

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

NOTES of a meeting of the Kent Community Safety Partnership held in the on Thursday, 18 November 2021.

PRESENT: Mr P M Hill, OBE (Chairman), Mr Rivers (Vice-Chairman), Ms S Allen, Ms C Bright, Matthew Burbeck, Ms T Kadir, Mr B Loose, Ms L McMahon, Ms V Mital, Mr S Peerbux, Mr B Platt, Mr N Sparkes, Mr N Wilkinson, Cllr S Mochrie-Cox, Mrs A Oates, Ms E Cronin, Mr N Wickens, Ms S Annan-Veitch, Ms R Westlake and Widden

ALSO PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A Taylor (Scrutiny Research Officer) and Mr M Dentten (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

40. Declarations of Interest

(Item A3)

No declarations were received.

41. Notes of meeting held on 13 July 2021

(Item A4)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2021 were correctly recorded and a paper copy be signed by the Chairman.

42. Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Update

(Item B1)

1. Ms Annan-Veitch (Policy Advisor, Kent County Council) and Ms Westlake (Commissioner, Kent County Council) gave a presentation which updated the Partnership on local and national Domestic Abuse policy developments. Topics covered in the presentation included: the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and new statutory duties; Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS); new funding and commissioning; the progress and timeline of Kent's Domestic Abuse strategy; and the development of a Kent and Medway Partnership Delivery Plan.
2. The Chair asked how new funding would be discharged. Ms Westlake confirmed that additional staff would be recruited to meet the new duties and deliver the projects mentioned in the presentation.
3. A Partnership Member asked how survivors input into the strategy. Ms Annan-Veitch reassured the Partnership that the public consultation had received extensive input and responses from survivors. The need to handle the issue

delicately, especially when involving children, in order to avoid further trauma was noted.

4. A Partnership Member asked how the sanctuary obligations in the Domestic Abuse Act would impact local authority housing. Ms Westlake confirmed that Strategic Commissioning were scoping the requirements. Ms Annan-Veitch informed the Partnership that the Act changed the priority order for public housing.
5. Ms Annan-Veitch agreed to update the Partnership annually on Domestic Abuse developments.

RESOLVED to note the update.

43. Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Update *(Item B2)*

1. DCI Loose (Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit) gave verbal summary of the report. He asserted that counties with VRUs had shown a greater reduction in youth violence than those without. He confirmed that mapping and profiling on youth street gangs was ongoing and that a multi-agency response was required. He informed the partnership that a report on moderated knife imagery was expected for early 2022. Concerning the Serious Violence Duty, introduced as part of recent legislation, he noted the statutory responsibilities for reducing violence.
2. Concerning funding, DCI Loose confirmed that the VRU had been successful in receiving £730,000 for two projects, which included a therapeutic intervention cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) service for individuals involved in serious violence, which started in October.
3. DCI Loose was asked how prevention would be focused. He confirmed that a review of the community engagement process was underway and highlighted the Home Office's requirements for prevention and intervention. He recognised the important role Kent Police's 70 officer Schools Teams would play in prevention.
4. DCI Loose was asked how the voice of young people were input into operations. He reassured the Partnership that young people's views were accounted for in the commissioning of all services. Contributions from Young People's Advisory Groups (YPAGs) were noted.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

44. Kent Community Safety Agreement Update *(Item B3)*

1. Mr Peerbux (Head of Community Safety, Kent County Council) updated the Partnership on the Community Safety Agreement. He noted that it was Adult safeguarding awareness week and that a series of events have been promoted, with topics included digital safeguarding and adult grooming. He

stressed the importance of raising awareness and prevention as part of the 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence. In relation to the progress made on strategic assessments, he confirmed that there had been a delay in sourcing data and that a new data workshop was planned for December, to aide with reviewing priorities.

RESOLVED to note the update.

45. Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update

(Item B4)

1. Mr Peerbux gave an update on crime reduction grant funding, which was given to the Community Safety Partnership by the Police and Crime Commissioner, to fund their programme of community safety projects. The progress of each project was shared with the Partnership. He confirmed that the Kent Community Safety team had continued providing community safety information sessions, with 3 delivered in 2021.
2. The Chair asked whether there was any risk of losing tactical pot funding. Mr Peerbux acknowledged the risk and noted that the funding was out of the control of the Community Safety team.
3. The Chair requested an update on Community safety team accommodation. Mr Peerbux agreed to report back to the Partnership at the appropriate time.

RESOLVED to note the progress and actions undertaken by the Working Group and the work of the KCST.

46. Kent Police and Crime Commissioners response to Mental Health

(Item B5)

1. Mr Wickins (Head of Policy Coordination and Research, Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner) gave a verbal overview of the report, which detailed the findings of the Commissioner's Inquiry into Mental Health and Covid-19, and updated the Partnership on developments since the last meeting. He confirmed that the Commissioner had stepped down as the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners mental health lead. He advised that the Mental Health and Covid-19: Phase Two Report had been published and was publicly available at www.apccs.police.uk/media/6493/apcc-mh-inquiry-phase-two-report-final.pdf. In relation to Section 136 detentions, he noted the success of recent officer training and their advice helpline. Regarding the review of Safe Havens, he informed the Partnership that a recommendation had been made that they extend opening hours to 3am.
2. The Chair asked whether Safe Havens had a positive impact on Kent Police. Mr Wickins recognised that Safe Havens had reduced demand on all emergency services. He added that the positive impact was linked to public awareness of the service.

3. The Partnership agreed to retain the Kent Police and Crime Commissioners response to Mental Health as a standing item.

RESOLVED to note the update.

47. Date of the next meeting
(Item C1)

RESOLVED that the future meeting date be noted.

48. Domestic Homicide Review Update
(Item D1)

1. Mr Peerbux provided an update on the Kent and Medway Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) cases.

RESOLVED that the update and progress on all cases be noted.

49. Kent and Medway PREVENT Duty Delivery Board Update
(Item D2)

1. Members received an update on the PREVENT Duty Delivery Board.
2. Mr Wilkinson shared the Resilience in Unity Project launch trailer (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBihAJgTy80>) with partners.

RESOLVED that the update on the PREVENT Duty Delivery Board be noted.

50. Kent and Medway Joint Exploitation Group Update
(Item D3)

1. Members received an update on the Kent and Medway Joint Exploitation Group.

RESOLVED that the update on the Kent and Medway Joint Exploitation Group be noted.

- (a) **FIELD**
- (b) **FIELD_TITLE**

Domestic Abuse update

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Kent Community Safety Partnership
18.11.2021

Minute Item 42

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has received Royal Assent and is now law

New statutory duty on Tier 1 authorities to ensure there is domestic abuse **support** to meet the needs of survivors and their children **in safe accommodation**

Safe accommodation includes:

- refuge
- dispersed accommodation
- sanctuary schemes (security provision within a survivor's home)
- move on accommodation

Pages

Statutory Guidance has been published (draft form)

Kent County Council (KCC) has received £3,103,909 new funding for 2021/22 to be spent on domestic abuse support delivered within safe accommodation

Key Decision made setting out the principles by which it will be used

2022/23 funding will not be finalised until the Spending Review/settlement

Act – Part 4

Local Authorities new statutory duties include to:

- establish a Local Partnership Board
- assess the need and demand for accommodation-based support for all victims and their children, including those who require cross-border support
- carry out a needs assessment with regards to support in safe accommodation
- develop and publish strategies for the provision of support
- give effect to strategies by making commissioning/ de-commissioning decisions
- monitor and evaluate local delivery
- report back to central government

Needs Assessment

- [2020 available here](#)
- 2021 to be published

Kent and Medway DA Strategy

- 2020 – 2023 available [here](#)
- Updated strategy to be published by 5 January

Implementation timeframes

Stage 1: Oct 2021 (now law)

