

AGENDA

KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Tuesday, 21st March, 2023, at 10.00 am
Online

Ask for: **Dominic Westhoff**
Telephone **03000 412188**

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

A. Committee Business

- A1 Introduction
- A2 Apologies
- A3 Declarations of Interest
- A4 Notes of meeting held on 17 November 2022 (Pages 1 - 6)

B. Matters for Information/Discussion - Standing Items

- B1 Kent Community Safety Agreement Review and Refresh (Pages 7 - 46)
- B2 Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update (Pages 47 - 52)
- B3 MARAC Update (Pages 53 - 58)
- B4 Crimestoppers Update
- B5 Neighbourhood Policing Review Update

C - Matters for Information

- C1 Date of future meetings
 - 12 July 2023
 - 16 November 2023

D. RESTRICTED ITEM(S)

- D1 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) - update

RESTRICTED ITEM(S) - Information Only

- D2 Kent and Medway PREVENT Duty Board Update
- D3 Kent and Medway Joint Exploitation Group Update

Monday, 13 March 2023

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

NOTES of a meeting of the Kent Community Safety Partnership held in the Online on Thursday, 17 November 2022.

PRESENT: Mr H Hill (Chair), Mr J Rivers (Vice-Chair), Mr N Wilkinson, Mr A Harper, Ms A Oates, Mr D Keers, Mr S Mochrie-Cox, Ms C Collins, Ms C Jones, Mr M Powell, Mr B Platt, Ms L Dixon, Ms J Mookherjee, Mr S Peerbux, Ms R Westlake, Ms S Annan-Veitch, Ms E Oates and Ms K Turner.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A Taylor and Mr D Westhoff

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**70. Introduction**

(Item A1)

71. Notes of meeting held on 14 July 2022

(Item A4)

RESOLVED that the notes of the meeting held on 14 July 2022 were correctly recorded and be signed by the Chairman.

72. Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

(Item B1)

1. Mr Peerbux (Head of Community Safety, KCC) introduced the update. He said that recent awareness-raising weeks had reflected priorities listed in the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA). The Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) would be focused on promoting the upcoming Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week, working alongside various stakeholders. Mr Peerbux then gave an overview of the aims and themes of the week. This would also overlap with the themes from the 16 days of action against domestic abuse that would start with White Ribbon Day on 25 November 2022.
2. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and gender-based violence were noted as areas where the Partnership required additional focus. There had been a good focus on Domestic Abuse, but other areas of VAWG would require additional attention.
3. Ms Brinson (Community Safety Team Leader, KCC) said that the annual strategic assessment process to identify emerging priorities for the forthcoming year was underway. Data would be collected and discussed with partner organisations. As part of the process, a data workshop would take place where partners would meet and discuss their data, emerging issues and trends and answer questions from district colleagues. Further partners would be invited to speak at the workshop. This information will be used by District Partners to update their strategic assessments and priorities for the next year as well as undertaking the annual review and refresh of the CSA.

RESOLVED that the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) Members noted the update.

73. Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update
(Item B2)

1. Mr Peerbux introduced the report and provided an overview of the Crime Reduction Grant (allocated by the Police and Crime Commissioner) projects that had been agreed upon or were subject to funding bids. If current funding bids were successful, there would be approximately £10,000 left, with a search for other projects suitable for funding ongoing.
2. An overview was given about the ongoing review of the KCST. This included provisions for hybrid working arrangements, a review of the remit and future areas of focus for the team and an update on the day-to-day activities, information sessions and webinars that were delivered by the team.
3. In response to a question from the Chair, Mr Peerbux explained how efforts were made to ensure that co-location and the new working environment would facilitate joined-up working between the teams. It was noted that in-person meetings and working arrangements were very important.
4. It was confirmed that once completed the review would be briefed to the senior management of the KCST before being brought to this partnership.
5. Ms Brinson gave an update on conference planning. There had been discussions on what topics to cover with considerations to cover a couple of broad themes. It was intended that the conference be held as a hybrid event at Detling Showground and online, with a provisional date of 28 March 2023.
6. It was raised that a single focus on VAWG would be most effective, as it was an area that the Partnership wanted to make more progress on. A Partnership Member expressed a concern that attempting to cover too many topics would prove counterproductive.
7. A Partnership Member highlighted that VAWG covered areas broader than Domestic Abuse and that it was important to ensure the focus did not become too narrow.
8. It was discussed that the conference must have tangible outcomes. It was noted that once the themes and topics had been agreed then outcomes would be generated. There were many partnership strategies and workstreams that a VAWG conference could help inform.

RESOLVED the Kent Community Safety Partnership Members noted the progress and actions undertaken by the Working Group and the work of the KCST.

74. Domestic Abuse Update
(Item B3)

1. Ms Westlake (Senior Commissioner KCC Strategic Commissioning) introduced the update, and a PowerPoint presentation was given alongside Ms E Oates (Project Officer KCC Strategic Commissioning). The presentation gave an overview of the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS), background to the review of KIDAS and summary of the key findings from the review.
2. Ms Westlake said that overall, the review findings had been very positive, with the service judged to have been responsive in meeting outcomes and proactive in meeting changes in demand. Survivor feedback was reviewed with 87% of users happy with the service. Other areas of success were noted which included numerous successful funding bids, effective campaigns and an increase in male survivors. The review had recommended a full recommissioning of the service while opportunities would be explored to continue relationships and grow integration. Review findings and recommendations were going through KCC's internal governance process. A further update would be provided in the future.
3. Ms Annan-Veitch (Project and Partnership Manager KCC) then proceeded with the presentation to update the Partnership on the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy and Delivery Plan. The presentation gave an overview of the following areas: background to the strategy and delivery plan, how the delivery plan works, the work of the Partnership Groups, the Districts Domestic Abuse Coordinators Group, the Media and Communications Groups and an overview of their several campaigns. Details were then given on how partners could get involved in forthcoming campaigns, which included the 16 days of action against domestic abuse.
4. In response to a question from the Chair, it was noted that there was an ongoing evaluation of the strategy and its outcomes. The findings were reported to the executive group every 6 months with key objectives RAG rated.
5. A Partnership Member raised a concern over the scrutiny and governance arrangements for the contract review. It was confirmed that there were robust scrutiny and governance processes in place for the contract review. The formal governance would be located with the KCC Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee.
6. A Partnership Member expressed concern at the 63% rate of people who found it easy to make a referral. It was confirmed that this would be looked at and if there were to be a new iteration of the contract it would be an area to improve.

RESOLVED that the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) Members noted the update.

75. Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB) Update *(Item B4)*

1. Mr Rabey (Chair of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board) (KMSAB) introduced the update and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the KMSAB Strategic Plan 2022-2025.
2. It was explained that as Chair of the KMSAB Mr Rabey had a responsibility to hold agencies to account for the care they provided.
3. The Strategic Plan had been developed in cooperation with strategic safeguarding partners, all were given the opportunity to agree to the strategy. There were clearly defined aims that KMSAB wanted to achieve, and they would be reviewed annually to ensure that they were on track. Must ensure that when services would be provided, they were done so by including the voice of the person affected and that people with lived experience were encouraged to give their views to inform future plans.
4. The presentation highlighted KMSAB's Strategic Plans: statutory duties, foundations, operating environment, vision and approach to Partnership working. The priorities were promoting person-centred safeguarding, strengthen system assurance and embed improvement and shape future practice.
5. It was noted that the following week was Safeguarding Adult Awareness Week with many themes that addressed areas for cooperative working for the whole Partnership. The Chair applauded the joint working between the KMSAB and the Partnership.

RESOLVED that the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) Members noted the update.

76. Date of next meeting
(Item C1)

RESOLVED that the future meeting date be noted.

77. Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Update
(Item D1)

1. Mr Peerbux provided an update on the Kent and Medway Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) cases and advised the kent.gov.uk website using the link below: that all published cases can be found on <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/partnerships/kent-community-safety-partnership/domestic-homicide-reviews>
2. Mr Peerbux confirmed that there is a funding model in place with all statutory partners contributing funding towards DHRs and highlighted that whilst there are risks to the funding model, these will be monitored and it was proposed that the funding model and contributions remain the same as previous years.
3. The proposed funding arrangements for 2023/24 was agreed by the Partnership.

RESOLVED that the funding arrangements for 2023/24 have been agreed and that the Domestic Homicide Review update be noted.

78. Kent and Medway PREVENT Duty Delivery Board Update

(Item D2)

1. Mr Wilkinson (Assistant Director Contest and Serious Organised Crime, KCC) provided an update on the PREVENT Duty Delivery Board

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

79. Kent and Medway Joint Exploitation Group Update

(Item D3)

1. Mr Wilkinson provided Members with an update on the Kent and Medway Joint Exploitation Group.

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

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By: Shafick Peerbux - Head of Community Safety, KCC
Shirley Brinson - Community Safety Team Leader, KCC

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 21st March 2023

Classification: For Decision

Subject: Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

Summary This report details the annual review of the Kent Community Safety Agreement, recommended priorities for 2023/24 and an update on the current action plan.

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 last review of the CSA which took place in March 2022 a new priority was added entitled 'Violence Against Women and Girls' to reflect the increased focus on the topic both nationally and locally within district/borough plans. In addition, the 'Anti-Social Behaviour' priority was expanded to become 'Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB' and the cross-cutting theme of 'Response and Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic' was renamed 'Response and Recovery from Significant Community Events'. The current published version took effect from April 2022.

2.3 The following report details the latest review process that has been undertaken including the proposed refresh to the priorities and cross-cutting themes.

3.0 CSA Review Process

3.1 The review of the new Community Safety Agreement has taken into consideration the outcome of local district/borough strategic assessments, partnership plans, emerging issues and new legislation. Details of these elements are included in the draft refresh of the Community Safety Agreement attached.

