

Swale Community Safety Plan 2026/27

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 Southern Housing, voluntary and community sector organisations and HM Prison Service.

3. Strategic Drivers

- **Budgets/grant loss:** Across the partnership, there are ongoing limitations to funding availability and reduced budgets that continue to present a threat/risk to the work of the CSP during the upcoming year and to have a real impact in local families/communities. The Ministry of Justice reduced the core victim services grant received by Police & Crime Commissioners by 4.2% for 25/26, however the victim services/organisations in receipt of the Crime Reduction Grant continued to receive the same funding levels as 24/25. It has been confirmed that this is not sustainable for future funding years and we are awaiting a decision on what the CRG to CSPs will look like for 2026/27.
- **Cost of Living:** Swale communities continue to feel the impact of cost of living, with the Swale COL partnership group still in place to seek to address some of these issues. Nationally it is estimated 9.3 million people facing hunger and hardship in the UK with use of food banks at historically high levels; and the numbers of people on Universal Credit in Kent and Medway (Sep '25) increased by 14.8% since previous year.
- **Local government reform/devolution:** The Government has committed to introducing the English Devolution Bill in the first session putting the Devolution Framework into statute. English Devolution plans includes the development of new Strategic Authorities and local government reorganisation involving replacing all 'two-tier' county and district councils with single tier 'unitary' authorities. This process will likely have an impact on community safety responses by Councils, but in the medium to longer term whilst reorganisation takes place.
- **Place:** It is important, in light of the above, that the needs of 'Swale as a Place' are not forgotten and that the CSP is a key partner in seeking to address the needs of communities, looking at them as a whole.

- Legacy issues of Covid: There are still ramifications of Covid that need to be considered, particularly in relation to Young People and development points having been missed which fuels other key aspects e.g. jobs/skills/offending/mental health/resitting of exams/behaviour within school-maturity levels. There is a need to understand these concerns and how we can collectively start to address them.
- Health Inequalities: Addressing health inequalities and socioeconomic disparities, such as the high prevalence of NEETs and low skills base, is a critical strategic driver for the Swale CSP. These factors are often the root causes of vulnerability and therefore integrating the work of Public Health and existing programmes into this strategy, the CSP can support with preventative interventions.

4. Priorities for 2026/27

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 2026/27 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.



Summary of Swale CSP Priorities

Priority – Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

Summary of issue: The number of Domestic Abuse Incidents reported to Kent Police in the reporting period has increased, with the number of high-risk victims also increasing. The demand to local support services continues to be challenging, with many currently operating at full capacity and going through more regular periods of being unable to accept new referrals.

The overall analysis of Domestic Abuse across Swale reveals continued high volumes of victims, with increasing complexity and expanding diversity. There continues to be good partnership working to support victims of domestic abuse and address their needs; however financial challenges continue to be a risk.

Reports of VAWG continue to remain high in Swale, with a continuing need for a strengthened focus on this area, including education for men/boys through the White Ribbon Campaign and support to tackle locations of concern for the community. The partnership will continue to support Kent Police in the delivery of regular VAWG surgeries across the Borough.

There is a need for the partnership to explore the emerging issues identified, including financial challenges as capacity levels.

Priority actions for 2026/27:

- Understand risk to services in relation to funding and capacity.
- Ongoing sharing of details on local services and referral routes, including perpetrator programmes.
- Enhanced training for partners
- Ongoing support to Kent Police VAWG Strategy
- Delivery of Partnership DA Conference

Priority – Crime and Serious Violence

Summary of issue: During the reporting period, there has been an overall reduction in All Crime reported in Swale. However, Violent Crime has seen an increase which places Swale 3rd highest district in Kent.

It is essential for the to continue monitoring all crime types, focusing on current funding such as GRIP hotspots and the impact if this doesn't continue throughout 2026/27.

The Serious Violence Duty remains in place, making it essential that the Swale CSP continue to focus on Crime and Serious Violence, ensuring representation on the SVPP.

Priority action for 2026/27:

- Support delivery of Kent Serious Violence Strategy and ensure localised delivery
- Continue to monitor localised crime trends and support response as needed, with a partnership focus on Town Centres and engagement with young people.

Priority – Anti-Social Behaviour

Summary of issue: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) reported to Kent Police has seen an increase in the reporting period and remains a priority for Kent Police and the Partnership due to the importance to the community. Incidents within the town centres remain a concern and will continue to be a focus in 2026/27.

2025/26 has continued to see challenges related to young people and the need for diversionary activities. This pressure is only expected to increase in 2026/27 progresses due to funding concerns.

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.

