

**By:** Shafick Peerbux - Head of Community Safety, KCC  
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**To:** Kent Community Safety Partnership – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Classification:** For Information

**Subject:** Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

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**Summary** This report includes details of the refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement action plan and feedback on performance monitoring

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## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities (KCC/District/Boroughs), Kent Police and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (now Community Safety Partnerships) were required to carry out 3 yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies. A formal review of the 1998 Act took place in 2006, with the result that three year audits were replaced with annual partnership strategic assessments and rolling partnership plans, whilst in two tier authority areas a statutory County Community Safety Agreement was introduced.

## **2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1 The Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlines the key community safety priorities for the county along with the cross-cutting themes that support the identified priorities. It is a rolling document which is reviewed and refreshed annually with the relevant Chapters and appendices being updated as required.
- 2.2 In the latest review of the CSA which took place in March 2018 additions were made to both the priorities and cross-cutting themes to include 'Preventing Extremism and Hate' and 'Support Mental Health and Wellbeing' (see below). The current CSA was discussed at the March meeting of the KCSP and following agreement by partners took effect from April 2018 and has been published on [kent.gov](http://kent.gov).

### **Priorities**

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Substance Misuse
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Preventing Extremism and Hate
- Road Safety

### **Cross Cutting Themes**

- Early intervention, prevention & education
- Reduce re-offending and support victims
- Improve quality of life and enhance community resilience
- Support mental health and wellbeing

### **3.0 Action Plan Development**

- 3.1 Following the development of the new Kent Community Safety Agreement the action plan has been refreshed by members of the KCSP Working Group, priority leads and other relevant partners to ensure that it appropriately reflects the updated priorities and cross-cutting themes. A draft of the refreshed plan is attached for information (Appendix 1).
- 3.2 The action plan includes the key pieces of work that are being delivered by community safety partners across the county linking in with other multi-agency groups and strategies where possible, including the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group, the Kent and Medway Road Casualty Reduction Partnership, the Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy, the Kent and Medway Gangs Strategy, Prevent Duty Delivery Board, Safeguarding Boards etc. Activities and links related to these groups and strategies are referenced throughout the action plan to help support multi-agency delivery and partnership working and may be updated in-year subject to revisions and changes that take place within those groups and plans.
- 3.3 Since the last refresh of the action plan at the start of 2017/18 some of the actions are now complete and as such have been removed from the updated plan, these include the joint Community Safety Conference on 'Safeguarding Vulnerable People from Organised Crime', partnership workshops on topics such as ASB tools and powers and road safety data and a variety of projects funded from the 'Crime Reduction Grant' in 2017/18.
- 3.4 Although the plan has been refreshed a number of actions are still ongoing, or further activity has been planned for 2018/19, as such they have been retained within the document. These include actions relating to Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), information sharing and raising awareness in relation to a variety of issues, funded projects which are not yet complete, as well as training and workshops on topics such as Online Safety and Road Safety
- 3.5 New actions have also been added, in particular in relation to the new priority of 'Preventing Extremism and Hate' as well as within 'Substance Misuse' where the activities are now aligned with the five themes from the Drug and Alcohol Strategy. In addition the projects funded by the Crime Reduction Grant in 2018/19 have been added, as well as a number of recommended actions which arose from the last conference.
- 3.6 It should be noted that the format of the action plan changed in 2017/18 following an audit of community safety activities. One of the recommendations was to include more outcome focused actions within the plan with specific goals and timelines. Therefore this refreshed plan also includes details about the overall aim for each priority, the planned outcomes, what actions will be taken, how delivery will be measured and reported and who will co-ordinate activity or feedback. The action plan will remain a live document and will be reviewed, monitored and updated as appropriate throughout the year by the KCSP Working Group.
- 3.7 KCSP members are invited to feedback on the content of the draft action plan at the meeting or make suggestions at any point during the life of the plan should they identify a potential new action that might be appropriate for inclusion.

## **4.0 Performance Monitoring**

- 4.1 In addition to monitoring the action plan the KCSP Working Group also monitors a set of proxy indicators chosen to represent the key priorities; these are being reviewed and refreshed currently to ensure that they remain relevant and reflect the refreshed activities within the plan. In addition, the group is also currently considering what measures are available to help monitor activity in relation to the new priority which is likely to include reported incidents of Hate Crime.
- 4.2 Domestic Abuse continues to be an area of focus for the Working Group with the number of reported incidents showing an increase, whilst MARAC referrals remain fairly constant. As previously mentioned the numbers of incidents and the current workload in relation to Domestic Abuse adds significant pressure to agencies (voluntary and statutory partners), however with the commissioned Domestic Abuse Services in place, pressures on delivery, demand and resources can be monitored more consistently across the County. In addition to this, the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group and its Tactical Delivery Subgroups will be working in partnership to monitor performance and identify areas for improved working.
- 4.3 Whilst the KCSP Working Group does not have a performance indicator relating to total crime, KCSP members are asked to note that figures for Kent (year-ending December 2017) show an increase in police recorded crime; although estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) show that most types of crime nationally have stayed at levels similar to the previous year. It is important to recognise that nationally there are a number of factors behind some of the police recorded crime statistics which include continuing improvements to recording processes and practices, more victims reporting crime and for some crime types genuine increases in crime. At this time the Office of National Statistics (ONS) has advised that “caution should be taken when interpreting police record crime trends” due to concerns over quality and consistency of crime recording across the country. As mentioned in the report last year Kent was subject to a Crime Data Integrity Inspection by HMICFRS which resulted in a number of changes being introduced to improve crime recording accuracy in the Force area. The ONS is shortly due to release its latest statistics for year-ending March 2018 and the Working Group will review the outcomes and advise the KCSP of any issues.
- 4.4 The KCSP Working Group and its members will continue to monitor the proxy indicators that support delivery of the CSA and to highlight any issues or concerns to the Kent Community Safety Partnership as well as providing reports to the annual Scrutiny Committee.

## **5.0 Recommendations**

- 5.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) members are asked to note the changes to the draft action plan which supports delivery of the refreshed Community Safety Agreement.
- 5.2 KCSP members are asked to provide feedback on the content of the draft action plan either at the meeting or via email to Shirley Brinson by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

- 5.3 KCSP members are asked to note the areas that have been highlighted, by the KCSP Working Group, with regards performance measures and the actions being taken by partners to address them.

**Attachments:**

Appendix 1: Draft Community Safety Agreement Action Plan

**For Further Information:**

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