

**Kent&Medway
domesticabuse
StrategyGroup**

**KentandMedway
DomesticAbuseStrategy
2013-2016**

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ProducedonbehalfoftheKent&MedwayDomesticAbuseStrategyGroupby:
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1 Foreword

Welcome to these second Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy. This builds upon the notable success and achievements gained from the previous three year strategy under the chairmanship of Stuart Beaumont (KCC).

The new strategy develops the consistent themes of the first strategy and aligns to the ambitions and objectives of the Government's approach to tackling domestic abuse.

There is no doubt in my mind that we have been able to create a collective vision of reducing domestic abuse as the impacts and effects are considerable. When I say 'we' I am referring to everyone that works in combating and dealing with domestic abuse and I pay tribute to all your efforts in getting the issue of domestic abuse to its current elevated status. We need to maintain this position and ensure we work together, share resources, to provide quality interventions, prevent and reduce the risks associated with the root causes of domestic abuse.

We know that domestic abuse is now not such a hidden or unspeakable crime it used to be, but we do also know we need to do more to help victims to feel they shouldn't hide or equally not seek help when subjected to this physical and mental trauma. Domestic abuse has the potential to affect everyone of us and can impact on all ages in varying degrees.

I am staggered at the 20,000 plus cases of domestic abuse reported to Kent Police every year and this indicates the scale of the problem we face. We know we must continue to build a legacy of prevention, protection and response to all forms of domestic abuse to be able to deliver our vision. We have had a great start to achieving this with the strong partnership arrangements in place for domestic abuse as well as the introduction of four new Domestic Abuse Websites (www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk) and the Kent and Medway commissioned Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service now in operation. This has been equally validated by the recent Standing Together Government and the KCC Select Committee reviews which has helped us shape this strategy from their constructive comments and endorsement of our achievements.

The next three years presents its own challenges with the reductions in public sector budgets. However it will make us focus on the fundamental issues and ensure we link into other key initiatives such as Troubled Families as well as the opportunities that will be provided from the re-structure of the Health Service, and from other agencies that can assist in addressing the impact that mental health, alcohol and substance misuse has on domestic abuse.

This strategy aims to ultimately reduce domestic abuse incidents in Kent and Medway. Our focus must be on prevention and promoting the values and behaviours associated with healthy equal relationships in incorporating respect and responsibility between people. We need to ensure we deal quickly and

effectively with high risk cases whilst understanding the need to react appropriately to medium and standard risk cases to prevent them becoming high risk.

It just remains for me to thank you for your ongoing support and contribution to tackling domestic abuse as well as understanding the power and effectiveness that domestic abuse has in its widest context.

Stuart Skilton
Chairman KMDASG
Area Manager Community Safety – Kent Fire & Rescue Service

2 Introduction

This Strategy aims to assist partnerships and agencies in delivering appropriate responses to those affected by domestic abuse across Kent and Medway, assisting people to live free from abuse.

The focus on local needs is informed by local needs analysis as well as national research and developments. The Strategy will be accompanied with a Delivery Plan, which will be refreshed annually and will provide partners with a framework for domestic abuse work.

Tackling domestic abuse is a cross-cutting issue requiring varied responses across all sectors. This Strategy is underpinned by a recognition and commitment to partnership working and an understanding that no single agency can address domestic abuse in isolation. By working together more effectively agencies will be able to maximise the utilisation of existing resources and, where possible, seek to draw upon additional resources, to improve the response to domestic abuse across Kent and Medway.

3 Kent and Medway Reviews and Developments

A wide range of activities have been undertaken by a number of Kent and Medway agencies to explore the effects of domestic abuse, consider a variety of service development or responses to agency structures.

Domestic Abuse Problem Profiles have been regularly produced for the KMDASG by Kent Police Analysts to assist our partners when reviewing local service delivery.

Examples of some of the activities which have been undertaken in the last year to inform service development are outlined below.

3.1 Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Needs Analysis and Joint Service Commissioning

During 2012/13, as an action from Kent Community Safety Partnership, a Task Group was established to conduct a needs assessment for IDVAs across Kent and Medway and then develop a commissioning model based on that needs assessment to present to partners.

The independently conducted needs analysis determined that a more strategic, jointly commissioned approach would help to address the need for more flexibility, better value for money, improved data for monitoring and planning purposes, and more consistent standards and processes.