Priority action for 2026/27:

- Continue to support high risk ASB victims and tackle perpetrators
- Continue to tackle location based problems included focus on town centres
- Ongoing focus to youth related ASB and need for diversionary activities.

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, with increased work taking place with the Voluntary and Community Sector in supporting those affected by the cost of living crisis, which continues to impact residents as well as individual agencies. A partnership response to this continues to be a priority, with a specific focus needed on impacts to young people.

The Complex Needs Project has received further funding to continue operating in 2026/27. This will fund a dedicated officer to work intensively with entrenched drinkers with complex needs, to engage, support and advocate for them where necessary

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.

Through the work with the Medway and Swale Health and Care Partnership, the CSP are required to ensure linkage with district and county programmes such as Marmot.

Priority action for 2026/27

- Continuation of Cost-of-Living work to support those most vulnerable in the community

- Continue to raise awareness of Prevent agenda and ensure appropriate training is in place
- Ongoing link with existing programmes that focus on tackling Health Inequalities.

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.

Cross Cutting Theme – Communication and Training

Summary of theme: There is an ongoing need for clear communication across all agencies and appropriate information sharing to enable effective partnership work. During previous years, this has included sharing of information in relation to national campaigns, such as the 16 days of action against domestic abuse; Sittingbourne town centre and ASB; and cost of living work.

Communication needs to remain between partners to promote services that are available across all partnerships, along with risks and the ongoing collaboration for resources. There is also a need to consider any underreporting of crimes/issues due to digital isolation or apathy of services.

Cross Cutting Theme – Young People

Summary of Theme: It is recommended to keep the young person cross cutting theme for 2026/27 as a result of young people and their needs continuing to be identified as an area of concern across all priorities.

There is a need to prevent young people engaging with crime/violence/ASB and continuing to understand the impact of the loss of services seen during 2024/25 on their needs.

Cross Cutting Theme – Funding Risk and Impact

Summary of Theme: It is recommended to keep funding impacts as a cross cutting theme that was introduced in 2025/26 due to the high risk of loss of funding for services which are predominately preventative across all priority areas.

Cross Cutting Theme – Community Tensions

Summary of Theme: It is recommended to introduce Community Tensions as a cross cutting theme for 2026/27. This has been an emerging issue that was seen over 2025/26, having an increasing impact within the borough. It has a number of ramifications across all existing priorities with a need for a partnership approach to tackling.

5. Action Plan 2026/27

No.	Action	Desired Outcome	Key Milestones	Timescales	Lead agency
Priority 1: Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls					
1.1	Promotion of services available to both professionals and the community	Professionals aware of services available; community aware of how to seek help	Quarterly refresh of mapping of services Annual 'meet the professional' event to promote services available in Swale Monitor capacity levels for local support services in Swale	Quarterly December 26	Domestic Abuse Group
1.2	Enhanced training focusing on specialist areas	Increased understanding by professionals of specialist areas relating to DA	Training shared with wider set of partners around recognising domestic abuse and referral routes. Delivery of enhanced training dependant on need identified	Ongoing Autumn 26	Domestic Abuse Group
1.3	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. Ongoing support of 'Sanctuary' provision including CYBER Support ongoing review of MARAC process Engage in process of recommissioning of KIDAS contract	Ongoing	Domestic Abuse Group

1.4	Delivery of key actions to tackle VAWG	Increased awareness of VAWG within the community	<p>Continued delivery of White Ribbon Campaign</p> <p>Promotion of services within schools focusing on healthy relationships and education including through secondary schools roadshows</p> <p>Support 16 days of actions against VAWG</p> <p>Review locations highlighted of concern and any actions to address safety concerns, applying a problem solving approach to tackle</p> <p>Ongoing support to Street pastors</p> <p>Continued support to delivery of VAWG strategy, including targeted work and VAWG Surgeries.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>November 26</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Domestic Abuse Group</p> <p>Kent Police</p>
Priority 2: Crime and Serious Violence					
2.1	Work with Kent-wide partners to continue response to Serious Violence	CSP meets its new duties under the Serious Violence Duty; serious violence is reduced in borough	<p>Deliver response to localised violence hotspots</p> <p>VRU/CCPT led response to young people/locations of concern</p>	Ongoing	
2.2	Continue to monitor and respond to localised crime trends and support response as needed	Reduction in acquisitive crime types	Monthly monitoring of youth crime/violence through the District Adolescent Contextual Safeguarding Group	Ongoing	