3.2 Local district/borough Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) are in the process of undertaking their annual strategic assessments to identify their priorities and develop local plans for 2023/24. At the time of writing, draft priorities have been received from seven CSPs. The following are some of the main issues that are emerging either as a priority, cross-cutting theme or as part of a broader theme. Whilst many of the overarching key issues faced by community safety partners remain largely the same, it is the focus areas and action plans which tend to change in response to the needs of the community. As some CSPs are still in the process of agreeing their priorities for the coming year, some of themes from the list below may well change however it is not anticipated there will be significant changes to the types of priorities identified:

- Domestic Abuse
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Tackling Violence
- Violence Against Women & Girls
- Safeguarding and Vulnerability
- Reducing Offending & Reoffending
- Substance Misuse
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Extremism & Hate
- Strengthening Communities
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Crime
- Road Safety

3.3 In terms of partnership data, this year the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) is trialling the production of a strategic assessment for Kent. The development of the assessment has been funded by the KCST and produced by Kent Police analysts. The document includes crime data as well as a range of datasets provided by partners on topics such as road traffic collisions, hospital admissions, fire data, etc. Unfortunately the development of the strategic assessment has not entirely fitted the timescale for the refresh of the CSA, however the information will be reviewed and the appendices updated as appropriate to reflect any emerging issues.

3.4 Using PESTELO analysis (horizon scanning) members of the KCSP Working Group helped to identify existing or emerging issues and opportunities that may need to be considered. The most significant emerging issue is the cost of living crisis along with an ongoing high demand for services and support. A summary of the PESTELO analysis is included in Appendix C of the attached document

3.5 In addition, the Police and Crime Plan, which is produced by the Police and Crime Commissioner, has also been taken into consideration when refreshing the CSA as the KCSP has a statutory duty to have due regard to the objectives set out in the plan. Last year the PCC developed a new 3-year plan entitled 'Making Kent Safer' April 2022 to March 2025. The plan includes a set of guiding principles, key priorities and sets out what the PCC will do. As a brief summary, the focus areas for the priorities include: antisocial behaviour, violence against women & girls (VAWG), exploitation and abuse, organised crime & county lines, communities, road safety, and protecting young people. Further details can be found in Appendix D of the attached CSA and the full plan is available on the website.

4.0 Proposed Changes

4.1 There have been a number of minor changes within the document (as detailed in the version control) however the most significant updates are in the chapters covering key changes to the community safety landscape, key achievements, and the updates

to the appendices which include the horizon scanning (PESTELO). In addition, it should be noted that one of the named responsible authorities (the Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group) has been replaced by the NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board as a result of the Health and Care Act 2022.

- 4.2 Although no major changes have been identified this year there are some emerging issues which are worth noting, including:
- The 'cost of living crisis' which was identified as the most significant emerging issue within the horizon scanning affecting all sectors of society - individuals, communities, charities, businesses (private and public). However it is suggested that any partnership activity relating to this particular issue can be incorporated into existing priorities such as 'Safeguarding Vulnerable People' or be considered as part of the cross-cutting theme 'Improve Quality of Life and Enhance Community Resilience' rather than proposing a new standalone priority.
 - The recent publication of the Home Office's statutory guidance in relation to the Serious Violence Duty (published in December 2022), places a new duty on CSPs to ensure preventing and reducing serious violence is a priority. The statutory guidance outlines the specific changes made to section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as a result of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. Whilst this is a new statutory requirement for the CSPs, serious violence is already referenced within the CSA and the partnership is working with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to support delivery of the other requirements set out in the guidance.
 - The potential impact of future duties and reviews such as the Protect Duty (Martyn's Law) and a national review of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) which could include a potential new duty around anti-social behaviour (ASB). However, both preventing extremism and ASB are already priorities within the CSA and whenever new guidance, or recommendations, are published, any relevant actions can be incorporated into the CSA action plan for delivery.
- 4.3 Similar to previous reviews whilst most of the current CSA priorities have been identified in the strategic assessments and community safety plans of local CSPs, 'Road Safety' is rarely listed as a standalone priority. This is not simply because it is not a concern but that local partnerships are limited in their ability to impact on this particular issue. At a county level road safety is still a focus for partners and with the introduction of the Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy and the inclusion of the following priority in the Police and Crime Plan 'Prevent road danger and support Vision Zero', it is recommended that it remain within the CSA.
- 4.4 Conversely whilst anti-social behaviour (ASB)' remains a specific focus for most local CSPs it should be noted that there are limited opportunities for County partners to contribute to this priority as the operational activities are undertaken by district / borough community safety partners. Whilst the focus of ASB tends to sit with local partners, as the purpose of the CSA is to outline the main priorities for the whole county and ASB is still part of the original remit of CSPs it is recommended that 'Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB' should remain as a priority in the latest refresh.
- 4.5 It is clear from the latest review that the current priorities and cross-cutting themes appropriately reflect the key issues for community safety partners and as such it is recommended that they are retained within the CSA as outlined below:

Priorities

- Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB
- Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)
- Domestic Abuse
- Substance Misuse
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Serious Violence 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
- Response and Recovery from Significant Community Events

5.0 Equality Impact Assessment

- 5.1 As part of the CSA refresh the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is being reviewed. The aim of the CSA is to make Kent's communities safer and stronger by bringing together partners from across the county to agree the key priorities and to develop joined-up approaches. Whilst it is recognised that some people may be more vulnerable and at greater risk of becoming a victim, the CSA is intended to benefit all residents. As there are no proposed changes to the priorities, and based on the EqIA undertaken last year, it is not anticipated that any identified group should be adversely impacted by the refresh of the CSA or the activities within the action plan. In addition, in compliance with current requirements the CSA document will be accessibility checked prior to publication.

6.0 CSA Action Plan and Achievements

- 6.1 Partners are continuing to work towards the activities identified in the current CSA action plan linking in with various organisations and multi-agency groups across the county to help tackle the identified priorities and themes. The KCSP Working Group which meets as a sub-group of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is monitoring the activities set out in the Action Plan and reviewed the latest update at their meeting in January 2023.
- 6.2 Key achievements for 2022/23 delivered by partners are outlined in Chapter 5 of the draft Community Safety Agreement as well as in other papers that will be presented at the meeting including: Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs); project delivery, workshops and events, information sharing, etc. Final feedback on all the actions within the plan will be sought from partners at year-end, and if appropriate some additional details may be added to the key achievements section.
- 6.3 Following the refresh of the Community Safety Agreement, the action plan will also be reviewed and updated for 2023/24 by the KCSP Working Group with the support of the Kent Community Safety Team.

7.0 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

- 7.1 The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced the requirement for a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee to review the work of the partnership, as such on an annual basis KCC's Scrutiny Committee meets as the Crime and Disorder committee

to act as a critical friend to scrutinise and challenge the work of the partnership and the outcomes from the Community Safety Agreement.

- 7.2 Whilst the dates for KCC's Scrutiny Committee meetings have been published, the date for when the committee will review the CSA and the work of the partnership has not been confirmed but based on recent years it is likely to take place in June 2023. The lead agencies for each of the CSA priorities will be in attendance to represent the KCSP and respond to any queries raised. Any recommendations or suggested changes arising from Scrutiny will be fed back to the KCSP members and the Working Group for action as appropriate.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is asked to:

- consider and comment on the refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement;
- agree the priorities and cross-cutting themes for 2023/24;
- note the duty for partners to attend the upcoming Scrutiny Committee arrangements (date to be confirmed).

Attachments:

Appendix A: Draft Refresh of Community Safety Agreement - April 2023

For Further Information:

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Kent Community Safety Agreement



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Version Control

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	April 2017	New Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) – effective from April 2017
2.0	April 2018	Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) - Updated document date to April 2018 - Ch.1 - reference added to 1.1 about version control - Ch.5 - achievements for 2017/18 added - Ch.6 - priorities/cross-cutting themes updated effective from April 2018, including refreshed diagram - Ch.7 - priority leads updated - Appendix A - strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B - MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D - Police & Crime Plan details updated
3.0	April 2019	Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) - Effective date changed to April 2019 - Ch.3 - updated legislation and addition of partnership changes and challenges - Ch.5 - achievements for 2018/19 added - Ch.6 - minor changes to the chapter acknowledging the 2019 review - Ch.8 - minor changes to the list of plans - Appendix A - strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B - MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D - minor change acknowledging the latest review of the Police & Crime Plan
4.0	April 2020	Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) - Effective date changed to April 2020 - Foreword – updated to reflect new version - Ch.3 - updated legislation partnership changes - Ch.5 - achievements for 2019/20 added - Ch.6 - minor change to one priority - Ch.7 - minor changes to the list of leads - Ch.8 - minor changes to the list of plans - Appendix A - strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B - MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D - minor change acknowledging the 2020 review - Appendix E – Kent CSA Priorities and Cross Cutting Themes

5.0	April 2021	<p>Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective date changed to April 2021 - Foreword - updated to reflect latest version - Ch.3 - updated legislation and partnership changes - Ch.4 - change to the named responsible authorities - Ch.5 - achievements for 2020/21 added - Ch.6 - addition of a new cross-cutting theme - Ch.9 - change to the named responsible authorities - Appendix A - strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B - MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix E - addition of a new cross-cutting theme - Logos - updated logos to reflect the changes to the responsible authorities
6.0	April 2022	<p>Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective date changed to April 2022 - Foreword – updated to reflect latest version - Ch.3 - changes made to the landscape, legislation and partnership challenges - Ch.5 - achievements for 2021/22 added - Ch.6 - changes made to priorities and cross-cutting themes, and diagram updated - Appendix A – strategic assessment outcomes updated - Appendix B – MoRiLE outcomes refreshed - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D - new Police and Crime Plan added - Appendix E - amendments to reflect Ch.6 - Logos - updated agency logos added
7.0	April 2023	<p>Refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective date changed to April 2023 - <i>Foreword – to be updated</i> - Ch.3 – changes made to the landscape, legislation and partnership challenges - Ch.4 - change to the named responsible authorities - Ch.5 – achievements for 2022/23 added - Ch.6 – minor update around latest review - Ch.9 - change to the named responsible authorities - <i>Appendix A – to be updated</i> - <i>Appendix B – to be updated</i> - Appendix C – refreshed horizon scanning - Logos - updated agency logos added

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Foreword

As Chair of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) I am pleased to present the latest refresh of the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) which takes effect from 1st April 2023.