By December 2012 sufficient funding pledges from agencies across Kent and Medway had been received for the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse

Strategy Group (KMDASG) in partnership with the Kent and Medway Criminal Justice Board (KCJB) to be able to commence a commissioning process, with Kent Probation acting as our commissioning agent.

In April 2013 the new Kent and Medway IDVA Service was commissioned to work with domestic abuse victims, specifically supporting the work of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs) across Kent and Medway, with the aim of reducing the harmful effects domestic abuse has on its victims.

3.2 Evaluation of Preventative Programmes for Children and Young People in Kent and Medway

In August 2012 Canterbury Christchurch University completed a research report outlining best practice both nationally and internationally, also reviewing the work currently being undertaken to address preventative domestic abuse programmes working with children and young people across Kent and Medway.

Their findings outlined what practices worked well, successes and lessons that could be learnt from various projects, which could be used to inform ongoing development and delivery of local prevention programmes.

Following this research additional funding was secured by the KMDASG and Canterbury Christchurch University to continue to work in partnership to establish an Outcome Framework Model for use by agencies working across Kent and Medway in this field to enable them to demonstrate the effect of their work on improving outcomes for children and young people. This framework will be piloted during autumn 2013 and has been incorporated into this Strategy's Delivery Plan.

3.3 KMDASG Partnership Review

During 2012/13 the KMDASG successfully bid to access an independent partnership review (this was funded by the Home Office and conducted by Standing Together, a specialist domestic abuse agency). The review took place during February 2013 and involved assessment of the Partnerships:

- Shared belief and commitment
- Structure
- Strategy
- Representation
- Resources
- Co-ordination
- Training
- Data
- Policies, Protocols, Processes
- Specialist Services
- Diversity
- Survivor's Voices

Overall the feedback received was positive and the score of 3 (where 4=Excellent, 3=Good, 2=Satisfactory, 1=Poor).	KMDASG was given a score of 3 (where 4=Excellent, 3=Good, 2=Satisfactory, 1=Poor).
All the 39 domestic abuse partnership that underwent a review during 2012/13 nationally were also anonymously ranked (1=highest performing and 39=lowest performing). The KMDASG were ranked 12th.	ntareviewduring highestperformingand th.
The findings from this review have been used by the areas of work we are already strong in as well as areas of work that we need to focus on improving the role of the KMDASG and our partners in tackling domestic abuse. We have used these findings from this work to inform the 2013-2016 Strategy and Delivery Plan.	KMDASG to help clarify as helping us to identify continue to develop the domestic abuse. mthedevelopmentofour

3.4 Kent County Council Domestic Abuse Select Committee

The Crime and Disorder Policy Overview and Scrutiny meeting in July 2011 recommended the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Select Committee as a result of concerns that victims of domestic abuse often fell through the 'safety net' or discontinued pursuing their cases in Court due in part to a lack of clarity on referral points.	Committee at its meeting in July 2011 recommended the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Select Committee as a result of concerns that victims of domestic abuse often fell through the 'safety net' or discontinued pursuing their cases in Court due in part to a lack of clarity on referral points.
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The Select Committee began their review in the Spring of 2012 and established the following terms of reference for their review:	ngof2012and ereview:
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- To investigate breaking the vicious cycle and impact of domestic abuse in Kent, focusing on equitable access to support for victims and the efficacy of perpetrator programmes in reducing repeat victimisation and repeat offending.
- To examine co-ordination and collaboration with statutory and voluntary agencies, with a particular focus on delivering efficient services and maximising safety while reducing negative impacts of organisational change in key organisations.
- To make recommendations for Kent County Council and partner organisations (having explored funding options and feasibility) in order to improve outcomes for, and reduce long term damage to, individuals and families affected by domestic abuse.

The Select Committee produced its final report in December 2012 and in February 2013 the KMDASG agreed to be the accountable body for delivering the recommendations set out within the final report due to the multi-agency nature of the work required to tackle domestic abuse.	ecember2012andin February2013theKMDASG agreed to be the accountable body for delivering the recommendations set out within the final report due to the multi-agency nature of the work required to tackle domestic abuse.
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Significant progress has already been made towards achieving the recommendations and this work will conclude in December 2013 when the KMDASG is due to report back to the Select Committee. This work has also informed the development of this Strategy.	achievingthe mber2013whenthe e.Thisworkhasalso
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4 National Developments and Legislative Changes

The Government's approach to tackling domestic abuse, is considered as part of their action plan which they identify as 'ending violence against women and girls'. This Action Plan has been in existence for a number of years and is usually refreshed annually.