- Rough Sex defence, revenge porn, extraterritorial jurisdiction, homelessness duty
- Definition of DA, LA support, special measures in the Family Court. Prohibition for GP charging (for a letter to support a victim for legal aid)

Stage 2: Nov 21 – May 22

- DA commissioner
- Secure tenancies
- Children as survivors
- Clare's Law as Statutory
- Extending controlling and coercive to post separation
- New offence – non fatal strangulation

Stage 3: 2023

- Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders

Progression against new duties

Local Partnership Board
pace

Needs Assessment

Identified in line with the Act, findings include:
Support needs around mental health or drugs/alcohol can be a
barrier to acceptance into refuge services
Variation across the county in the provision of Sanctuary
schemes

Strategy

Formal engagement and six-week public consultation on
strategy addendum – 'Safe Accommodation' completed and to be
published



Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS)

council in partnership with other public bodies, commission the countywide KIDAS service



- Managed by KCC Adults Commissioning on behalf of funding partners (PCC, KFRS and district and borough councils)
- Commenced April 2017, extended until March 2024 (decision 21/00063)
- Covers both accommodation-based and community-based support for those aged 16+

The KIDAS contract is the ideal vehicle to mobilise the 2021/22 new funding allocation effectively and compliantly to support the council in delivering its new statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act

IDAS contract successes

Partnership working has enabled access to £1.7 million additional funding

Domestic Abuse: It's Everybody's Business' virtual conference achieved over 10 thousand event registrations – see legacy videos and resources

[Domestic Abuse: It's Everybody's Business – YouTube](#)



The success of the Hospital IDVA project has ensured continuation of funding (MCG) until 2022 – see video <https://youtu.be/RHVoHTJA2IE>

Joint communication plan with Medway including a suite of marketing materials, messages and campaigns – see Know, See, Speak Out campaign resources bit.ly/DAKnowSeeSpeakOut

Resource pack which was rolled out to all COVID testing and vaccination sites to ensure awareness of DA and referral pathways



16 DAYS OF ACTION
Against Domestic Abuse

KNOW
What Domestic Abuse is

SEE
Spot the Signs - it's not always visible

SPEAK OUT
Signpost victims to safety

Join the Kent and Medway 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Abuse campaign
KNOW, SEE, SPEAK OUT
25 Nov - 10 Dec 2021

TAKE ACTION

- > Download and share our social media campaign
- > Use the posters to raise awareness
- > Share the resources with your networks and communities

The more people that Know, See, and Speak Out, the greater chance we have of getting victims to safety.

There has never been a more important time to show your support.

Take action - join the campaign
www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk/latest-news-articles-advice/know-see-speak-out-16-days
#KnowSeeSpeakOut

KIDAS
MEDWAY DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

Commissioning for the Act

The new Domestic Abuse Act funding allocation is to be spent as follows:

- **Safe accommodation projects** - to fill gaps in support provision as they have been identified through the needs assessment and build on existing non-funded or partially funded support services
- Commissioned **accommodation-based support** in the current KIDAS contract - meeting the existing financial commitment releasing existing funding to be reinvested in new community support
- **Staffing costs for 2021/22** – to support implementation of the new duties

Safe accommodation projects (new funding) being commissioned include:

- therapy / counselling for adult survivors and accompanying children in commissioned refuge services
- continuation and expansion of Specialist IDVAs
- tenancy support to promote move on and tenancy sustainment
- countywide, equitable sanctuary scheme to enable survivors to remain in their own homes

Community support projects (existing funding) include:

- an increase in capacity of the outreach service
- the development of consistent and modernised One Stop Shop
- equipment costs related to the improvement in the Sanctuary offer

Next steps

Policy

- Final Strategy and consultation report to be published
- Kent and Medway Partnership Delivery Plan to be developed and implemented

Commissioning

- Scoping being conducted for county wide Sanctuary offer
- Providers exploring ways to strengthen support offer for male survivors in safe accommodation
- Project being scoped to capture the voice of the survivor which is to include those who currently do not access services

Longer term commissioning plan to be developed in line with Strategy and Delivery Plan



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