

2014-17

Kent Community Safety Agreement

Annual Review – March 2016

DRAFT

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Introduction

The aim of this document

This document provides an overview of the current community safety issues for Kent and refreshes the priorities within the Kent Community Safety Agreement for 2014-17. The review is based on the outcomes from the recent district/borough strategic assessments, related partnership documents and information, and working with partners to identify any emerging issues that may not yet be supported by data.

Background

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. Subsequent changes to Section 17 of this Act also introduced a responsibility for partners to address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB); Environmental ASB, Substance Misuse and Reducing Reoffending.

Under the original legislation the responsible authorities (now referred to as Community Safety Partnerships), were required to produce a detailed crime and disorder audit through consultation with key agencies and the wider community and to use the findings to identify strategic priorities and implement crime reduction strategies.

In 2006, a review of the partnership provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police Reform Act 2002 led to a series of recommendations to strengthen and extend existing requirements. This resulted in a new set of national minimum standards which came into force in August 2007. The national standards placed a legal obligation on responsible authorities to comply with the specified requirements, which within two tier authorities meant the creation of an annual strategic assessment and community safety plan for District/Borough Councils and a three year Community Safety Agreement for the County Council.

In 2011 the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. This brought with it 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.

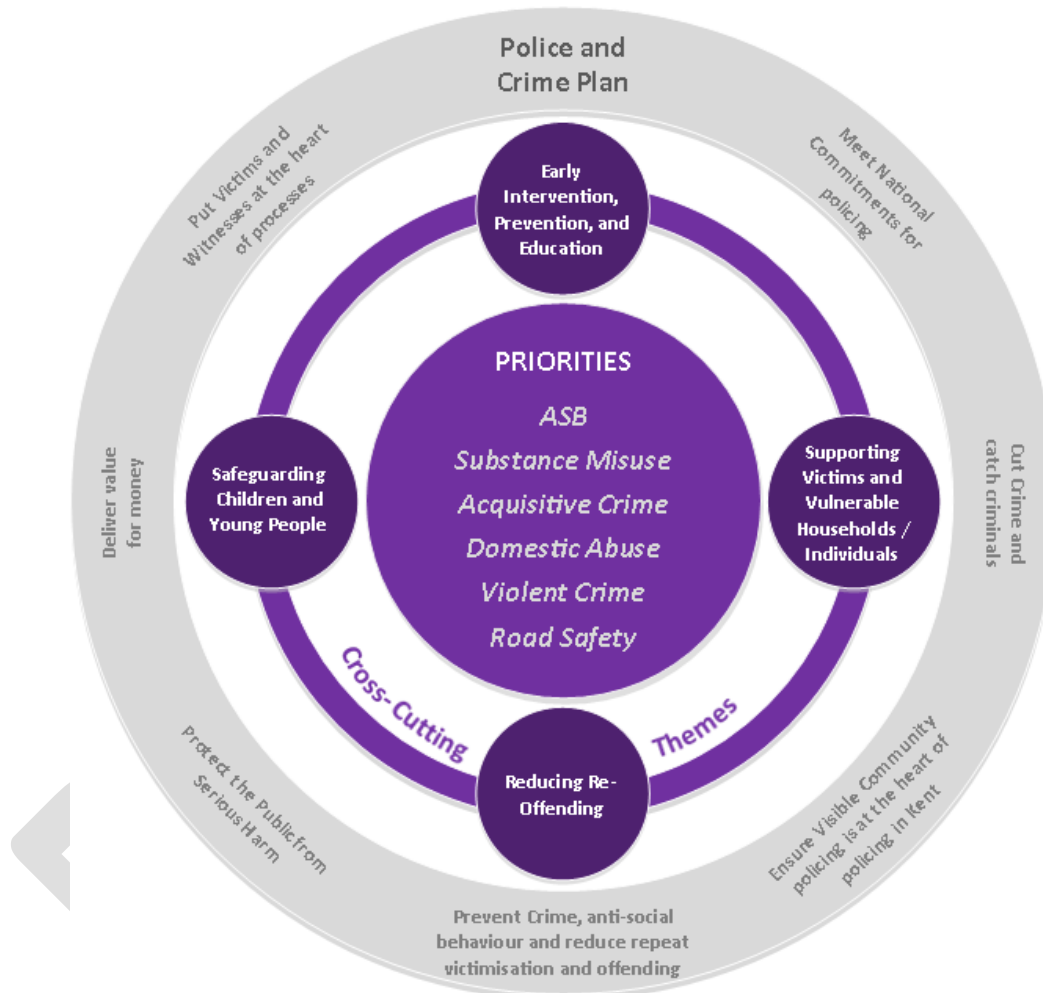
Community Safety Agreement

The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) for 2014-17 outlines the key community safety priorities for Kent (excluding Medway) based on data analysis, partnership consultation and the local strategic assessments. The Agreement was published at the start of 2014/15 but is subject to an annual review and can be amended during the three year period if appropriate.

The CSA was most recently reviewed in March 2015. The outcome of that review recommended that the original priorities and cross-cutting themes remain unchanged (see next page), however following guidance from the Kent Community Safety Partnership there was a slight amendment to the document to acknowledge the emerging issue of child sexual exploitation (CSE). This was incorporated into the existing cross-cutting theme 'safeguarding children and young people'.

Kent Community Safety Agreement

The following diagram shows the current priorities and cross-cutting themes for the Community Safety Agreement as well as the strategic priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan:



The remainder of this document will consider whether the above priorities and cross-cutting themes are still relevant for the Community Safety Agreement or whether any changes need to be implemented.

Partnership Plans and Legislation