Recent actions undertaken by the Government to address this issue are outlined below. Some of this work is already embedded locally across Kent and Medway as appropriate; other pilot projects may be rolled out nationally following evaluations if they are found to be successful.

4.1 Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme

A pilot domestic violence disclosure scheme where individuals have a right to ask about any violence in a partner's past began in July 2012 in the Gwent and Wiltshire police force areas, with the Greater Manchester and Nottinghamshire police force areas joining soon after. The pilot is due to end in September 2013.

Under the scheme an individual can ask the police to check whether a new or existing partner has a violent past ('right to ask'). If police checks show that a person may be at risk of domestic violence from their partner, the police will consider disclosing the information.

The pilot will also look at how the police can proactively release information ('right to know') to protect a person from domestic violence where it is lawful, necessary and proportionate to do so. Both processes can be implemented within existing legal powers.

4.2 Domestic Homicide Reviews

Section 9 of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act (2004) was enacted in April 2011; community safety partnerships now have a statutory duty to conduct multi-agency domestic homicide reviews whenever someone aged 16 or over is killed by their partner, ex-partner or a member of their close family/household.

A domestic homicide review should be carried out to find out what happened and, most importantly, to identify what needs to change to reduce the risk of such deaths happening in the future. Lessons learned from these reviews will be cascaded to all partner agencies.

4.3 Definition of Domestic Violence

The Government definition of domestic violence was widened in March 2013 to include those aged 16 to 17 and wording to reflect coercive control. The decision followed a consultation which saw respondents overwhelmingly support this change.

Extending the definition will hopefully increase awareness in this age-group experienced domestic violence and of them to come forward and access the support they need. arenessthatyoungpeople abuse,encouragingmore need.

4.4 Teenage Relationship Abuse and Rape Prevention

National campaigns to prevent teenagers from becoming perpetrators of sexual violence and abuse and to direct them to support and advice services have taken place for the past two years.

4.5 Stalking Laws

In November 2012 the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 was updated by provisions made in the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, creating 2 new offences for stalking covering:

- Section 2A-stalking
- Section 4A-stalking involving fear of violence or serious alarm and distress

The amendments also set out new police powers to enter and search premises (on provision of a warrant – section 2B) in relation to the offence under 2A.

4.6 Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and Notices

Under the scheme, which is being piloted by the West Mercia, Wiltshire and Greater Manchester policed during 2013, the police and magistrates can prevent the perpetrator from contacting the victim or returning to their home for up to 28 days.

Previously, there had been a gap in protection for victims of domestic violence perpetrators due to either the police being unable to charge the perpetrator due to lack of evidence, or the process for granting longer-term injunctions taking several days or weeks. DVPOs are designed to bridge this gap by helping victims whom they otherwise have had to flee their home, giving them the space and time to access support and consider their options.

5 Understanding Domestic Abuse

Whilst some agencies, including central government departments, use the term 'domestic violence' others prefer to use 'domestic abuse,' both terms cover all forms of domestic violence and abuse.

For the purpose of this Strategy, the following definition of domestic abuse applies:

Home Office Definition 2013:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Controlling behaviour: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so-called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

It is also important to remember that most research also suggests that domestic violence occurs in all sections of society irrespective of gender, race, culture, nationality, religion, sexuality, disability, age, class or educational level.

6 Aims of the KMDASG

The KMDASG aims to reduce domestic abuse and change attitudes by increasing knowledge and understanding of the impact of domestic abuse across communities and agencies highlighting the fact that it is everyone's responsibility to tackle domestic abuse whilst emphasising the effectiveness of early identification and intervention.

Since the beginning of 2012 the KMDASG has split its functions between two groups, one executive group and one operational, as the KMDASG felt this reflected the need to further strengthen and clarify its role to ensure that it could influence key partners most effectively and have a positive impact on outcomes delivered to tackle domestic abuse. This also allowed us to open up membership of the KMDASG to more agencies involved operationally in the delivery of services to those affected by domestic abuse.

