

By: Shafick Peerbux - Head of Community Safety, KCC
To: Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) – 12th July 2023
Classification: For Information
Subject: Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update

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

1.0 Background / Introduction

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

2.0 KCSP Funding – Crime Reduction Grant 2022/23

- 2.1 The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) granted the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) £39,661 from the Crime Reduction Grant for 2022/2023. The grant has been used to fund projects throughout Kent, focussing on the priorities identified in the Community Safety Agreement and the Police and Crime Plan. Similar funding was also provided by the PCC to all Community Safety Partnerships across Kent and Medway, to help deliver projects in support of local priorities.
- 2.2 Two thirds of the funding (£26,440) was made available for upfront project spending with the remaining third of the grant (£13,220) allocated to a tactical pot for spending in-year. A total of £27,765 was spent to fund six projects with an £11,896 underspend retained by the OPCC. 2.3 An update on the projects funded in 2022/23 was provided in the report presented to the KCSP members in March, the following is a

brief update on the outcomes of the remaining projects which have now been delivered and received year end feedback.

- **Trauma Awareness Programme** (£13,000) - aims to enable young people and identified younger adults to increase awareness of the power of feeling strong emotion(s) and how to establish an internal 'sense check' and emotional repertoire. A comprehensive training package has been developed for use by programme attendees - including a handbook, toolkit, Children & Young Peoples (CYP) facilitators manual, and a resources list. A total of 4 training sessions were delivered over a 2-month period. In total 59 professionals who specialise in working with Children and Young People (CYP) from a range of organisations attended and completed the training. The professionals included IDVAs and family practitioners, CYP mentors and tutors, youth development support worker, counsellor and mental health practitioners.
- **Gaming & Online Awareness of Hate and Extremism** (£4,600)- The Gaming and Extremism project (gaming bus) is a community engagement initiative to promote awareness of how hateful extremism and potential radicalisation is spread via gaming and how it can be countered. Events took place between February and May in conjunction with schools led by the Prevent Education Officers (PEO) working closely with local partners. At the end of March 2023 sessions had been accessed by approximately 900 school pupils in Years 6-7 primary and secondary education with a further session planned for May. Selected locations received additional online safety sessions delivered by the PEOs as a follow up looking at the dangers of exploitation for extremism via online gaming.
- **Violence Against Women & Girls Conference** (£4,705) –The conference was delivered as a hybrid event on Tuesday 28th March at the Detling Showground and virtually via Microsoft Teams. The £4,705 funding enabled the hire of a venue and audio-visual support, with additional funding provided for refreshments and ancillary costs by KCSP partners. Further information regarding the conference is detailed later in this report.

3.0 KCSP Funding – Crime Reduction Grant 2023/24

- 3.1 The funding allocation to the KCSP remains the same as in previous years (£39,661), however, please note this is an indicative award as the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) has not yet received final funding confirmation of the Victim Service Grant. As this is indicative funding, there is a chance the final funding could reduce or be revised depending on the PCC's confirmed commissioning budget.
- 3.2 As in previous years a third of the funding (£13,221) has been allocated to a Tactical Pot for in-year spending, with the remaining two-thirds (£26,440) available for upfront project spend.
- 3.3 The PCC has stated that the primary focus of the Crime Reduction Grant is to deliver against the PCCs priorities, in particular the following areas have been highlighted:
 - Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
 - Anti-social behaviour (ASB)
 - Safer Streets approach to crime prevention.
 - Support for children and young people at risk or committing crime or ASB.

- Support delivery of Serious Violence Duty Projects and violence reduction.
- 3.4 Fifteen project proposals were received from partners for consideration by the KCSP Working Group at their meeting on 24th April 2023. However, many were not fully formed projects, as such the KCSP Working Group undertook a shortlisting exercise and the KCST subsequently worked with partners to secure detailed proposals for the projects the partners voted to support.
- 3.5 Based on the shortlisting exercise and submission of detailed project proposals, the projects listed below received a consensus of support and were submitted to the Chair and the Police and Crime Commissioner for approval.
- Domestic Abuse Bitesize Training Videos (£4,200)
 - Reducing Abusive Behaviour Policy and Training (£5,440)
 - Online Library PSHE School Resources (£6,000)
 - Tackling Victim Blaming Language Training (£1,600)
 - KCSP Anti-Social Behaviour workshop & CPD Event (£5,000)
 - Community Safety Information Sessions (£1,500)
 - Hateful Extremism CPD event (£3,500)
- (Please see Appendix A below for a summary of the projects)
- 3.6 At this stage the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has confirmed funding for six of the above projects with a decision pending on the joint project with the VRU in relation to the school resources.
- 3.7 It should be noted that the remainder of the projects which received support from partners and were shortlisted did not have sufficient information to put them forward as part of the initial business case. As such the KCST will continue to work with partners to explore these projects for potential funding through the Tactical Pot (£13,220). Partners are welcome to submit any additional projects or other suggestions for funding opportunities, training and/or collaborative working to the KCST: kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk

