

Kent Community Safety Agreement



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April 2022

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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 - Ch.3 - changes made to the landscape, legislation and partnership challenges - Ch.5 - achievements for 2021/22 added - Ch.6 - changes made to a priority and cross-cutting theme and updated diagram - Appendix C - refreshed horizon scanning - Appendix D - new Police and Crime Plan added - Appendix E - amendments to reflect Ch.6

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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 2022.

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 community safety 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 Kent Community Safety Partnership.

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 work with and support the Violence Reduction Unit to tackle serious violence in the county including working with partners to implement the Government's proposed new Serious Violence Duty, as well as continuing to address the many other issues identified within the agreement. The more immediate issue during the last year has been the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and partners across Kent have worked hard to support residents and ensure services continue to be delivered whilst adapting to new ways of working. Inevitably this has impacted on some of the CSA activities but as we follow the Government's roadmap to recovery, we hope to see a return to more face-to-face interactions and continued partnership working to ensure this can take place safely.

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 during a very difficult time.

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 (page 4).
- 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. The agreement also aims to deliver against the three countywide ambitions set out in the Vision for Kent 2012-22: to grow the economy; to tackle disadvantage; and to put citizens in control. These ambitions cannot be achieved without the commitment and contribution of all partners through their own delivery plans and strategies as well as multi-agency agreements such as the Kent Community Safety Agreement.
- 1.5. 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.
- 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.
- 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) to replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. 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. Coronavirus (COVID-19): During the last two years the whole country, along with the rest of the world, has endured a range of measures as part of the response to tackling the pandemic, including several periods of lockdown. The measures put in place impacted on all walks of life in an effort to slow the spread of the virus and to save lives. These were unprecedented and whilst everyone worked hard to reduce the impact of the virus there were unfortunate knock on effects on communities and individuals, from social isolation, loneliness, stress / anxiety, financial impacts, relationship impacts, as well as some of the hidden harms which increased or were highlighted by the pandemic, including domestic abuse; mental health issues; homelessness; alcohol consumption; inequalities; etc. Whilst this significantly changed the way we live, it has also changed the way that partners are able to deliver services, with the working practices of many organisations changing forever, and many people continuing to work from home with reduced regular face-to-face contact with colleagues and partners. Despite the easing/removal of restrictions, COVID-19 is still present and community safety partners will continue to respond to the needs of the community and adapt their services and priorities as necessary, whilst also looking to a future beyond the pandemic.

- 3.2. 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 recent high-profile cases, including the murders of Sarah Everard, Sabina Nessa, and the Kent Police Community Support Officer, Julia James. During the last 12 months the Home Office has published a Strategy on Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls; and the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's new Police and Crime Plan entitled 'Making Kent Safer 2022-2025' includes this issue as a priority. In addition, the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has also set up a Violence Against Women (VAWG)

inquiry which includes an online survey, meetings with victims and working with partners to develop a series of tangible recommendations to improve practices in Kent.

- 3.3. War in Ukraine: The Russian invasion of Ukraine has so far led to at least 2.5 million people fleeing the country with EU officials predicting up to five million refugees. Many countries are imposing economic sanctions on Russia, and several well-known companies have suspended trading within Russia. 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 aid, the rising cost of living as international trade is impacted and global commodity prices increase. 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.
- 3.4. 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 is planning for later this year when the domestic abuse and national cyber security strategies are due to be published. Nationally the Government is investing 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 already 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.
- 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. The latest changes came into force in January 2022 for imported goods. As a key gateway to the Continent, Kent is strategically important, with 90 per cent of UK truck freight trade passing through the Short Straits at the Port of

Dover and Eurotunnel. With greater checks at ports under the new border arrangements there were concerns about potential lengthy 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 which includes a contraflow system on the M20.

