

## AGENDA

### KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

**Thursday, 21st November, 2024, at  
10.00 am**

Ask for: **Gaetano  
Romagnuolo**  
Telephone **03000 416624**

#### **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 4 July 2024 (Pages 1 - 6)

#### **B. Matters for Information/Discussion**

- B1 Kent Community Safety Agreement Update (Pages 7 - 10)
- B2 Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update (Pages 11 - 14)
- B3 Kent Substance Misuse Strategy Update (Pages 15 - 22)
- B4 Kent and Medway Serious Violence Duty Update (Pages 23 - 26)

#### **C. Matters for Information**

- C1 Dates of Future Meetings
  - Tuesday, 25 March 2025, 10am
  - Thursday, 3 July 2025, 10am

#### **D -RESTRICTED ITEM(S)**

Meeting not open to the press and public and reports not for publication.

- D1 Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews Update
- D2 Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews Funding Arrangements Report
- D3 Kent and Medway PREVENT Duty Delivery Board Update

**Wednesday, 13 November 2024**

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**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL****KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

NOTES of a meeting of the Kent Community Safety Partnership held online on Thursday, 4 July 2024, 10am.

PRESENT: Mrs C Bell (Chair), Mr J Rivers (Vice-Chair), Mr S Peerbux, Supt P Steenhuis, Ms S Brinson, Mr R Platt, Mr M Powell, Ms L Dixon, Cllr S Mochrie-Cox, DI J Ross, Mr A Harper, Ms B King, Mr S Perez, Mr P Breckon, Ms L Marsh, Ms C Jones, Mr N Wilkinson, Ms K Jones, Ms V Mital, Mr H Russell and Ms C Bright.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms R Emberley and Mr G Romagnuolo.

**UNRESTRICTED ITEMS****69. Notes of meeting held on 14 March 2024**

*(Item A4)*

RESOLVED that the notes of the meeting held on 14 March 2024 were correctly recorded.

**70. Kent Community Safety Agreement Update**

*(Item B1)*

1. Ms S Brinson (Community Safety Team Leader, KCC) presented a report which included details of the refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) draft action plan for 2024/25.
2. Ms Brinson explained that, while the Agreement's eight priorities were unchanged following the refresh that was approved at the March Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) meeting, the action plan had been updated by members of the KCSP Working Group, priority leads and other relevant partners to ensure that it appropriately reflected the contents within the CSA.
3. The action plan includes key initiatives that are delivered by Community Safety partners across the county linking in with other multi-agency groups, including the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group, the Kent and Medway Safer Roads Partnership, the Substance Misuse Alliance, the Joint Exploitation Group, the Prevent Duty Delivery Board, Safeguarding Boards/Partnerships and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) etc.
4. The action plan will be updated to include the projects being funded by the KCSPs allocation of the Kent PCC's Crime Reduction Grant (CRG) once approved for ongoing monitoring.

5. The action plan is a rolling document and contains a number of ongoing actions linked to the work of the KCSP such as the delivery of the Domestic Homicide Reviews and Strategic Assessments. In addition, a number of new actions have been added to the plan and include activities which were being delivered by partners in areas such as Domestic Abuse, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Serious and Organised Crime.
6. The priorities detailed in the action plan: Domestic Abuse; Road Safety; Substance Misuse; Preventing Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour; Serious Violence and Organised Crime; Safeguarding Vulnerable People; Preventing Extremism and Hate; and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG); have all had their actions refreshed.
7. In answer to a comment about utilising various sources to determine ASB issues and the role of local politicians to tackle anti-social behaviour, Mr S Peerbux (Head of Community Safety, KCC) agreed that there are already various sources such as My Community Voice, local Community Safety Partnerships have ASB data collection, and politicians' regular engagement with their communities would also be important to help pinpoint local anti-social behaviour issues too.
8. Mr S Peerbux finished by thanking partners for their support with the production of the comprehensive written report and presentations for the recent Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED that Kent Community Safety Partnership members:

- a. Note the refreshed action plan which supports delivery of the refreshed Community Safety Agreement.
- b. Provide feedback on the content of the draft action plan via email to [kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk) (KCST) by 19th July 2024, or at any time in-year if new actions emerge.

## **71. Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update** *(Item B2)*

1. Mr M Powell (Director, Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit, KCC) clarified that he was speaking in his capacity as Chair of the KCSP Working Group.
2. He outlined that the funding allocation to the KCSP from the Police and Crime Commissioners Crime Reduction Grant for 2024/25 had remained the same as in previous years (£39,661). In accordance with the grant conditions, a third of the funding (£13,221) had been allocated to a Tactical Pot for in-year spending, with the remaining two-thirds (£26,440) available for upfront project spend. The tactical pot would be accessible once all the upfront business case projects were approved.
3. A total of nine project proposals were received from partners for consideration by the KCSP Working Group at their meeting on 29th April 2024. Based on a shortlisting exercise and partnership discussion, seven of the nine projects

received a consensus of support and business cases were submitted to the PCC for approval. These are:

- Expert level training in ASB Case Reviews and ASB legislation
  - Neurodivergent intimate relationships Training for partners
  - Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) training sessions
  - Countering the Extreme Right-Wing Training
  - Partnership Workshop on New CSP Statutory Duties
  - Community Safety Learning
  - Hateful Extremism CPD Event.
4. The Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) are in the process of liaising with the (office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) on the projects and await final approval.
  5. The KCSP Working Group have begun liaising with partners to explore potential projects for funding through the tactical pot and proposals will be discussed at the next KCSP Working Group meeting scheduled for 17th July 2024.
  6. Partner organisations were invited to submit suggestions for projects, funding opportunities, training and collaborative working to the KCST:  
[kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk).
  7. The Vice-Chair of the KCSP Working Group, Mr Peerbux highlighted some activities being undertaken by the KCST, in particular the Community Safety Information Sessions which are proving very popular and receiving positive feedback. So far, 3 sessions have been held with the last session taking place on the 20<sup>th</sup> June focused on ASB best practice and also AMPARO, a support service for those affected by suicide.

