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**To:** Kent Community Safety Partnership – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Classification:** For Decision

**Subject:** Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

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**Summary** This report details the annual review of the Kent Community Safety Agreement, recommended priorities for 2020/21 and an update on the current action plan.

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## 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 last review of the CSA which took place in March 2019 there were no changes to the priorities and cross-cutting themes which were agreed by the partnership in the previous year (see list below). The current version of the CSA (Version 3) took effect from April 2019.

### Priorities

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Substance Misuse
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Preventing Extremism and Hate
- Road Safety

### 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

2.3 The following report details the latest review process that has been undertaken including the proposed refresh to the priorities and cross-cutting themes.

### 3.0 CSA Review Process

- 3.1 The review of the new Community Safety Agreement has taken into consideration the outcome of local district/borough strategic assessments, partnership plans, emerging issues, new legislation and the risk assessment matrix known as MoRiLE. Details of these elements are included in the draft refresh of the Community Safety Agreement attached (Appendix A).
- 3.2 Local district/borough Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) are in the process of undertaking their annual strategic assessments and are currently finalising their priorities and developing local plans for 2020/21. At the time of writing this report and refreshing the CSA, draft priorities had only been received from six CSPs. Based on these priorities the following are the top issues that are emerging either as a main priority, cross-cutting theme or as an issue within a broader theme. However, as five districts are still in the process of agreeing their priorities for the coming year, the order of the list below may well change however it is not anticipated there will be significant changes to the types of priorities identified:
- Domestic Abuse
  - Anti-Social Behaviour
  - Safeguarding and Vulnerability
  - Substance Misuse
  - Tackling Violence
  - Serious and Organised Crime
  - Extremism & Hate
  - Mental Health
  - Reducing Offending and Reoffending
  - Crime
- 3.3 Following a pilot of the MoRiLE risk assessment matrix (*Management of Risk in Law Enforcement*) in 2017/18 the assessment tool was updated and a new template was used in the assessments for last couple of years. The assessment focuses on threat, risk and harm and as such the priorities ranked most highly tend to be those that cause the greatest harm to individuals and communities. The outcome from MoRiLE has been incorporated into the Community Safety Agreement to support the selection of priorities alongside the usual assessment tools.
- 3.4 Using PESTELO analysis members of the KCSP Working Group helped to identify upcoming events and existing or emerging issues and opportunities that may need to be considered. Many of the safeguarding issues which were identified previously such as preventing extremism, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, online safety, looked after children etc. remain an area of focus and reflect the issues being identified within the legislation and partnership plans. One issue which was added last year was the potential impact of Brexit on community safety and partner organisations which remains an issue within the current horizon scanning as the country undergoes the Brexit transition period. Another issue which was noted previously was serious violence but due to the ongoing focus this is receiving it has been specifically referenced in the PESTELO summary (Appendix C).
- 3.5 In addition to the above review of data and information, partnership plans and priorities are also taken into consideration in the development of the CSA including the recently refreshed Police and Crime Plan entitled '*Safer in Kent: The Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan April 2017 to March 2021*'.