6.1 Executive Group

KMDASG Executive responsibilities include:

- To address domestic abuse issues through joint collaborative working of countywide agencies.
- To continue to improve joint working between agencies, including information sharing, to enable a co-ordinated approach to addressing domestic abuse.
- To receive progress reports in respect of prevalence, performance and activity against appropriate national, county & local target sets.
- To provide guidance on major cross agency projects and management information support systems.
- To aim to secure and sustain funding for domestic abuse services.
- To ensure management information is up to date to inform implementation of the Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- To ensure effective communication between the Strategy Group and Operational Group.

6.2 Operational Group

KMDASG Operational responsibilities include:

- Maximise co-ordination and co-operation of service delivery at an operational level between partners with the aim of reducing domestic abuse across Kent and Medway.

- To monitor and report on progress in respect of prevalence, performance and activity against appropriate national, county & local target sets, to the KMDASG.
- Advise the KMDASG on emerging policy, priorities and solutions and the most effective use of available resources.
- To work in partnership to meet the needs of victims and their children of domestic abuse and enable access to specialist support.
- To reduce the risk of repeat victimisation and increase confidence in reporting.
- To support victims through the legal system and ensure offenders recognise and understand their behaviour, are held accountable and are encouraged to attend rehabilitation services.
- Liaise with other agencies and disseminate best practice consistent with developing guidance.

7 Kent and Medway's Objectives

During 2013-16 we will work to address the following objectives:

Preventing Abuse	To prevent domestic abuse from happening in the first place, by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervening early to prevent it.
Provision of Services	Provide adequate levels of support when domestic abuse occurs.
Justice Outcomes and Risk Reduction	Take action to reduce the risk to domestic abuse victims and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.
Partnership Working	Working in partnership to obtain the best outcomes for those affected by domestic abuse and their families.

Each of these objectives will be supported by a range of key outcomes that we have identified as focus areas across Kent and Medway.

The key outcomes we will be seeking to achieve have been identified from a range of sources including:

- KMDASG Partnership Review findings;
- Focus group with survivors of domestic abuse;
- Kent County Council Domestic Abuse Select Committee Recommendations;
- KMDASG Workshops;
- Lessons Learned from Kent and Medway Domestic Homicide Reviews.

The actions we plan to undertake to achieve the 14 outcomes we have identified to address our objectives can be found within this Strategy's Delivery Plan.

7.1 Preventing Abuse

To prevent domestic abuse from happening in the first place, by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervening early to prevent it.

Key Outcomes:

- Raise awareness of domestic abuse issues with children and young people to ensure they understand what constitutes positive relationships and how to seek support with these issues when necessary.
- Implement findings of Canterbury Christchurch University research on positive healthy relationship programmes for CYP.
- Raise awareness of DA:
 - Workforce
 - Public.

7.2 Provision of Services

Provide adequate levels of support when domestic abuse occurs.

Key Outcomes:

- Engage all health organisation partners in their identification of those affected by domestic abuse and ensure that they provide appropriate advice, support and referral to safeguard families.
- Capture DA survivor voices and experience to help shape existing and new services.
- Address equality of service provision to all those affected by domestic abuse.

7.3 Justice Outcomes and Risk Reduction

Take action to reduce the risk to domestic abuse victims and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

Key Outcomes:

- Improve criminal justice outcomes for victims of domestic abuse in Kent and Medway.
- Reduce risk of ongoing harm to those experiencing DA who have been assessed as being at the highest level of risk through effective case

management processes at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC).

- Focus on offending behaviour to increase rehabilitation rates for DA perpetrators thus safeguarding victims in the future.

7.4 Partnership Working

Work in partnership to obtain the best outcomes for those affected by domestic abuse and their families.

Key Outcomes:

- Providers of substance misuse and mental health services understand links with domestic abuse to ensure victims and their families receive appropriate safeguarding and support.
- Agencies capture data on domestic abuse to inform needs analysis and future commissioning decisions to provide the best possible support to those affected by domestic abuse.
- Domestic abuse is recognised as a safeguarding issue by all multi-agency boards.
- Central Referral Unit to ensure that all victims of domestic abuse referred to them receive the appropriate risk assessment and onward referral.
- Partnership resources are targeted most appropriately to ensure best value in the provision of high quality domestic abuse services.