- 3.6. Migration and Resettlement: At a national level, in 2021 the Government published a New Plan for Immigration (NPI) and introduced the Nationality and Borders Bill into Parliament, which is currently in the final stages. At a more local level, the Home Office is currently establishing a processing site in Kent for illegal migrants to provide safe and secure accommodation whilst the necessary checks are carried out. Some migrants who arrive in the UK are 'unaccompanied asylum seeking children' (UASC) and as such are placed in the care of the local authority. In June 2021 Kent County Council (KCC) warned that Kent's services for UASC were at breaking point and whilst some young people were transferred to other local authority areas, the majority remained in Kent. KCC has called on the Government to establish a longer term solution to manage this issue. The UK currently runs a number of resettlement schemes and in response to the Afghan refugee crisis, local authorities across Kent are providing support within their communities including Afghan resettlement schemes. Community sentiments are monitored although there is currently no suggestion of significant tensions. However going forward there is a 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. Anti-Social Behaviour: The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, received royal assent on 13th March 2014. The Act introduced simpler more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour to provide better protection for victims and communities including a new Community Trigger and Community Remedy to give people a greater say in how agencies respond to complaints. Partners have been working together since the introduction of the legislation to effectively implement the changes across the county. Updated statutory guidance from the Home Office released in December 2017 has brought greater clarity around the use of the tools and powers introduced by the Act.
- 3.8. Safeguarding: Between 2014 and 2019 a number of pieces of legislation were introduced to provide authorities with additional tools, powers and statutory duties to tackle community safety and safeguarding issues. Including the Care Act 2014, Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (and subsequent amendments in 2019), Serious Crime Act 2015, Modern Slavery Act 2015 and Psychoactive

Substances Act 2016. These pieces of legislation introduced a range of duties including new reporting, referral and decision-making mechanisms, staff awareness requirements and impacts on contract management to be included in the everyday work of relevant organisations. More recently statutory guidance was introduced regarding inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' etc.

- 3.9. 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 requires Tier 1 authorities to; create a Local Partnership Board with responsibility for conducting a needs assessment (this is now 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.
- 3.10. 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 duties have been progressing through Parliament as part of the 'Policing, Crime and Sentencing Bill', which was agreed by Parliament on 1st March 2022 and is now awaiting Royal assent. Although the legislation has not yet been introduced Community Safety partners are already working together to address serious violence as appropriate and awaits the introduction of the new legislation.

- 3.11. Fire Safety: The Fire Safety Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021. 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. In addition, the Government is also looking to introduce a Building Safety Bill which would give residents and homeowners more rights, powers and protections – making homes across the country safer. In particular residents in high-rise buildings will have more say in the management of their building. Whilst these new 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.
- 3.12. 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 is currently undertaking a Victims Bill consultation 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 been consulting on a proposed new Protect Duty, 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 and the support needed from Government. In addition, following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 the Government has sought views on draft Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance to support the implementation of the Act with guidance and support to frontline professionals and sharing of best practice.

Partnership Changes and Challenges

- 3.13. 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 has recently been 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 3.10) and tackling the issue of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) (see 3.2).

