

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

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 12th July 2023

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 2023/24

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 retain the existing priorities and cross-cutting themes:

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 Whilst the priorities were unchanged some of the emerging issues which partners felt worthy of specific note included the cost of living crisis, the publication of the Serious Violence Duty guidance which impacts all community safety partners, and the potential impact of other reviews relating to the Protect Duty, CSPs and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). These issues were included in the updated Chapter on the

Community Safety Landscape along with a range of other existing and emerging issues.

- 2.4 The draft Kent Community Safety Agreement (April 2023) was discussed at the March meeting of the KCSP and following suggested changes raised at the meeting, the content was subsequently updated as agreed.

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 Kent and Medway Safer Roads 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 2023/24 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.
- 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 legislation and new duties around Serious Violence. 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 2023 for inclusion in Version 1 of the 2023/24 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 In 2022/23 the Kent Community Safety Team (KCS) explored the potential to source an analytical resource with the aim of producing a county community safety strategic assessment which would not only inform the refresh of the Community Safety Agreement but would help partners involved in the annual strategic assessment process. Unfortunately it was not possible at that time to secure an analyst but an assessment was commissioned to inform the refresh of the CSA.
- 4.2 In 2023/24 the KCST will continue to work with Kent Police to further explore the options around analytical support. 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 future Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees. The KCST will also work with district community safety colleagues to review the strategic assessment produced in 2022/23 to help in its development and potentially support the work of local CSPs when undertaking their annual assessment process.

5.0 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee will take place on 19th July 2022 to review the work of the Kent Community Safety Partnership over the past 12 months (2022/23) in relation to the CSA published in April 2022, and to comment on the refreshed CSA for the year ahead.
- 5.2 The committee will be held as a hybrid meeting, with committee members and the partners who are presenting at the event attending the Council Chambers in person, whilst the leads of other priorities will be available if needed via video conferencing to respond to any additional questions.
- 5.3 A comprehensive written report will be 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 during 2021/22. This year, at the request of the committee members, the focus for KCSP partners will be on the priorities of: Preventing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB; Serious Violence & Organised Crime; Substance Misuse; and Domestic Abuse. In addition to the focus topics a brief overview will be given to cover the other priorities.
- 5.4 The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee will be webcast live and the minutes published on the Kent.gov website.

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 2023, or at any time in-year if new actions emerge.

Attachments:

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

For Further Information:

Shirley Brinson
KCC Community Safety Team Leader
shirley.brinson@kent.gov.uk

Shafick Peerbux
KCC Head of Community Safety
shafick.peerbux@kent.gov.uk