The review will take into consideration the outcome of local assessments, changes to partnership plans, emerging issues, existing legislation and new legislation that may need to be implemented.

The following section looks at the priorities identified by partners in relation to community safety and any changes to plans.

Kent Police Control Strategy

Kent Police revised their Control Strategy based on 'Threat, Risk & Harm' and identified a number of focus areas (shown below), along with a couple of areas that require further information including digital crime.

The Control Strategy is a four year document which will be reviewed annually and is currently being refreshed for 2016/17. It has been shared with partners and has helped inform the refresh of the Police and Crime Plan as well as the district/borough community safety plans.

The current priorities identified for 2015/16 include:

- Child Abuse & Exploitation
- Human Trafficking / Modern Slavery
- Domestic Abuse, Serious Violence and Sexual Offences
- Gangs
- Organised Acquisitive Crime
- Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

Kent Police and Crime Plan

The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) published the original plan in 2013/14 but it is reviewed annually to establish emerging priorities and threats. Following a consultation with the public and partners, the draft revised plan for 2016/17 was presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 2nd February 2016 for comment and approval.

The final plan is yet to be published but the proposal is to retain the 7 strategic priorities outlined below but to have a stronger emphasis on some of the emerging issues such as: *Tackling Radicalisation, Child sexual exploitation (CSE), Human Trafficking / Modern Slavery, Protecting Children from harm including Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) & Looked after Children (LAC), Tackling cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime.*

Strategic Priorities:

- Cut crime and catch criminals
- Ensure visible community policing is at the heart of policing in Kent
- Prevent crime, anti-social behaviour and reduce repeat victimisation and offending
- Put Victims and Witnesses at the heart of processes
- Protect the public from harm
- Deliver value for money
- Meet national commitments for policing

New Legislation

Following the introduction of new legislation a number of new duties have been placed on partners in relation to the following:

Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015 - aims to disrupt the ability of people to travel abroad to engage in terrorist activity and then return to the UK, enhance the ability of agencies to monitor and control the actions of those who pose a threat and combat the underlying ideology that supports terrorism. Public sector organisations are subject to a new statutory duty to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism' with guidance setting out how different sectors can play their part including staff awareness, contract management, room booking policies etc. It has also put the Channel programme on a statutory basis with a County channel panel being established.

Modern Slavery Act 2015 - provides law enforcement agencies with tools to fight modern slavery, ensure perpetrators receive suitable punishment and enhance support and protection for victims.