The Community Safety Agreement sets out how partners in Kent will work together to address the key community safety priorities for the County, identifying the shared objectives and outcomes required to improve the lives of the people of Kent. Whilst enforcement of the law will always play a major part in community safety, much can be done to prevent problems before they arise and a great deal of effort is devoted to supporting and safeguarding vulnerable people, tackling issues of substance misuse, improving road safety, enhancing quality of life and developing community resilience.

I am pleased to say much progress has been made by partners over the last few years in addressing the issues identified within the CSA and this latest update along with the refresh of the action plan will help support the ongoing focus of the KCSP.

The Community Safety landscape is ever changing and the problems we face are becoming increasingly more complex. The KCSP recognises the challenges in addressing these issues and operates alongside a number of cooperating bodies and other multi-agency partnerships. Over the coming year, the KCSP will continue to work with partners to address the many issues identified within the agreement, taking into account new duties and strategic plans, such as the Serious Violence Duty, the Beating Crime Plan, the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy, the National Combatting Drugs Strategy, and Tackling Domestic Abuse action plan. Last year the most immediate issue was the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and whilst we are now learning to live with this, new challenges have arisen which will affect service needs and agency resources. Issues such as the significant rise in the cost of living; the invasion of Ukraine with millions of people forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in neighbouring countries; and the ongoing disruption to imports / exports causing supply chain bottlenecks. Inevitably these global and local issues will impact on the lives of residents and in turn the work of the partnership, but we will keep working together throughout the year ahead and continue to adapt plans as needed.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise that the success of this agreement can only be achieved through the ongoing delivery of the associated action plans, which would not be possible without the considerable support of the Kent Community Safety Team and partner agencies at both district/borough and county level, as well as non-statutory organisations and the voluntary sector. I would therefore like to thank everyone involved for their efforts and continued support.

Mike Hill OBE

Chair Kent Community Safety Partnership

Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlines the key community safety priorities for Kent. The CSA is reviewed and refreshed annually, so for details of the current version, effective date and changes to previous documents see version control.
- 1.2. The CSA is mandatory for two tier authorities such as Kent and helps us to meet our statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) in which responsible authorities are required to consider crime and disorder in the delivery of all their duties.
- 1.3. This agreement aims to develop a more joined-up approach to public service delivery, to enable more effective and co-ordinated strategic planning across partner agencies and to ensure sustainable and lasting improvements in delivering outcomes. It recognises that community safety issues do not always respect district boundaries, and that coordination of effort can lead to economies of scale, joined up working, and more effective outcomes.
- 1.4. Whilst Medway Unitary Authority does not form part of this agreement, it does undertake a similar process, suitable for unitary authorities, which will include an annual strategic assessment of their community safety issues and production of a Community Safety Plan. Where appropriate, partners in Kent and Medway will work collaboratively to tackle common priorities.

2. Legislation

The following Chapter outlines the key pieces of legislation and statutory duties that direct the work of the Kent Community Safety Partnership

- 2.1. The 'Crime and Disorder Act 1998' gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation the responsible authorities commonly referred to now as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), were required to carry out three yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies. In addition there were a number of other sections contained within the Act that gave CSPs various powers, including the power to share information where necessary to fulfil the duties contained in the Act.
- 2.2. The 'Police and Justice Act 2006' introduced scrutiny arrangements in the form of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, as well as introducing a number of amendments to the 1998 Act including the addition of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and substance misuse within the remit of the CSP strategies. Reducing reoffending was subsequently added by the 'Policing and Crime Act 2009', and most recently serious violence was added to the remit of CSPs by the 'Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022'.
- 2.3. The 'Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007' set out further revisions to the 1998 Act, the most notable of which at district/borough level was the replacement of three yearly audits with an annual strategic assessment, triennial partnership plan and public consultations. For two tier authorities such as Kent, a statutory Community Safety Agreement was introduced.
- 2.4. The 'Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011' introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). This brought a requirement for the PCC to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs and for those authorities to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The legislation also brought with it a mutual duty for the PCC and the responsible authorities to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions.
- 2.5. The requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into effect on 13th April 2011 as a result of the 'Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004)'. In Kent and Medway it was agreed that these would be commissioned by the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) utilising pooled funding on behalf of the

local CSPs including Medway. The process is managed, coordinated and administered by the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) with input from a wide variety of partners.

3. Key Changes to the Community Safety Landscape

In recent years there have been many changes both nationally and locally that impact upon the work of partners involved in community safety.

National and International

- 3.1. War in Ukraine: On February 24th February 2023, the UK marked the one-year anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. Since the war began, thousands have been killed in the fighting, millions more have been forced from their homes, with 114,400 Ukrainians finding refuge in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Many countries have imposed economic sanctions on Russia, and over 1,000 companies have left Russia and Belarus. Whilst undeniably the most significant impact of the war is on Ukraine and its residents, there are knock on effects across Europe and the rest of the world in terms of supporting the migration of refugees, provision of humanitarian and military aid, the rising cost of living as international trade is impacted and global commodity prices increase. In particular gas prices increased to record levels in 2022 due to cuts in Russian supply of gas, whilst the higher commodity prices resulting from the conflict has pushed up inflation around the world. In addition, it is important to be aware of any changes in community tensions, such as protests or demonstrations against the war, or a rise in anti-Russian sentiment affecting community relations.

- 3.2. Cost of Living: The cost of living has been increasing across the UK since early 2021 (*House of Commons Research Briefing “The Rising Cost of Living in the UK”, February 2023*). The annual rate of inflation reached a 41-year high in October 2022, affecting the affordability of goods and services for households. Food prices have risen sharply over the past year and road fuel and household energy tariffs have also increased, in particular domestic gas prices rose by 129% (Dec '21 to Dec '22). Consumer price inflation also rose in many countries during 2021 and 2022 with pandemic-related supply shortages a major factor. The impact of the cost of living increases have been significant but have had the greatest impact on low-income households who spend a larger proportion than average on energy and food, so are more affected by price increases. Food bank charities have reported an increase in demand, up 50% compared to pre-pandemic levels. The Bank of England has been raising interest rates to try and lower the inflation rate, however this has led to higher borrowing costs for households, notably on mortgage interest rates. Whilst the impact on community safety may not be evidenced clearly in the data as yet, it would not be unexpected if the financial pressures on families, businesses and services led to

increases in certain crime types, mental health issues, impacts on physical health, exploitation, homelessness, etc.

3.3. Violence Against Women and Girls: Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is an umbrella term used to cover a wide range of abuses against women and girls such as domestic homicide, domestic abuse, sexual assault, abuse experienced as a child, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, misogynistic behaviours by Incels (involuntary celibates) and harassment in work and public life. While men and boys also suffer from many of these forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women. It is a topic of even greater public interest following several high-profile cases in recent years, including the murders of Sarah Everard, Sabina Nessa, and the Kent Police Community Support Officer, Julia James. In 2021/22 the Home Office published a Strategy on [Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls](#); the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Police and Crime Plan entitled '[Making Kent Safer 2022-2025](#)' includes this issue as a priority; alongside this the PCC also set up a Violence Against Women (VAWG) inquiry which included an online survey, meetings with victims and working with partners to develop a series of tangible recommendations to improve practices in Kent. In addition, VAWG was added as a new priority in 2022/23 for the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) as detailed in Chapter 6 of this document.

3.4. UK Strategies to Tackle Drugs and Crime: In July 2021 the Home Office published the [Beating Crime Plan](#) '*Fewer victims, peaceful neighbourhoods, safe country*'. The plan sets out the strategic approach to: cutting homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime; exposing and ending hidden harms; and building capability and capacity to deal with fraud and online crime. It complements other existing strategies, and sits alongside other work on hidden harms, as well as work that the Government has been doing on domestic abuse and national cyber security strategies. Governance and accountability for the strategy will be supported by monitoring of the National Crime and Policing Measures. Nationally the Government has invested in a number of programmes and funding schemes to help strengthen the ability to tackle these issues, including: Safer Streets Fund, Violence Reduction Units, Supporting Families Fund, and tackling drugs supply and county lines. Some of these funding streams and programmes are being utilised in Kent.

In December 2021 the Government published '[From Harm to Hope](#)' a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives by reducing the supply and demand for drugs and delivering a high-quality treatment and recovery system. The plan is the first Drugs Strategy which commits the whole Government along with public services to work together and share responsibility for creating a safer, healthier and more productive society. The main aims are to break drug supply chains; deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system; and reduce the demand for drugs through changing attitudes in society. Since the publication of the national plan, a significant amount of work has been undertaken in Kent to implement the

requirements including a new Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy which is in the final stages of development and the establishment of new governance arrangements to help drive forward delivery of the strategy.

- 3.5. Exit from the European Union (EU): The United Kingdom (UK) left the EU, following the end of the Brexit transition period on 31 December 2020. Since then new rules on trade, travel and business for the UK and the EU have been implemented, with further changes in relation to visas due in 2023/24. As a key gateway to the Continent, Kent is strategically important, with 90 per cent of UK truck freight trade passing through the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel. With greater checks at ports under the new border arrangements concerns remain about potential border delays and lorry queues. To facilitate the new entry and exit checks required, inland border facilities have been established in Kent aimed at keeping traffic flowing through the ports. In addition, at times of significant cross-Channel delays, due to severe weather, industrial action, or possible impact of new border arrangements, a traffic management plan (Operation Brock) may be activated including a contraflow system on the M20.
- 3.6. Migration and Resettlement: Throughout 2022 and beyond Kent has continued to see an increase in small boat crossings. In 2022 Kent County Council (KCC) warned that Kent's services for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) were at breaking point and whilst some young people were transferred to other local authority areas, the majority continue to remain in Kent. KCC, Medway Council and local authority leaders addressed these concerns with the Home Office and continue to call on the Government to establish a longer-term solution to manage this issue. The UK continues to run several resettlement schemes and in response to the Afghan refugee crisis, local authorities across Kent continue to provide support within their communities including Afghan resettlement schemes, bridging and UASC hotels. Community sentiments and tensions are being monitored, with some high-profile incidents relating to immigration seen in Kent. In October 2022 Kent saw a self-initiated terror attack at an immigration processing centre in Dover, the only terrorist attack in the UK for 2022. In addition there have been protests and filming at a number of sites over the last year including a recent protest in Dover in March 2023. Going forward there continues to be the high possibility of both pro and anti-migrant related tensions occurring in Kent, which is consistent with the ongoing momentum of media coverage around 'small boat' migration.