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

## **72. Kent Community Safety Partnership Terms of Reference Review** *(Item B3)*

1. Mr S Peerbux advised that the KCSP terms of reference (ToR) were last updated and approved by the Partnership in July 2023 and are required to be reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis. Since the last review, there had been no legislative changes that would impact the governance arrangements of the Partnership. The Home Office published the outcomes of a consultation in relation to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) Review in November 2023, however, there have been no legislative changes or any guidance documents published for CSPs since this time.
2. The ToR of the KCSP had remained largely unchanged aside from the 'Membership' section reflecting the name of 'The Probation Service' and the Kent and Medway Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Board had been added as a

'co-operating and participating persons and bodies' to support the new Serious Violence Duty introduced in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

3. The KCSP had two sub-groups: the KCSP Working Group and the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Steering Group. Each of them had their own ToRs.
4. The DHR Steering Group had recently reviewed its own ToR and no changes have been made as it reflects current practice. The Home Office had launched a public consultation on an updated version of the statutory guidance for DHRs which closes at the end of July 2024. As such, the DHR Steering Group ToR would need to be reviewed and updated accordingly upon publication of the new national guidance.
5. The KCSP Working Group also recently reviewed its ToR with most amendments in relation to the 'Membership' and 'Responsibilities' sections.
6. The 'Membership' section was updated to reflect 'The Probation Service' but also to expand on the KCC representatives who attend the KCSP Working Group and the 'Responsibilities' section has been updated to clarify current practice.

RESOLVED that:

- a. KCSP members agree the Terms of Reference for the Kent Community Safety Partnership and the two subgroups (KCSP Working Group and the DHR Steering Groups).
- b. All KCSP member organisations shown in the Terms of Reference ensure that they are signed up to the latest version of the Kent and Medway Information Sharing Agreement.
- c. KCSP members note that the Terms of Reference for the KCSP and its subgroups will be reviewed annually and included as an agenda item at least once a year.

### **73. Kent Police Mental Health and Right Care Right Person Update**

*(Item B4)*

1. Supt P Steenhuis (Strategic Prevention, Kent Police) outlined the new National multi-agency initiative to ensure that vulnerable people experiencing a mental health crisis would receive the most appropriate support.
2. The Right Care Right Person was a national initiative between police forces and the NHS to ensure that, when there were concerns for a person's welfare linked to mental health, medical or social care issues, the most appropriate person - with the right skills, training and experience - would be involved.
3. This was a collective national commitment from the Home Office, Department of Health & Social Care, the National Police Chiefs' Council, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, and NHS England. There had been several success stories and significant engagement from across the Partnership that would support this approach. As a result of this model, in May 2024 there had been 325 less calls

to Kent Police; this meant that the additional resources could be deployed elsewhere. Supt Steenhuis reported that Kent Police was very pleased with the initial outcomes of this new approach.

RESOLVED that the KCSP note the update.

#### **74. Crimestoppers Update**

*(Item B5)*

1. Mr P Breckon (Eastern Regional Manager, Crimestoppers) delivered a presentation and explained that Crimestoppers was an independent charity which was established in the UK in 1988. It is not part of Crimewatch and operates an anonymous, free, 24/7 line for the reporting of crimes. The crimes reported to the organisation are normally passed to the Police within 4 hours.
2. Mr Breckon outlined some of the recent campaigns that were launched by Crimestoppers. These included national campaigns to tackle modern slavery, violence against women and girls and acquisitive crime. Local campaigns in Kent included a successful one to discourage drink driving and some youth specific campaigns.
3. The Community Ambassador Programme was designed to increase awareness of Crimestoppers through partnerships with businesses, public authorities, charities and other agencies. Staff from these organisations could become 'Ambassadors' and use their expertise and local knowledge to assist Crimestoppers and promote their work.
4. In 2023-24, in Kent, Crimestoppers had received 3,737 online and 804 phone intelligence reports, which were then processed and passed to the relevant authorities with the legal responsibility to investigate crimes, make arrests and charge people in order to bring them to justice.

RESOLVED that the KCSP note the update.

#### **75. Dates of future meetings**

*(Item C1)*

RESOLVED that the KCSP note the dates of future meetings.

#### **76. Kent and Medway Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Update**

*(Item D1)*

1. Mr Peerbox provided an update on the Kent and Medway Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) cases and associated activities in relation to these including learning events and funding.

2. The published DHR cases can be found on the Kent.gov website using the link below: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/partnerships/kent-community-safety-partnership/domestic-homicide-reviews>.

RESOLVED that the Kent Community Safety Partnership:

- a. Note the updates within the report and progress on all cases.
- b. Note the plans for continued online learning events.
- c. Note the risks to the current funding model and the likely increase in funding contributions required from all statutory responsible authorities in 2025/26.

**77. Kent and Medway PREVENT Duty Delivery Board (PDDB) Update**  
*(Item D2)*

1. Mr N Wilkinson (Assistant Director Contest and Serious Organised Crime, KCC) provided an update on the local and national context in relation to the Prevent Duty.

RESOLVED that the KCSP note the update.



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

**To:** Kent Community Safety Partnership – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024

**Classification:** For Information

**Subject:** Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

**Summary** This report includes details of progress with regards the Kent Community Safety Agreement action plan and the upcoming strategic assessments

## 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 (see below). The CSA is a rolling document which is reviewed and refreshed annually with the relevant chapters and appendices being updated as required.

