

## **Swale Community Safety Plan 2023/24**

### **1. Introduction**

The Swale Community Safety Plan highlights how the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) plans to tackle community safety issues that matter to the local community.

This Plan is revised on an annual basis, through reviewing information provided from a wide range of organisations in a strategic assessment, to ensure that current issues can be taken into account into the activities undertaken by the CSP. It also takes into account local emerging issue and new legislative requirements.

### **2. Background**

Swale CSP is a statutory body bringing together a number of public sector agencies to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reduce re-offending. These agencies include Swale Borough Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Probation services, and Health services, working closely with the local housing associations such as Optivo, voluntary and community sector organisations and HM Prison Service.

### **3. Strategic Drivers**

- **Serious Violence Duty:** The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 22 received Royal Assent in April 2022, with statutory guidance issued in December 22. Part 2 of the Act creates a requirement for specified authorities to collaborate and plan to reduce or prevent serious violence. Changes have also been made to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that preventing and reducing serious violence is a priority for CSPs. Within Kent, new Partnership arrangements are being developed to ensure that agencies can comply with this new duty.
- **Budgets:** Many partner agencies are faced with depleting budgets and savings needing to be made, both as a result of covid, worsening national finances and cost of living. This will impact upon community safety delivery both in terms of resources available for delivery, staff and grants available. This has been considered in the formation of this Community Safety Plan and how those resources available can be best used to ensure the delivery of the identified priorities.
- **Kent Police Neighbourhood Review:** The new Neighbourhood Policing Model will be implemented from Summer 2023 and will see changes in the way they respond to neighbourhood-based issues. The Partnership will need to integrate these changes into our existing delivery models.
- **Cost of Living:** The Cost of Living Crisis continues to impact on residents as well as individual agencies. These impacts need to continue to be monitored by partners and the impact on delivery against our priorities.

## 4. Priorities for 2023/24

A Strategic Assessment is compiled annually to show progress for the Partnership against its current priorities, along with identifying emerging issues, and recommended priorities for the next 12 months.

The priorities for 2023/24 for the CSP were selected by members of the Partnership, taking into account the findings from the strategic assessment and discussions with partners. A series of cross cutting themes have also been identified which are key initiatives that will support the delivery of all of the priorities.

### Swale CSP Priorities and Cross Cutting Themes 2023/24



## Summary of Swale CSP Priorities

### Priority – Domestic Abuse

**Summary of issue:** The first time in a number of years, the number of reported incidents of Domestic Abuse reported to Kent Police has reduced – by 0.6%. This may be due to the level of incidents now stabilising after increasing year-on-year, but it also could be due to lack of confidence in agencies to then report. It is therefore important to seek to understand this further, whilst continuing to promote services available and reporting mechanism to the community.

Support agencies continue to see a high level of cases, with increasing complexity and expanding diversity – understanding of different cultures and how best to support emerging groups such as older adults will be key in ensuring the best response. The link between domestic abuse and radicalisation is also being explored and may require further training for partners. These local agencies have also identified a need for support in understanding local services and referral routes, with many changes over the last few years and likely to continue with changing budgets.

Following on from a number of years seeking to ensure adequate provision for perpetrators of domestic abuse, this year has seen an expansion of services – with a new county wide commissioned service along side the existing CDAP programme. Referral levels are not felt to be as high as expected, indicating further work is needed with professionals on identifying and engaging with perpetrators to then sign post to behavioural programmes. Partners have also flagged that future work in related to perpetrator and changing behaviour needs to be focused around young people.

#### Priority actions for 2023/24:

- Promotion of services available to both professionals and the community
- Training regarding the link between domestic abuse and radicalisation; and other specialist areas such as cultural awareness
- Continue to promote perpetrator services within agencies and consider how to ensure adequate provision aimed at young people

### Priority – Crime and Serious Violence

**Summary of issue:** During the reporting period, there has been an increase in all crime by 5.7% - this is coupled with an increase in victim-based crime including burglary business and community; and vehicle crime – both of which will be monitored by the CSP to determine if any wider action can be taken.

Due to the introduction of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 22, CSPs must have a priority to ensure the partnership works to prevent and reduce serious violence. Swale CSP has been working with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to tackle violence for a number of years. This has included working through the District Adolescent Contextual Safeguarding Meeting (DACSM) to focus on youth related violence. This will continue to be an area of focus, looking at key location problems. A monthly serious violence profile is available to inform the work of the CSP, along with an annual serious violence needs assessment. Swale

CSP must also work alongside other key partners in establishing the new mechanism for partnership work in Kent to tackle serious violence.

Violence Against Women and Girls also remains a national priority, along with a local priority for Kent Police. Swale CSP will ensure that it works to deliver actions within the Kent based strategy for this issue.