Changes to Legislation

- 3.7. Domestic Abuse: The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021. Part 2 of the Act introduced a Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales with an amendment to the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004), requiring CSPs to send completed DHR reports to the DA Commissioner. In addition, the DA Commissioner's office is developing plans in line with their powers regarding greater oversight of DHRs (particularly the

learning and recommendations), as well as other reviews which incorporate DA (such as Safeguarding Adult Reviews). The DA Commissioner has powers to compel public bodies to cooperate with her office and make recommendations for public bodies to respond to within 56 days. Part 4 of the Act gives Tier 1 authorities with support from Tier 2 authorities, statutory requirements linked to support within safe accommodation services, which are defined as refuge (communal and individual placements), sanctuary (security measures within existing homes), and move-on accommodation (as people move out of refuge or other safe accommodation into longer term homes). Part 4 of the Act also requires Tier 1 authorities to; create a Local Partnership Board with responsibility for conducting a needs assessment (this is available [here](#)); b) complete a Domestic Abuse Strategy on safe accommodation by Jan 2021 (available [here](#)); c) undertake commissioning activity in relation to accommodation-based services for both adult survivors and their children informed by the need's assessment; and d) monitor delivery against the strategy. In March 2022 the Home Office published the [Tackling Domestic Abuse Action Plan](#) which sets out how various aspects of the Domestic Abuse Act will be delivered and will complement the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. In July 2022 the Home Office published [statutory guidance on Domestic Abuse](#) to assist with the implementation of the Act including guidance and support to frontline professionals and sharing of best practice.

- 3.8. Serious Violence: In 2019/20 the Home Office ran a consultation on a new legal duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence. The outcome was a decision to bring forward primary legislation to create a new duty on organisations to collaborate, where possible through existing partnership structures, to prevent and reduce serious violence. In addition, there was an intention to amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships, in recognition of the important role of CSPs. The new legislation received Royal Assent on 28th April 2022 as part of the 'Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022'. In December 2022 the Government published its statutory guidance for responsible authorities on the [Serious Violence Duty](#). The guidance provides information about the new duty including changes to section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, ensuring preventing and reducing serious violence is a priority for community safety partnerships (CSPs). The guidance also outlines the requirement for a strategic needs assessment and a Serious Violence Strategy and sets the timeframe for delivery. The KCSP is working in partnership with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and the 20 specified authorities named in the duty, along with the relevant authorities (Education and Prisons) and other key partners across Kent and Medway to meet the requirements set out in the guidance.

- 3.9. Fire Safety: The Fire Safety Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021 and commenced on 16 May 2022, followed by the Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 which came into force on 23 January 2023. The Act was introduced to clarify who is responsible for managing and reducing fire risks in different parts of multi-occupational residential buildings to prevent future tragedies, such as the Grenfell Tower fire where 72 people lost their lives. The regulations are an important step towards implementing the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. Whilst these pieces of legislation do not directly affect the work of the multi-agency partnership, the requirements of the Act will make it easier for responsible authorities within the KCSP such as the Fire and Rescue Service to enforce the new duties and ultimately make the lives of residents in Kent safer.
- 3.10. Future Considerations: Recent national consultations on a variety of community safety related topics may lead to future changes in legislation or statutory guidance. The Government has consulted on a Victims Bill which aims to build on the foundations provided by the Victims Code to improve victims' experiences within the criminal justice system. Some of the areas being looked at include community based support services and advocacy support. The Government has also announced it will be introducing new legislation as a result of terror attacks in public spaces, such as happened at the Manchester Arena and other smaller scale attacks; with the aim to consider security measures at publicly accessible locations. The new Protect Duty, known as [Martyn's Law](#) will place a requirement on those responsible for certain locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures. Martyn's Law will ensure better protection against the continued and evolving threat that the UK faces from terrorism. The government aim to publish draft legislation in early spring 2023 to ensure the law stands the test of time. In addition to the Protect duty the government is also planning to refresh the Prevent duty, the CONTEST strategy and the Channel guidance.

Partnership Changes and Challenges

- 3.11. Violence Reduction: In response to the Government's national [Serious Violence Strategy](#), the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) introduced a Violence Reduction Challenge (VRC) in 2018, a year-long study into the challenges around reducing violence. The PCC worked with victims, residents, charities, statutory bodies and others to learn about people's experiences of violent crime, its causes and how it can be tackled as well as challenging Partner agencies to look at opportunities to address this issue. In 2019, the OPCC was successful in being awarded Home Office funding to set up a multi-agency Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in Kent to deliver a range of violence reduction projects. The VRU remains in place and last year was awarded a three year funding settlement until March 2025. Some of the key challenges for partners in relation to violence include the implementation of the new Serious Violence duty (see 3.8) and tackling the issue of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) (see 3.3).

- 3.12. Increases in Service Demand: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns there was an increased demand for some support services, one example of which was an increased demand for domestic abuse and sexual violence services. The PCC was successful in bidding for additional funding from the Ministry of Justice to support local domestic abuse service providers as well as gaining Home Office funding for domestic abuse and tackling perpetrator programmes. Whilst this was welcome news, in general all public sector organisations are now dealing with financial challenges due to the legacy of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis; with the demand for services remaining high while costs increase and budgets remain constrained.
- 3.13. NHS Kent and Medway: In 2016 all NHS organisations and councils in Kent and Medway commenced working together as a Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) to develop proposals to improve health and the quality of care in the local area. In April 2021, NHS England formally accredited Kent and Medway as an Integrated Care System (ICS) as a successor to the STP. On 28 April 2022 the Health and Care Act 2022 received Royal Assent moving the ICS to a statutory footing with the establishment of Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs). As of 1 July 2022, Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in the NHS in England. The Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (referred to as NHS Kent and Medway) is a statutory organisation that plans and buys healthcare services to meet the needs of the Kent and Medway population and brings the NHS together locally to improve population health and establish shared strategic priorities within the NHS. When NHS Kent and Medway ICB replaced the CCG it became a statutory partner within the Kent Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.14. Kent and Medway Prevent: Kent and Medway remains a Prevent priority area, the only one in the Southeast. The Prevent team continue to be funded by the Home Office with the responsibility for the Prevent duty, partnership work, implementing training and leading the Kent and Medway Channel Panel. We have seen the refresh of the Prevent Duty Delivery Board and internal KCC and Medway Cross Directorate Groups. In February 2023, the much anticipated [Independent Review of Prevent](#) led by William Shawcross was published alongside the Government's response to the review which accepted all 34 recommendations. As a result throughout 2023/24 there will be a review of the current Prevent and Channel Duty guidance as well as a refresh of the CONTEST strategy. Whilst the guidance is reviewed at a national level the Kent and Medway Prevent Team will continue to work with partners locally to update the latest Counter-Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) and the Counter-Terrorism Strategic Risk Assessment which will be shared with partners (as appropriate) to help raise the profile and understanding of the issues.

- 3.15. Vision Zero (Road Safety Strategy): In July 2021 ‘Vision Zero – The Road Safety Strategy for Kent 2021 – 2026’ was formally adopted by Kent County Council, taking into account new approaches in the road safety industry and with an emphasis on shared responsibility. The strategy uses a Safe System methodology, which is an approach to road safety and traffic management that starts with the idea that everyone has the right to be safe on the highway network. This is rooted in the belief that every traffic death reflects a failure in the system, and that none are acceptable. It is a methodology that sees all aspects of the system interacting with each other and looks at network risks to prioritise interventions. The Safe System Approach is a proactive methodology to achieve zero deaths. Vision Zero has been included as a priority within the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's current plan and many partners are working towards its delivery through the Kent & Medway Safer Roads Partnership Strategic Board, now chaired by the Kent PCC.
- 3.16. Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs): In March 2022, the Home Secretary published the recommendations from Part 2 of the Police and Crime Commissioner Review. The findings included a recommendation to “undertake a full review of CSPs to initially improve their transparency, accountability, and effectiveness before assessing their position within the wider landscape of local partnerships across England and Wales”. And “through the review of CSPs, consider introducing a new duty for CSPs to report on local ASB strategy and delivery to PCCs and legislating to set out the PCC role in the ASB Community Trigger process”. Although there has been no published timeframe for when the review of CSPs will take place, partner agencies should be aware that the functions and demands on CSPs could change in the future depending on the outcome.