### Priorities

- Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB
- Domestic Abuse
- Substance Misuse
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Serious Violence and Organised Crime
- Preventing Extremism and Hate
- Road Safety
- Violence against women and girls

### 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

## 3.0 CSA Action Plan Update

3.1 At the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) meeting in July, members were presented with the refreshed action plan which supports delivery of the CSA priorities. The KCSP Working Group continues to monitor the activities identified and reviewed the latest updates at their meeting in October 2024. The next review will take place at their meeting in January 2025.

- 3.2 At this stage of the year all of the actions are in progress, this includes many activities which are ongoing such as the domestic homicide reviews, work with other multi-agency groups, information sharing, awareness raising, training, etc. which link to the partnership's role in leading and coordinating on countywide community safety issues. A report on the key outcomes of the action plan will be presented at the next KCSP meeting in March but in the meantime an update on the projects funded by the Crime Reduction Grant has been provided in the KCSP Working Group report. In addition, a number of reports from other multi-agency partnerships which help support delivery of the CSA priorities and the action plan will be presented at the meeting including substance misuse, serious violence, and preventing extremism.
- 3.3 Activities taking place in relation to some of the other priorities, such as Domestic Abuse and Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, include:
- The [16-days of Action](#) Against Domestic Abuse campaign, planning for the renewal of a domestic abuse services website, recommissioning activity, partnership work on MARACs (multi-agency risk assessment conferences), development of a new data capture process for one-stop-shops.
  - Work around neighbourhood crime and ASB has included sharing of resources following the ASB workshop in March this year; delivery of community safety information sessions with a focus on sharing good practice around tackling ASB; and planning training for partners (funded through the Crime Reduction Grant).
- 3.4 Other activities within the plan which have taken place recently, or are due to take place, include learning sessions around Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG); and supporting delivery of awareness events such as [Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week](#), and 16-days of action (mentioned above).
- 3.5 The action plan remains a live document and can be updated and amended during the year as required.

#### **4.0 Strategic Assessments**

- 4.1 Sourcing of data from partner agencies for the annual strategic assessment process is in progress and the KCST has contacted statutory partners to provide data for use by the district/borough Community Safety Partnership's (CSPs) in their strategic assessments to help identify key community safety issues. The data is due to be received by 15<sup>th</sup> November and will be made available to local partners via the Safer Communities portal on MS Teams. This data and the outcomes from the local assessments will help inform the annual review of the CSA priorities.
- 4.2 The KCST is also planning a data workshop on 11<sup>th</sup> December for partners involved in producing the local strategic assessments (SAs). A calendar invite has been sent to authors of the local SA's and data providers have been invited to speak. The Kent Police Central Analytical Team have confirmed they will be attending to explain what their data is showing in terms of trends, hotspots, emerging issues, etc. and to give partners a chance to ask questions. Other confirmed speakers will be covering Serious Violence, Domestic Abuse, Rail Safety, and Road Safety. Further speakers are being identified. The KCST has also commissioned the production of a Kent strategic assessment to help support the process and inform the refresh of the CSA.

## 5.0 Kent Community Safety Agreement

- 5.1 Planning for the review of the current Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) was discussed at the recent KCSP Working Group in October. Following the review of CSPs and ASB powers undertaken by the Home Office, it was anticipated that the recommendations would result in legislative changes for CSPs or the development of new statutory guidance. Since the change in government, there have been no further announcements, although ASB remains a key focus.
- 5.2 It is worth noting that the Victims Commissioner released a report in September 2024 “Understanding the experiences of victims of anti-social behaviour”, which included at least two recommendations to the Home Office in relation to CSPs:
- *The Home Office should fully implement the measures to strengthen CSPs which it consulted on in Phase 1 of its Community Safety Partnerships review. The Home Office should also publish its proposed new guidance for CSPs for consultation.*
  - *The Home Office should update the statutory guidance for CSPs to encourage the use of integrated IT systems that allow for data sharing of ASB reports and victim risk assessments between agencies at a local level.*
- 5.3 It is hoped that further guidance may be forthcoming in 2025/26, as such members of the Working Group agreed with the proposal to refresh the current CSA, with a full review in the next financial year incorporating any changes required by the Home Office (if announced), as well as incorporating the new Kent Police and Crime Plan, and a full review of the priorities identified by the local district/borough CSPs.
- 5.4 In the interim, the planned refresh for this year will include a review of the current priorities based on the strategic assessment outcomes; horizon scanning which will help identify emerging issues and opportunities; and a review of the statutory duties and relevant legislation. In addition, the KCST will work with partners to consider potential options to streamline the current version, through editing of the content, with a particular focus on Chapter 3 the ‘Community Safety Landscape’, whilst ensuring the most relevant information is retained and updated.
- 5.5 The KCST will work with partners over the next couple of months to refresh the current CSA document, with the KCSP Working Group reviewing the first draft at their next meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Following any revisions, the final draft will be presented at the KCSP meeting in March 2025 for senior partner input.

## 6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) members are asked to note the update.

### For Further Information:

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**By:** Mark Powell – Violence Reduction Unit Director for Kent and Medway (Chair of KCSP Working Group)  
Shafick Peerbux - Head of Community Safety, KCC (Deputy Chair of KCSP Working Group)

**To:** Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024

**Classification:** For Information

**Subject:** Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update

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**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.