Sittingbourne Town Centre may also be a location to be monitored by the CSP due to higher levels of crime and violence in this area over the past 12 months.

**Priority action for 2023/24:**

- Work with Kent-wide partners to establish and implement response to Serious Violence
- Continue to monitor and respond to as required, for key crime types including burglary (business and community) and vehicle crime
- Focus on response to crime and ASB within Sittingbourne Town centre
- Deliver localised response to Violence Against Women and Girls

**Priority – Anti-Social Behaviour**

**Summary of issue:**

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) reported to Kent Police has reduced by 29% in the reporting period. There has also been a reduction in incidents of environmental ASB reported to Swale Borough Council.

The Community Safety Unit (CSU) continue to support those highest risk and vulnerable victims, with action taken against key perpetrators. Equipment has been provided to these to enable better evidence to capture and feelings of safety. Through the District Adolescent Contextual Safeguarding meeting (DACSM) a number of key locations of concern for ASB have been targeted, through use of additional CCTV, enforcement, and youth outreach.

Kent Police will be implementing their new Neighbourhood Policing Model in 2023. This will see a different delivery mechanism for tackling ASB (and crime). There will need to be ongoing conversations between the partnership as to changes in operational responses.

As discussed in the crime and serious violence section, Sittingbourne Town Centre has been identified as an area of increased crime and a focus needs to be placed upon monitoring it. This is also the case for ASB.

An increase in grass and rubbish fires within the borough has also been highlighted, some deliberate and some accidental, although the grass fires were likely linked to the warmer weather. Monitoring of these statistics on a quarterly basis by the CSP may be useful and partners may be able to assist in any communications to communities about fire safety, along with removal of any build up on rubbish in any locations.

The CSU have continued to coordinate a response to Community Triggers. These are a mechanism by which a response to ASB can be reviewed by the CSP where at least three incidents have been reported in the past six months; and where it is felt no action has been taken.

Between October 2021 – end September 2022, there were 5 Trigger requests received. One reached the threshold for a full investigation.

**Priority action for 2023/24:**

- Continue joint response to tackle ASB through the Community Safety Unit
- Implement Kent Police new Neighbourhood Policing Model
- Monitor incidents of grass/rubbish fires and develop response plan as required.

**Priority – Supporting Vulnerable People**

**Summary of Issue:**

Identifying and supporting vulnerable people has been a key priority for the Community Safety Partnership for a number of years. There continues to be good engagement with partners in supporting vulnerable people, but there is a need to ensure that changes in service delivery and key contacts are regularly communicated.

During 2022, the partnership launched its complex needs pilot. This has seen a dedicated officer to work intensively with entrenched drinkers with complex needs, to engage them with services. The initial 6-month funding provided by the CSP has been extended a further 6 months by KCC commissioning. This pilot will continue to be continually evaluated and approach beyond September 23 planned.

Modern slavery is a continued concern highlighted by partners – in that it is believed to still be largely undetected, but due to the demographic of Swale, is highly likely to be taking place. Ongoing training for a greater variety of partners is needed, as well as continuing to pilot different mechanisms of engagement. This links to work taking place to engage vulnerable residents on a Gypsy and Traveller site in the borough. This pilot work hopes to engage residents to better understand their needs and issues being faced.

Preventing Extremism has been a duty for partner agencies for many years, with county wide mechanisms for referral and support well embedded. Ongoing training for partnership staff needs to continue to ensure that this awareness remains high. As discussed in the domestic abuse section, the link between extremism and domestic abuse has been identified and training will be developed.

Accidental Dwelling fires have also seen an increase and partners can support KFRS in communication and engagement with those that might be at risk.

**Priority action for 2023/24:**

- Continuation of complex needs pilot
- Delivery of training for a greater range of partners on modern slavery and preventing extremism
- Continuation of pilot family hub at Dunkirk
- Consider partnership response to tackle accidental dwelling fires

**Cross Cutting Theme – Reducing Reoffending**

**Summary of theme:** Reducing Reoffending is a long-standing cross cutting theme for the partnership.

For many offenders their needs are complex and mechanisms are needed to best address these such as the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) process which has continued to run.

As already discussed in the domestic abuse priority section, there is a need to ensure agencies are aware of the existing perpetrator programmes for young people, whilst reviewing what services are in place for young people to address any negative relationship behaviours.

**Priority action for 2023/24:**

Many priority actions linked to this theme have been identified underneath other sections of this report. One additional priority action is to:

To support the ongoing engagement by partners in the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme to support the needs of the most prolific offenders.

**Cross Cutting Theme – Communication and Training**

**Summary of theme:** There is a need for clear communication across all agencies and appropriate information sharing to enable effective partnership work.

During 2022/23, there was a focus on communication specifically around domestic abuse and as discussed elsewhere, there was a large amount of work by partners linked to the 16 days of action campaign in November/December 22.

