

**Agenda Item No:** 4  
**Report To:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee



**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**Report Title:** Ashford Community Safety Partnership: an update on the Community Safety Partnership activity in the Borough

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**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Bradford – Portfolio Responsibility for Highways, Wellbeing and Safety

**Summary:** The Community Safety Partnership works to make the Borough a safer place to live and work, and to reduce crime and disorder. Members are presented with the latest strategic assessment information that informs our priorities for the next years. The work carried out by partners during 2016/17 is also presented.

Members are invited to ask questions about any aspect of the Community Safety Partnership.

**Key Decision:** No

**Affected Wards:** The Ashford Community Safety Partnership covers the whole Borough.

**Recommendations:** The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the information contained within this report.

**Policy Overview:** The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is designated as the committee responsible for Crime and Disorder under the Police Justice Act 2006.

**Financial Implications:** The Community Safety Partnership is provided with a grant by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**Risk Assessment** Not applicable.

**Background Papers:** Community Safety Partnership strategic assessment for 2016/17 (attached).

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## **Agenda Item No. 4**

**Report Title: Ashford Community Safety Partnership: an update on the Community Safety Partnership activity in the Borough**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is designated as the committee responsible for crime and disorder under the Police Justice Act 2006. Annually the Committee reviews various aspects of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
2. Community safety partnerships are statutory crime and disorder reduction partnerships, enabling responsible authorities to develop and deliver local strategies to reduce crime and disorder. The responsible authorities work with 'cooperating bodies' to achieve their objectives.
3. In April 2016 the responsible authorities for the Borough of Ashford were Kent Police, Ashford Borough Council (ABC), Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS), Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company/National Probation Service (formerly known as Kent Probation), Kent County Council (KCC) and the Ashford Clinical Commissioning Group. These authorities work together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour that affects our communities. They each have a statutory duty to come together and work with other groups, organisations and agencies to prevent crime and disorder. Other partners include the Ashford Domestic Abuse Forum, Addaction (formerly KCA), Moat Housing, Turning Point, Immigration & Border Control, NHS and Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Services.
4. Community safety partnerships have a responsibility to convene a strategy group of all responsible authorities (although it can invite other organisations), prepare a strategic assessment of local crime and community safety priorities using information provided by partner agencies and the community, and produce an action plan to meet those priorities.
5. The Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 requires responsible authorities to show that their CSP offers value for money.
6. Overview and scrutiny enables councils to hold responsible authorities to account for local action and local public spending. Sections 19-21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced community safety scrutiny.
7. The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to review, scrutinise and make reports or recommendations to the responsible authorities of the CSP.

### **Background**

8. Ashford's Community Safety Partnership completes an annual strategic assessment that refreshes the priorities and planned activities to provide the knowledge and understanding of community safety problems to the members of the CSP (Appendix A).

9. In 2016, the CSP analysed the information presented to them from their partners, and also comments received through consultation, and agreed the following priorities:
  - Road Safety
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Child Sexual Exploitation
  - Prevent
  - Serious and Organised Crime/Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
10. For each priority a detailed delivery plan was established enabling the CSP to continue the good work undertaken in previous years. Highlights include the continued road safety awareness, the One Stop Shop which has continued to be a vital point of contact and advice for the victims of domestic abuse, awareness raising of child sexual exploitation and Prevent training which continues to raise awareness of radicalisation. Each priority has a lead agency tasked with developing and delivering the tactical delivery plans and providing updates on a quarterly basis to the CSP.
11. The Community Safety Unit (CSU) is the operational element of the Community Safety Partnership, which comprises many organisations including: Ashford Borough Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Services and Kent County Council. The CSU has the single aim of make the Borough a safer place to live, work and follow leisure pursuits whilst also promoting the local economy.

#### **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

12. The election of a new Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott, in May 2016 has seen the production of a Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan and the PCC expects these priorities to be reflected in our local delivery plan. These are:
  - Fight crime, anti-social behaviour and reduce re-offending
  - Tackle abuse, exploitation, violence, organised crime and gangs
  - Invest in schemes that make communities feel safer and support the engagement of residents
  - Support initiatives that reduce pressure on policing due to mental health
  - Support victims of crime and abuse
  - Invest in schemes that make offenders pay for the harm they have caused

#### **Kent Community Safety Team (KCST)**

13. In September 2015 a co-located Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) based at Maidstone Fire Station was established, comprising staff from Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and Kent County Council. The concept of a joint team was developed in conjunction with both county and district partners with the aim to deliver community safety work in a collaborative way, giving increased value for money for all three partners.
14. Some of the areas identified for joint working include the county community safety agreement, youth education programmes, domestic homicide reviews, community safety campaigns, workshops/conferences, and partnership support

at district and county level.

15. The KCST is now well established and continues to work collaboratively towards joint activities and initiatives, recently these have included the annual Community Safety Conference 'Drugs – addiction, treatment and the journey ahead in Kent and Medway' and ASB workshops focussing on the new tools and powers. KCST will also be delivering more e-safety workshops in 2017 for partners and continue to support the strategic assessment process across the county. In addition other partners have started to utilise the co-located premises encouraging further collaboration.
16. Ashford's CSP work closely with the KCST and the Chair of the CSP attends the Kent Community Safety Partnership meetings.

## Review of performance

### Road Safety (Lead Agency – Ashford Borough Council)

17. The information provided in this section is provided by Local Authority and Highway England Roads. Overall the number of people killed or seriously injured on Kent's roads fell by 4% last year, in comparison to a 3% fall nationally. Crash statistics for 2015 show the 12-month total of fatal and serious road casualties in the county was 632. Significantly, the long-term trend in these figures shows a continued fall with the 2015 figure now standing at 14% below the 2004-2008 average.
18. Although the total number of people killed and seriously injured (KSI) on roads in Kent and Medway decreased overall in 2015 compared to the previous year, the number of 17-24 year-old KSIs increased.
19. Below is a summary of 2015 data for the Borough of Ashford.

### 20. Crashes – All Ages

	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total	KSI <sup>1</sup>
2014 (Ashford)	6	58	288	352	64
2015 (Ashford)	5	48	288	341	53
% Change	-17%	-17%	0%	-3%	-17%
2015					
Canterbury	7	42	322	371	49
Dover	3	29	216	248	32
Shepway	4	38	242	284	42
Maidstone	5	42	396	442	47

21. To put in context the figures for 2015, these are the figures with have for

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<sup>1</sup> Killed or seriously injured

January – March 2016.

	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total	KSI
2016 (Ashford)	0	13	71	84	13

## 22. Casualties – All Ages

	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total	KSI
2014 (Ashford)	6	67	419	492	73
2015 (Ashford)	5	55	439	499	60
% Change	-17%	-18%	5%	1%	-4%
2015					
Canterbury	8	49	453	510	57
Dover	3	34	294	331	37
Shepway	6	39	336	381	45
Maidstone	5	45	585	634	50

23. To put in context the figures for 2015, these are the figures with have for January – March 2016.

	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total	KSI
2016 (Ashford)	0	13	92	105	13

24. While the total number of casualties increased slightly in 2015 compared to 2014, the increase was in the least serious collisions with the instances of both fatal and serious casualties dropping. However the Borough still has the 3rd highest KSI figures for collisions and casualties within the county.

25. During 2016, Civil Enforcement Officers from Ashford Borough Council have visited five primary schools to educate and inform the children about road safety. In the first quarter of 2017, a further two schools and four Scout and Beaver groups will also be visited to further promote road safety awareness.

26. A Department of Transport statistical release of November 2016 indicates that there has been a statistically significant increase in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents between the years ending June 2015 and 2016. This indicates that there are a number of factors that have combined together to worsen some aspects of safety on Britain's roads. However, it is not definitive evidence of a continued worsening in road safety. They also indicate that although the number of people killed in road traffic accidents has increased between years, this change is small enough that it can be explained by the natural variation in deaths over time. Therefore there is not yet enough evidence to say that the number of fatalities is changing between years.