8 Implementation and Delivery

This Strategy is intended to be an overarching document setting out a common understanding and commitment from key stakeholders to address domestic abuse across Kent and Medway.

To accompany this Strategy a Delivery Plan will be produced detailing for each strategy objective:

- Key outcomes
- Outputs necessary to achieve outcomes
- Timescales and resources
- Performance checks

It will also include names of agencies/partnerships that will be leading areas of work.

9 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Strategy and Delivery Plan will be regularly reviewed within KMDASG meetings to:

- Monitor progress against targets and objectives.
- Evaluate whether outputs are achieving the required outcomes.
- Establish the overall impact and effectiveness of the Strategy.
- Incorporate new legislation or government directives.
- Reflect local need and any other emerging priorities.

Agencies/partnerships identified as leading on target areas will provide information on performance monitoring against the delivery plan.

9.1 Challenges

The KMDASG will also monitor and report on any issues that may emerge to impact upon the delivery of the Strategy during its lifespan.

Currently a number of issues have already been identified that could impact on agencies/partnerships involved in delivering the domestic abuse strategy including:

- Changing commissioning arrangements for service provision e.g. Police and Crime Commission role;
- Agencies involvement in delivering the Troubled Families workstream;
- Agency restructure e.g. Health structures in 2013, Probation from 2014 onwards;
- Continuation of public sector spending cuts following the most recent comprehensive spending review e.g. this may lead to agencies having

less flexibility to be involved in multi-agency domestic abuse service provision such as the one stop shops at the same time as level of reported domestic abuse continues to rise across Kent and Medway.

The KMDASG will work towards addressing challenges that may present themselves with support from our partners.

10 Consultation Processes

Representatives from the following KMDASG partners participated in the initial development of the Strategy and Delivery Plan:

Kent Fire and Rescue Service
 Oasis Domestic Abuse Services
 Victim Support
 Kent Safeguarding Children Board
 Kent Public Health
 Medway Public Health
 Kent and Medway NHSCCG Safeguarding Team
 Medway Safeguarding Children Board
 CXK (formally known as Connexions Kent and Medway)
 Kent and Medway Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT)
 Kent Community Health Trust
 Maidstone Council (district authority representative)
 K-DASH
 Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service (DAVSS)
 Kent County Council – Customer and Communities Directorate
 Kent County Council – Families and Social Care Directorate
 Kent Police
 CRI (substance misuse service)
 Home Start Shepway – New Beginnings Project

A four-week consultation then took place during August/September 2013.

Formal responses to the consultation were received from the following agencies:

- Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service (DAVSS)
- Kent County Council – Strategic Commissioning (Children)
- Kent County Council – Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Mental Health
- Kent County Council – Community Safety Unit
- In Touch (part of Family Mosaic)
- Medway Community Healthcare CIC
- Kent County Council – Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Services (KIASS)
- Swale Action To End Domestic Abuse (SATEDA)
- Kent County Council – Family and Social Care (Adults)