			<p>Safer Plans in place to address any peaks/trends in crime types</p> <p>Delivery of crime reduction equipment project</p>		
Priority 3: ASB					
3.1	Continue joint response to tackle ASB through the Community Safety Unit	Reduction in ASB	<p>Response to support high risk victims of ASB</p> <p>Delivery of products to increase feelings of safety/evidence capture to victims</p> <p>Ensure partnership response to high harm locations</p>	Ongoing	CSU
3.2	Delivery of dedicated operations and campaigns, tackling location based problems as required	Reduction in ASB	<p>Safer Leysdown</p> <p>Thematic Safer Campaigns</p> <p>Vacant/Derelict Building Response as required</p> <p>Review of PSPOS</p>	Quarterly	CSU Kent Police
Priority 4: Supporting Vulnerable People					
4.1	Continuation of complex needs project	Increased engagement with services by identified cohort	Continuation on complex needs project to end March 27	Ongoing	Swale BC
4.2	Prevent Training and Awareness	Increased awareness of Prevent	<p>Delivery of CSP Preventing Extremism Session</p> <p>Delivery of Member Prevent Training</p>	All by March 27	Swale BC/KCC
4.3	Continuation of Cost of Living work through the Community and Partnerships Team, ensuring linkage with to	Reduced impact of COL to vulnerable	Delivery of Crisis Resilience Fund (replacement of Household Support Fund)	Ongoing	Swale BC

	impacts on Community Safety and young people	residents, including young people	Delivery of partnership group Delivery of specific projects to promote support available for COL		
4.4	Engagement with projects focused on health inequalities	Increased support and engagement in place to address needs of those that are most vulnerable	Consider next steps in preventative work and ensuring no one 'falls through the gaps' Linking with Health related projects as necessary	Ongoing	Swale BC/Public Health
4.6	Continued support of Street Pastors in Sittingbourne	Increased uniformed presence within Sittingbourne high street in NTE or other periods	Support Street Pastors to engage with partners and increase volunteer numbers	Ongoing	Executive
Cross Cutting Theme 1: Reducing Reoffending					
Other training and communication actions are identified within individual priority sections.					
5.1	Promotion of DA Perpetrator programmes	Ensure partners are aware of scheme available	Promotion and awareness raising of existing schemes	Ongoing	DA Group
Cross Cutting Theme 2: Communication and Training					
Other training and communication actions are identified within individual priority sections.					
6.1	Promotion to public of reporting mechanisms	To promote reporting mechanisms and increase confidence in reporting to address concerns around underreporting	Promotion of services such as Kent Police 101 and My Community Voice	Ongoing	CSU
6.2	Promotion of Community Safety Partnership and associated projects	To promote role of CSP and raise awareness of projects managed	Promotion of CSP to public Increased awareness of projects managed by CSP	Ongoing	CSU

Cross Cutting Theme 3: Young People					
Other actions relating to the Young People Cross Cutting Theme are identified within individual priority sections.					
7.1	Ongoing focus on monitoring and responding to implications of youth service cuts and subsequent increase in youth related ASB	Minimising impact of youth service cuts and ensuring adequate provision for young people	Joint response to emerging issues/gaps and consider funding available for project delivery	Ongoing	Executive
7.2	Delivery of community safety inputs in primary/secondary schools	Young people better aware of different types of risks and able to make safer decisions	Delivery of Safety In Action Secondary School Roadshows delivered	TBC October 26	Police/SBC - CSU
Cross Cutting Theme 4: Funding Impact					
8.2	Review loss of any funding streams on local services	Consider impact of loss of funding streams on services and complete any mitigating actions if possible	Regular Executive item around funding changes/consultations	Ongoing	Executive Group
8.3	Respond to any appropriate consultations on services changes that may impact local Swale communities		Completion of any evaluation/impact studies as needed Completion of any funding bids as needed		Executive Group
Cross Cutting Theme 5: Community Tensions					
9.1	Monitoring of community tensions across Swale	Understand impact of community tensions and develop actions to assist	Regular Executive item around community tensions Explore options for research piece to be undertaken to better understand impact	Ongoing	Executive Group
9.2	Delivery of training and support for community stakeholders including Members, VCSE etc	Management of misinformation amongst partners and communities	Delivery of training to Community Stakeholders	Ongoing	Executive Group

9.3	Delivery of targeted projects to mitigate community tensions across the Borough	Increased support and engagement in place to address needs of those that are most vulnerable	Explore options for project ideas	Ongoing	Executive Group
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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.