27. While the 2016 data for Kent is not yet available, further information is provided

within KCC's Road Casualties Annual Report which can be found at:  
[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/44997/Road-casualties-2015-introduction.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/44997/Road-casualties-2015-introduction.pdf)

28. Members are able to find out more about road risk in the Borough and individual neighbourhoods by accessing CrashMap at <http://www.crashmap.co.uk>. This enables searches by area, allows filtering by the year in which accidents took place and provides precise data on which the incident occurred.
29. Other work undertaken by the CSP to reduce Road Safety includes:
- Promotion of young drivers course to years 12 and 13
  - Sent letters twice to secondary schools offering support for transport to KFRS' Road Safety Experience
  - Promoted the bicycle ability training sessions to year 7 and adults and run a bike maintenance event on Victoria Park
  - Held child seat safety roadshow at a local supermarket
  - Run a restorative justice road safety event
  - Identification of cluster sites on A28 and prioritising for treatment, especially those posing greatest risk to vulnerable road users
  - Day of Action event held incorporating parking issues
  - Kent Police launch their Operation Eye to target problem parking at schools

### Environmental Crime

30. A significant range of environmental issues that the council could address. These include:
- Trade waste investigations (removal of trade waste from public areas)
  - Waste receptacle offences
  - Duty of care – documentation for waste transfer and escapes from commercial premises
  - Alleyway dumping – more detailed fly tipping investigations
  - Carrying out restricted works on a vehicle on a road
  - Graffiti (investigations not just removal)
  - Flyposting (currently reported to planning)
  - Public Spaces Protection Order enforcement
  - Community Protection Notice equivalents to litter abatement, litter clearing, and street litter control notices
31. Currently there are insufficient resources to adequately tackle these issues. A report is being submitted to the next Enforcement and Compliance Board on enforcement resources for consideration.

### **Domestic Abuse (Lead Agency – Ashford Domestic Abuse Forum)**

32. Kent have a network of One Stop Shops, offering free advice, information and support from a range of agencies under one roof to help victims of domestic

abuse.

33. Typically each One Stop Shop (OSS) is open for 2-3 hours, once a week, with no appointment is necessary. Members of the public seeking assistance can just turn up to speak to the professionals in attendance. Ashford's OSS has an excellent reputation across the county and strong partner links.
34. At a time when resources are reduced and there are added pressures and caseloads, it is important victims of domestic abuse, regardless of their risk level can access face to face support and advice. The table below illustrates the rise in visitors to the Ashford OSS year-on-year. The data relates to the period 1 October to 30 September each year.

No of visitors 2011/12	No of visitors 2012/2013	No of visitors 2013/14	No of visitors 2014/15	No of visitors 2015/16
169	239	239	316	386

35. Ashford has one of the busiest OSS in the county. The following table indicates the number of people attending the OSS in comparison to other areas in Kent (note data relates to July to June).

Location	No of visitors 2014/15 (July 2014 to June 2015)	No of visitors 2015/16 (July 2015 to June 2016)	% increase/ decrease in visitors (compared to previous year)	Visitors per 10,000 LA population (based on KCC 2016 projection data)
<b>Ashford</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>28.2</b>
Canterbury	253	328	29.6	31.6
Dover	86	188	118.6	16.4
Shepway	183	260	42.1	23.5
Maidstone	156	222	42.3	13.4
Dartford	116	138	19.0	13.0
Gravesend	134	135	0.7	12.7
Herne Bay	147	163	10.9	31.1
Medway	508	638	25.6	22.9
Sheerness	14	167	n/a	26.2
Sittingbourne	200	208	4.0	26.2
Sevenoaks	16	13	-18.8	1.1
Thanet	223	281	26.0	20.0
Tonbridge	55	70	27.3	5.5

36. When comparing visitor numbers by local authority population data, the One Stop Shop in Ashford has the second highest proportion of visitors per 10,000 population in the county.
37. The lead for this priority area is the Ashford Domestic Abuse Forum (ADAF), a local charity that oversees Ashford's One Stop Shop, as well as other key

projects.

38. A comprehensive summary of the work undertaken on tackling domestic abuse was presented to the Cabinet on the 25th January 2017. A link to the copy of this report is available at <https://secure.ashford.gov.uk/committeesystem/ViewAgenda.aspx?MeetingId=3092>
39. The Cabinet agreed the following recommendations:
- Noted the work of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and Domestic Abuse Coordinator
  - Endorsed the work of partners in tackling domestic abuse
  - Supported the partnership approach in working with domestic abuse charities and neighbouring local authorities to apply for additional resources to tackle domestic abuse
  - Agreed to the continued funding for domestic abuse work in the borough and the made permanent the post of Domestic Abuse Coordinator
40. Members also agreed a further tabled recommendation that a letter of support will be sent from the Council to the Chair of the Forum you for all her hard work, dedication and achievements.
41. Ashford's main support programme is the Freedom Programme which over 12 week provides information and support to help victims of domestic abuse recognise the impact of domestic abuse on them and their children's lives, understand the behaviour they are/were exposed to and also to understand warning signs in possible future relationships.
42. In 2015 the Recovery Toolkit was developed as a complimentary programme for victims of domestic abuse. It was designed to prove a follow up to the Freedom Programme and was introduced as a direct response to feedback from those who had attended the Freedom Programme. Over 90% of those who sign up to the programme attend, and this is a usually high attendance rate. It is hoped to continue offering this each academic term to run alongside the Freedom Programme. A letter of support from a client that completed the Recovery Toolkit is provided in Appendix B.
43. Domestic abuse support services on a county basis have been funded through a mixture of commissioned services, grant funding and charitable funds. The landscape of service provision varies across the county with different levels of support available in different areas of Kent.
44. The three largest services currently commissioned by KCC are Women's Refuges, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and Floating Support (including refuges). These contracts were due to come to an end in 2016. The IDVA service is additionally funded by partners, with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner holding the contract.
45. KCC are integrating these existing services into a single service, being delivered by service providers. They will then subcontract some elements in order to improve client journeys and provide clarity on where to go for support. The aim of the integration is to ensure consistency of support available

wherever a client is living and the proposal includes the introduction of a central referral process to ensure those accessing the service can be referred appropriately at their first contact.

46. The Council has contributed to provide an Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor to provide practical and emotional support to the high risk victim of domestic abuse in the Borough. Officers will continue to work with the new service to ensure a seamless transition and continue the coordinated approach and joined up partnership working which has continued in Ashford for many years.
47. Work undertaken by the CSP to reduce Domestic Abuse included:
  - Devised and released an app based awareness tool for secondary school pupils
  - Delivered training to services who wished to further their knowledge, including Moat Housing, KCC's Early Help and Preventative Services staff, ABC housing managers, etc.
  - Coordinated and delivered 6 Freedom programmes and 3 Recovery Toolkit programmes
  - Promoted the work of the Kent Sexual Assault Referral Centre
  - Undertaken training to deliver a perpetrator programme
  - Recruited new members to the OSS
  - Engaged with KCC's commissioning team for the new IDVA/refuge contract
  - Submitted a grant bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government for £100,000 for refuge funding to provide additional refuge facilities for hard to reach communities

### **Child Sexual Exploitation (Lead agency – KCC Specialist Children Services)**

48. There are a number of definitions of child sexual exploitation (CSE). The definition adopted by Her Majesty's Government is:

*Exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive "something" (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.*

49. The CSE working group has raised awareness by running a variety of awareness training sessions and disseminated leaflets and posters to educational establishments and youth providers.
50. Other actions taken by partners includes:
  - A new work shop on "healthy relationships" which was delivered to 1200 year 6 pupils at the Safety in Action event. Posters were then distributed to primary schools
  - A presentation was made to head teachers to raise awareness and a representative of the street pastors attended the working group

- Two workshops were held to raise awareness about CSE amongst approximately 30 professionals working with children
- Posters and leaflets were distributed to a large number of venues across the district (hotels, taxi firms, pubs, voluntary organisations, statutory agencies, GP surgeries, pharmacies etc.)
- Access was provided to staff in secondary schools to train school based staff and to run awareness raising sessions
- 60 taxi drivers were trained by a police trainer on child sexual exploitation awareness and how to spot and report concerns, with good feedback from drivers and press coverage on local television news.
- Arranged for British Transport Police to have training on child sexual exploitation awareness and how to spot and report concerns

## Prevent

51. The Prevent strategy is part of the UK Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) published by the Government in 2011. The purpose is to help reduce the threat from terrorism and extremism and to have a reporting mechanism for sharing concerns.