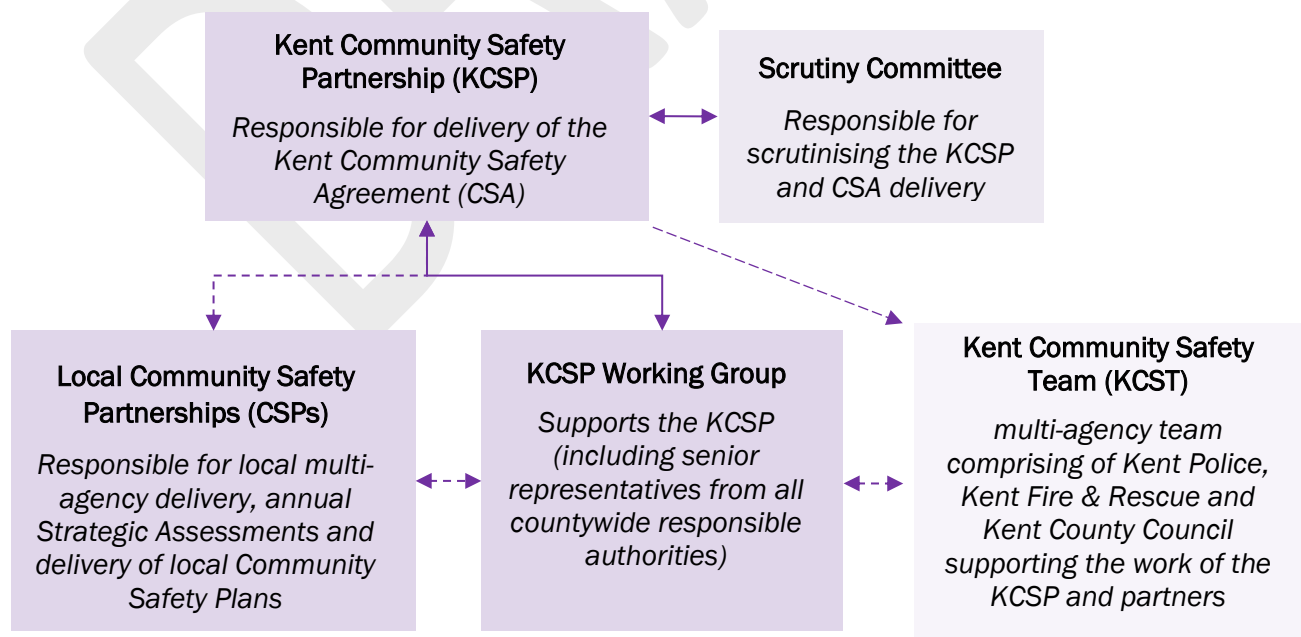
- 3.14. Increases in Service Demand: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns there has been an increased demand for support services in general, one example of which has been an increased demand for domestic abuse and sexual violence services. The PCC has been successful in bidding for additional funding from the Ministry of Justice to support our local domestic abuse service providers which includes funding for new IDVA and ISVA posts [*Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) and Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA)*]. As well as this, the PCC has also been successful in gaining Home Office funding for domestic abuse and talking perpetrator programmes.
- 3.15. Probation Services: On 26 June 2021 the responsibility for all case management, community payback and accredited programmes was transferred from the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) to the Probation Service. Rehabilitative services are being delivered by providers, commissioned through a Dynamic Framework. In Kent and Medway, Employment, Training and Education (ETE) provision is being delivered by Interventions Alliance, Seetec's justice and social care division. In addition to the transfer of all case management, as the provider of probation services in Kent, the duty set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as a responsible authority and statutory member of Community Safety Partnerships has also been transferred.
- 3.16. Kent and Medway Prevent: In June 2021 a Peer Review of Prevent in Kent and Medway was undertaken by the Home Office. The outcome and findings were shared with partners. The aim of the review was to evaluate Prevent delivery structures and processes within Kent and Medway with a view to developing recommendations for improvement and promoting best practice. The review identified significant best practice and opportunities to improve Prevent delivery. A Peer Review working group has been established to work through the recommendations over the next year. There was positive recognition of links with the KCSP and district/borough CSPs. In addition, the latest Counter-Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) and the Counter-Terrorism Strategic Risk Assessment is currently being updated which will be shared with partners (as appropriate) to help raise the profile and understanding of the issues.

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 Clinical Commissioning Group, 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

During 2021/22 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, Anti-Social Behaviour, Road Safety and Preventing Extremism & Hate. 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:

- 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 2021/22 the KCST produced monthly e-bulletins aimed at providing brief updates on emerging issues, such as changes to services, new documentation, data releases, media articles, funding opportunities, etc.
- Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs): During 2021/22 (to date) the KCSP has published five completed reviews following quality assurance from the Home Office, ensured that the recommendations from across a variety of different DHRs have been implemented; this includes several reviews which have been signed off with all recommendations complete. The Partnership is committed to ensuring that the learning from these tragic cases is shared with partners to not only help in preventing such homicides in the future, but also to help improve services for all victims of domestic abuse. 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 2021/22 significant work has taken place to improve arrangements for working with families who wish to engage with the DHR process, this included at least two face-to-face panel meeting where family members (accompanied by an advocate if requested), were able to meet with key agency representatives involved in their DHRs, and have the opportunity to ask questions of the panel.
- Project Funding: In 2021/22 the KCSP used the funding provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to fund a total of seven projects focusing on a variety of topics. These included a scams social media campaign ('spot the signs'), mental health crisis care support cards, dummy CCTV cameras, support for Business Crime Reduction Partnerships across Kent, ASB professional development training, NVR (Non-Violent Resistance) Foundation Level training and the OSARA problem solving training. The achievements and outcomes of these projects are monitored by the KCSP Working Group and reported back to the PCC.