4. Governance

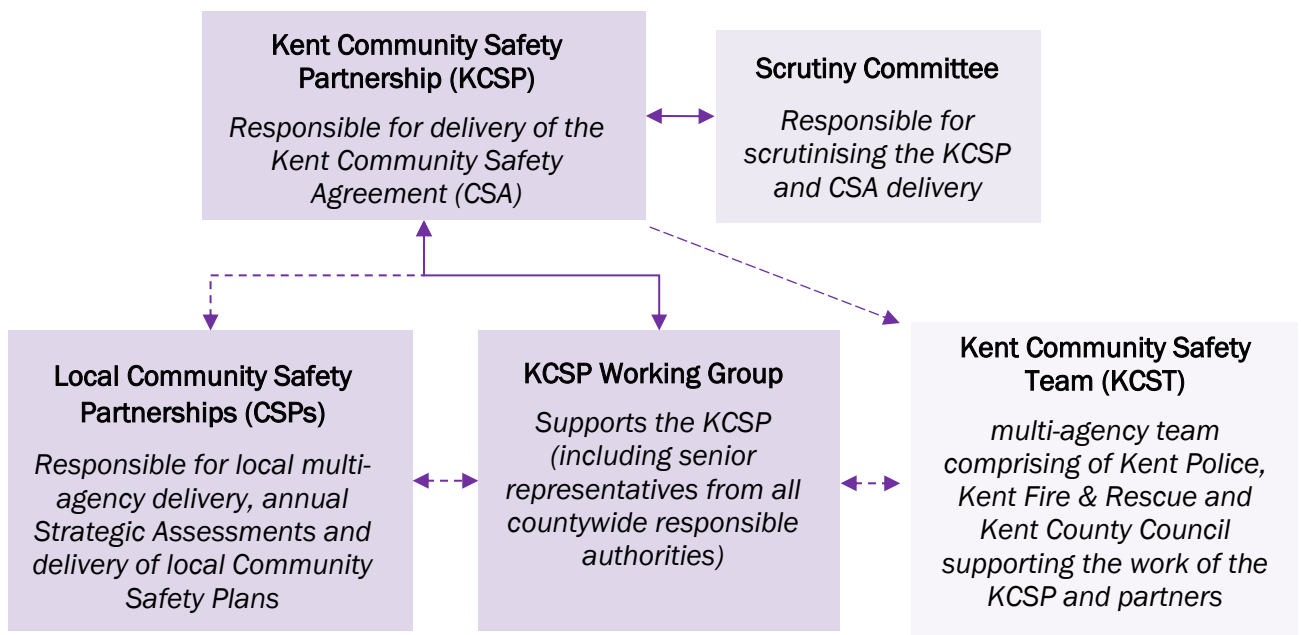
4.1. The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is responsible for the delivery of the Kent Community Safety Agreement priorities, with membership taken from senior officers across the responsible authorities (see below), local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Chairs and the County Council portfolio holder.

The Responsible Authorities are: Kent Police, District & Borough Councils, Kent County Council, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board and the Probation Service.

4.2. The KCSP is supported by a Working Group consisting of senior representatives from all the countywide statutory partners. In addition, the multi-agency Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) which is formed of staff from Police, Fire & Rescue and KCC helps support the work of both county and district partners.

4.3. The statutory partners aim to effectively and efficiently deliver the priorities outlined in this agreement and to comply with statutory responsibilities.

4.4. The KCC Scrutiny Committee will also serve as the Crime and Disorder Committee as required and therefore will have a statutory responsibility to review and scrutinise delivery of the Community Safety Agreement.



5. Key Achievements

In 2022/23 the key priorities identified as those with the potential to benefit from being supported at a county level included Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse, Safeguarding Vulnerable People, Serious Violence & Organised Crime, Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour, Road Safety, Preventing Extremism & Hate and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The priorities are addressed through a rolling partnership action plan linking into existing multi-agency partnership arrangements where possible. Progress is monitored and reported to the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) on a regular basis by the Working Group.

Some of the progress and key achievements include:

- **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs):** During 2022/23 the KCSP published two completed reviews following quality assurance from the Home Office and ensured that over 113 actions from across eleven different DHRs have been implemented resulting in seven DHRs being signed off with all actions completed. The Partnership is committed to ensuring that the learning from these tragic cases is shared with partners to not only help to improve services for all victims of domestic abuse but also to help prevent such homicides in the future. The KCST continues to manage the current caseload on behalf of Community Safety Partnerships across Kent and Medway, these are at various stages of the DHR process. During the 2022 calendar year the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) organised and delivered five online seminars to share the learning from the reviews. The seminars were themed on a range of topics which arose from recent reviews such as Domestic Abuse and Young People; Carers; Suicide; and Harmful Practices & Cultural Competences. Over 600 professionals and frontline staff attended the seminars with 98% rating the event as excellent, very good or good.
- **Project Funding:** In 2022/23 the KCSP used the funding provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to fund a total of 6 projects focusing on a variety of topics. These included a trauma awareness programme, support for the 'best bar none' project, literature and translated materials for awareness events, gaming and online awareness of hate and extremism, and two conferences with one focusing on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and another on a Hateful Extremism. The achievements and outcomes of these projects are monitored by the KCSP Working Group and reported back to the PCC.
- **Workshops / Events:** During 2022/23, in addition to events already mentioned, the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) organised and delivered a number of workshops to support partnership delivery including a Strategic Assessment Data workshop for district partners, and two Community Safety Information Sessions for staff on a variety of topics including: anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, suicide

prevention, serious violence, hate crime and counter terrorism plus a number of operational and organisational updates, etc.

- Kent Community Safety Team (KCST): As part of the KCST's role in sharing good practice and facilitating joint working, the team produces regular e-bulletins on Community Safety in Kent, highlighting and promoting partnership working. During 2022/23 the KCST produced a number of e-bulletins aimed at providing brief updates on emerging issues, such as changes to services, new documentation, data releases, media articles, funding opportunities, etc.
- OSARA Problem Solving: Following on from the 'train the trainer' course delivered in 2021/22 the KCST and other partners trained in the principles of OSARA have been cascading the learning to other partners through in-person and virtual training sessions.

The KCSP partners have also worked alongside other multi-agency partnership groups to support the development and delivery of key pieces of work referenced in the Community Safety Agreement action plan, such as domestic abuse services, Vision Zero road safety, the Kent Drug & Alcohol Strategy, the Serious Violence Duty, etc.

Whilst the CSA action plan sets out how partners aim to address the overarching priorities across the county, each local CSP in Kent has their own community safety plan and associated initiatives aimed at tackling the most relevant issues for their residents.

6. County Priorities

- 6.1. This section sets out the key priorities for the Kent Community Safety Partnership for the forthcoming year along with a number of cross-cutting themes to be addressed within each priority as appropriate.
- 6.2. To help identify the community safety priorities for Kent as well as the local district/borough partnerships a wide variety of datasets are sourced from partner agencies and analysed to ascertain the key issues. The review of data, which includes use of the MoRiLE scoring matrix (*Management of Risk in Law Enforcement*), is complemented by other sources of information such as horizon scanning (including legislative changes) and partnership plans etc. which all help to identify and formulate the priorities for the forthcoming year.
- 6.3. At a local level, the twelve Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across Kent undertake an annual strategic assessment process to identify the priorities for their own district/borough community safety plans. The outcomes of these assessments for the new financial year are shown in the appendix and have been incorporated into the review of the priorities for the CSA.
- 6.4. Over the years the priorities and themes within the Community Safety Agreement (CSA) have developed from more crime and disorder based priorities to incorporate a wider range of issues. These include a number of safeguarding issues and new duties such as preventing violent extremism, hate crime, gangs, organised crime groups, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, online safety, cybercrime, mental health, vulnerable people, victims etc.
- 6.5. Since the first version of this document was published in April 2017, there have been a number of changes made to the priorities and cross-cutting themes as new issues emerged, with the refreshed CSA being published annually in April:
- 2018 – A new priority of ‘Preventing Extremism and Hate’ was introduced, which was previously included as part of the ‘Safeguarding Vulnerable People’ priority; In addition a new cross-cutting theme was added to ‘Support Mental Health and Wellbeing’.
 - 2019 – No major changes were made but it was agreed that Violence Reduction and the impact of Brexit would be incorporated into existing priorities i.e. Serious and Organised Crime, Safeguarding Vulnerable People and Preventing Extremism and Hate.
 - 2020 – The priority of Serious and Organised Crime was expanded to become ‘Serious Violence and Organised Crime’ to reflect new proposed

- duties around Serious Violence and the introduction of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).
- 2021 – A new cross-cutting theme was added entitled ‘Response and Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic’ to reflect the impact of the pandemic across all the priorities.
 - 2022 – The above cross-cutting theme was retitled as ‘Response and Recovery from Significant Community Events’ to include more than just the pandemic; the Anti-Social Behaviour priority was expanded to become ‘Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB’; and a new priority of ‘Violence Against Women and Girls’ (VAWG) was added to reflect the increased focus on this topic both locally and nationally.
- 6.6. In the latest review for April 2023 no changes have been identified for the overarching priorities or the cross-cutting themes although the ‘cost of living crisis’ is worthy of note as the most significant emerging issue affecting all sectors of society - individuals, communities, charities, businesses (private and public). However any partnership activity relating to this particular issue can be incorporated into existing priorities such as ‘Safeguarding Vulnerable People’ or be considered as part of the cross-cutting theme ‘Improve Quality of Life and Enhance Community Resilience’.
- 6.7. The only other item to note in relation to the priorities relates to ‘Road Safety’ as this remains an issue for county partners and the public in general, due to the impact that road safety has on the wider determinants of public health and community safety. The lead for this area of work is the multi-agency ‘Kent & Medway Safer Roads Partnership’, reporting back to the KCSP as necessary. Whilst Road Safety is less likely to be referenced as a standalone priority in district / borough Community Safety Plans, it has been included in the refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 along with the Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy.
- 6.8. Whilst the priorities and cross-cutting themes remain unchanged it is acknowledged that work will take place over the year ahead to assess the impact of a number of national strategies and legislative changes outlined in documents such as the recently published ‘Serious Violence Duty Guidance’; and planned developments such as ‘Martyn’s Law’ (Protect Duty) etc. In the meantime the action plan which supports the work of the CSA will ensure these key workstreams are included and actioned as appropriate.
- 6.9. The diagram below not only includes the priorities and cross-cutting themes for the CSA as detailed above but also shows those identified in the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner’s current Police and Crime Plan entitled ‘Making Kent Safer’ 2022-25. This reflects the statutory requirement to have due regard for each other’s priorities.