The partnership newsletter has also been re-established to ensure regular sharing of information between partners.

The strategic assessment and discussions with partners have identified the need to focus on continued promotion of existing services and referral routes. It has also highlighted areas of training felt needed which are discussed in each individual section.

**Priority action for 2023/24:**

Many priority actions linked to this theme have been identified underneath other sections of this report. One additional priority action is to:

Continue to deliver the CSP newsletter to partners on a bi-annual basis.

**Cross Cutting Theme – Cultural Awareness and Hate Crime**

**Summary of Theme:** Cultural awareness and hate crime have been identified as a new area of concern for the partnership for 2023/24. A number of the priorities discuss the need for better cultural awareness due to the changing demographic of the swale area. Additionally hate crime, although not of huge volume in Swale, can have a considerable impact on its victims.

No specific actions have been identified at this stage, but actions against all priorities must consider this need.

## 5. Action Plan 2023/24

No.	Action	Desired Outcome	Key Milestones	Timescales	Lead agency
<b>Priority 1: Domestic Abuse</b>					
1.1	Promotion of services available to both professionals and the community	Professionals aware of services available; community aware of how to seek help	Delivery of Kent Communications Campaign to public Know See Speak Out Quarterly refresh of mapping of services Annual 'meet the professional' event to promote services available in Swale	Ongoing  Quarterly  July 23	Domestic Abuse Group
1.2	Training regarding the link between domestic abuse and radicalisation; and other specialist areas such as cultural awareness	Increased understanding by professionals of emerging issues and how to engage with these client groups	Training delivered regarding link between radicalisation and domestic abuse Training delivered around cultural competency Training delivered around older adults engagement	By March 24	Domestic Abuse Group
1.3	Continue to promote perpetrator services within agencies and consider how to ensure adequate provision aimed at young people	Agencies have understanding of programmes available; understanding of services available for young people at the moment.	Refresher to agencies/domestic abuse group regarding perpetrator programmes Mapping of existing services aimed at changing behaviour of young people Strategic Discussion at CSP Executive regarding next steps	Sept 23  June 23  Sept 23	Domestic Abuse Group Domestic Abuse Group CSP Executive
1.4	Support delivery of County Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan	Increased understanding of domestic abuse and focused action on key priority areas.	Participation in county meeting groups and delivery of agreed actions from Delivery Plan including: Support rollout of 'Sanctuary' provision	Ongoing  Summer 23	Domestic Abuse Group

1.5	Delivery of response to adolescents regarding healthy relationships	Better understanding by target age group of domestic abuse and healthy relationships	Rollout of Healthy Relationship cards to sixth forms/other education settings Development of a Youth drop in	July 23 By March 23	SATEDA
<b>Priority 2: Crime and Serious Violence</b>					
2.1	Work with Kent-wide partners to establish and implement response to Serious Violence	CSP meets its new duties under the Serious Violence Duty; serious violence is reduced in borough	CSP to participate in new county wide partnership for Serious Violence Duty Agree localised action plan Response to localised violence hotspots	June 23	Executive
2.2	Continue to monitor and respond to as required, for key crime types including burglary (business and community) and vehicle crime	Reduction in acquisitive crime types	Quarterly performance reports to include vehicle crime and burglary (business and community) figures Actions to address any peaks/trends in crime types	Ongoing As required	Executive Kent Police
2.3	Deliver localised response to Violence Against Women and Girls	Reduction in VAWG/increased feelings of safety by women and girls	Creation of action plan for 23/24	Ongoing	Kent Police
<b>Priority 3: ASB</b>					
3.1	Continue joint response to tackle ASB through the Community Safety Unit	Reduction in ASB	Response to support high risk victims of ASB Delivery of products to increase feelings of safety/evidence capture to victims Keep Safe Scheme Response to high harm locations	Ongoing	CSU
3.2	Implement Kent Police new Neighbourhood Policing Model	Embed new way of working at neighbourhood level	Regular monitoring of impact of new model on partnership working Review new model of CSU	To March 24 Jan 24	Kent Police CSU