Serious Crime Act 2015 - builds on current legislation to ensure law enforcement agencies have the powers required to tackle serious and organised crime. It includes provisions to strengthen the protection of vulnerable children and others (including female genital mutilation and domestic abuse) and provisions to tighten prison security and to guard against the threat of terrorism posed by returning 'foreign fighters'.

Incoming legislation includes:

Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (comes into effect in April '16) - will make it an offence to produce, supply and import or export psychoactive substances. It also includes provisions for civil sanctions including prohibition notices/orders, premises notices/orders to enable police and local authorities to adopt a graded response to the supply of psychoactive substances as appropriate.

Counter-Extremism Bill – expected to introduce banning orders for extremist groups; extremism disruption orders to stop individuals engaging in extremist behaviour; closure orders for law enforcement and local authorities to close premises used to support extremism; and employment checks.

Medway Unitary Authority

The Medway Community Safety Plan for 2013-16 included 5 priorities: Tackle Substance and Alcohol Abuse; Tackle ASB and Envirocrime; Reduce Re-offending; Tackle Domestic Abuse; and Reduce the Number of People Seriously Injured in Road Traffic Collisions

The latest strategic assessment undertaken in 2015, resulted in the following priorities being proposed for 2016/17:

- Strengthening Communities
- Supporting victims and tackling offenders of sexual and domestic abuse
- Tackling harm caused by substance misuse
- Reducing reoffending
- Commitment to safeguarding & improving services

Local Strategic Assessments (provisional)

The following local priorities for 2016/17 have been extracted from either draft district strategic assessments/partnership plans or from discussions at recent partnership meetings where potential priorities have been considered. Whilst some of the priorities have been agreed and are awaiting sign-off by the local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), many are still provisional and as such are subject to change.

The table below shows all the categories which have been chosen by the CSPs as either a main priority for their area (yellow box), a subsidiary priority or cross-cutting

themes (orange tick) or as an issue within a broader theme (grey tick). The table has been ordered to show the priorities which were identified by the most districts/boroughs in descending order.

Please note, due to some variance in terminology the categories may not match exactly the wording used by each individual partnership. In addition, whilst the various crime categories (i.e. serious & organised, violent, and acquisitive crime) have between 4 and 6 districts highlighting them as an issue when consolidated together within a 'crime' category it ranks within the top six for the districts.

	Ashford	Canterbury	Dartford & Gravesham	Dover	Maidstone	Sevenoaks	Shepway	Swale	Thanet	Tonbridge & Malling	Tunbridge Wells	No. of Districts
Domestic Abuse (inc. sexual offences & serious violence)	Yellow	Grey	Yellow		Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Yellow	10
Safeguarding (inc. public protection & resilience)	Yellow				Orange			Yellow			Orange	9
Substance Misuse	Grey	Grey	Orange				Orange		Grey	Grey	Yellow	9
Crime / Serious & Organised Crime	Yellow	Grey			Grey			Yellow	Grey			9
Violent Crime (other than DA)		Grey	Orange		Orange				Grey	Grey	Yellow	
Acquisitive Crime (burglary, vehicle, shoplifting)	Grey	Grey	Yellow			Yellow						
ASB/Environmental		Yellow	Orange		Orange		Orange	Yellow	Grey	Grey		8
Road Safety	Yellow	Grey	Orange		Yellow	Yellow			Grey	Grey	Yellow	8
Prevent	Yellow	Grey	Yellow		Grey	Grey		Grey		Grey		7
Child abuse and exploitation	Grey		Yellow		Grey		Orange	Grey	Grey	Grey		7
Offenders / Reoffending (inc. IOM)			Orange		Yellow		Yellow	Orange	Yellow		Orange	6
Human Trafficking /Modern Slavery	Grey		Yellow		Grey	Grey	Orange	Grey				6
Community Confidence (quality of life, community activities/projects, agency collaboration)		Yellow			Yellow	Grey	Orange		Yellow			5
Victims / Vulnerable People					Orange	Grey		Grey	Grey		Orange	5
Gangs	Grey		Yellow			Grey		Grey				4
Early intervention, prevention & education					Orange			Grey	Grey		Orange	4
Young People					Orange	Yellow				Grey		3
Mental Health							Orange		Grey	Grey		3