ASB = anti-social behaviour

Key:
 Kent CSA priorities & cross-cutting themes (purple).
 Kent PCC's priorities from Making Kent Safer 2022-2025 (grey).
 See Appendix E for a table display of above diagram.

- Safeguarding Vulnerable People includes: *Child Sexual Exploitation, Fraud, Cybercrime, Victims, Vulnerable People at Risk of Exploitation*
- Serious Violence & Organised Crime includes: *Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), Gangs, Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking, Violence Reduction, Serious Violence Duty, County Lines and Drug Dealing (which also links to the Substance Misuse priority)*
- Neighbourhood Crime & ASB includes: *Anti-Social Behaviour, Neighbour Disputes, Environmental Crime, Deliberate Fires, Criminal Damage*
- Preventing Extremism & Hate includes: *Preventing Violent Extremism, Hate Crimes, Radicalisation, Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism, Incels (involuntary celibates), Immigration tensions*
- Substance Misuse – *this is a specific duty placed upon Community Safety Partnerships*
- *Response & Recovery from Significant Community Events includes: COVID-19 pandemic*

6.10. Several of the identified priorities already have existing multi-agency partnership arrangements in place that are ensuring a coordinated approach across organisations at a strategic level. Including groups such as the *Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group; Domestic Homicide Review Steering Group; Kent & Medway Safer Roads Partnership; Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP); Kent & Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB); Kent & Medway Joint Exploitation Group (JEG); Prevent Duty Delivery Board; Channel Panel; Hate Crime Forum; Kent & Medway Reducing Offending Board; etc.*

6.11. These multi-agency partnerships can be further enhanced with links to the Kent CSA and where necessary suitable co-operative arrangements and joint interventions can be established to deliver shared priorities or issues.

7. Leads

Lead officers for each of the priorities have been identified below and have the responsibility for developing, with partners, the action plans to address the countywide priorities. The leads will also act as a champion for the designated priority and provide regular progress updates for the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) and Scrutiny Committee as required.

Please Note: the leads listed in the table below are currently being reviewed and will be confirmed prior to publication.

Priority	Lead
Domestic Abuse	Chief Superintendent (Domestic Abuse), Kent Police / Chair of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group
Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)	Chief Superintendent (Violence Against Women & Girls), Kent Police
Safeguarding Vulnerable People	TBC
Serious Violence and Organised Crime	Director of Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) / Head of Crime Command, Kent Police
Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour)	Superintendent of Strategic Partnerships, Kent Police
Preventing Extremism and Hate	Assistant Director CONTEST and Serious Organised Crime (SOC)
Substance Misuse	Consultant in Public Health, Kent County Council
Road Safety	TBC

8. Links to Plans

The priorities set out in this Community Safety Agreement link to, and assist in the achievement of a number of national and local partnership plans and strategies including:

- Making Kent Safer 2022-2025 (Kent Police and Crime Plan)
- Local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Community Safety Plans
- Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Kent and Medway Gangs Strategy
- Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy
- Kent County Council's Strategy: Framing Kent's Future 2022-2026
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service Customer Safety Plan 2021-2031
- Kent Criminal Justice Board Strategic Plan
- Kent and Medway Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending
- Medway Community Safety Plan
- Vision Zero – Road Safety Strategy for Kent
- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan
- Prevent Duty Delivery Board Action Plan
- Counter Terrorism Local Profile
- Counter Terrorism Situational Risk Assessment
- Prevent Community Engagement Plan
- Kent Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Kent and Medway Interim Integrated Care Strategy

9. Responsible Authorities

This agreement has been drawn up on behalf of the Partners of the Kent Community Safety Partnership and in association with the Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner:-

- Kent Police
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)
- Kent County Council
- Local District/Borough Authorities
- NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board
- Probation Service
- Local District/Borough Community Safety Partnerships

Appendix A: Strategic Assessments (2022-23)

Local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) strategic assessments:

All statutory partners including Police, Fire and Rescue, Health, Probation, County Council services, Local Authority services provided community safety information for use by the twelve Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Kent during the strategic assessment process to help determine their key priorities.

The following table shows the outcome of the local assessments completed to date (March 2023), with the key issues identified locally either as a main priority, cross-cutting theme or as part of a broader theme. [The table will be updated once full details have been received – to date 7 CSPs have set draft priorities.](#)

Priority	No. of CSPs Identifying these Issues
Domestic Abuse	7
ASB / Environmental	7
Tackling Violence (including serious violence, violent crime, violence reduction, youth violence)	7
Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) (inc. stalking & harassment)	5
Safeguarding and Vulnerability (including child sexual exploitation, vulnerable people, repeat victims)	5
Reducing Offending and Reoffending	5
Substance Misuse (including drug supply, alcohol abuse, night-time economy)	4
Serious and Organised Crime (including gangs, organised crime groups, county lines, modern slavery/human trafficking)	4
Extremism & Hate (including preventing extremism, counter-terrorism & hate crimes)	4
Strengthening Communities (cohesion, resilience, reassurance)	4
Mental Health and Wellbeing	2
Crime (including acquisitive, property, doorstep crime & scams)	2
Road Safety	2

Other focus areas identified include: food and fuel / cost of living crisis, youth engagement, diversionary activities, communication, information sharing, etc.

Appendix B: MoRiLE Assessment (2021-22)

Please Note: This section is still to be updated and currently contains information from 2021/22. This will be updated prior to publication.

In 2016-17 the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) facilitated a pilot with six district/borough community safety units in Kent to trial the use of the MoRiLE (*Management of Risk in Law Enforcement*) scoring matrix within the local strategic assessments. The aim of MoRiLE is to enable specific issues to be ranked based on threat, risk and harm and to help target resources at those which have the greatest impact on individuals and communities not just those with the greatest volume.

At that time a national pilot was also in progress, which Kent participated in, to look at whether MoRiLE which was originally developed for use by law enforcement agencies could be adapted to the needs of multi-agency community safety partnerships (CSPs). It should be noted that MoRiLE is not the only element used to identify priorities the assessment also takes into consideration resident's views, partner priorities, new legislation, emerging issues etc.

An updated MoRiLE assessment matrix was developed by the national pilot in 2017 and has been used to inform the latest CSA refresh. The assessment looked at approximately 20 different elements of community safety from modern slavery to vehicle crime. The issues that caused the greatest harm and risk resulting in the highest overall score, unsurprisingly issues such as child sexual exploitation and modern slavery appear high in the rankings:

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	Public Order
PREVENT	Anti-Social Behaviour
Modern Slavery	Violent Crime
Domestic Abuse	Cyber Crime
Gangs	Criminal Damage
Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)	Hate Crime
Mental Health	Road Safety

Whilst the outcome from the MoRiLE assessment provides a list of priorities based on threat, risk and harm it is not used in isolation but is combined with the outcomes from the district strategic assessments, horizon scanning etc. As such the priorities identified within the CSA may not fully replicate the above listing however most if not all of the issues identified within MoRiLE do form part of the CSA priorities and cross-cutting themes.

Appendix C: Horizon Scanning

Using PESTELO analysis members of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) Working Group helped to identify existing and future issues that could impact on communities and may need to be considered as part of community safety plans.

Political:

- Local Council elections in May 2023
- War in Ukraine
- Impact of trade and travel rules following EU exit
- Review of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

Economic:

- Cost of living increases
- Fuel Poverty
- Funding pressure on public services
- Financial pressures on businesses and individuals
- Increased need for financial and other types of support, i.e. food banks
- Strike action across many sectors
- Predicted increases in unemployment

Social / Demographic:

Safeguarding and supporting the most vulnerable members of society, including:

- violence against women and girls
- domestic abuse
- preventing violent extremism
- child sexual exploitation
- human trafficking/modern slavery
- looked after children
- organised crime groups
- serious violence / street gangs
- psychoactive substances
- hate crime
- mental health (including dementia)
- social isolation / loneliness

Technological:

- Cyber-crime and cyber-enabled crime
- Online safety
- Increased demand.

Environmental (and Geographical):

- New developments
- Extreme weather events, i.e. flooding
- Impact of Brexit on transport routes.

Legislation:

Recent legislation introduced a range of statutory duties and opportunities including:

- Police, Crime, Sentencing & Courts Act 2022; *inc. statutory guidance on the Serious Violence Duty*
- Nationality and Borders Act 2022
- Building Safety Act 2022
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021; *inc. statutory guidance on Domestic Abuse duties*
- Counter-Terrorism & Sentencing Act 2021
- Fire Safety Act 2021
- Stalking Protection Act 2019
- Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019

Upcoming legislation / duties includes:

- Online Safety Bill
- Public Order Bill
- Social Housing Bill
- Protect Duty (Martyn's Law)
- Illegal Migration Bill

Organisational:

- Public sector restructures
- Impact of new ways of working
- Implementation of new duties and strategies

Appendix D: Police & Crime Plan (2022-2025)

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). Under this legislation, the PCC is required to produce a Police and Crime Plan that sets out the vision and priorities for policing and community safety, as well as the objectives and ambitions that the Police will be held to account on. The legislation also includes a requirement for the responsible authorities making up the CSPs to have regard to the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan as well as a mutual duty to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions.

The following is an extract from the new Police and Crime Plan entitled '[Making Kent Safer](#)' April 2022 to March 2025.

The guiding principles of the plan are:

- Crime is important no matter where it takes place - urban, rural or coastal communities
- Victims and witnesses at the heart of everything we do
- Ensure that vulnerable people and those suffering mental ill health get support from the right agency

Kent Police's priorities are to:

- Work with residents, communities and businesses to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour
- Tackle violence against women and girls
- Protect people from exploitation and abuse
- Combat organised crime and county lines
- Be visible and responsive to the needs of communities
- Prevent road danger and support Vision Zero
- Protect young people and provide opportunities

The Police and Crime Commissioner will:

- Hold all agencies to account for the delivery of an effective and efficient criminal justice system
- Work in partnership with the police and others to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour
- Be responsive to emerging issues and trends through innovation
- Secure the funding that Kent needs through specific grants and funding formula review
- Support volunteering
- Commission services for victims that are needs-led

The Police and Crime Plan priorities included in the diagram on p.20 of the Community Safety Agreement reflect the Kent PCC's priorities detailed above.

