeting to answer questions on the work of the KCSP in the appropriate area.

The Police and Crime Commissioner may also require representatives of the responsible authorities for any area that lies within the police area to attend a meeting for the purpose of assisting in the formulation and implementation of any strategy (or strategies) that relate to any part of the police area.

6. CHAIRPERSON

The Chair will be the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety for the County Council as the lead authority.

The Vice Chair will be elected from amongst the other KCSP members every 2 years.

A Chair/Vice Chair may only be removed from office if more than 50% of the responsible authorities so decide by way of a vote at a meeting of the KCSP.

7. MEETINGS

The KCSP shall meet three times per year or at such other intervals as it shall decide with the meeting cycle being agreed annually.

The Chair of the KCSP will agree the agenda prior to the meetings and this should reflect the terms of reference and provide opportunity for discussion of any other business. KCSP papers will be circulated at least five working days prior to meetings to allow sufficient time for partners to prepare and will include the previous board minutes, agenda and relevant paperwork.

A meeting will be regarded as quorate if no less than four of the responsible authorities are represented.

Attendance by non-members is at the invitation of the Chair.

To ensure meetings remain focused and effective, substantive items should be submitted in advance for inclusion on the agenda. Any Other Business will be limited to urgent matters and accepted at the discretion of the Chair.

8. DECISION-MAKING

The KCSP will use its best endeavours at all times to make decisions by consensus.

Decisions will be recorded in the minutes, with actions being reviewed at subsequent meetings.

9. SUB GROUPS

The KCSP can establish subgroups as necessary. The KCSP will oversee the work of the subgroups and have ability to scrutinise actions and outcomes.

The current subgroups of the KCSP are:

- KCSP Working Group who supports the work of the KCSP, in particular by managing the PCCs Crime Reduction Grant allocated to the KCSP and any other available funding streams; and preparing and monitoring of the Kent Community Safety Agreement.
- DARDR Steering Group ensures that the requirements of Section 9 of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act (2004), the upcoming Victims and Prisoners Act once enacted and the updated Home Office Statutory Guidance with regards to the initiation, undertaking and monitoring of actions from DHRs/Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews is fulfilled on behalf of all CSPs in Kent and Medway.

9. COMMUNICATION

All KCSP member organisations are required to be signed up to the Kent and Medway Information Sharing Agreement and abide by its principles.

Official-Sensitive paperwork will be circulated to the KCSP members via a secure method, and it is the responsibility of the KCSP members to ensure that they have appropriate information security measures in place (in accordance with the Data Protection and Information Governance), including:

- Data protection policies and management processes.
- Retention, archive, storage and disposal policies and processes.
- Incident reporting procedures.
- Controls to minimise the risk of loss or breach.