52. Prevent has three main objectives to:

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism
- support vulnerable people and prevent people from being drawn into terrorism
- work with key sectors and institutions and address risks

53. It focuses on early intervention before any illegal activity takes place.

54. The Ashford Prevent action plan has focussed on forming a multi-agency working group to deliver the plan and raise awareness of the subject within a variety of agencies. Awareness training has been completed as follows:

- 95% of Ashford Borough Council staff have completed on line e-learning training
- 116 staff members have been trained in Level 2 safeguarding
- Lead safeguarding officer for Prevent has held three multi-agency Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) events for Kent Safeguarding Children's Board, training approximately 125 people.
- WRAP sessions have also been provided to front line staff and Members of Ashford Borough Council

In addition the following has been undertaken during the year:

- Ensured safeguarding boards receive updates on Prevent delivery and aware of risk issues for children and vulnerable adults
- Supported Kent Police to deliver risk assessment process and ensure partners are fully sighted on key risk issues
- Raised awareness of extremist/terrorist groups who target vulnerable people to radicalise them and incite criminal activity

- Engaged the mental health team for Channel cases where there is a mental health issues involved

55. Three prevent referrals into the Channel process have been made by Ashford Borough Council is 3 within the last 12 months.

### **Serious and Organised Crime/Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery**

56. As a partnership in 2016 a new sub-group for organised crime/human trafficking and modern slavery was established due to these newly recognised risks and related Government recommendations.
57. The first meeting of the sub-group took place in November 2016 where terms of reference and action plans were agreed. The most recent activity has included awareness training across all strands of the CSP and several separate days of action where local businesses and vulnerable locations have been identified and visited.
58. Individuals that are involved in organised crime live, work and socialise in the local communities we serve. Every opportunity has been taken to identify these groups and disrupt their activity before they can do further harm. At a local level we will work with our partner agencies to disrupt the individuals.
59. A clear audit trail and record-keeping process has been created and monitored for all alerts and/or referrals and the existing information sharing protocol between partner agencies has been reviewed to support the sharing of information relating to modern slavery and human trafficking cases.
60. The action plan for this priority will be carried over to 2017/18.

### **Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)**

61. While ASB is not one of the identified priorities for 2016/17, a considerable amount of work continues to be undertaken to tackling ASB as it arises in the borough.

<b>Area</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>Diff. in no.</b>	<b>Dif. In %</b>
Ashford	3,191	1,850	1,250	1,706	+456	+36
Kent	44,210	40,540	49646	47066	2580	-5.4

62. The data provided (source police.uk) above shows the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to Kent Police for the Borough of Ashford
63. This data shows a significant increase of 456 reported incidents of ASB over the past 12 months. The three main categories of ASB which account for 86% of the recorded ASB are drunken behaviour, neighbourhood noise and rowdy gatherings.

## Ward based ASB

64. The following table shows the five highest wards for ASB within the Borough of Ashford:

Ward	2014/15	2015/16	Diff. in no.	Dif. In %
ZC11 - Victoria	191	298	107	56%
ZC17 - Stanhope	147	182	35	24%
ZC18 - Beaver	94	159	65	69%
ZC13 - Singleton	26	86	60	481%
ZC33 - Aylesford Green	57	75	18	32%

65. This shows that there has been an increase in the above wards and in response there have been several task and finish groups looking into the complex issues surrounding these wards. A day of action was organised to target the specific issues of fly tipping, concerns regarding groups of males congregating in Beaver Road and issues surrounding a scrap metal merchant. In addition there have been high visibility patrols in anti-social behaviour hotspots within Ashford such as the town centre, Bockhanger and Victoria Park. Although much has been done to target and resolve many of the complex and difficult issues, there is still clearly more that needs to be done.

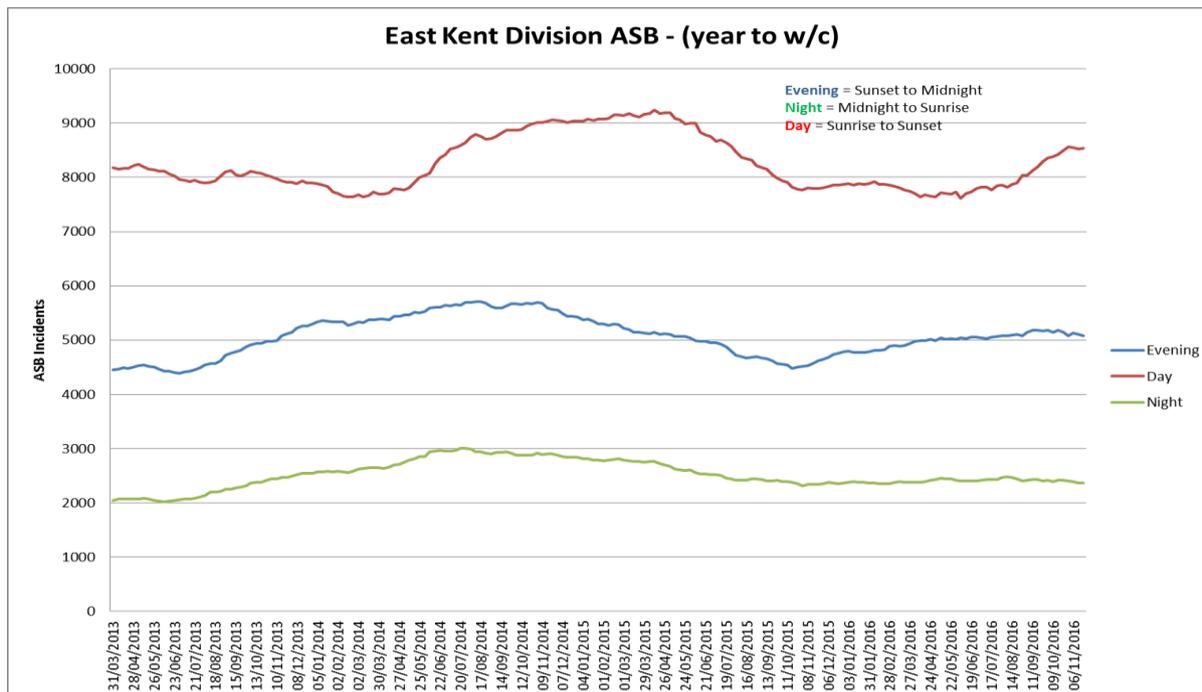
66. The past year has involved the planning and consultation of four Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). The Gating order for the Coney Bear site (near Torrington Road) has been implemented. The Order for Singleton Lake focuses on behaviour of the anglers and general ASB of people using the lake and this will be implemented by the end of February 2017. The remaining two Orders for the Ashford urban area, which focuses on general ASB including alcohol related nuisance and nuisance motor vehicles, and the Gating Order for the Churchyard Passage will be implemented in March 2017.