- **ASB Training:** Organised by the KCST using Crime Reduction Grant Funding, ASB training for partners across the County was delivered in four face-to-face sessions in February 2022 at a variety of venues provided by district/borough colleagues. The training was a full-day focused on Community Protection Notices and Civil Injunction Notices with a range of ASB officers, Housing Officers, Community Safety Officers and some Police Officers in attendance. Feedback is currently being sought to assess the outcomes and benefits.
- **OSARA Problem Solving:** Organised by the KCST using Crime Reduction Grant Funding, the problem solving 'train the trainer' course was provided to a number of partners across the County. The course was delivered over a 2-day period as face-to-face training and included case studies and scenario planning. Attendees were provided with materials to assist with the onward cascading of the training to other colleagues and partners. Currently the KCST is in the process of developing a training offer to be shared with partners.
- **Workshops / Events:** During 2021/22, 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 three Community Safety Information Sessions for staff in a number of districts on a variety of topics including: Domestic Abuse campaign, Stalking, Contextual Safeguarding, Preventing Extremism, Hate Crime, Kent and Medway Gangs Strategy, launch of My Community Voice, plus a number of operational and organisational updates, etc.
- **Learning and Information:** The KCST worked with the Kent & Medway Prevent Team and the Kent Police Hate Crime lead to refresh the 'Preventing Extremism & Hate Learning and Information Pack', which was originally developed in 2018/19 to support the community safety conference of the same name. The refreshed document includes the latest information, guidance, referral routes, useful contacts etc. It has been shared with partners as part of the latest e-bulletin but also formed part of the attendee pack for the recent CPD event on 'Preventing Hateful Extremism' on 28th February 2022 which was delivered by the Kent and Medway Prevent Team and Kent Police. The event was delivered as a hybrid event with 80 attending in person and over 200 virtually. The event saw keynote speakers from external organisations as well as delivery by Kent Police and the Prevent team. Excellent feedback has been received and it is hoped to run a similar event in 2023.

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
- 6.6. In the latest review for April 2022, it is evident that the issue of ‘Violence Against Women and Girls’ (VAWG) has become a focus both nationally and locally following several high profile events, with both the Home Office and the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner prioritising this as an issue (see 3.2). In addition a number of district / borough CSPs have identified VAWG within their plans and the Government has recently launched the ‘Enough’ campaign. As mentioned earlier, VAWG covers a wide range of abuses against women and girls and could be included within a number of the existing priorities including Serious Violence and Organised Crime. However, it has been suggested that it be added to the Domestic Abuse priority and the name changed to ‘VAWG and Domestic Abuse’.
- 6.7. It is proposed that the other priorities and cross-cutting themes remain fundamentally the same for 2022 but with a change in wording for the theme: ‘Response and Recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic’. Whilst most restrictions have been lifted in England (at the time of writing) and we have moved more into the recovery phase, COVID-19 is still present, and residents, communities, and businesses are still learning to live with it. It is proposed to retain this cross-cutting theme but to adapt it slightly to acknowledge the potential impacts of other significant events, not just Covid, therefore it is suggested that the theme be changed to ‘Response and Recovery from Significant Community Events’.
- 6.8. The only other item to note as part of this year’s review 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 Road Casualty Reduction Partnership (RCRP), reporting back to the KCSP as necessary. Whilst Road Safety is less likely to be referenced as a standalone priority in the district / borough Community Safety Plans it has been added as a priority within the new Police and Crime Plan along with the Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy.
- 6.9. The diagram over the page 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 new Police and Crime Plan entitled ‘Making Kent Safer’ 2022-25. This reflects the statutory requirement to have due regard for each other’s priorities.

- 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; Road Casualty Reduction Partnership; Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership; Kent & Medway Safeguarding Adults Board; Kent & Medway Joint Exploitation Group; 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.