Appendix E: Kent CSA Priorities and Cross-Cutting Themes

As highlighted on page 22, Appendix E has been included in the document for digital accessibility purposes. The below tables show the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) priorities and cross-cutting themes as well as the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities from the Police and Crime Plan 'Making Kent Safer'.

Kent CSA Priorities:

Domestic Abuse
Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
Safeguarding Vulnerable People
Serious Violence and Organised Crime
Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB (<i>Anti-Social Behaviour</i>)
Preventing Extremism and Hate
Substance Misuse
Road Safety

Kent CSA Cross-Cutting Themes:

Early Intervention, Prevention and Education
Improve Quality of Life and Enhance Community Resilience
Support Mental Health and Wellbeing
Reduce Re-Offending and Support Victims
Response and Recovery from Significant Community Events

Making Kent Safer (2022 – 2025) – Kent PCC's Priorities:

Work with residents, communities and businesses to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour
Tackle violence against women and girls
Protect people from exploitation and abuse
Combat organised crime and county lines
Be visible and responsive to the needs of communities
Prevent road danger and support Vision Zero
Protect young people and provide opportunities



In partnership with



For Further information on this Community Safety Agreement please contact the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST):



Email: kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk

Tel: 03000 410234

This document is available in other formats; please contact the KCST above by email or telephone.

By: Shafick Peerbux - Head of Community Safety, KCC
To: Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) - 21st March 2023
Classification: For Information
Subject: Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update

Summary This report provides an update on the key activities and projects being managed on behalf of the Kent Community Safety Partnership by the Working Group.

1.0 Background / Introduction

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation the responsible authorities were required to form multi-agency 'Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships' to undertake this activity. Subsequent revisions introduced additional responsibilities to tackle anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reduce reoffending, and the partnerships were renamed Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).
- 1.2 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) operates at a county level, with the overarching purpose to manage the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) on behalf of the responsible authorities in Kent and to deliver safer and stronger communities. The KCSP is supported by a multi-agency working group which has a particular remit to prepare and monitor the Community Safety Agreement, including the action plan and performance reports, as well as managing the Kent Community Safety fund on behalf of the governing group.

2.0 KCSP Funding – Crime Reduction Grant 2022/23

- 2.1 The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) granted the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) £39,661 from the Crime Reduction Grant for 2022/2023. The grant has been used to fund projects throughout Kent, focussing on the priorities identified in the Community Safety Agreement and the Police and Crime Plan. Similar funding was also provided by the PCC to all Community Safety Partnerships across Kent and Medway, to help deliver projects in support of local priorities.
- 2.2 Two thirds of the funding (£26,440) was made available for upfront project spending with the remaining third of the grant (£13,220) allocated to a tactical pot for spending in-year.

2.3 Initially five projects were submitted in a business case to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for the full amount available for upfront spending, with four of the five projects receiving approval totalling £21,440 (see information below).

- **Best Bar None** (£622.50) – Home Office backed accreditation scheme which supports several ongoing objectives including drink spiking, violence in the night-time economy, violence against women and girls (VAWG) etc. The funding has enabled the purchase of 400 stickers to support the Best Bar None project which is currently being rolled out by district partners. Assessments have been taking place, and once a licenced premises have been accredited the stickers can be placed in their windows to show customers that the venue is working hard to provide a safe and welcoming place.
- **Trauma Awareness Programme** (£13,000) - aims to enable young people and identified younger adults to increase awareness of the power of feeling strong emotion(s) and how to establish an internal 'sense check' and emotional repertoire. The funding has enabled the toolkit and training package to be reviewed and updated and for professionals that work with young people to be trained in the use and delivery of the package.
- **Community Safety Conference** (£5,980) –The focus of the conference is around Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The conference will be delivered as a hybrid event on Tuesday 28th March. Those attending in person will be at the Detling Showground and those attending virtually will be able to access the event via Microsoft Teams. The funding enabled the hire of a venue and audio-visual support. A task and finish group has been established and work is ongoing to deliver the conference. (See further details below)
- **Promotional Materials for Awareness Weeks** (£1,837.50) – funding was secured to support the production of literature as needed on a variety of topics, in the form of posters, leaflets, etc to support awareness weeks and campaigns during the year. The funding has been used to support the production of safeguarding adult awareness cards and hate crime awareness literature and translations.

2.5 Following approval of the four initial projects, the KCSP was then given access to the tactical pot funding. Two further projects totalling £7,600 were submitted to the OPCC in November and received approval (see details below):

- **Gaming & Online Awareness of Hate and Extremism** (£4,600)
The Gaming and Extremism project (gaming bus) is a community engagement initiative to promote awareness of how hateful extremism and potential radicalisation is spread via gaming and how it can be countered. Events are taking place in February and March in conjunction with schools led by the Prevent Education Officers (PEO) working closely with local partners.
- **Hateful Extremism CPD Event** (£3,000)
The Kent and Medway Prevent Team and Kent Police organised and delivered the Hateful Extremism event on 28th February 2023. The CPD event was delivered as a hybrid event: in-person at the Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel and virtually via Microsoft Teams. The funding enabled the hire of a venue and audio-visual to support its delivery. The event included a range of speakers

who provided an update to partners and professionals on the current situation, emerging issues, and to strengthen their knowledge on the subject.

- 2.8 The KCSP Working Group continued to work with partners to identify suitable potential projects. A further two proposals were submitted to the OPCC in January including support for a 'Cost of Living Warn & Inform Campaign' and the translation into British Sign Language of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB) safeguarding leaflet. In addition, the OPCC was approached to consider extending the funding for the Preventing Extremist Hate event to cover additional venue and speaker costs. In total a further £6,300 of funding was requested. Unfortunately, the OPCC advised that the proposed projects did not meet some of the criteria set out in the grant funding guidance and the funding was not approved.
- 2.10 The OPCC notified all Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) that from 24th February 2023 access to the Tactical Pot was closed, and the KCSP is unable to submit any further proposals this year. As a result there is £10,621 left in the tactical pot of the Crime Reduction Grant that has not been spent and will be returned to the OPCC as an underspend.

3.0 KCSP Funding – Crime Reduction Grant 2023/24

- 3.1 The Kent PCC has yet to confirm the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) allocation of funding for the new financial year spend 2023/2024. However, based on previous years' experience notification is likely to be received in mid-March with quick turnaround for submission of a business case for expected spend. The Kent Community Safety Team are working with partners to identify suitable projects for the forthcoming financial year. If any of the KCSP partners are interested in putting forward a project to address any of the priorities identified in the Community Safety Agreement and the Police and Crime Plan please contact the kentcommunitysafteyteam@kent.gov.uk

4.0 Kent Community Safety Conference

- 4.1 At the last meeting of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) on 17th November 2022 partners made the decision to focus the conference on one topic around Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The conference will be delivered as a hybrid event. on Tuesday 28th March. Those attending in person will be at the Detling Showground and those attending virtually will be able to access the event via Microsoft Teams.
- 4.2 Planning for the conference has been structured around the four pillars of the National VAWG Strategy - Pursing Perpetrators, Prioritising Prevention, Supporting Victims, and a Stronger System. The Conference will include input from speakers on a range of topics including the trauma effect of VAWG, Incels (involuntary celibates), stalking, cultural issues, bystander programme, case studies on safer communities, support services, etc.

4.3 Those attending in person will have access to marketplace stall holders and networking opportunities, and all attendees will be able to interact during the event through either Question-and-Answer panels and/or survey/workshop feedback.

5.0 Review of the Kent Community Safety Team

5.1 As mentioned at previous KCSP meetings a review of the Kent Community Safety Team has been taking place to provide recommendations for the future of the team based on the findings. As a result of the review it has been agreed that a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be produced to cover the next two-years. The MOU will include an amended vision for the team (to be agreed), new working arrangements following the closing of the KCST office, staffing structures etc and a detailed action plan of what the KCST will deliver to meet the statutory duties of the three agencies and the KCSP. The constituent partners have agreed that all three partners will be full participants in the joint team in terms of both input and outcomes.

6.0 Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) Update

6.1 The KCST has delivered two Community Safety Information Sessions in this financial year for the benefit of partners, which took place on 17th May & 14th September 2022. A Broad range of topics were covered spanning Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic Abuse, Suicide Prevention, Serious Violence, Hate Crime and Counter Terrorism and many others. For the forthcoming financial year, the KCST partners are considering trialling an alternative format for the Community Safety Information Sessions, making them shorter sessions and delivering them more frequently. The KCST will look to devise a schedule around upcoming awareness weeks/topics as well as incorporating new and emerging issues in-year.

6.2 The KCST delivered an online Data Workshop on 5th December 2022 for district/borough community safety colleagues to help with the annual strategic assessment process and inform the priority setting for CSP Community Safety plans. The biggest input on the day came from the Kent Police Central Analytical Team who provided an update on crime trends, hotspots, emerging issues etc. Other topics/speakers included: Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse, Contextual Safeguarding, Counter terrorism, etc. The workshop gave data providers an opportunity to give some context to the data they have provided, whilst enabling those completing the assessments to ask questions.

6.3 As mentioned in the report presented to the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) in November, the KCST has been delivering Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) learning webinars throughout 2022, in total five sessions have been delivered. The most recent webinar took place on the 24th of November during the National Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week and focussed on harmful practices and cultural competence. Over 160 people attended with 96% of respondents rating it as excellent, very good or good.

6.4 As part of the KCST's role in sharing good practice and facilitating joint working, the team produces regular e-bulletins aimed at providing frequent but brief updates on

emerging community safety issues to practitioners across Kent, such as legislative changes, newly published documents, data releases, links to media articles, funding opportunities.