## Impact of KCC lighting switch off & patterns relating to alleyways

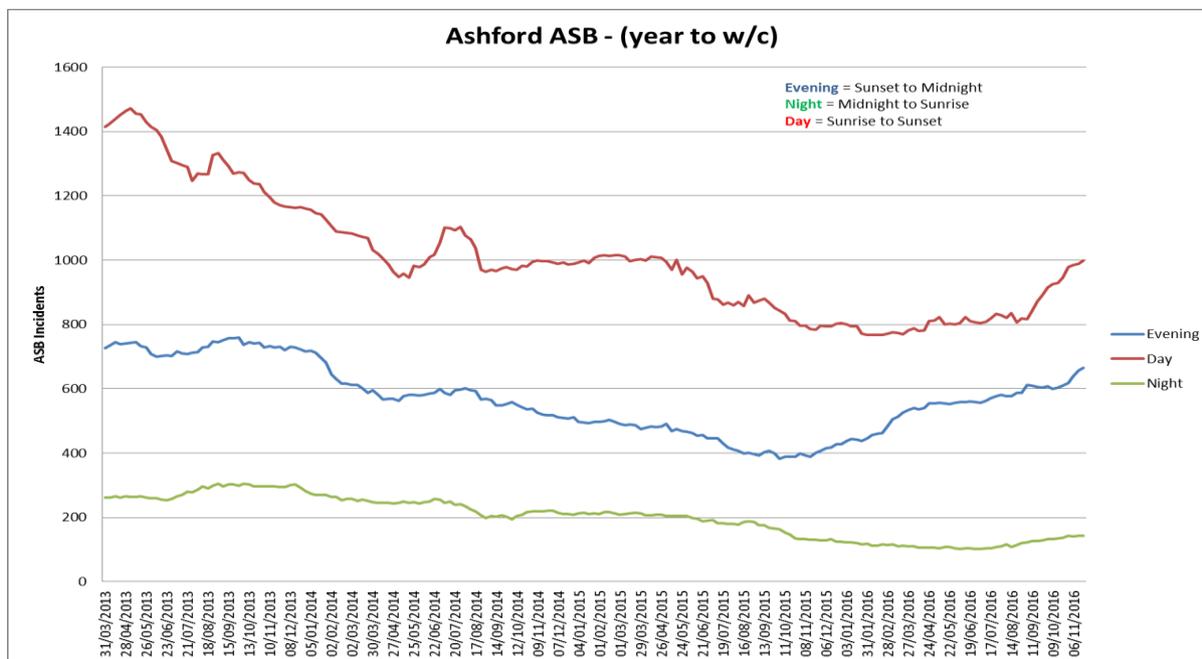
67. Officers were asked to report on any impact relating to the county's decision to switch off some street lights at midnight and to see if there was any specific information relating to alleyways. Street lighting in the borough was switched off in the Borough in autumn 2014, although it was phased in from December 2013.

- The following graphs are of rolling year ASB to the date shown
- These provide trends in ASB without seasonality
- They are split into day/evening and night
- Night is midnight to sunrise. This is the period most affected by lighting changes made by KCC (i.e. in some locations lighting during this period was reduced)
- Evening – sunset to midnight. Unaffected by lighting changes.
- Day – sunrise to sunset.

68. The first graph indicates the pattern of reported ASB for the East Kent police division (Canterbury, Thanet, Dover, Shepway and Ashford). Reported ASB in the night time period for the division increased from June 2013 to June 2014, but then started decreasing.



69. In the Borough ASB in the night time period remained constant throughout the first year of the street light switching off and has decreased steadily since summer 2015.



70. Members will note the increase in ASB in the evening since December 2016 and in the daytime since September 2016. New initiatives are being implemented to tackle this increase and any incident of ASB is likely to be deeply distressing to the victims. It is worth noting that the reported number of ASB in the borough remains the lowest in the East Kent division and in the

county.

71. Kent Police were asked to identify if there was any increase in ASB related to alleyways. Whilst the police do not have a category specifically related to alleyways, their analysts have reviewed the data and have found no increase related to alleyway locations.

## **Financial Performance**

72. The Police and Crime Commissioner provided a grant of £28,858 in two instalments for CSP work that aligns with the Kent Police and Crime Plan.
73. Grants are allocated for initiatives and projects aligned with the CSP priorities and details of the allocations made or pending for 2016/17 are summarised in Appendix C.
74. Of the £20,000 allocated for initiatives and projects, £19,875.16 has been allocated or proposed for this financial year.

## **Strategic Assessment for 2016/17**

75. On the 25th January 2016 a working group of the CSP came together to consider performance over the past year and to agree the priorities it wishes to recommend for adoption by the CSP in March 2017. The workshops considered the data presented, some of which is included in this report and sought to align priorities with the Kent Control Strategy, the Police and Crime Commissioner's Plan, and the priorities of partners. The following were recommended:
  76. The following priorities are recommended for 2017/2018

- **Road Safety (Lead agency Ashford Borough Council)**  
The number of crashes and casualties has reduced, however the number of Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) on the roads of Ashford are still high compared to our neighbouring boroughs. Therefore by maintaining this as a priority it will allow the working group to continue reducing the number of KSIs.
- **Serious and Organised crime/Human trafficking/modern slavery (Lead agency Kent Police)**  
These are emerging trends throughout the county and are one of the keys focuses of the police control strategy. By maintaining this priority it will allow all agencies to improve awareness and address issues.
- **Domestic abuse and sexual offences (Lead agency Ashford Domestic Abuse Forum)**  
As the data shows there is an increased use of the One Stop Shop and therefore an increasing need for services, Therefore by keeping this as a priority the agencies can work together to ensure the focus is not lost on this key area.

- **Anti-social behaviour (Lead agency Ashford Borough Council)**  
The data shows that ASB figures have increased but we want to ensure that they are controlled within the borough and our figures remain the lowest in the county. Every ASB incident has a negative impact on our communities and the commitment of the CSP to prioritising ASB links into the role of the Community Safety Unit working with partners.
- **Safeguarding including child sexual exploitation, Prevent and substance misuse (Lead agency KCC Specialist Children's Services)**  
This priority will encompass a number of safeguarding issues that have had individual attention in the past. Many of the concerns interlink and require inputs from the same agencies.

77. Each priority will need to have a lead agency who will take the responsibility for establishing a working group, writing an action plan and organising and administrating regular meetings.

## **Conclusion**

78. Ashford's Community Safety Partnership only exists because of the significant support given by its individual partners and by those from a whole range of organisations who are dedicated every day and night to protecting our community. This report hopes to recognise this work and thank everyone who involved.

## **Recommendations**

79. This report is noted.

## **Portfolio Holder's Views**

80. To be given at the committee meeting.

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**Appendix A:** **Community Safety Partnership 2016/17 Strategic Assessment**

**Appendix B:** **Letter of support for the Recover Toolkit Programme**

**Appendix C:** **Summary of grant allocations**

**Appendix D:** **Glossary**

**Appendix A: Community Safety Partnership 2016/17 Strategic Assessment**

## **Appendix B: Letter of support for the Recover Toolkit Programme**

I attended The Recovery Toolkit Programme in January 2016 – April 2016. I had left my abusive marriage 4 years earlier and was struggling to overcome the trauma and impact the relationship had had on me.

Through my daughter's Primary School I received help and support from Facilitator, an Early Help Practitioner with KCC, who then referred me to The Recovery Toolkit Programme. With complete honesty and without any kind of inflation I can say the programme has changed my life.

One of the difficulties when leaving an abusive relationship is understanding that your whole life – thought patterns, reactions, behaviour, perceptions, how to parent, values etc etc. - will have been influenced by your abusive partner; in essence these things aren't yours any more, they belong to your partner. It wasn't until I attended the programme that I realised just how deep these changes within me were entrenched and how unhealthy and unhelpful they were. With help from the professionals who ran the course I was able to identify and therefore challenge my present thinking and values for the better.

Each week as a group we worked through a new aspect of abuse. The group leaders gently, with absolute empathy and support, challenged our thinking, who we thought we were and helped us understand what abuse is, how it works and how it impacts on us and our children.

I had been in a place where I felt isolated and lonely and although I had tried to find help, felt, there was nothing available which addressed what I needed. The Recovery Toolkit gave me the skills I needed to recover (the course is well named) from my relationship. It gave me a group of women who listened to me without judgement and who understood what I had experienced. It gave me a safe place where I could take my vulnerability and begin to heal.

Without this course I can only imagine where I would be now. Still in a place of uncertainty, a place of fear and isolation which no one *really* understands. I cannot recommend the programme highly enough and the 3 professionals who ran it. The programme has allowed me to disengage from my abusive partner and therefore move forward towards my new and healthy life with my daughter.

I believe The Recovery Tool Kit programme is an essential process in recovering from an abusive relationship and I feel deeply grateful to have been given the chance to change my life for the better. Thank you.