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## **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 2024/25**

- 2.1 The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) allocated £39,661 grant funding to the Kent Community Safety Partnership to fund projects in 2024/25, focussing on the priorities identified in the Community Safety Agreement and the PCC’s Making Kent Safer plan. As part of the terms and conditions a third of the funding was placed in a tactical pot for in-year spending. 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 In late April 2024, the KCSP Working Group reviewed a range of projects suggested by partners as possible options to receive funding in 2024/25. Of those recommended for funding the PCC approved upfront spending of £21,778 on the following five projects. A short summary about each of the projects was included in the last report to KCSP members in July 2024, the following are brief progress updates:

- **Expert level training in ASB Case Reviews and ASB legislation (£6,000)**  
*Training has been arranged for ASB Help to deliver five sessions in early 2025. These sessions will be carried out in-person and include case reviews and ASB powers. One online session on ASB powers is being scheduled for staff who are unable to attend the in-person sessions.*
- **Neurodivergent intimate relationships Training for partners (£5,300)**  
*Training uploaded onto training portal and is currently being tested ready to share with partners in early November. Expressions of interest opened mid-October 2024 and targeted places are being promoted and agreed with relevant team managers.*
- **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) training sessions (£2,400)**  
*Training sessions have commenced with two sessions already delivered. Both presentations had over 80+ people attend and feedback received so far has been positive. A total of six sessions will take place before the end of March 2025.*
- **Countering the Extreme Right-Wing Training (£4,578)**  
*One virtual session has been delivered with 65 people in attendance who gave exceptional feedback. Face to Face sessions planned out across all areas.*
- **Hateful Extremism CPD Event (£3,500)**  
*The event date set for 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the Mercure Hotel Maidstone. Several speakers confirmed. Eventbrite booking now open and many tickets have been booked for both in-person and virtual attendance.*

2.3 The remainder of the funding (£17,883) was placed in the tactical pot for in-year use. Project proposals from partners were discussed at the KCSP Working Group and the following projects were subsequently supported by the KCSP Chair and approved by the PCC. (See Appendix 1 for full details of projects)

- **Child's Vision Volunteer Recruitment and Training (£2,000)**  
*Recruitment and training for volunteers to support young people who have adverse childhood experiences (ACES) as a result of domestic abuse or violence in the home by delivering the children's freedom programme.*
- **Crime Prevention Resources (£3,877)**  
*Providing Community Wardens with crime prevention resources such as purse chains, personal alarms, shed alarms etc. to support people to feel safer in the community and in their homes.*
- **Teacher in your Pocket (doorstep crime) (£5,000)**  
*Online videos to provide enhanced awareness for vulnerable and digitally excluded individuals by hosting a one stop shop of explainer videos and advice that is shared by their trusted community carers, friends, family, volunteers on a mobile phone.*

- **Trauma Informed Kent - Ambassador Programme (£6,850)**  
*Ambassador programme for up to 20 colleagues to increase awareness and knowledge of trauma, how to avoid retraumatising victims and improving services and systems and general workforce understanding of trauma. The programme takes approx. 100 days and includes three full days of in-person workshops plus access to 1-2-1 or small group support and supervision, online sessions and practice communities, plus resources and links.*

2.4 The majority of funding has now been allocated to partnership projects with just £156 remaining in the tactical pot for in-year spending on any additional small projects.

### 3.0 Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) Updates

- 3.1 In 2024/25, the KCST has delivered a total of six Community Safety Information Sessions (CSIS) in the lunch time learning shorter format. Since the last report to the KCSP members in July, presentations at these events have included Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) input on lithium-Ion battery risks; Protection Against Stalking (PAS); Serious and Organised Crime and Gangs ISVA service from Family matters; Look Ahead MIDAAS service (Male Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service) and Cyber Crime from Kent Police. The next scheduled sessions are due to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> January. The November session will cover the Healthy Empowering Relationships Advisory (HERA) service. Followed in January with Kent Police covering potential dangerous dogs; and Child's Vision promoting their service around supporting children who have experienced Domestic Abuse with the complexities of adverse childhood experiences (ACES).
- 3.2 The KCSP commission Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) [formerly known as Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)] on behalf of the district/borough Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across Kent and Medway, with the KCST managing the process. Published DHRs are available on the [KCC](#) and [Medway Council](#) Websites. Five DHRs have been published this calendar year DHR [Louise 2020](#), [Beth 2018](#), [George 2019](#) [Angela 2021](#) and [Salome 2021](#).
- 3.3 The KCST has delivered two Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) learning webinars so far this financial year. Since the last report to the KCSP members in July, a jointly delivered DHR/Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) learning webinar was delivered with the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB) exploring 'Co-Occurring Conditions and DA' including the DHR case for Louise and SAR Case of Stuart. This also including an audio of Louise's mother telling Louise's story. The recordings of the event are available on the Safer Communities Portal. Further webinars are being prepared in line with cases that are going to be published over the next few months.
- 3.4 As part of the KCST's role in sharing good practice and facilitating joint working, the team produces and circulates monthly E-Bulletins with the latest community safety updates and any relevant news, publications, and legislation. The most recent bulletins included updates and information on the CSIS sessions (mentioned above), Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Training, Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) and Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) joint webinar, DHR publications, partner

consultations, training offers, upcoming events, partner newsletters, and awareness events (*including safeguarding adults awareness week, 16 days of action against domestic abuse and ASB awareness week*).

- 3.5 The KCST is currently working with partners in the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB) on the annual [Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week](#) (SAAW) campaign (18th-24<sup>th</sup> November). The KCST has engaged with colleagues within the Kent Community Warden service and at a local district level regarding events/activities which are taking place during the week as well as sharing details about the resources and social media plan.
- 3.6 In addition, the team are working with colleagues to support and promote the [16 days of Action Against Domestic Abuse](#) which runs between 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and will be sharing information with colleagues across Kent and Medway about the webinars that are taking place and available resources.
- 3.7 The KCST is also developing a new Memorandum of Understanding for Kent Police and KCC Community Safety following the formal withdrawal of KFRS from the multi-agency team. Kent Police and KCC remain committed to the joint working within the KCST, and have arranged an in-person workshop at the end of November to scope future delivery and needs.
- 3.8 The KCST would like to encourage partners to contact the team if they would like to subscribe to the e-bulletin, have any suggested topics/speakers for the information sessions (CSIS), brief updates for the e-bulletins or anything else. Please email the KCST: [kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk)

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

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

#### **For Further Information:**

Mark Powell  
KCC Violence Reduction Unit, Director for  
Kent and Medway  
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Shafick Peerbux  
KCC, Head of Community Safety  
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**From:** Jessica Mookherjee, Assistant Director / Consultant in Public Health & Dr Lin Guo, Specialist in Public Health KCC.