Appendix 1

Troubled Families		✓					✓	✓					3
Clean, Green & Safer / Safer Communities													2
Health & Wellbeing													2
NTE / Safer Socialising					✓								2
Digital Crime / e-safety	✓						✓						2
Emerging & Changing Communities													1
Supporting County Initiatives													1
Preventing Fires		✓											1

Key:-

- Named priorities from the local CSP strategic assessments are shown by the **yellow squares**
- Key enablers, subsidiary priorities and cross-cutting themes are shown by **orange ticks**
- In many districts broader themes have been selected as a priority i.e. safeguarding, the categories in the above table that are named within these broader priorities are shown as **grey ticks**

Emerging Issues

Using PESTELO analysis members of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) Working Group helped to identify upcoming events and existing or emerging issues that may need to be considered.

Political:-

- Police and Crime Commissioner elections on 5th May 2016.
- Local council elections in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells on 5th May 2016.
- National referendum on EU membership on 23rd June 2016.

Economic:-

- Public sector budget cuts.
- Commissioning of services and securing new funding sources.

Social / Demographic:-

- High profile sporting events such as European Football and the Olympics.
- UK threat level remains severe, terrorist attacks (i.e. Paris) and new legislation raises the issue of preventing violent extremism.

Many other issues identified relate to safeguarding and supporting the most vulnerable members of society including:

- child sexual exploitation;
- human trafficking/modern slavery;
- emerging communities;
- unaccompanied asylum seeking children and looked after children;
- domestic abuse;
- organised crime groups;
- urbanised street gangs;
- new psychoactive substances;
- mental health (including dementia);
- ageing population.

Technological:-

- Cyber-crime and cyber-enabled crime, i.e. hacking of personal information, online frauds/scams.
- Online safety including child sexual exploitation, radicalisation, grooming, trolls/cyber-bullying.

Environmental (and Geographical):-

- Known new developments include Ebbsfleet, Paramount Studios, New Dartford Crossing, Op Stack Lorry Park.
- Extreme weather events, i.e. flooding.
- Border-crossings, i.e. channel tunnel and ferry ports.

Legislation:-

Recently enacted legislation has introduced a number of statutory duties for partner agencies including:

- Counter-terrorism and Security Act 2015;
- Modern Slavery Act 2015;
- Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014;
- Serious and Organised Crime Act 2015;
- Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

In addition to these, other legislation which is currently being considered or has recently been enacted includes: Counter-Extremism Bill; Immigration Bill; Policing & Criminal Justice Bill; Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016.

Organisational:-

- Public sector organisational restructures and new ways of working.
- Possible future changes to governance for emergency services following the Government consultation on 'closer working between emergency services', which proposes to enable PCC's to take on the responsibility of the fire and rescue service where appropriate and where a local case is made.

Recommendations

As highlighted in the Police Control Strategy, Police and Crime Plan, local strategic assessments, Pestelo analysis and legislation there are a number of emerging safeguarding issues and new duties that are not currently referenced within the Community Safety Agreement (CSA) and it is therefore recommended that the CSA should be amended accordingly.

It is recommended that two of the current priorities: 'Violent Crime' and 'Acquisitive Crime' should be consolidated into a priority entitled '**Serious & Organised Crime**' (or similar) to include some of the existing issues such as violent crime, shoplifting etc. whilst incorporating emerging issues such as gangs.

In addition, it is proposed that a new priority of '**Safeguarding**' (or similar) should be introduced to take account of issues such as child sexual exploitation, preventing violent extremism, modern slavery, online safety etc.

Although changes are needed to ensure the CSA remains relevant, many of the existing priorities continue to be a focus for both local and county partners, as such it is recommended that the following four priorities are retained: Domestic Abuse; Anti-Social Behaviour; Substance Misuse; and Road Safety; It is also recommended that the cross-cutting themes remain unchanged (see below).

Draft Proposed Priorities:

(see yellow text)