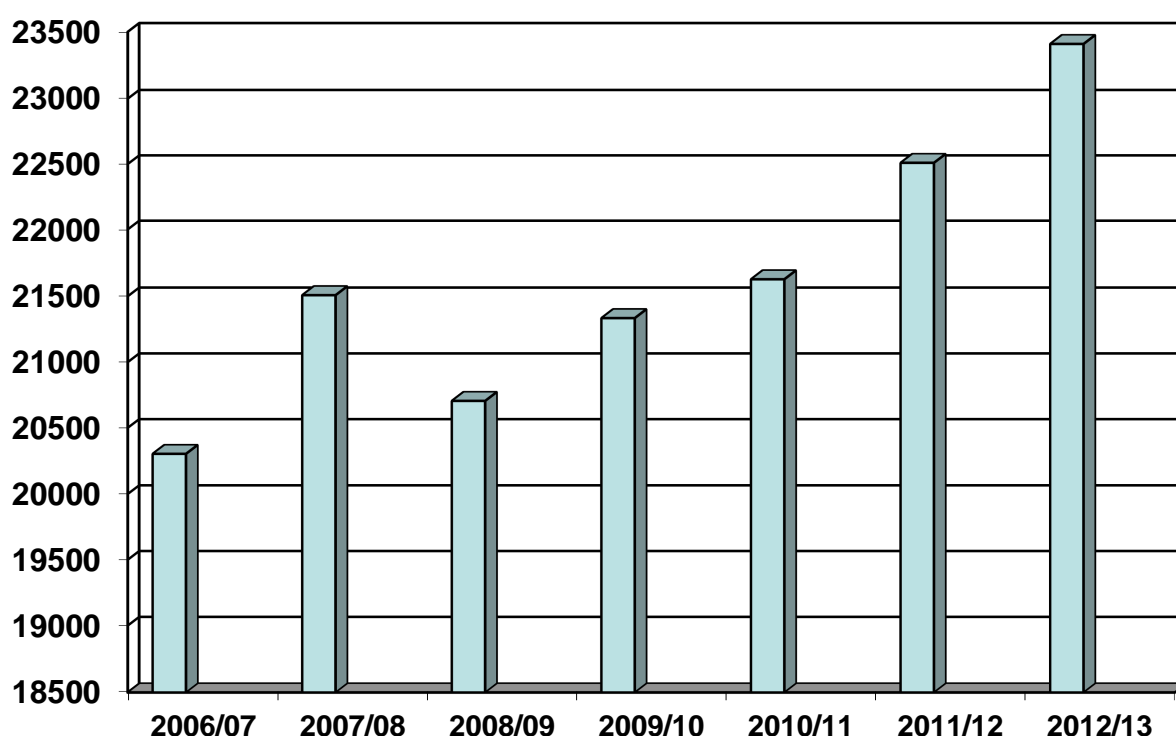
Appendix A: Domestic Abuse Prevalence in Kent and Medway

1 Reported Incidents of Domestic Abuse

All domestic abuse incidents reported to Kent Police (crimes and non-crime secondary incidents) are recorded.

Since 2006, over 20,000 domestic abuse incidents have been reported to Kent Police every year.

Chart 1: Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported to Kent Police



From the Kent Police data we find that during 2012/13:

A total of 23409 incidents of domestic abuse were reported, an increase of 4% from the previous year.

Medway (4628 incidents – 9% higher than previous year), Thanet (2795 incidents – 0.5% lower than previous year) and Swale (2016 incidents – 0.7% lower than previous year) reported the most incidents. The same areas also reported the highest number of incidents during 2011/12.

The areas with the lowest number of reported incidents were Tunbridge Wells (1005 incidents – 2% lower than previous year) and Sevenoaks (876 incidents – 2% higher than previous year). Both these areas also reported the lowest number of incidents during 2011/12.

2 Domestic Abuse Trends 2009-13

Table 1: Domestic Abuse Incidents by Population

	DA per 1000 population Nov09 to Oct10	DA per 1000 population Nov10 to Oct11	DA per 1000 population Apr12 to March13	Comment Between Periods
ASHFORD	11	12	12	Slight increase but still low rate, stable over final two periods
CANTERBURY	10	11	10	Slight increase then decrease; stays within low rate
DARTFORD	14	13	14	Slight decrease then increase; stays within average rate
DOVER	13	13	13	Stable and average rate
GRAVESHAM	16	15	18	Increase between final two periods; now very high rate
MAIDSTONE	12	13	11	Slight increase to average followed by decrease back to low rate
MEDWAY	15	16	18	Increases; now at very high rate
SEVENOAKS	8	7	8	Slight increase followed by decrease; remains low rate
SHEPWAY	15	15	14	Slight decrease and has moved into average rate
SWALE	15	16	15	Slight increase then decrease; stays higher than average
THANET	19	21	21	Slight increase initially, stable over final two periods, remains very high
TONBRIDGE	10	10	10	Stable and low
TUNBRIDGE WELLS	9	9	9	Stable and low
KENT & MEDWAY	13	13	14	Average has slightly increased over final two periods

The most significant increases in incidents between the most recent two periods were in Gravesham and Medway, both moving to a very high rate for the first time, with most significant reductions in Maidstone (moving from average to low rate) and Shepway (moving from high to average rate).

However lower population incident rates do not necessarily indicate lower levels of repeat victimisation.

Party year data for 2012/13 shows that the areas with the highest levels of repeat victimisation are Thanet, Dover and Shepway; Swale, Canterbury and Sevenoaks have the lowest rates.