**To:** Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024

**Classification:** For Information

**Subject:** Kent Substance Misuse (Drug and Alcohol) Strategy Update 2024

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**Summary** This report provides update on each objective of the Kent drug and alcohol strategy [Substance Misuse \(Drug and Alcohol\) strategy - Kent County Council](#) and the progress made as well highlighting key areas of concern and improvement. Three key concerns to highlight is the challenge in Kent of getting more heroin, cocaine and crack users into structured treatment services, tackling increases in drug related deaths (including the new threats of synthetic opioids such as nitazenes and the increasing complexity and safeguarding needs of vulnerable people with co-occurring conditions (substance misuse and mental health) needing more holistic and joined up services.

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## 1.0 Background / Introduction

1.1 In line with the 2021 national drug strategy, the Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy was produced to run from 2023 to 2028 and was informed by extensive stakeholder involvement—including law enforcement, healthcare providers, and community support services—with the aim of combat drug-related and alcohol related harm. The strategy has a stakeholder Alliance and a strategic executive group (which acts as the Combatting Drugs Partnership) in Kent. This partnership aims to address the growing challenges within Kent's communities by integrating prevention, treatment, recovery, and enforcement efforts. The Kent strategy for tackling substance misuse has 13 key priorities – there are detailed action plans for each priority area. [Substance Misuse \(Drug and Alcohol\) strategy - Kent County Council](#)

## 2.0 Governance and structure

2.1 The two overarching governance structures Kent Drug and Alcohol strategy are the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Kent Community Safety Partnership. There are also strong governance links to the Integrated Care Board for both prevention and mental health.

2.2 The Substance Misuse Alliance; the stakeholder engine room for delivering the strategy, is Chaired by Clair Bell, Lead Member for Community and Regulatory Services and meets four times a year. The Senior Responsible Officer for combatting drugs and tackling alcohol related harms is, Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health, supported by representatives from public health consultant and specialist, commissioners, local police, probation services, substance misuse service providers,

and non-profits focused on drug and alcohol dependency. The SRO has set up a **senior executive group** of the substance misuse alliance and this group acts as our Combatting Drugs Partnership; Its governance ensures that objectives align with both national and local priorities, fostering collaboration among key community partners. The senior executive group meets 5 times a year and drives the substance misuse strategy and gets reports from each of the sub groups. All of the key groups include police and police partnerships. In addition the Police leadership have their own structures where they lead on county lines, prevention and organised crime.

### **3.0 Key findings from local needs assessment**

- 3.1 There are an estimated 81,000 people taking illegal drugs in Kent of which around 32,000 take Class A drugs. The modelled estimate of numbers for opiate and / or crack users (OCUs) in Kent is 5,647. The rate of unmet need of OCUs is 63%, and this is higher than the national average of 54%. The rate for people addicted to opiates and crack (OCU) in Kent is 5.9 (compared to England's 8.9 per 1,000) . There is an estimated rate of 11.5 per 1000 in need of alcohol treatment services for dependent drinking (slightly lower than England average of 13.5). This is 14,000 people. New threats such as nitrazines are on the increase.
- 3.2 There are three main substance misuse providers in Kent, CGL in the West, Forward Trust in the east, and we are with you: the children's service.
- 3.3 Kent drug and alcohol services are generally performing better than the national average on a range of indicators however one indicator which is below the national average is getting opiate and crack users into treatment. There is a recovery plan attached to this target.
- 3.4 Another area of concern is the increasing trend for drug related deaths, although the rate of Kent's drug deaths is still slightly below national average. The threat from new synthetic opioid substances that are used to adulterate the supply of drugs also poses a national and local concern that puts drug users at higher risk of death.

### **5.0 Update on the 13 Priorities for Kent's Drug and Alcohol Strategy ([Substance Misuse \(Drug and Alcohol\) strategy - Kent County Council](#))**

- 5.1 **Priority 1 - Prevention, early intervention and behaviour change:** A recent stakeholder meeting was conducted in June 2024. In July 2024, an alcohol awareness campaign was launched, Strengthening referral pathways to One You Kent.

There is an intention to strengthen Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) training to frontline staff. Benefits of linking Make Every Contact Count, and IBA through One You Kent to Reach primary care, hospitals, and community settings make cost effective use of scarce resources. Additionally, the success of naloxone distribution through a Public Health and Police partnership highlights collaboration potential. A pilot project involving GPs referring elderly fallers related to alcohol use to One You Kent is being considered, alongside further research into social prescribing and targeted campaigns.