**Appendix C: Summary of grant allocations**

**Police and Crime  
Commissioner  
Funding**

Project	Summary of Project	Funding Application Form	Agency	Lead Officer	Amount requested	Match funding details	Status			Amount awarded	Date	Officers	PO Number	Outcome Report Received
							Waiting Decision	Approved	Rejected					
<b>Annual Expenditure/Subscriptions</b>														
Safer Kent	Funding Contribution	<a href="#">Funding 2016-2017\Funding Applications 2016-2017\Safer Kent - kent Peoples Trust.doc</a>	Safer Kent	<a href="mailto:saferkent@kent.pnn.police.uk">saferkent@kent.pnn.police.uk</a>	£500.00			X		£500.00	Apr-16	GR	AM00957	Not required
Intergrated Offender Management	To provide assistance for those individuals who have been assessed as wanting to improve their lives and stability.	<a href="#">P:\Community Safety\Finance\Funding 2016-2017\Funding Applications 2016-2017\IOM funding request - April 2016.doc</a>	Kent Police	<a href="mailto:maria.llewellyn@kent.pnn.police.uk">maria.llewellyn@kent.pnn.police.uk</a>	£500.00			X		£500.00	Apr-16	GR	AM00958	
Gating Order Security	Closing and opening of gates that deter ASB		Sight & Sound		£2,100.00			X		£2,100.00		GR	PK00259	
Safety In Action	Partnership contribution to running costs		CSP		£1,500.00			X		£1,500.00		GR	INTERNAL	
<b>Event/Initiative Funding to support the PCC Plan and CSP Strategic Assessment/Tactical Delivery Plan</b>														
Domestic Abuse and the Workplace	To increase understanding and awareness of the extent and impact of domestic abuse within local communities, agencies and organisations	<a href="#">Funding Applications 2016-2017\Rising Sun - Abuse and workplace.doc</a>	Rising Sun Domestic Violence and Abuse Service	<a href="mailto:gill@risingsunkent.com">gill@risingsunkent.com</a>	£1,982					1982	May-16	GR		
Crime Prevention Bike Marking Initiative	This crime prevention initiative will aim at educating members of the general public into taking personal responsibility for their property. Property marking will assist in it being returned to the rightful owner in the event it is stolen and later recovered.	<a href="#">Funding Applications 2016-2017\Bike marking - Police CSU.doc</a>	Kent Police	<a href="mailto:trevor.brathwaite@kent.pnn.police.uk">trevor.brathwaite@kent.pnn.police.uk</a>	£497.16			X		£497.16	May-16	GR	AM00967	

Project	Summary of Project	Funding Application Form	Agency	Lead Officer	Amount requested	Match funding details	Waiting Decision	Amount awarded	Rejected	Amount awarded	Date	Officers	PO Number	Outcome Report Received
Road safety event	Creation of the Wizhog character mascot for road safety events.	<a href="#">Funding Applications 2016-2017\CS funding - Wizhog.doc</a>	ABC	<a href="mailto:mike.cook@ashford.gov.uk">mike.cook@ashford.gov.uk</a>	£1,200			X		1200	Jun-16	GR	PK00225	
Road safety event	Provision of road safety training when riding.		Sk8side	<a href="mailto:deirdre@sk8side.org">deirdre@sk8side.org</a>	£2,000			X		2000	Mar-16		AM00938	
WCCTV relocation	Deployable CCTV camera to be moved to Torrington Road due to high levels of ASB.	<a href="#">Funding Applications 2016-2017\WCCTV funding - Torrington Road.doc</a>	Kent Police	<a href="mailto:11242@kent.pn.police.uk">11242@kent.pn.police.uk</a>	£300			X		300	Oct-16		PK00368	
Bus ticket campaign	Supply of tickets for vulnerable clients	<a href="#">Funding Applications 2016-2017\Bus ticket campaign.pdf</a>	Ashford Domestic Abuse Forum	<a href="mailto:sarah.rigby@ashford.gov.uk">sarah.rigby@ashford.gov.uk</a>	£300			X		300	Jan-17	NM	AM01077	
Ashford Night Shelter	To support the night shelter project	<a href="#">Funding Applications 2016-2017\Ashford Churches winter night shelter.pdf</a>	Churches Together Ashford	<a href="mailto:richard@ashfordvineyard.org">richard@ashfordvineyard.org</a>	£1,000			X		1000	Jan-17	NM		
One You	Provision of advice on how to lead a healthtier lifestyle.	<a href="#">Funding Applications 2016-2017\KPH One You 020217.pdf</a>	Kent Public Health	<a href="mailto:deborah.smith@kent.gov.uk">deborah.smith@kent.gov.uk</a>	£1,500			X		1500	Feb-17	NM	AM01107	
CS initiatives and DV workshops	To supply crime prevention equipment for community safety events.	<a href="#">Funding Applications 2016-2017\CS equipment Kent Police 030217.pdf</a>	Kent Police	<a href="mailto:11242@kent.pn.police.uk">11242@kent.pn.police.uk</a>	£496		X							
Hawkeye	This is to furnish a vehicle (being supplied by Kent Police) with CCTV and a mini control centre inside.	<a href="#">Funding Applications 2016-2017\Hawkeye 2017.doc</a>	ABC	<a href="mailto:gareth.recht@ashford.gov.uk">gareth.recht@ashford.gov.uk</a>	£6,000		X							

## **Appendix D: Glossary**

ABC	Ashford Borough Council
ADAF	Ashford Domestic Abuse Forum
ASB	Anti-social behaviour
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CSU	Community Safety Unit
IDVA	Independent domestic violence advisor
KCC	Kent County Council
KCST	Kent Community Safety Team
KFRS	Kent Fire & Rescue Service
KSI	Killed or seriously injured
OSS	One Stop Shop
PSPO	Public Places Protection Order
WRAP	Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent



# Ashford's Community Safety Partnership

2015/16 Strategic Assessment



COMMUNITY SAFETY  
PARTNERSHIP  
ASHFORD BOROUGH

[www.ashford.gov.uk](http://www.ashford.gov.uk)



# The Ashford Community Safety Partnership is an alliance of organisations that work together to make our borough safer.

Our purpose is to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and other problems affecting our community.

The Ashford Community Safety Partnership (the Partnership) undertakes an assessment each year of crime and disorder in the borough, using data provided by partners. The assessment identifies the priority issues for the next year and assesses progress on the previous year's priorities. This forms the annual Strategic Assessment from which the Partnership Plan is developed.

## Our Partnership structure

The Partnership meets quarterly and is made up of six statutory organisations known as 'responsible authorities':

- Ashford Borough Council
- Ashford Clinical Commissioning Group
- Kent County Council (KCC)
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)
- Kent Police
- Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company/National Probation Service (formerly known as Kent Probation)

As responsible authorities these organisations are legally required to contribute to the development of strategies relating to the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour reduction within the borough. However the work undertaken by the Partnership to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour and to make the borough a safer place, goes beyond that delivered by these statutory partners and is enhanced by the cooperation and contributions of a much wider range of organisations and bodies.

We are committed to making the borough a safer place but we know that this means more than simply reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. The people of the borough need to feel safer and this means addressing the fear of crime as well as reducing the number of offences.

## The Borough of Ashford context

The borough of Ashford is situated in the County of Kent and is the largest borough in Kent, covering 224 square miles and containing 39 parishes and is part of Kent Police's Eastern Division. The estimated population of the borough in 2015 is 122,000, having trebled in the last 40 years. The population is predicted to increase to 129,900 by 2021 and to 149,200 by 2031.

The borough has the largest rural area in Kent and has two towns: urban Ashford and the rural town of Tenterden.

Ashford's road and rail connections make it ideal for commuting to London, to other parts of Kent, and to continental Europe. The borough's location, connectivity, and accessibility make it an ideal business location with the number of jobs is predicted to grow by at least 12,400 over a 20 year period to 2030.



## Funding

Funding for the Partnership's work comes mainly from partners' own budgets, but is supplemented by Home Office funding, which is allocated by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and from successful grant applications. The Commissioner has produced a Police and Crime Plan that sets out her vision and priorities for policing and community safety.

The Commissioner's strategic priority areas are:

- Cutting crime and catching criminals
- Ensuring visible, community policing is at the heart of policing in Kent
- Preventing crime, anti-social behaviour and reducing repeat victimisation and offending
- Putting victims and witnesses at the heart of processes
- Protecting the public from harm
- Delivering value for money
- Meeting national commitments for policing

Following a public consultation in 2015 the plan was refreshed, placing a greater emphasis on partnership working to:

- Protect vulnerable children from sexual exploitation
- Deliver an efficient and effective service in light of the on-going financial challenge
- Ensure victims and witnesses are at the heart of the criminal justice system
- Develop and support engagement with young people

## Kent's response to a changing landscape

In September 2015 a co-located Kent Community Safety Team based at Maidstone's Kent Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre was established, comprising staff from Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and Kent County Council. The concept of a joint team was developed in conjunction with both county and district partners with the aim to deliver community safety work in a collaborative way, giving increased value for money for all three partners.