- 6.5 The KCST also manages and maintains the public facing [Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse Support Services](#) website which provides information on DA services for Kent residents. If anyone is interested in any posters or cards to promote the DA Support Services website or needs any pull-up banners for any future events, please contact the kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk.
- 6.6 The KCSP Working Group would like to encourage partners to contact the KCST if they have any suggested topics for the information sessions, brief updates for the bulletins, or any other suggestions for funding opportunities, training and/or collaborative working. In addition, if you would like to be added to the distribution list for the bulletins, please email the KCST: kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 The KCSP is asked to note the progress and actions undertaken by the Working Group and the work of the KCST.

For Further Information:

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From: The Multiagency Risk Assessment Conference Project Group
To: Kent Community Safety Partnership
Date: 21st March 2023
Subject: MARAC review and implementation of new model: update report

There is significant evidence from research, Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) and Serious Case Review (SAR) findings and recommendations that Multiagency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) processes require improvement.

A review was instigated in Jan 2022 brought together by a cross partnership project group (The MARAC Project Group¹) working with a wider Steering Group which involved stakeholders from across public and voluntary sector partners.

A model was signed off by the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group in July 2022. Funding for the model has now been agreed and Kent Police have allocated project resource to support implementation.

The new model supports increased oversight of progress, strengthening research supporting children's voice, consistent Chairing and management, prioritisation of case meetings for complex cases involving multiple partners and additional coordination resource allocation. It also gives the opportunity to strengthen protocol and training.

The model will be in place by July 2023.

This paper is being brought to the Community Safety Partnership as an update on progress.

1. Background

- 1.1 A MARAC is a forum to discuss how to help victims and survivors at high risk. The aim of the process is to create a system that enables prompt and relevant information sharing across agencies in a way that brings about effective safeguarding action to prevent death and serious harm. Meetings enable agency specific research to be shared and actions allocated to increase the safety of adult and child victims and survivors of abuse to create a joint safety plan.
- 1.2 Currently in Kent and Medway this system is managed by the Police but is attended by local authorities, domestic abuse services, Health and other agencies. While challenging to quantify, significant staff resource is utilised across these services in supporting the MARAC process.

¹ Listed in report authors.

- 1.3 MARAC is non statutory, and there is no government funding allocation available for this work. There are over 290 MARACs across the UK and MARAC data is submitted to Safe Lives on a quarterly basis².
- 1.4 A number of significant issues have been raised around MARAC processes in Kent & Medway. This includes via Domestic Homicide Review and Serious Case Review recommendations. Past efforts to improve Kent & Medway's MARAC model have centred on increasing the length or frequency of meetings to grow the number of cases heard. However, the capacity within staff teams has not increased with the number of meetings, and this has led to unsustainable pressure on the MARAC coordination team as well as core partner agencies. It has also meant limited capacity to improve the systems around MARAC.
- 1.5 Research by Kent Analytics identified improvement priorities as including strengthening meeting management and meeting attendance, establishing clear pre and post meeting processes and introducing consistent Chairing.

2. Current MARAC model

- 2.1 In Kent & Medway there were 2689 cases discussed across 13 area MARACs (March 2021- March 2022). MARACs are held over 13 district and unitary areas. Meetings are held fortnightly with the exception of Medway which meets weekly. Meetings in one area (such as West) are held on the same day and attendees are asked to participate in every case. In practice this can mean that professionals are in MARAC meetings all day. Chairing is currently rotational and done on a voluntary basis.
- 2.2 The current model has 2.95 full time equivalents with staff supporting both the MARAC coordination and the Police research required to support the MARAC process. There is no capacity within the current model to support the Chairing of MARACs.

3. Review process

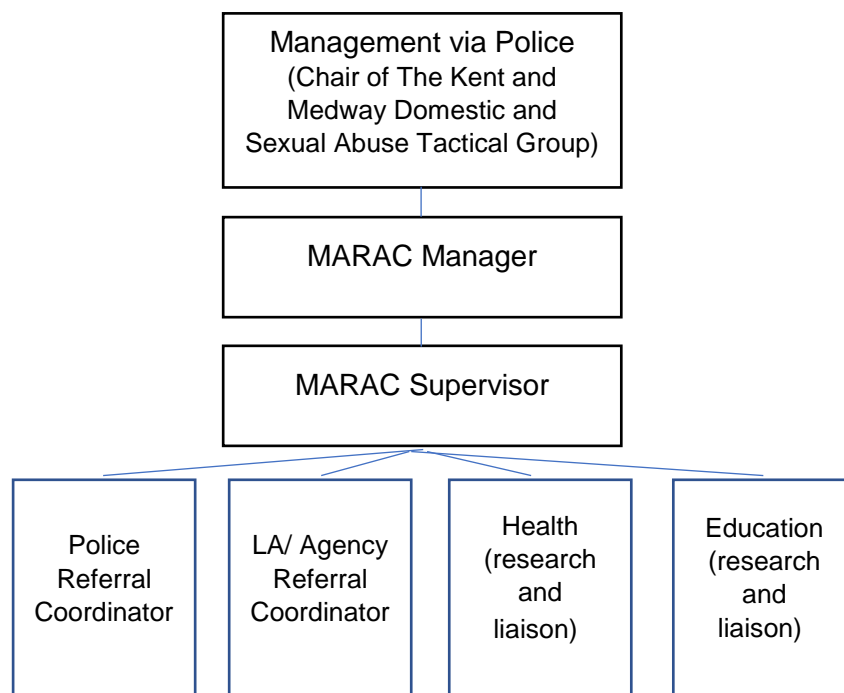
- 3.1 In Jan 2022 a review commenced into MARAC led by the MARAC project group. This was supported via the MARAC Steering Group, which includes representation from across Police, the ICB, Local Authorities, Community Safety Partnership officers (DHR), Probation, Kent Fire and Rescue and domestic abuse providers. The review sought to find a sustainable model for MARAC which addresses the key issues highlighted from DHR and SAR recommendations and Kent Analytics findings.
- 3.2 A funding model comparison was completed by the MARAC project group, and a discussion was held with regional leads across the South-East where information was shared across area. The MARAC project group worked to bring together best practice learnings from multiple models.

² [Latest Marac National Dataset | Safelives](#)

- 3.3 The MARAC project group presented a proposed model which centres around a co-funded multi-agency MARAC Hub Team that manages a MARAC system based on strong information sharing and agency accountability. The Hub will enable all high-risk cases across Kent and Medway to benefit from multiagency information sharing and closely monitored action planning whilst reducing the amount of time spent in MARAC meetings which works to ensure meeting prioritisation to complex multiagency cases, and discussion of any incomplete actions. It also supports consistent Chairing.
- 3.4 In May 2022 Assistant Chief Constable Tracy Harman formalised the Police position to partners asking organisations to consider appropriate resources and funding to support the future MARAC model. Funding has now been agreed and will be shared by Police, Kent County Council, Medway, Probation and Kent Fire and Rescue.
- 3.5 The model was presented and agreed at the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group (July 2022). It was also presented to Joint Kent Chiefs (September 2022).
- 3.6 Nationally this is the only model which the group are aware of which has gained financial backing from such a wide range of partners, and we have had interest in the model from other local authority areas and Standing Together.

4. The New Model

Figure A: New MARAC structure



- 4.1 The new MARAC Hub team will include a MARAC manager, supervisor and four full time MARAC coordinators who will ensure consistency of Chairing and coordination across 5 monthly area MARACs. Coordinators will be trained across partner data bases to ensure resilience within the team. This is a 3 FTE increase in capacity from the current model.
- 4.2 A Case Management System (CMS) will be introduced which will allow all relevant agencies to access cases online, add information required, oversee actions, as well as request actions from partners as needed, monitored by the Hub Team. The system will monitor progress and flag actions which have not been met, which can be escalated as required.
- 4.3 The CMS will allow for some cases to be managed without partners meeting. This will ensure that complex cases which require significant consideration and resource are prioritised within the multiagency meeting space. A meeting on a case can be requested by partners at any time.
- 4.4 The CMS will support the collection of data against identified performance indicators. This will allow the MARAC Steering Group and the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Tactical Group to monitor the success of the model, developing changes if necessary.
- 4.5 The MARAC Manager and MARAC Supervisor posts will support consistent Chairing of all MARAC meetings. The Manager will be asked to support decisions around risk level as needed.
- 4.6 The Hub will be hosted by the Police which allows for smooth transition between the current Police led model and new model, and for close links to be made to the management of high risk perpetrators through the MATAC process managed by the Police. The MARAC Manager will be managed by the Chair of the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Tactical Group which holds oversight for the MARAC process.

5. Implementation

- 5.1 Kent Police have allocated programme management resource to support the implementation of the new MARAC hub. Work to date has prioritised resourcing and recruitment to posts and working to identify options for the implementation of the case management system and any necessary information agreements.
- 5.2 The implementation of the new model offers the opportunity to review training, and the MARAC Steering Group will be asked to support the identification of training opportunities and requirements. Both staff within the coordination team and staff who attend MARAC (and will utilise the CMS) will be offered training as scoped via the Project Group.
- 5.3 MARAC protocols will be revised and published. The MARAC project team will work with partners to support agreement on partner resource allocation to ensure that staff within agencies have the capacity to engage fully and as required within the MARAC process. Non or low attendance at MARAC will be

escalated to the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Tactical Group, and, if required, to the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Learnings from research, stakeholder engagement events, and Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) and Serious Case Review (SAR) findings have identified specific areas of improvement for MARAC processes. A new model has been developed through collaboration across partners.
- 6.2 The new model supports increased oversight of progress, strengthening research supporting children’s voice, identified health resource, consistent Chairing and management, prioritisation of case meetings for complex cases involving multiple partners and additional resource allocation. It also gives the opportunity to strengthen protocol and training.
- 6.3 Currently work to support recruitment and the implementation of the Case Management System is being prioritised, however opportunities to support clear performance indicators, to develop and improve training and strengthen the MARAC protocol which will include agreements against attendance by agencies, will be utilised. The new model is due to be in place by July 2023.

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