3.3	Monitor incidents of grass/rubbish fires and develop response plan as required.	Reduction in deliberate grass/rubbish fires	Quarterly performance reports to include Fire data Actions to address peaks/trends	Ongoing	Executive  KFRS
3.4	Delivery of Safety in Action	Young people better aware of different types of risks and able to make safer decisions	Safety In Action for Year 6 Students delivered	May 23	Police/SBC - CSU
3.5	Delivery of dedicated operations and campaigns	Reduction in ASB in specific locations	Op Paris Safer Campaigns	Summer Ongoing	Kent Police
<b>Priority 4: Supporting Vulnerable People</b>					
4.1	Continuation of complex needs pilot	Increased engagement with services by identified cohort	Continuation on complex needs pilot to Sept 24  Seek funding for extension/embedding of service	Sept 24  Sept 24	Swale BC
4.2	Delivery of training for a greater range of partners on modern slavery and preventing extremism	Increased awareness of modern slavery and prevent	Multi-agency Modern Slavery Training  Multi-agency Prevent Training	Ongoing  Ongoing	Swale BC
4.3	Continuation of pilot family hub at Dunkirk	Increased engagement with those living on specified site to address their needs	Delivery of initial 3 month pilot of Dunkirk family hub  Seek extra funding to extend pilot  Strategic meeting to identify and address wider concerns regarding site	June 23  By June 23  Ongoing	Swale BC/SATEDA
4.4	Consider partnership response to tackle accidental dwelling fires	Reduction in accidental dwelling fires	Quarterly performance reports to include Fire data  Use of partners to share key communications messages re home fire safety/referrals to fire safety scheme	Ongoing  Ongoing	Executive KFRS

<b>Cross Cutting Theme 1: Reducing Reoffending</b>					
5.1	Ongoing engagement with the Integrated Offender Management programme	Reduced offending by prolific offenders	Attendance by partners at IOM Promotion of IOM to partners as required	Ongoing	CSU/Probation
<b>Cross Cutting Theme 2: Communication and Training</b>					
Other training and communication actions are identified within individual priority sections.					
6.1	Delivery of CSP Newsletter	To promote new and existing services to partners along with examples of good practice.	September 23 Newsletter March 24 Newsletter	Sept 23 March 24	CSU – Partnership and project Officer
<b>Cross Cutting Theme 3: Cultural Awareness and Hate crime</b>					
Actions already contained within other priority sections.					

## 7. Delivery of Priorities

The Swale Community Safety Partnership priorities will be delivered by a number of mechanisms. Some will be delivered and monitored via the Executive Group or sub-groups. Others will be delivered directly by staff within the multi-agency Community Safety Unit (CSU).

The below table details the key tasks of each of these groups.

<b>Meeting Group</b>	<b>Key Functions</b>
Executive Group	<p>Thematic strategic discussions of key issues within CSP Plan</p> <p>Strategic updates from all statutory partners</p> <p>Oversight of all subgroups</p> <p>Performance Monitoring</p> <p>Funding Monitoring</p>
<b>Sub-Groups</b>	
Domestic Abuse Group	<p>Mapping of key issues and development of solutions</p> <p>Support delivery of Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy and Local Action Plan</p> <p>Sharing of learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)</p> <p>Coordination of any training/communication</p>
Vulnerability Panel	<p>Monthly meetings to discuss vulnerable adults at risk of crime/ASB; self-neglect; or non-engagement with services.</p> <p>Identification of key trends or themes affecting this cohort</p>
Serious Organised Crime Panel	<p>Six weekly meeting to discuss organised crime groups (OCGs); individuals of note; gangs/county lines; and Youth Street Gangs.</p>
District Adolescent Contextual Safeguarding Meeting	<p>Monthly meeting to discuss individuals and locations of concern in relation to young people.</p> <p>Lead on actions to tackle identified locations of concern.</p>
Weekly Tasking and Coordination Group	<p>Weekly meeting to discuss ASB victims/offenders; and key locations of concern.</p>
Brotherhood Wood Strategic meeting and Dunkirk Hub Steering Group	<p>Two groups in place, both strategic and tactical to identify and respond to various concerns on this site.</p>
<b>Staffing Resource</b>	
Community Safety Unit	<p>Support to High risk ASB victims</p>

	ASB Enforcement Coordination of Community Triggers Coordination of Keep Safe scheme Problem Solving for location based problems (ASB and Crime) Provision of crime/ASB reduction equipment Delivery of agreed projects
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Partners will commit staffing resource to each of these group as relevant to their agency. Additionally, a grant provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Community Safety Partnership will be allocated towards the delivery of this plan.

If further resources are needed for completion of actions, further funding may have to be sought.

Priority leads will be allocated from the CSP Executive membership to drive forward the agreed actions in this plan and to be responsible for performance.

## **8. Performance Monitoring**

The performance of the Community Safety Plan will be undertaken by the Executive Group on a quarterly basis by means of an exception report. Monitoring will be undertaken on key performance indicators and progress against identified actions.

## **9. Risk Assessment**

Key risks to the delivery of this Community Safety Plan are considered annually by the Partnership.

The main risk identified for 23/24 is resourcing within agencies. Many partners are facing cuts to their budgets which will impact on resources available for delivery of this Community Safety Plan. Although this has been taken into account in developing actions for 2023/24, there is also an impact through more limited longer term preventative work. There could also be an impact through agencies working in silos.