- 5.4 **Priority 2 - Early Help: Prevention to Treatment Pathway:** Currently, only a few acute and mental health trusts have adopted alcohol or liver fibroscan as a CQUINN, highlighting the need for consistent implementation across all acute trusts in Kent to enhance CQUINN compliance. There is close work with the Kent and Medway Cancer Alliance to update the liver network map, enabling direct referrals to secondary care from substance misuse treatment services when liver disease is identified. Additionally, the KCC commissioning team has launched a rebranding campaign to strengthen the prevention-to-treatment pathway and increase engagement in treatment services.
- 5.5 **Priority 3 - Improving hospital and acute pathways to treatment:** This is important because currently there is a risk that people who have serious alcohol or drug problems will attend acute hospitals and may be in danger of being discharged without a community treatment plan. One way to avoid this is creating alcohol and drug hospital care teams in acute settings. Currently, alcohol care teams are established at Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (QEQM) Hospital in East Kent and Darent Valley Hospital in North Kent. However, there are no alcohol care teams at Maidstone Hospital and Pembury Hospital in West Kent, or William Harvey Hospital in East Kent. This variation in alcohol care team and alcohol liaison nurse availability across Kent and Medway acute trusts highlights the need for standardised pathways in hospital settings. Positive outcomes from QEQM underline the effectiveness of alcohol care teams, there is active collaboration with West Kent HCP to develop a business case to establish an alcohol care team in this area.
- 5.6 **Priority 4 - Children and young people living with alcohol misusing parents / Preventing inter-generational alcohol misuse:** A project plan is being developed as a result of recommendations in the Children and Young People (CYP) Substance Misuse Needs Assessment to address current fragmentations within the pathway.
- Key areas of progress includes establishing support within Family Hubs, improving the links with NHS services, ongoing work with the development of joint working protocol for children and young people's co-occurring conditions, and building on positive outcomes from the Sunlight Project which is a service of young people with substance misuse issues delivered in schools.
- 5.7 **Priority 5 - Tackling high rates of suicide and self-harm associated with substance misuse:** The Stigma Kills campaign and support for individuals with co-occurring conditions are central to this work. Based on emerging trends, targeted interventions will be developed to address substance misuse-related suicides. Plans include a public campaign to combat stigma associated with poor mental health, particularly its connection to substance misuse. We will also facilitate a substance misuse-focused meeting of the Better Mental Health Network. Additionally, the risks of substance misuse will be integrated into various training programmes by KCC Public Health, including everyday mental health, identifying and responding to trauma, domestic abuse, and suicide prevention.
- 5.8 **Priority 6 - Continued Improvements to Kent Treatment and Recovery Services**
- Implementation of a new Housing Support Service to support individuals in treatment with housing related needs.

- Implementation of an Individual Placement and Support Service to support individuals into employment as part of their treatment journey.
- Beginning of journey to form an independent lived experience organisation (LERO) in Kent to support with quality improvement and advocacy for individuals in treatment and recovery across all services they may interact with.
- Improve the information available on the KCC website to support with referrals into treatment services.
- Agreement to employ a Quality Improvement Manager in each of the adult services to work together and assess quality and areas for improvement across Kent.
- Challenges – recruitment of staff and time required to recruit and then embed. Availability of clinical staff to support with increase in treatment numbers.
- Opportunities – the development of more holistic services to meet the needs of individuals with a treatment need.

### 5.9 **Priority 7 - Criminal Justice Routes to Substance Misuse Treatment**

- Kent and Medway Continuity of Care (COFC) Group meeting has been established. The subgroup for COFC Pathway takes place monthly. Co-location for drug and alcohol services at probation has improved and the pathway review identified challenges and solutions for community substance misuse services to work with offenders prior to release within Kent prisons and subsequently.
- Increasing the frequency and quality of meetings with Probation, KCC, HMPSS and community drug and alcohol services are important to implement SDS40 (early release), followed by reviewing case studies and learning.
- Prison in reach workers to aid COFC. Improving face to face engagement prior to release and utilising all other options to develop rapport and increase engagement in the community.
- Creation of additional criminal justice workers across Kent.
- KCC commissioners lead on the Custody pathway which is working well to address challenges within the Drug Testing On Arrest process. The aim is to increase numbers into treatment and the offer of brief advice and harm reduction across Kent.
- Better support for vulnerable women via community services are now offering women only support for those on a community order such as women only groups or an increase in one-to-one sessions instead of mixed groups for vulnerable women.

### 5.10 **Priority 8 - Improve Treatment and Recovery for Targeted Groups / Vulnerable**

**People:** Improving treatment and recovery for vulnerable groups in substance misuse services necessitates the implementation of tailored interventions that address the unique challenges faced by each population. Vulnerable groups, including women, LGBTQ+ individuals, ethnic minorities, older adults, individuals with disabilities, and those living in rural areas, often encounter significant barriers that impede their access to effective treatment. Collaboration is underway with the adult safeguarding board and district and borough housing teams. Additionally, we are establishing connections with partner organisations to engage the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities. CGL has formed partnerships with the veteran community and collaborates with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to enhance healthcare access for vulnerable groups. A review of the Joint Working Protocol has been finalised, and we will host a co-

occurring conditions conference at the end of the year to exchange best practices and evaluate the implementation of the Kent & Medway Joint Working Protocol.

- 5.11 **Priority 9 - Improve Pathways to Treatment and Recovery to Rough Sleepers:** In Kent, the number of rough sleepers fluctuates significantly, reflecting changing patterns of homelessness over time. The new housing grant is limited in scope, covering only a small geographical area and not the entirety of Kent. As a result, many homeless individuals do not stay engaged with services, leading to lost opportunities for follow-up care. To address these issues, integrated housing and treatment services are essential. There are also opportunities that are providing stable housing, even after individuals leave temporary accommodations for inpatient detoxification or rehabilitation services, can greatly enhance recovery outcomes. Additionally, low-barrier treatment options with flexible schedules are crucial in accommodating the realities faced by homeless individuals.
- 5.10 **Priority 10 - Improving treatment and recovery for people with co-occurring conditions:** The project plan for implementing the Joint Working Protocol for co-occurring conditions is currently in progress. Multiple partners are engaged, and efforts are being made to embed these practices into frontline operations across the county, although further collaboration with Kent and Medway Partnership Trust (KMPT) is necessary. Over 50 co-occurring champions have been recruited, establishing a supportive network. Discussions have also occurred regarding the secondment of social workers to substance misuse teams at KMPT. Collaboration with the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Board aims to upskill the workforce, with training focused on topics such as alcohol-related brain damage, self-neglect safeguarding, executive function, screening tools, and care planning. Training for professionals in statutory agencies on co-occurring conditions is ongoing and evolving. Key issues that need addressing include reducing the stigma associated with substance misuse within mental health and health services, improving awareness of cognitive impairments related to alcohol-related brain damage, and enhancing advocacy for individuals with co-occurring conditions.
- 5.11 **Priority 11 - Working in partnership to share data and intelligence in order to identify those at risk of drug / alcohol related harm & exploitation and to provide safeguarding and intensive support:** The Kent and Medway Care Record (KMCR) is an integrated linked dataset. It provides a joined-up view of an individual's care and treatment from multiple health and social care providers ([Kent and Medway Care Record : Kent & Medway ICS](#)) and data flow from substance misuse services into this will continue into 2025.
- 5.12 **Priority 12 - Disrupting Supply of Illegal Drugs:** The project plan is being aligned with the Kent Community Safety Agreement. There is intelligence sharing and updates related to the drug market profile. Efforts are underway to integrate the work of priorities 12 and 13 with partners from Kent Police, focusing on reducing alcohol supply chains and collaborating with the Local Drug Information System (LDIS). Support from Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) panels is essential to gain insights into organised crime groups operating in high-risk areas, which serves as a crucial driver for our initiatives.