Proposed Changes - CSA Priorities and Cross-Cutting Themes:



*VAWG = Violence Against Women and Girls

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

- ASB includes: *Neighbour Disputes, Environmental Crime, Deliberate Fires*
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People includes: *Child Sexual Exploitation, Scams, Cybercrime, Victims, Vulnerable People at Risk of Exploitation*
- Serious Violence & Organised Crime includes: *Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), Gangs, Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking, Violence Reduction*
- Preventing Extremism & Hate includes: *Preventing Violent Extremism, Hate Crimes, Radicalisation, Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism, Brexit*
- *Response & Recovery from Significant Community Events includes: COVID-19 pandemic*

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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
VAWG (<i>Violence Against Women and Girls</i>) and Domestic Abuse	Chair of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group
Anti-Social Behaviour	Superintendent of Partnerships and Child Centred Policing
Substance Misuse	Consultant in Public Health, Kent County Council
Serious Violence and Organised Crime	Head of Serious Crime Command, Kent Police
Safeguarding Vulnerable People	Group Head of Public Protection, Kent County Council
Road Safety	Assistant Director for Building and Customer Safety, Kent Fire and Rescue Service;
Preventing Extremism and Hate	Prevent and Channel Strategic Manager, Kent County Council

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:

- Vision for Kent
- 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 Strategic Plan
- 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 Situational Risk Assessment
- Prevent Community Engagement Plan
- Kent Joint Health and Wellbeing 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 Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Probation Service
- Local District/Borough Community Safety Partnerships

Appendix A: Strategic Assessments (2020-21)

Please Note: This section is still to be updated and currently contains information from 2020/21. This will be updated prior to publication.

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 with the key issues identified either as a main priority, cross-cutting theme or as part of a broader theme.

Priority	No. of CSPs Identifying these Issues
Domestic Abuse	12
ASB / Environmental	11
Safeguarding and Vulnerability (including child sexual exploitation, exploitation, vulnerable people, repeat victims)	9
Tackling Violence (including violent crime, violence reduction, youth violence, weapons)	9
Substance Misuse (including drugs & alcohol, night-time economy)	9
Serious and Organised Crime (including gangs, organised crime groups, county lines, modern slavery)	8
Mental Health	7
Strengthening Communities (cohesion, resilience, reassurance)	6
Crime (including acquisitive, property, doorstep crime & scams)	5
Reducing Offending and Reoffending	5
Extremism & Hate (including preventing violent extremism, counter-terrorism & hate crimes)	5
Young people and youth engagement	4
Road Safety	1

Appendix B: MoRiLE Assessment (2020-21)

Please Note: This section is still to be updated and currently contains information from 2020/21. 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)	Mental Health
PREVENT	Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)
Modern Slavery	Cyber Crime
Domestic Abuse	Public Order
Gangs	Violent Crime
Anti-Social Behaviour	Hate Crime

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 (2021-22)

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:

- Ongoing impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- Impact of trade and travel rules following EU exit
- War in Ukraine
- Local Council elections in May 2022

Economic:

- Significant cost of living increases
- Fuel Poverty
- Impact of Covid-19 and EU exit
- Disruptions to trade and labour supply
- Funding pressure on public services
- Financial pressures on businesses and individuals
- Increased need for financial and other types of support, i.e. food banks

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:

- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Counter-Terrorism & Sentencing Act 2021
- Fire Safety Act 2021
- EU (Withdrawal) Agreement Act 2020
- Stalking Protection Act 2019
- Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019

Upcoming legislation / duties includes:

- Police, Crime, Sentencing & Courts Bill (*inc. new serious violence duty*)
- Building Safety Bill
- New legal Protect duty
- New statutory guidance for domestic abuse

Organisational:

- Impact of COVID-19 changing the focus of organisations and service delivery inc. new ways of working
- Public sector restructures
- Impact of Brexit and COVID-19 on business continuity.
- 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 fight 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

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 antisocial behaviour
- Be responsive to emerging issues and trends through innovation
- Secure the funding that Kent needs through specific grants and the 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 Police's priorities detailed above.

Appendix E: Kent CSA Priorities and Cross-Cutting Themes

As highlighted on page 21, 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's priorities from Police and Crime Plan 'Making Kent Safer'.

Kent CSA Priorities:

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) & Domestic Abuse

Anti-Social Behaviour

Safeguarding Vulnerable People

Serious Violence and Organised Crime

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 the COVID-19 pandemic

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

Work with residents, communities and businesses to fight crime and antisocial behaviour

Tackle violence against women and girls

Protect people from exploitation and abuse

Combat organised crime and county lines

Work with residents, communities and businesses to fight crime and antisocial behaviour

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.