Some of the areas identified for joint working include:

- the county community safety agreement
- youth education programmes
- domestic homicide reviews
- community safety campaigns, workshops/conferences
- partnership support at district and county level

The Kent Community Safety Team is still in the early stage of its development but joint initiatives are being identified and collaborative work is progressing. This included organising the annual Community Safety Conference that took place in Ashford in November 2015 which focused on dementia. There are also upcoming workshops on e-safety and serious and organised crime.



# Foreword

The Community Safety Partnership provides the opportunity for a co-ordinated approach to tackling crime and disorder which takes into consideration what causes people to get involved in crime, as well as how victims of crime can be made less vulnerable. By working together we are able to consider social and environmental problems that are contributing factors and which can also cause fear of crime. We are able to help give people a sense of personal security and well-being as they go about their day to day lives.

The Community Safety Partnership acknowledges that it is not one organisation's sole responsibility to deliver a reduction in crime and disorder and the fear of crime but something which needs to be tackled collectively and in partnership with others. This strategic assessment provides an opportunity for the Partnership to share the joint successes of the last year and most importantly share with you our plans for this year.

Finally this is an opportunity for those involved in the Partnership to thank everyone for their hard work that helps keep our community safety.

*Tracey Kerly – Chief Executive – Ashford Borough Council*

*Ken Elmes– Chief Inspector – Ashford Police*

*Councillor Brad Bradford – Portfolio Responsibility for Highways, Wellbeing and Safety*

## Review of Performance

- Sustained reductions in recorded anti-social behaviour (ASB) – the borough continues to have the lowest number of reported ASB incidents in the county.
- Ashford One Stop Shop (a once a week drop in centre providing a comprehensive range of services to victims of domestic abuse) has an excellent reputation across the county and strong partner links.
- In September 2014 Ashford Borough Council committed to spend up to £50,000 per year for three years on domestic abuse work. A Domestic Abuse Coordinator was appointed and has been in post for one year.
- Burglary, theft from motor vehicles and thefts of bicycles have all fallen over the last year, although 2015 saw an increase in shoplifting offences.
- There has been a reduction of 30 criminal damage crimes recorded in 14/15 when compared with 13/14.
- Many multi-agency operations have taken place, for example, Cleansweeps, which raise awareness of community safety issues and have helped reduce acquisitive crime.
- The number of killed and seriously injured (KSI) remains one of the highest in the county. The KSI for the under 16 age group, in the borough, is the highest in the county at eleven. Child KSI casualties are at their highest level since 1996.
- Fly-tipping remains at a high level across the borough.

# Troubled Families Programme

Ashford Supporting Families is the borough's response to the government's troubled families agenda, which is a national project to support families that have been identified as having multiple and complex needs. The criteria for success in phase 1 (2012-2015) were reducing the number of school absences, reducing crime and ASB and reducing worklessness.

In the borough of Ashford over 190 families were supported to successfully meet the criteria.

As part of phase 2, Kent is required to turn around 8,960 families in the next five years. The criteria for the extended programme now include:

- crime or anti-social behaviour
- school attendance
- children who need help
- worklessness
- domestic violence
- health problems

Families will have to meet at least two criteria to be eligible for the programme.

Phase 2 sets out a greater challenge for Kent, with increased target numbers and broadened criteria. It is therefore vital that everyone is aware of the programme's new criteria and our delivery approach, so that together we can recognise and capture all families who can benefit from the support offered by the Kent Troubled Families Programme.

In the past year Kent County Council's Early Help and Preventative Services have undertaken control of the programme locally, but partners across the Partnership continue to provide support.

## What is a Strategic Assessment?

The Community Safety Strategic Assessment is published annually. It gathers research, evidence and intelligence from national and regional sources, as well as drawing on the professional expertise of those working locally.

As part of the strategic assessment process, the Partnership identifies issues that are important to the local community. The strategic assessment also involves detailed analysis of local crime data to identify crime hotspot areas, crime trends (whether crime is increasing or decreasing) and to determine how crime in the borough compares with other areas in Kent.

For 2015/16 the priorities identified as a result of the strategic assessment were:

- Domestic abuse
- Anti-social behaviour
- Acquisitive crime
- Substance misuse
- Violent crime
- Road safety
- Rural crime

Each priority has a lead agency tasked with developing and delivering the tactical delivery plans and providing updates on a quarterly basis to the Partnership.

An overview of the work undertaken by the Partnership over the past year in relation to these issues is outlined below, alongside data illustrating how the partnership has performed against these stated priorities.

In particular it is designed to:

- Provide a picture of the current issues
- Reflect trends and the emergence of new issues
- Assess impacts on our communities, identifying those most affected by these issues
- Be independent, objective and evidence-led, reflecting the needs of our communities across public service organisations, rather than those of any single partner

The main aim of the document is to identify priorities which will inform a joint strategy and action plan in order to tackle these priorities in a co-ordinated way across the borough. It acknowledges the broader commissioning landscape of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner.



## 1. Acquisitive Crime (Lead Agency – Kent Police)

Acquisitive crime is broken down into a number of groupings which are: robbery, shoplifting, theft and handling stolen goods, theft from motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle, theft of pedal cycle, and theft other, burglary dwelling and burglary dwelling other offences.

The following information is provided by Kent Police. All data is for the period January to December for each year.

Crime Type	2013	2014	2015	No diff	Wards with highest volume per 1,000 pop.
Robbery	59	39	54	<b>+15</b>	Victoria
Shoplifting	688	746	815	<b>+69</b>	Norman & Victoria
Theft & Handling Stolen Goods	1921	2019	1933	<b>-86</b>	Norman & Victoria
Theft from Motor Vehicle	440	361	317	<b>-44</b>	Victoria
Theft of Motor Vehicle	114	117	117	<b>0</b>	Godinton, Beaver & Stanhope
Theft of Pedal Cycle	138	219	165	<b>-54</b>	Victoria & Norman
Theft Other	1095	1054	953	<b>-101</b>	Victoria
Burglary Dwelling	390	335	312	<b>-23</b>	North Willesborough
Burglary Other	471	592	403	<b>-189</b>	Tenterden South & Weald Central

The areas most affected by shoplifting include the centre of Ashford (Victoria Ward) and McArthur Glen and Asda (Norman Ward).

Kent Police are continuing to see an increase in shoplifting due to criminals moving away from burglary, possibly due to the differences in sentencing when taken to court.

The theft of pedal cycles has seen a particular decrease in the past year due to the actions taken by Kent Police to: prevent and deter, identify and capture perpetrators.

Work undertaken by the Partnership to reduce acquisitive crime included:

- Multi-agency Cleansweeps in areas to raise awareness and reduce acquisitive crimes in areas.
- Delivery of community engagement events in high footfall locations such as County Square.
- Developing closer partnership working with Ashford Borough Council's Monitoring Centre and Ashford and Weald Partnership Against Crime.
- Smart water and pedal cycle marking campaigns have been run, focussing on bicycles, skateboards and target crime hotspots.
- Improved joined up working and sharing intelligence with various programmes ie Joint Family Management Programme and Ashford Supporting Families.

- Developed presentation packages for delivery to parishes and forums advising of community safety activity.
- Produced an information leaflet advising of various products and services that could assist with home security and safety.

The Partnership has responded to emerging issues during 2015/16 and as a consequence the priorities were reviewed mid year and the acquisitive crime actions were amalgamated within other existing priorities of the Partnership.



## 2. Anti-social Behaviour and Environmental Crime (Lead Agency - Ashford Borough Council)

The data provided in this section comes from the Kent Police Partnership Pack. Unfortunately it does not break down the type of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents reported.

	13/14	14/15	No	%	/1,000	Rank 13/14	Rank 14/15
Ashford	1,850	1,207	<b>-643</b>	<b>-35%</b>	15.40	1	1
Kent	40,540	36,979	<b>-3,561</b>	<b>-9%</b>	27.39	-	-

The data provided above shows the number of incidents of ASB reported to Kent Police for the borough has continued to decrease by 643 incidents compared to the previous full year statistics.

ASB decreased in 2013/14 by 42% and has continued to decrease and the borough still has the lowest volume of reported ASB in the county. The latest data indicates a 35% decrease in ASB.