Table2:DomesticAbuseRepeatVictimisationRateA pril2012–Jan2013

Thanet	26.5	Ashford	25.1
Dover	26.3	Gravesham	23.8
Shepway	26.2	Dartford	23.7
Medway	25.4	Swale	23.4
Tonbridge&Malling	25.4	Canterbury	23.1
TunbridgeWells	25.4	Sevenoaks	22.6
Maidstone	25.3		

3HighandMediumRiskDomesticAbuseAssessments

KentPoliceconductaDASHriskassessment(thisdo mesticabuserisk assessmenttoolisusedbythemajorityofagencies acrossKentandMedway andispartoftheferralprocessforMARAC)ata lldomesticabuseincidents thattheyattendateachincidentthevictimwi lleitherbegradedathigh, mediumorstandardriskfromfurtherharm.Allhig hriskincidentswillthenbe referredtoMARAC(seesection4.4forMARACdata).

During2012/13ofthe23409incidentKentPolicere corded,1532were recordedashighriskand5633asmediumrisk.

Table3:HighandMediumRiskDASHReportsasrecor dedbyKentPolice

	DADASHHigh	DADASH Medium	Total
Ashford	97	313	410
Canterbury	75	376	451
Dartford	91	323	414
Dover	58	351	409
Gravesham	147	449	596
Maidstone	100	448	548
Medway	488	937	1425
Sevenoaks	19	221	240
Shepway	84	404	488
Swale	150	597	747
Thanet	132	684	816
Tonbridge&Malling	51	282	333
TunbridgeWells	40	248	288
Total	1532	5633	7165

4 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Data

MARACs started running in Kent and Medway during July 2008, going live across all Kent Police Areas by August 2009. At MARAC agencies will have shared information and be asked to commit resources to those victims and families accessed at highest risk of future serious abuse/danger.

Table 4: Kent and Medway MARACs April 2012 - March 2013

	Medway	Maldstone	Swale	Dartford	Gravesend	Tun Wells	Ton & Malling	Sevenoaks	Ashford	Folkestone	Canterbury	Thanet	Dover	Total
Total Number of Cases	291	75	102	80	111	68	54	47	95	86	74	215	59	1357
Number of Repeat Cases	78	9	17	21	27	16	7	6	27	17	16	63	13	317
Repeat Cases %	27%	12%	17%	26%	24%	24%	13%	13%	28%	20%	22%	29%	22%	23.36%
Number of children in households	396	105	204	91	112	78	95	64	147	123	101	291	79	1886
Number of BME Cases	31	8	10	13	17	2	1	2	6	1	12	20	4	127
Number of LGBT Cases	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	8
Number of cases with registered disability	8	3	1	1	0	2	3	2	0	0	0	4	0	24
Number of Male Victims	3	3	3	1	1	3	0	1	0	3	4	3	1	26
Referrals from Agencies														
Police	180.75	45	71	59	92.5	43	20	30	65	68	50	112	44	880.25
IDVA	55.25	24	18	6	10	2	10	2	4	4	12	46.5	2	195.75
Social Services (Children)	10	3	5	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	31
PCT	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	2	2	5	6	39
Secondary Care/ Acute Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.5	1	8.5
Education	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Housing	10	1	4	12	1	3	3	3	1	0	5	0	0	43
Mental Health	2.5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4.5
Probation	3	0	1	0	1.5	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	9.5
Voluntary Sector	10.25	1	3	1	2	15	14	6	3	5	2	39	3	104.25
Substance Misuse	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	8
Social Services (Adult)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other	5.25	0	0	0	1	4	4	5	6	0	1	2	0	28.25

In the 12 months to the end of March 2013, 1357 high risk cases were referred to MARACs, 1886 children lived in those high risk households. This is an increase of 30% in number of MARAC referrals recorded since the same 12 month period to March 2012.

As would be expected based on the incident levels of much larger local population, Medway is the busiest MARAC in our area followed closely by Thanet. Again, as could perhaps be expected from reported domestic abuse incident levels, Sevenoaks has the fewest number of cases referred to MARAC.

During 2011/12, there was a peak in MARAC referrals across all areas in July 2011. During 2012/13 peak months in the numbers of referrals they received seems to be more varied across the different MARACs, however July, October and November 2012 were particularly busy months for several of the MARACs.

