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To:	**Kent Community Safety Partnership – 19 November 2026**
Classification:	**For Information**
Subject:	**Kent Community Safety Agreement Update**

Summary This report provides an update on progress against the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA), including the development of a revised and more streamlined Action Plan for 2026/27 and the emerging Outcome and Delivery Framework. It also provides an update following the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee in July 2026 and the recommendations arising from that meeting.

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 Kent Community Safety Agreement 2026

2.1 The Kent Community Safety Agreement 2026 is structured around three broader strategic aims, replacing the previous structure of eight individual priorities and five cross-cutting themes:

- **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.

2.2 This approach recognises that community safety issues are increasingly interconnected and that delivery often cuts across individual themes, agencies and partnership arrangements. The three strategic aims therefore provide a broader framework within which the Partnership can focus on the areas where it can add most value, while recognising the significant activity delivered through established strategies, boards and partnerships across Kent.

2.3 Since the July meeting, work has focused on translating this approach into a revised Action Plan for 2026/27. This has provided an opportunity not only to update the actions but also to reconsider the overall structure of the plan, with the aim of making it more focused, proportionate and easier for partners to use.

3.0 Action Plan Development

3.1 In previous years, the refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement Action Plan has usually been presented to the July meeting. However, the move from eight individual priorities to three broader strategic aims required a more substantive review of both the content and format of the plan. Members were therefore advised in July 2026 that the revised Action Plan would be brought to the November meeting.

3.2 The draft 2026/27 Action Plan, attached at Appendix A, has been redesigned to provide a clearer and more proportionate account of the activity led, coordinated, assured or funded through the KCSP. Rather than seeking to capture all community safety work taking place across Kent, it focuses on areas where the Partnership adds value and avoids duplicating operational plans held by district and borough Community Safety Partnerships, statutory boards and specialist partnership arrangements.

3.3 A new at-a-glance summary has been included to make the plan easier to navigate and to distinguish between:

- core strategic activity of the KCSP;
- projects funded through the Police and Crime Commissioner's Crime Reduction Grant;
- cross-cutting activity supporting all three aims; and
- major areas of community safety activity delivered through related partnerships and their existing governance arrangements.

3.4 The inclusion of the wider partnership landscape recognises that delivery of the CSA is broader than the actions directly owned by the KCSP. Major programmes relating to road safety, domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, serious violence, substance misuse, safeguarding, reducing reoffending, and Prevent remain accountable through their respective lead partnerships. Section 5 is intended to provide visibility of this wider activity and how their work supports the CSA, without creating duplicate KCSP actions, targets or reporting requirements.

3.5 The draft was considered by the KCSP Working Group with partners specifically asked if they supported the streamlined approach, whether any significant areas of KCSP activity were missing and how wider community safety activity should be reflected within the plan. While the Action Plan is now largely developed, further engagement with partners is continuing in relation to the wider partnership activity included in Section 5. This part of the plan will therefore be developed further following the November meeting and ongoing discussions with partners.

3.6 Partnership activity has continued throughout the development of the Action Plan, through the KCSP Working Group, the Kent Community Safety Team and established partnership boards, strategies and delivery arrangements across the county. The revised Action Plan provides a clearer distinction between the KCSP's own strategic activity and areas of community safety work led through other partnerships.

3.7 Once agreed, the Action Plan will remain a live document. Progress against KCSP actions will be monitored through proportionate updates to the KCSP Working Group, with significant issues escalated through the appropriate governance route. Crime Reduction Grant projects will continue to be monitored through the established funding process, while wider partnership activity will be reflected through existing thematic reporting, strategic assessment work and exception-based updates.

4.0 Outcome and Delivery Framework

4.1 Alongside the development of the revised Action Plan, work is ongoing to develop the Contextual Indicators that will support the wider Outcome and Delivery Framework for the CSA. Initial feedback from the KCSP Working Group on the Kent Police datasets has been positive, and partners are currently exploring additional datasets that could be incorporated to provide a broader partnership view and support the CSA strategic priorities.

4.2 The inclusion of the Cambridge Crime Harm Index (CCHI) is also being explored, with the potential for this to be applied to relevant crime datasets on a rolling-year basis to provide additional context alongside crime volume measures.

4.3 Further discussions are ongoing regarding data-sharing, governance and publication requirements. The framework will continue to be refined following agreement of the 2026/27 Action Plan and, subject to partner sign-off, will then be finalised for implementation.

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 The most recent meeting took place on 1 July 2026. Members considered the refreshed CSA, the activity undertaken through the previous Action Plan and the Partnership's developing approach to performance and outcome monitoring. The

report was well received, with the Committee Chair highlighting the breadth of partnership activity captured and requesting that the CSA and supporting report be circulated to all County Council Members

5.3 The Committee made nine recommendations covering:

- a Member briefing on Prevent, including the current threat level and thresholds relating to extremism;
- future reporting on the implications of Local Government Reorganisation;
- more detailed information on serious and organised crime, particularly the hidden economy;
- coordination and engagement relating to violence against women and girls initiatives;
- the use and coordination of CCTV to support crime prevention and detection;
- pavement parking and obstruction;
- improved mechanisms for Member engagement and information sharing;
- a review of countywide approaches to speeding and camera enforcement; and
- a future update on the role of social media and artificial intelligence in community safety.

5.4 The full recommendations are set out in Appendix B. They have been shared with the relevant partners and leads for consideration, and progress will be coordinated through the KCSP and Working Group as appropriate. Some recommendations relate directly to the future development of the Action Plan and Outcome and Delivery Framework, while others will be progressed through the relevant lead agency, partnership or governance arrangement.

6.0 Recommendations

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

- consider and comment on the draft Kent Community Safety Agreement Action Plan for 2026/27 attached at Appendix A;
- support the more streamlined approach, focusing on activity where the KCSP has a direct leadership, coordination, assurance or funding role;
- note the ongoing development of the Outcome and Delivery Framework; and
- note the recommendations arising from the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, attached at Appendix B, and the intention to progress these through the appropriate partnership and governance routes.

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Draft Kent Community Safety Agreement Action Plan 2026/27
- Appendix B: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee recommendations

For Further Information:

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