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To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 14th July 2022

Classification: For Information

Subject: Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

Summary This report includes details of the refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement draft action plan for 2022/23

1.0 Background

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

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlines the key community safety priorities for the county along with the cross-cutting themes that support the identified priorities. It is a rolling document which is reviewed and refreshed annually with the relevant Chapters and appendices being updated as required.

2.2 In the most recent review of the CSA it was agreed to include a new priority of '*Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)*'. In addition, the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) priority was expanded to become '*Preventing Neighbourhood Crime and ASB*'; whilst the cross-cutting theme relating to the Covid-19 pandemic was amended to become '*Response and Recovery from Significant events*' to acknowledge the potential impacts of other issues which could affect the work of community safety partners in the future.

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

- 2.3 In addition to changes made to the priorities and cross-cutting themes several chapters in the document were updated including the Community Safety Landscape with references to the: Covid-19 pandemic; the war in Ukraine; emerging issues such as VAWG; partnership changes; the introduction of new legislation such as the Serious Violence duty; and the publication of new strategies and guidance on a range of issues both nationally and locally, including the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) new plan - '[Making Kent Safer 2022-25](#)'.
- 2.4 The current CSA was discussed at the March meeting of the KCSP and following suggested changes raised at the meeting, the content was subsequently updated and agreed. The Kent Community Safety Agreement (April 2022) has since been published on [kent.gov](#).

3.0 Action Plan Development

- 3.1 Following the development of the new CSA, the action plan has been refreshed by members of the KCSP Working Group, priority leads and other relevant partners to ensure that it appropriately reflects the updated priorities and cross-cutting themes. A draft of the refreshed plan is attached for information (Appendix A).
- 3.2 The action plan includes the key pieces of work that are being delivered by community safety partners across the county linking in with other multi-agency groups and strategies where possible, including the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group, the Safer Roads for Kent Partnership, the Substance Misuse Alliance, the Joint Exploitation Group, the Prevent Duty Delivery Board, Safeguarding Boards/Partnerships, the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) etc. Activities and links related to groups and strategies are referenced throughout the action plan, (*shown in green*), to help support multi-agency delivery and partnership working and may be updated in-year subject to revisions and changes that take place within those groups and plans.
- 3.3 The action plan also includes a number of projects which the KCSP has proposed to support in 2022/23 through the use of the Kent PCC's Crime Reduction Grant (CRG) funding (*shown in purple*) – these will be covered in more detail in the report from the KCSP Working Group. The inclusion of funded projects in the action plan, rather than as part of a separate monitoring process, resulted from an internal audit of the Kent Community Safety Partnership and Team undertaken previously which recommended that there be clear links between funding and the delivery of the CSA action plan objectives.
- 3.4 Like the Community Safety Agreement itself, the action plan is also a rolling document and as such contains a number of actions that are ongoing or which take place annually and are directly linked to the KCSP's core functions, such as delivery of Domestic Homicide Reviews and sharing of lessons identified; Strategic Assessments; or coordination of cross county community safety issues such as Information sharing; Raising awareness of campaigns etc.
- 3.5 New actions that have been added to the plan, in addition to the funded projects mentioned above, include a number of activities relating to the introduction of new national strategies such as the government's 10yr drug strategy '*From Harm to Hope*'; new legislation/duties such as the '*serious violence duty*'; and the inclusion of

the new priority 'Violence Against Women and Girls'. It should be noted that as some of these areas of work are still very new, the associated actions within the plan are still under development. KCSP members will be working together with partner agencies and other multi-agency partnerships to support implementation, which may result in the action plan being developed further in-year to reflect additional areas of work that the KCSP could help to deliver.

- 3.6 The refreshed plan details the overall aim for each priority, the planned outcomes, the actions to be taken, how delivery will be measured and reported and who is responsible for coordinating activity or feedback. This will remain a live document, which the KCSP Working Group and the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) will be monitoring throughout the year and updating if required.
- 3.7 KCSP members are invited to feedback on the content of the draft action plan via email to the kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk by the end of July 2022 for inclusion in Version 1 of the 2022/23 action plan; Or at any point during the life of the plan should they identify a potential new action that might be appropriate for inclusion.

4.0 Performance Monitoring

- 4.1 The Kent Community Safety Team is currently exploring the potential to source an analytical resource with the aim of producing a county community safety strategic assessment which will not only inform the refresh of the Community Safety Agreement but will help partners involved in the annual strategic assessment process, and ongoing performance monitoring in relation to the CSA action plan.
- 4.2 If successful, the analyst will be able to help identify a range of proxy indicators chosen to represent the key priorities, whilst members of the KCSP Working Group monitor some of the quantitative outcomes from the action plan. This will enable the Working Group to be able to highlight any issues or concerns to the Kent Community Safety Partnership at future meetings, as well as utilising the information gathered in-year to help inform the next Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

5.0 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee met on 8th June 2022 to review the work of the Kent Community Safety Partnership over the past 12 months (2021/22) in relation to the CSA published in April 2021, and to comment on the refreshed CSA for the year ahead.
- 5.2 The committee was held as a hybrid meeting, with committee members and the partners who were presenting at the event attending the Council Chambers in person, whilst the leads of other priorities were available via video conferencing to respond to additional questions.
- 5.3 A comprehensive [written report](#) was supplied to the committee ahead of the meeting providing a range of data and information about each priority as well as the actions undertaken by partners to address them. At the previous Scrutiny Committee in June 2021, the focus was on Substance Misuse, Domestic Abuse and Preventing Extremism & Hate which were identified as key areas of concern during the Covid-19

pandemic. However, based on the questions and feedback raised at last year's committee the requested focus for KCSP partners this year was on the priorities of: Road Safety, Serious Violence and Organised Crime, and Anti-social Behaviour. In addition to these focus topics, the partners also gave a brief overview of the other priorities.

- 5.4 The minutes of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee will be published on the [kent.gov](https://www.kent.gov) website in due course, but in summary the Committee agreed to note the refreshed Community Safety Agreement (April 2022) and the year-end summary report. They also requested that their comments be considered for future implementation of the action plan and the next refresh and thanked partners for engaging in the scrutiny process.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) members are asked to note the refreshed action plan which supports delivery of the refreshed Community Safety Agreement.
- 6.2 KCSP members are invited to provide feedback on the content of the draft action plan via email to kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk (KCST) by the end of July 2022, or at any time in-year if new actions emerge.

Attachments:

Appendix A: Draft Community Safety Agreement (CSA) Action Plan

For Further Information:

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