Final V.2

5 Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops Data

Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops offer free advice, information and support from a range of agencies under one roof to help victims of domestic abuse. Typically each one stop shop is open for 2-3 hours, once a week; no appointment is necessary, members of the public seeking assistance can just turn up to speak to the professionals in attendance.

Across Kent and Medway during 2011/12, 11 domestic abuse one stop shops were in operation. During 2012/13 an additional one stop shop opened in Herne Bay, taking our total to 12 by the end of this period.

Number of Visitors

Between July 2012 and June 2013 1259 people were assisted at the domestic abuse one stop shops; this compares to 1054 people between July 2011 and June 2012 and 891 people between July 2010 and June 2011.

Table 1:

Location	No of visitors 2010/11	No of visitors 2011/12	% increase/ decrease in visitors	No of visitors 2012/13	% increase/ decrease in visitors
Ashford	75	169	+125%	239	+41%
Canterbury	169	262	+55%	214	- 18%
Dartford	60	46	-24%	52	+13%
Dover	102	54	-47%	83	+54%
Gravesham	52	31	-40%	52	+68%
Herne Bay*	n/a	n/a	n/a	43	n/a
Maidstone	n/a	20	n/a	65	+325%
Medway	128	146	+14%	147	+1%
Shepway	143	120	-16%	91	- 24%
Swale	107	123	+15%	140	+14%
Swanley (Sevenoaks)**	6	12	+100%	16	+33%
Thanet	49	71	+45%	117	+65%
Total	891	1054	+18%	1259	+19%

*Herne Bay opened in November 2012.

**Swanley opened twice a month until January 2013; weekly service thereafter.

Maidstone recorded the biggest percentage increase (325%) in total visitors during 2012/13 due in part to the Maidstone One Stop Shop opening part way through the previous year.

Ashford had the highest number of visitors to a single one stop shop (n=239) however when the two Canterbury District one stop shops are combined (Canterbury and Herne Bay) they saw the most visitors overall within a local authority area (n=257).

Outcomes

Of the 1259 visitors who came to the one stop shops, 86% reported that they had found their visit helpful, 0% (number=4, percentage is rounded therefore not statistically significant) reported their visit had not been helpful and 14% did not record a response to this question.

A few of the one stop shops report 100% of visitors saying they found the service helpful, however some others still have significant proportions of visitors whose feedback on the service is not being captured, although these figures have improved when compared to the previous year when 16% did not record a response to this question.

Visitor reported attending was:	Helpful%	No helpful%	Not known%
Ashford	78%	0	22%
Canterbury	78%	0	22%
Dartford	100%	0	0
Dover	72%	2%	25%
Gravesham	100%	0	0
Herne Bay	95%	0	5%
Maidstone	100	0	0
Margate	75%	2%	23%
Medway	99%	0	1%
Shepway	100%	0	0
Swale	54%	0	46%
Swanley	100%	0	0

Between July 2012 and June 2013 there was a continuous rise in visitor numbers for each quarter over; even though December 2012 had the lowest monthly visitor numbers, this did not affect this trend.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Qtr2 (Jul - Sept)	243	273	269
Qtr3 (Oct - Dec)	182	212	325
Qtr4 (Jan - Mar)	238	291	330
Qtr1 (Apr - Jun)	228	278	335

6 Under Reporting of Domestic Abuse

It is widely acknowledged that most incidents of domestic abuse are still not reported to the Police.¹ The Home Office issued the Ready Reckoner Tool to estimate the numbers of likely female victims of domestic abuse based on population and using the most current research.²

Using this tool it is estimated that across Kent and Medway:

53,953 women and girls aged 15–59 have been a victim of **domestic abuse** in the past year.

27,392 women and girls aged 15–59 have been a victim of **a sexual assault** in the past year.

66,902 women and girls aged 15–59 have been a victim of **stalking** in the past year.

The total cost to Kent and Medway services in dealing with the effects of domestic abuse and sexual assault = **£317,125,587**.²

However, this tool is limited in that it was only designed to use data to estimate the number of female victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. With male victims accounting for approximately 18% of domestic incidents reported to Kent Police it is important to recognise that the actual figure for the total number of victims of domestic abuse across Kent and Medway will be significantly higher than the total estimated above.

¹ British Crime Survey 2008/09; Crime in England and Wales, Home Office, 2002

² <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100104215220/http://crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/domesticviolence/domesticviolence072.htm>;