Meeting Group	Key Functions
Executive Group	Thematic strategic discussions of key issues within CSP Plan Strategic updates from all statutory partners Oversight of all subgroups Performance Monitoring Funding Monitoring
Sub-Groups	
Domestic Abuse Group	Mapping of key issues and development of solutions Support delivery of Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy and Local Action Plan Sharing of learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) Coordination of any training/communication
Vulnerability Panel	Monthly meetings to discuss vulnerable adults at risk of crime/ASB; self-neglect; or non-engagement with services. Identification of key trends or themes affecting this cohort
District Adolescent Contextual Safeguarding Meeting	Monthly meeting to discuss individuals and locations of concern in relation to young people. Lead on actions to tackle identified locations of concern.
Weekly Tasking and Coordination Group	Weekly meeting to discuss ASB victims/offenders; and key locations of concern.
Staffing Resource	
Community Safety Unit	Support to High risk ASB victims ASB Enforcement Coordination of ASB Case Reviews

	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.

- Budgets/grant loss: Across the partnership, there are ongoing limitations to funding availability and reduced budgets that continue to present a threat/risk to the work of the CSP during the upcoming year and to have a real impact in local families/communities. The Ministry of Justice reduced the core victim services grant received by Police & Crime Commissioners by 4.2% for 25/26, however the victim services/organisations in receipt of the Crime Reduction Grant continued to receive the same funding levels as 24/25. It has been confirmed that this is not sustainable for future funding years and we are awaiting a decision on what the CRG to CSPs will look like for 2026/27.
- PCC Abolishment: The Government announced in November 2028 the replacement of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) with responsibilities transferred to either an elected mayor or to a Police and Crime Board.
- Cost of Living: Swale communities continue to feel the impact of cost of living, with the Swale COL partnership group still in place to seek to address some of these issues. Nationally it is estimated 9.3 million people facing hunger and hardship in the UK with use of food banks at historically high levels; and the numbers of people on Universal Credit in Kent and Medway (Sep '25) increased by 14.8% since previous year.
- Local government reform/devolution: The Government has committed to introducing the English Devolution Bill in the first session putting the Devolution Framework into statute. English Devolution plans includes the development of new Strategic Authorities and local government reorganisation involving replacing all 'two-tier' county and district councils with single tier 'unitary' authorities. This process will likely

have an impact on community safety responses by Councils, but in the medium to longer term whilst reorganisation takes place.

- Place: It is important, in light of the above, that the needs of 'Swale as a Place' are not forgotten and that the CSP is a key partner in seeking to address the needs of communities, looking at them as a whole.
- Legacy issues of Covid: There are still ramifications of Covid that need to be considered, particularly in relation to Young People and development points having been missed which fuels other key aspects e.g. jobs/skills/offending/mental health/resitting of exams/behaviour within school-maturity levels. There is a need to understand these concerns and how we can collectively start to address them.
- Community Tensions: There has been an increase in community tensions across the borough, as has been seen nationally, specifically linked to concerns around immigration. There have been a number of protests and counter protests within the Faversham area, with concerns principally focused around the UASC centre. SBC are undertaking work with staff to review the reporting of CT related concerns which has included a briefing note for Staff and Members of concerns to look out for. Also linking in with KCC/MHCLG for any suggestions of wider community based work.
- Anti Immigration: There is sector wide concern over the increasing anti-immigration narrative that cites immigration as widely linked to VAWG. DA specialists wrote to the KCC leader to highlight their concerns.
- Non-Molestation Orders: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) confirmed that, from 15 September 2025, whenever a non-molestation order is made in any family court in England and Wales, details of that order will be automatically notified to the police. There is an automated process for the courts to pass information about the non-molestation orders to ACRO Criminal Record Office. ACRO staff will update the Police National Computer (PNC). Forces are then automatically notified so further analysis can take place locally and additional safeguarding measures can be implemented where necessary. This can include, for example, conducting checks against information they already hold on their systems, identifying high risk cases and considering whether any action is appropriate, such as safety plans for victims.
- The recently published white paper 'From local to national: a new model for policing' sets out comprehensive reforms to policing in England and Wales to enable policing to better deliver for the public.
- In December 2025, the UK government launched a National Plan to End Homelessness, which includes a long term strategy and specific commitments designed to ensure that people do not leave public sector institutions (such as prisons, hospitals and care settings) and become homeless.
- SBC are working closely on the delivery of the Marmot Programme and there are various links to the Community Safety Partnership agenda and subsequent priorities.
- The abolition of Section 21 'no-fault' evictions, set to take effect under the Renters' Rights Act (with major changes starting 1 May 2026) has been designed to increase tenant security, however has raised significant concerns among landlords and housing experts regarding a potential increase in, and difficulty in managing ASB.