## 4.0 Proposed Changes

- 4.1 Details of the proposed changes to the document are summarised in the version control within the attached draft CSA (see Appendix A). There have been a number of minor changes within the document however the most significant updates are in the chapters covering key changes to the community safety landscape and key achievements as well as the appendix detailing the outcomes from the district strategic assessments.
- 4.2 Although no major changes have been identified in terms of emerging issues since the last review, serious violence remains an area of interest for both Government and local partners and it is likely the focus will increase in 2020/21. As detailed in Chapter 3 of the CSA, the PCC successfully secured funding to establish a Violence Reduction Unit in Kent during 2019/20 whilst the Government is planning to introduce new duties in 2020/21 for individual agencies and CSPs to tackle violence. Although it was agreed last year that serious violence could be incorporated into one of the existing priorities it is now felt that the priority of 'Serious and Organised Crime' should be renamed from April 2020 to 'Serious Violence and Organised Crime', in order to appropriately reflect and acknowledge this area of work. Chapter 6 which details the priorities including the CSA diagram has been updated to reflect the recommendation.
- 4.3 Similar to last year's review whilst most of the current CSA priorities have been identified in the strategic assessments and community safety plans of local CSPs, 'Road Safety' is now rarely listed as a standalone priority. This is not simply because it is no longer a concern but that local partnerships are limited in their ability to impact on this particular issue. At a county level road safety is still a focus for partners and as such it is recommended that it remain within the CSA but the KCSP is asked to note that the lead for this priority is the Kent and Medway Road Casualty Reduction Partnership and they will report back to the KCSP as necessary.
- 4.4 Conversely whilst Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) remains a specific focus for most local CSPs, it should be noted that there are limited opportunities at this time for County partners to contribute to this priority as the operational activities are undertaken by district / borough community safety partners. However as the purpose of the CSA is to outline the main priorities for the whole county and ASB is still part of the original remit of CSPs it is recommended that it should remain as a priority in the latest refresh.
- 4.5 It is clear from the latest review that the majority of the current priorities and cross-cutting themes appropriately reflect the key issues for community safety partners and as such it is recommended that they are retained within the CSA with the addition of Serious Violence as outlined below:

### **Priorities**

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Substance Misuse
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Serious Violence and Organised Crime
- Preventing Extremism and Hate
- Road Safety

### **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

## **5.0 Equality Impact Assessment**

- 5.1 As part of the CSA refresh the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is being reviewed. The aim of the CSA is to make Kent's communities safer and stronger by bringing together partners from across the county to agree the key priorities and to develop joined-up approaches. Whilst it is recognised that some people may be more vulnerable and at greater risk of becoming a victim, the CSA is intended to benefit all residents and as such it is not anticipated that any identified group should be adversely impacted by the CSA or the activities within the action plan.
- 5.2 The EqIA refresh will be reviewed by both partners and KCC's Equality and Diversity Team to ensure all considerations have been made prior to sign-off.

## **6.0 CSA Action Plan and Achievements**

- 6.1 Partners are continuing to work towards the activities identified in the current CSA action plan linking in with various organisations and multi-agency groups across the county to help tackle the identified priorities and themes. The KCSP Working Group which meets as a sub-group of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is monitoring the activities set out in the Action Plan and reviewed the latest update at their meeting in February 2020.
- 6.2 Key achievements for 2019/20 delivered by partners are outlined in Chapter 5 of the draft Community Safety Agreement as well as in other papers that will be presented at the meeting including: Partnership Learning Pack on Preventing Extremism & Hate; Kent Community Safety Team; Domestic Homicide Reviews; Project Delivery; Workshop Delivery, etc.
- 6.3 Following the refresh of the Community Safety Agreement the action plan will also be reviewed and updated by the KCSP Working Group with the support of the Kent Community Safety Team.

## **7.0 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee**

- 7.1 The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced the requirement for a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee to review the work of the partnership, as such on an annual basis KCC's Scrutiny Committee meets as the Crime and Disorder committee to act as a critical friend to scrutinise and challenge the work of the partnership and the outcomes from the Community Safety Agreement.
- 7.2 The Committee is due to meet on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to review the CSA and the work of the partnership over the last 12 months. The lead agencies for each of the CSA priorities will be in attendance to represent the KCSP and respond to any queries raised. This will include a review of performance data as well as partnership activities to address the issues.
- 7.3 Any recommendations or suggested changes arising from Scrutiny will be fed back to the KCSP members and the Working Group for action as appropriate.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

8.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is asked to:

- agree to amending the current priorities as detailed within the attached draft refresh of the Community Safety Agreement subject to any additional partnership feedback;
- note the key achievements for 2019/20; and
- note the upcoming Scrutiny Committee arrangements.

### **Attachments:**

Appendix A: Draft Refresh of Community Safety Agreement - April 2020

### **For Further Information:**

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