4.0 Violence Against Women and Girls Conference

- 4.1 The KCSP delivered a Community Safety Conference on the 28th March 2023 covering the topic of Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) which was attended by over 250 people (with just under 150 attending in person and just over 100 attending virtually) from a variety of statutory agencies as well as 3rd sector organisations. The feedback from the conference has been very positive with 90% of respondents rating it as 'excellent' or 'very good', although this rises to 98% if 'good' is also included.
- 4.2 The conference included several excellent speakers on a range of topics including the Trauma Effect of VAWG, Misogyny and Incels (involuntary celibates), Active Bystander programme, case studies on safer communities and commissioned support services, etc. Those attending in person had access to a marketplace with stall holders and networking opportunities, and all attendees were able to interact during the event through Question-and answer sessions.

- 4.3 Of those who responded to the conference survey 78% stated that they would feedback to colleagues on the seminar content with around half sharing information or feeding back to managers. Whilst approx. a third plan to do additional research with just over a quarter aiming to undertake further training. Some of the comments received were: “Great to see this high on the agenda at last”; “A very interesting, informative conference gained a lot of knowledge that I was not aware of”; “The day was very well organised. To have the conference both in person and virtually meant that these were opportunities for everyone. The stalls on the day were very informative and shared very useful information”; “Just a thank you to all the speakers for a very informative day and for all the hard work behind the scenes to organise the conference”. In addition to the conference survey, a VAWG survey was also circulated to attendees to help inform the CSA Action Plan for 2023/24.
- 4.4 Following on from the conference a resource pack has been disseminated to delegates including information about the available commissioned services, bite size videos about VAWG, reports and partner information. The PowerPoint presentations and recorded videos from the event are also available for partners via the Safer Communities Portal.

5.0 Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) Update

- 5.1 The KCST delivers Community Safety Information Sessions (CSIS) covering a broad range of topics. For the forthcoming financial year, the KCST partners are trialling an alternative format for the CSIS events, making them shorter sessions and delivering them more frequently. The KCST are currently in the process of devising a schedule around upcoming awareness weeks/topics as well as incorporating new and emerging issues in-year. The first session was delivered to partners in June 2023 on the changes to Neighbourhood Policing in Kent and next month’s session will cover the topics of scams and dangerous dogs (although this may be subject to change). If anyone has any suggestions of speakers/topics that would be relevant for the information sessions, or if you would like to attend, please contact the KCST via the team mailbox: kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk
- 5.2 The KCSP commission 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. Since the start of this year, three DHRs have been published in the names of [DHR Jean 2018](#), [DHR Kitty 2020](#) and [DHR Leanne 2019](#)
- 5.3 The KCST delivered Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) learning webinars throughout 2022, in total five sessions were delivered and the KCST, on behalf of the KCSP, are in the planning stages of DHR seminars for this year. Dates and content are still in discussion and will give further update at next meeting.
- 5.4 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 bulletin included updates and information on recent DHR publication, Best Bar None Award, Community Safety Partnerships Review and Anti-Social Behaviour Powers, PCCs

Youth Survey & ASB Survey, Domestic Abuse Awareness Campaigns, Domestic Abuse Virtual Webinars, Domestic Abuse advice line, Safeguarding Adults Reviews publications, Save the date for National Safeguarding Adults Awareness weeks and details of the Safer Communities Portal.