The on-going police ASB patrol (Operation Claxon) calls on victims of ASB and targets known offenders, linking with Kent Police's Joint Family Management Programme. This in turn has continued to have links with the Ashford Supporting Families programme and works to both target known offenders and also work with individuals and families to try and reduce the problems at source.

Kent Police's ASB officer works with high-risk victims of ASB. They provide excellent advice and support to housing officers and youth workers working with our communities.

New powers to combat ASB were introduced in October 2014 under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. These have been used by authorised agencies and have resulted in three Criminal Behaviour Orders being issued by the courts to combat persistent perpetrators of ASB.

A number of partners have contributed to Cleansweep events in both the urban and rural areas, (Court Wurtin, Singleton, Stanhope, Newtown and South Willesborough). These operations use a multi-agency approach to combat issues and also to engage with communities and offer advice and support. As part of these operations enforcement action was undertaken including executing warrants and conducting roadside checks.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service coordinated a multi-agency visible presence on Halloween and Bonfire night, resulting in a continued reduction in ASB on these usually busy nights.

### Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping incident figures reported by local authorities through Flycapture (the national fly-tipping database) show a decrease when comparing 13/14 and 14/15. Ashford has seen a decrease of 184 incidents reported. It is believed



that the decrease may be due to under reporting.

Below is a table displaying the annual summary of fly-tipping incidents for both Ashford and Kent.

	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Ashford	876	874	946	1,124	940
Kent	11,208	11,611	12,135	15,134	15,211

The areas around Chilmington are still experiencing high levels of fly-tipping. In particular Mock Lane at the entrance to the Cemex site.

The rural areas that have seen regular fly-tipping include Bethersden, Bilsington, Ruckinge, Charing and Orlestone.

There have also been regular incidents of bulk items dumped outside the flats at Bybrook Road and Hillbrow Road. Beecholme Drive has also experienced a number of incidents.

### Criminal Damage

Criminal damage refers to crimes where a person intentionally or recklessly destroys or causes damage to another person's property. Criminal damage, often referred to as vandalism, includes graffiti, arson and other forms of damage to property including vehicles.

Ashford is currently ranked 4 out of the 12 districts (with 1 being the lowest level of criminal damage). There has been a reduction of 30 crimes recorded in 14/15 when compared with 13/14. Beaver and Victoria wards have suffered the greatest volume of reported criminal damage incidents.

Further work undertaken by the Partnership to reduce ASB included:

- Introduction of the ASB multi-agency panel that is chaired by the Joint Family Management officers. This panel enables the early identification of perpetrators and appropriate action is taken to divert them from ASB and associated crime.
- KCC Wardens engagement with the local community at the earliest opportunity enabling assessment and review of the impact of ASB upon local communities.
- Attending all repeat victims' ASB calls.
- Multi-agency operations that have targeted hotspots, including those relating to the night time economy.
- Ensuring victims of ASB receive appropriate support, including early identification of vulnerable and repeat victims via continuation of Operation Claxton and an ASB case review approach on a one monthly basis of any high risk area in the borough.
- Action around noise including actively sharing and monitoring information with partner agencies. Community Protection Warning Notices (new provision under Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014) have been used to combat low level noise that is not identified as a statutory nuisance.
- Delivery of "Feet on the Street" workshop that provided agencies with an opportunity to better understand each others work and to encourage more joint working.
- Developing better links with mental health services. This has been through attendance at multi-agency professionals meetings and safeguarding meetings. A dedicated police officer has been assigned to liaise with the mental health team.
- Established an ASB case review process, which has been advertised



through the Ashford Borough Council website. This is a review process for victims of anti-social behaviour who have been dissatisfied with the handling of their complaints.

While it is impressive to have the lowest ASB figures in Kent, there were still 1,207 reported incidents and each incident has an impact on our communities. Our partners will continue to work together to try and reduce this further.

### 3. Domestic Abuse (Lead Agency – Ashford Domestic Abuse Forum)

Kent Police recorded for the period January 2015 to December 2015 a total of 799 notifiable offences within the borough. Of these 457 were identified as medium risk and 196 identified as high risk. Of those who were the primary victim of domestic abuse 71 were young people aged between 12-18 years. There were 455 repeat victims equating to 25.6%.

Ashford One Stop Shop has an excellent reputation across the county and strong partner links. At a time when resources are reduced and there are added pressures and caseloads, it is important victims of domestic abuse, regardless of their risk level can access face-to-face support and advice. The table below illustrates the rise in visitors to the Ashford One Stop Shop year on year. The data relates to the period July to June each year.

No of visitors 10/11	No of visitors 11/12	No of visitors 12/13	No of visitors 13/14	No of visitors 14/15
75	169	239	316	317

The busiest month this year for Ashford was June with 45 visitors and the quietest was April with 14 visitors.

The breakdown of ethnic grouping that attended the Ashford One Stop Shop are 84% white British, 2% not recorded and 14% variety of ethnic backgrounds (6% of these were white Europeans).

Information provided by Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) Coordinator for the period April 2013 to March 2014 advises that 92 cases were presented to MARAC. Of these cases 19 were repeat cases, which equates to 21% of the total number.

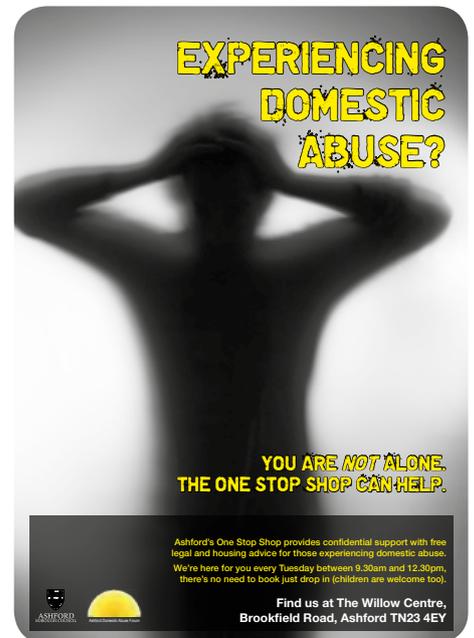
In September 2014 Ashford Borough Council committed to spend up to £50,000 per year for the next three years on domestic abuse work. A Domestic Abuse Coordinator was appointed and has been in post for one year. The focus of her work has been to support the One Stop Shop and coordinate the Freedom programme. This programme helps those who have experienced domestic violence to make sense of and understand what has happened to them and build a future for themselves.

A comprehensive summary of the work undertaken on tackling domestic abuse was presented to Ashford Borough Council’s Cabinet in February 2016.

The Council has also contributed to the Kent Domestic Abuse Consortium to provide an Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (IDVA) to provide practical and emotional support to the high risk victim of domestic abuse in the borough.

Work undertaken by the Partnership to reduce domestic abuse included:

- Development of an iBook for young people.
- ABC has provided housing and benefit advice at the One Stop Shop.
- Domestic Abuse Stalking Harassment, and honour based violence





(DASH) and IDVA training for Neighbourhood Police Officers on domestic abuse has been delivered in response to feedback from victims.

- Delivery of Freedom Programmes throughout the year
- Awareness session for partner organisations (KCC Wardens, KFRS Officers, Housing Officers, etc.) was delivered and further training is planned in the coming months.
- Secured funding to support the Ashford IDVA
- Secured funding from Ashford Soroptimists to train eight facilitators for Ashford.
- Continued publicity for One Stop Shop & domestic abuse services.
- Partners continue to provide support and involvement in Ashford's Domestic Abuse Forum.

The Partnership has also responded to the emerging issues of increased awareness of child sexual exploitation during 2015/16. As a consequence child sexual exploitation was added as a priority during the year and a working group has been established under the guidance of the borough's KCC Specialist Children's Services Manager. Training, developing awareness and promoting reporting methods have been the priorities.

#### 4. Road Safety (Lead Agency - Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS))

Information provided by KCC Transport Intelligence reports for the period of January 2014 to December 2014 that Ashford has seen a slight decrease from 535 Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's) to 490 when compared to the same period the previous year, a decrease of 45. Of these figures 48 were related to casualties under the age of 16, which was an increase of 24 when compared to figures the previous year.