5.13 **Priority 13 - Tackling Local Alcohol Supply:** A recent stakeholder review meeting held in June 2024. This plan is primarily focused on alcohol licensing.

## 6.0 **Horizon scanning and threat mitigation:**

Through the Local Drug Information System (LDIS), Kent CDP continuously monitors new threats, such as emerging synthetic opioids and stimulant trends. Proactive response planning allows the partnership to quickly address these issues, minimising harm to communities.

## 7.0 **Success Criteria - progress is evaluated through:**

7.1 **Reduction in Drug-Related Deaths:** Nationally Drug deaths have reached an all-time high. In Kent there were 182 drug misuse deaths in the two-year period from 2018 to 2020. The directly age-standardised rate in Kent for drug deaths is 4 per 100,000 population and this is lower than the English rate (5 per 100,000 population). However in some parts of Kent (Thanet) the rate is twice the national average. In Hampshire there are 144 drug related deaths the rate is 3.7 per 100,000 population. The majority of drug deaths in Kent are from opiates and cocaine and the average profile is a white man aged between 40 and 70 with complex health and social care problems and is often refused or experience barriers to mental health, substance misuse or health care recovery services. The average age of death to a person with OCU addiction is 55 years old. According to our recent local surveillance system, there has been a decrease in reported drug and alcohol-related deaths for the first quarter of 2024/25 compared to the same quarter last year. The number of deaths has decreased from 160 to 72.

7.2 **Treatment Engagement Rates:** Increasing the number of people entering and remaining in treatment programs has been a priority, and early indicators suggest improved engagement.

7.2.1 **Numbers of OCU in Kent Substance Misuse Treatment Services:** In May 2024, there were 5,463 clients in Kent's Drug and Alcohol treatment services. This includes 882 opiate only clients, 922 OCUs (opiate and crack), and 2,140 alcohol only clients. The unmet treatment gap for opiate only clients is 63% (which amounts to 3,760 people, OCUs is 4,725 people, alcohol only is 12,447 people). There has been a nationwide reduction in numbers into treatment services and in Kent there has been a 3% reduction in OCU users in treatment but there are increasing numbers of Alcohol dependent people in treatment. It is estimated that around 200 people in Kent will need Inpatient detox per year.

## 7.3 **Community Safety Metrics:**

**Kent Organised Crime Groups:** As at March 2023 Kent has 207 Mapped OCGs. This included 54 Active and 153 Archived. The overall number of OCGs being mapped in Kent has increased year-on-year for the past 4 years, with 9 new OCGs mapped in 2019, 17 mapped in 2020, 23 mapped in 2021 and 28 new groups mapped in 2022. Drug criminality, (importation and / or supply), accounts for the largest number of mapped OCGs in Kent. Just over half of the active OCGs in Kent have a primary threat of 'drugs'. By comparison, the next most numerous crime types linked

to active OCGs in Kent are Fraud and Serious and Organised Acquisitive Crime (SOAC) accounting for 7 groups each. The main commodity linked to mapped OCGs in Kent is Cocaine, followed by Cannabis Cultivation and Supply. The current threat from drug importation and supply is unchanged from the previous assessment. This is also in sync with the national picture of all OCGs recorded on the national OCG database.

**Drugs and County Lines in Kent:** The numbers of identified county lines have reduced albeit the risk they pose remains consistent. Those involved in this type of crime are becoming more tactically aware of how Policing can disrupt their criminal enterprise. Those involved are adapting and are keeping the phone line local rather than it being held elsewhere. This is a national trend so the Kent picture mirrors the changes seen across the country.

Community impacts are evident in areas of lower deprivation. Crack cocaine and heroin usage is more likely to be linked to such areas, impacting on the residential and business communities.

#### 7.4 **Self-Audit and Assessment:**

Kent CDP uses self-assessment tools aligned with the upcoming Commissioning Quality Standard to ensure accountability and continuous improvement in treatment delivery. Information and evidence is currently being gathered from commissioners, public health specialists and consultants. A review will be undertaken shortly to establish where recommendations and improvements can be made.

### 8.0 **Engagement with the Local Community**

#### 8.1 Public Involvement and Awareness:

- Community Outreach: Information on the partnership's activities is shared through local media and community events, increasing public awareness and transparency.
- Involving Residents: The Kent CDP provides platforms for residents, including those impacted by drug-related harm, to contribute insights and help shape local plans. This includes partnerships with LEROs and open forums for those with lived experience, families, and affected community members. [ROAR LERO Kent | Alcohol and drug Support \(roarkent.com\)](https://roarkent.com)

#### 8.2 Opportunities for Involvement:

Community members are encouraged to participate in public meetings, volunteer in community programs, and offer feedback on the CDP's efforts. A Public Involvement Lead within the CDP ensures that diverse voices are heard and incorporated.