- 5.5 The KCST would like to encourage partners to contact the team if they would like to subscribe to the e-bulletin or have any suggested topics for the information sessions, brief updates for the e-bulletins, Please email the KCST:
kentcommunitysafetyteam@kent.gov.uk

6.0 Recommendations

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

For Further Information:

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

Appendix A: Project Summaries for 2023/34 Business Case (subject to approval):

Reducing Abusive Behaviour (RAB) Policy and Training Launch (£4,200)

- The Reducing Abusive Behaviour Group is part of the multiagency Kent & Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive network. Its purpose is to coordinate the approaches to tackling abusive behaviour and to enable greater focus on changing the behaviour of the individual causing harm. As part of their work the multi-agency group have developed two template policies in relation to responding to clients or staff who may be using abusive behaviour in their relationships. The policies can be used and adapted by a range of organisations to respond to clients and staff members who may be causing harm through their behaviour.
- Two different training sessions are planned to assist organisations to develop their approach to people using abusive behaviours incorporating the launch of the policies. One session will be for HR Professionals 'Holding those using abusive behaviour to account', the other will be for Frontline staff 'Identifying and Supporting Clients using abusive behaviour'.
- There will be a total of three training sessions delivered virtually by an external agency, with one session for HR professionals (up to 20 people) and two sessions for front line professionals (up to 40 people).

Domestic Abuse Bitesize Training Videos (£5,440)

- Domestic Abuse partners plan to produce five short DA videos utilising the 7-minute learning approach as this is manageable in most services and learning is more memorable as it is simple and not clouded by other issues and pressures.
- The videos propose to cover:
 - **Signs of Abuse** - Understanding that coercion and control are central to domestic abuse and what this might look like
 - **Safe Enquiry** - How to ask about domestic abuse safely and appropriately.
 - **Safety Planning** - Making sure that you are able to take some initial steps to increase the client's safety.
 - **Understanding Risk** - Covering the factors that increase risk (for instance fear, escalation, strangulation, point of leaving etc) and the implications for information sharing.
 - **Signposting & Support** - Being able to signpost people to the right support with confidence.
- The primary audience for the training videos are professionals working in public-facing roles. The videos are not meant to provide comprehensive domestic abuse training, they act either as a refresher between more in depth safeguarding or domestic abuse training for roles where this is necessary or as a brief standalone piece of training in roles where more in depth training is not given. .

Tackling Victim Blaming Language Training (£1,600)

- Following on from the recent VAWG conference in March 2023, the KCST would like to offer training to partners and professionals in relation to 'victim blaming language'. Focusing on 3 areas, Rape myths, Reacting to victims from a trauma-informed place and Victim-blaming in the media
- Up to four sessions can be delivered virtually via MS Teams for up to 100 people per session with each session taking 90-120mins.

Online Library PSHE School Resources (£6,000)

- The VRU is working with an external company that has produced a range of resources to support schools, providing 'a whole school approach to relationships, sex, and health education that supports positive and safe peer cultures' to be delivered as part of PSHE lessons.
- The VRU has offered to jointly fund this project with the KCSP with the aim to offer licences to a number of schools in Kent and Medway as part of a pilot project. The schools will be identified in partnership with other agencies and will test the use of the resources that would build on the Bystander Approach and promote positive relationships, and, if successful, promote the resources across all secondary schools.

Anti-Social Behaviour Workshop & CPD Event (£5,000)

- The KCST is proposing to deliver an event/workshop on behalf of the KCSP on the subject of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) to be delivered later in the year.. ASB has been the subject of a recent national consultation with regards possible changes to the ASB tools and powers, as well as the publication of a draft National ASB Action Plan: plus the new duties given to PCC's around ASB.
- The workshop will bring partners together from across the county to raise awareness of potential changes to ASB tools and powers, to share knowledge and good practice, to help upskill professionals and to work together to implement any national changes.

Community Safety Information Sessions (£1,500)

- The KCST is planning to deliver regular information sessions for partner agencies throughout 2023/24. The sessions will be relatively short (max. 1hr) and will focus on a range of emerging issues, new areas of business, recent legislation/strategies and awareness raising campaigns.
- The funding will pay for the editing of the recorded events to provide a professional product for use by partners which will be accessible to those unable to attend the briefing sessions.

Hateful Extremism CPD event (£3,500)

- The Kent and Medway Prevent Team in partnership with Kent Police plan to deliver a Hateful Extremism CPD event in 2023/24 building on the success of the events delivered over the last couple of years.
- The aim of the future CPD event is to provide an update to partners and professionals on the latest situation, emerging issues, and to strengthen knowledge on the issues – something that is not being offered elsewhere.