### 9.0 **Communication Strategy and Next Steps**

Moving forward, the partnership will focus on refining treatment pathways, expanding community-driven prevention efforts, and continuing to adapt its response to emerging drug trends.

Kent CDP will continue to monitor progress on the opiate and crack target of getting more opiate and crack uses into treatment.

Kent CDP will continue to lead the system to improve outcomes for people with Co occurring conditions working closely with Kent adult safeguarding board.

## **10.0 Recommendations**

10.1 The KCSP is asked to note the progress and actions undertaken through the Kent Combating Drug Partnership and Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy.

### **For Further Information:**

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**Title:** Serious Violence Duty – Strategy and Strategic Needs Assessment

**Author:** Mark Powell – Director, Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit

**To:** Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) – 21st November 2024

**Classification:** Unclassified

The paper provides a summary of the strategy that was agreed by the Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Board and progress against the action plan. The Kent Community Safety Partnership are asked to note the contents of the report.

## 1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 ('the PCSC Act') received Royal Assent in April 2022. Part 2 of the PCSC Act creates a requirement for specified authorities to collaborate and plan to reduce or prevent serious violence. The Duty requires the following specified authorities within a local government area to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence:
- Chief Officers of Police for police areas in England and Wales
  - Probation Services
  - Youth Offending Teams
  - All fire and rescue authorities operating in England and Wales
  - Integrated Care Boards in England
  - Local authorities including district councils and county councils
- 1.2 The arrangements for how the collaboration and planning would be delivered were agreed by the specified authorities in April 2023. All the named authorities with the exception of Gravesham Borough Council agreed to establish a Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Board (SVPP Board) to be chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Gravesham Borough Council chose to deliver their arrangements through their Community Safety Partnership at which all specified authorities are represented.
- 1.3 The SVPP Board agreed a definition of serious violence which is, ' *Specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, robbery and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent such as in domestic abuse, sexual offences, gangs, county lines and drug supply* '.
- 1.4 In January 2024 the Strategic Needs Assessment and Serious Violence strategy were discussed and agreed by the SVPP Board. The needs assessment was based on data from all contributing specified authorities and used a three-year data set to identify the patterns and trends relating to serious violence included within the definition agreed by the Board. The strategy agreed was for the period 2024 – 2027.





## 2. Serious Violence Strategy

- 2.1 The Serious Violence strategy was agreed in January 2024. The strategy has three key strands which are:
- Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse
  - Serious Youth Violence which consider public place violence involving those aged under 25
  - Violence linked to drugs and alcohol
- 2.2 Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse The Board lead for the work is Kent Police. The work for 2024 – 25 focusses primarily on sexual violence, and will link with the Domestic Abuse strategy to support work taking place led by the Domestic Abuse leads in Kent and Medway. The work on sexual violence includes:
- Consultation with children and young people about their experiences of sexual violence and public place harassment. The findings and recommendations from the work are currently being considered by the SVPP Board before being made available to the wider partnership
  - A public awareness campaign is being designed using the voices of children. The campaign, provisionally titled 'Respect for Girls' will highlight their experiences in public spaces and identify how boys and men can challenge the behaviour of their peers.
  - Sexual violence leads from the specified authorities have been agreed. These leads will use the data and young people's feedback to agree additional actions to tackle or prevent sexual violence.
- 2.3 Serious Youth Violence. The Board lead is Kent County Council. The work has seven key areas of focus which are data sharing through an online platform, families and parenting, employment and training, early identification and support, safe community environments, schools and education, and safe activities and trusted adults.

There has been progress in tackling public place serious youth violence. The VRU performance data for September 2024 shows that:

- For those aged under 25 there has been a reduction in serious violence of around 9% compared to the previous year.
- For those aged under 18 there has been a reduction in serious violence of around 12% compared to the previous year.

The SVPP Board met on November 5<sup>th</sup> to review progress against the Serious Youth Violence action plan. The majority of areas are on track to be delivered by March 2025, and the areas where additional activity is required are to improve engagement with parents to understand their needs, to further develop adolescent parenting courses to allow parents to support their children as well as they can, and to develop employment opportunities for young adults through sport.





- 2.4 Violence linked to drugs and alcohol The Board lead is Medway Council. The work on this strand was delayed following the death of the Medway Board representative, James Williams, earlier this year. Medway Public Health have recently agreed a plan and have commissioned an organisation to carry out research that will support a better understanding of the links between drugs, alcohol and violence.
- 2.5 The Board has commissioned a refresh of the existing strategic needs assessment. The work is currently underway and will be ready for the Board meeting in January 2025. The work will include an update on the analysis of sexual violence and public place violence, and a deeper analysis of violence linked to knives and weapons.

### 3. Future Planning

- 3.1 The Government has stated a commitment to a 'Young Futures' strategy which includes a pledge to halve knife crime and to create Young Futures Hubs for adolescents. The recent budget made reference to these being included within the budget settlement for the Home Office for 2025 – 26. The Home Office have consulted on what a Violence Prevention Partnership might comprise and at what level such a partnership should sit. There is currently no further detail or date by when any decision will be made or guidance shared by the Home Office.
- 3.2 The current funding for the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and the PCC's Serious Violence Duty project officer expires in March 2025. The SVPP Board have been asked to consider what arrangements they wish to have in place from April 2025 should there be no further funding from the Home Office. The Serious Violence Duty places a requirement on specified authorities to agree a multi-agency partnership which will oversee and govern the response to serious violence, and to agree and monitor a strategy that is informed by a needs assessment.

The Kent Community Safety Partnership are asked to note the contents of this report.



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