It is also reported that Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) has decreased to 73 over the same period, however, this represents the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest overall in the county. The KSI for the under 16 age group, in the borough, is the highest in the county at eleven.

Further information is provided within KCC's Road Casualties Annual Report can be found at: [www.kent.gov.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/11819/Personal-injury-crashes-in-Kent.pdf](http://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/11819/Personal-injury-crashes-in-Kent.pdf)

KCC have identified the four wards that had collisions and casualties exceeding 20 in each last year were Weald South, Saxon Shore, North Willesborough and Victoria.

KCC have identified 14 cluster sites<sup>1</sup> have also been identified in the district that are along the following routes: A20, A28, A292, A2042, C105, C146, C151, E3010. The route that shows the greatest number of clustered collisions/casualties is the A28.

The public are able to find out more about road risk in the borough and individual neighbourhoods by accessing CrashMap at [www.crashmap.co.uk](http://www.crashmap.co.uk). This enables searches by area, allows filtering by the year in which accidents took place and provides precise data on which the incident occurred.

Work undertaken by the Partnership to reduce road safety includes:

- Biker Down training events have been run in Ashford by KFRS, targeting motorcyclists.
- Delivered road safety advice to over 1000 year 6 children as part of the Safety in Action project.

<sup>1</sup> A specific geographical location where a higher than expected number of collisions/casualties of a particular type have occurred in a set period of time.

- Multi-agency restorative justice event held on Hythe Road.
- Car and road awareness event held in a local car showroom, Ashford Orbital. 100-120 males and females attended, KCC Community Wardens had a joint stand with KCC Road Safety.
- Mass messaging techniques used by KCC Highways to raise awareness amongst target groups of key road safety issues.
- KCC Road safety officers attended the Community Safety Shop where 1300 people were engaged with and road safety messages were passed.
- Young driver education was provided to 16-18 year old students in three schools.
- Kent Police have completed Speed Indication Device operations.
- Working group held with key partners to undertake a research of analytical data to steer a focus on future activity. This led to a route study on the A28, since this route was found to have the highest number of KSI's.



## 5. Substance Misuse (Lead Agency - Public Health)

### Drugs

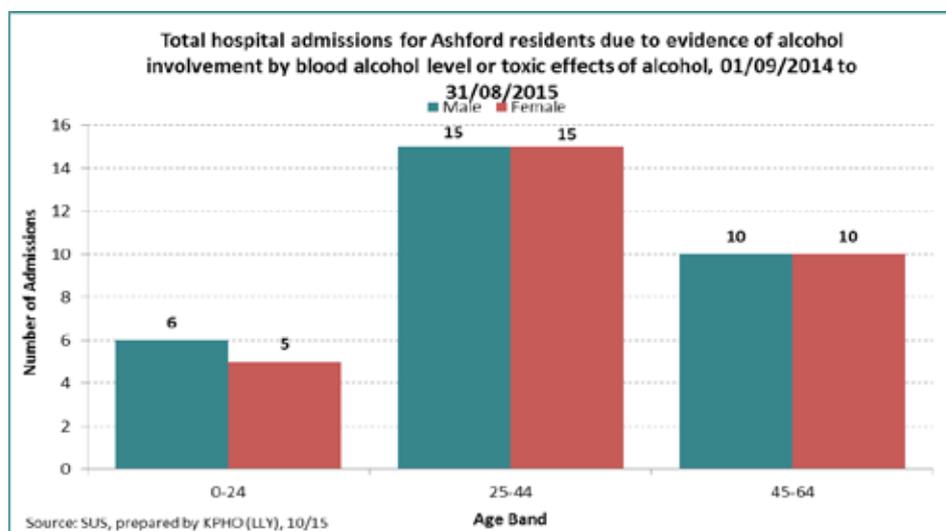
Based on information provided by Kent Police for period October 2014 to September 2015, the borough has seen the number of drug offences have decreased from 214 to 149, which is a decrease of 65 offences (-30.4%).

Unfortunately 2014/15 has seen a continuing popularity of the new psychoactive substances. There has been great concern regarding these substances with 114 deaths linked to them in 2014/15 (nationally).

### Alcohol

Information provided by KCC Public Health for the period September 2014 to August 2015 shows that the borough has seen a small increase of hospital admissions where alcohol is evident from 50 admissions in 2013/14 to 61 admissions in 2014/15. This is an increase of 11 admissions.

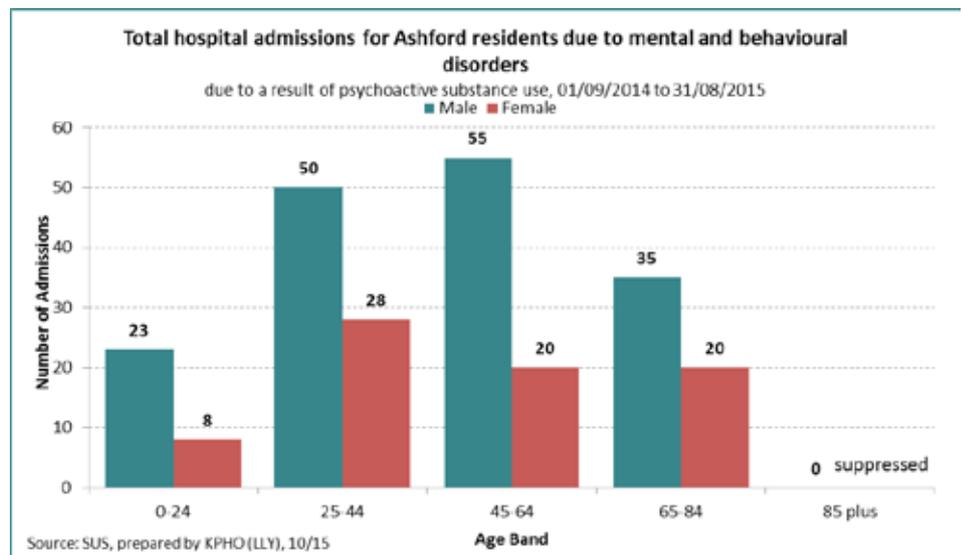
The Ashford Health Profile for 2015, however, indicates a figure for alcohol-specific hospitals for those under 18 is significantly better than the England Average. The crude rate per 100,000 being 5 compared to 40. The borough also compares well against the other Kent local authority areas.





## Psychoactive Substance Use

The borough has seen an increase in hospital admissions for mental and behavioural disorders related to psychoactive substance use. The figure for 2013/14 was 204 rising to 239 in 2014/15.



Work undertaken by the Partnership to reduce substance misuse included:

- Run drug enforcement operations, including licensing controls and other enforcement measures have been conducted to ensure licensed premises do not encourage binge drinking, or sell to those underage or allow drug dealing.
- All new Designated Premises Supervisors have received a joint Kent Police/Ashford Borough Council licensing visit, incorporating drug swab analysis when appropriate.
- Drug paraphernalia information found is shared with partner agencies at the monthly community safety meeting.
- Specialist staff were present at Create and Tentertainment providing information, advice, and raising awareness.
- Drug and alcohol workshop held at Safety in Action, where over 1000 year 6 pupils were given relevant messages about substance misuse.
- Addaction delivered a 6 week family programme to provide a holistic approach to substance misuse within a family environment.
- Drug Use Screening Toolkit (DUST) training provided to practitioners.

## 6. Violent Crime (Lead Agency – Kent Police)

Violent crime is broken down in to several categories, which are as follows: assaults, sexual offences, violence against the person and violent crime

The following is provided by Kent Police and NHS (Kent and Medway Public Health Observatory) and Kent County Council.

Crime Type	12/13	13/14	14/15	No diff	Wards with highest volume
Assaults	20	23	23	0	Data not available
Sexual Offences	113	154	185	+31	Victoria
Violence Against the Person	1327	1661	1654	-7	Victoria
Violent Crime	1489	1858	1893	+35	Victoria

Work undertaken by the Partnership to reduce violent crime includes:

- Operation Amazon (a police night time economy initiative) is carried out on Friday and Saturday evenings.
- A number of multi-agency night time economy operations have been completed including drug swabbing of licensed premises.
- The Ashford and Weald Partnership Against Crime are increasing their presence in Tenterden and have three licensed premises signed up to use a radio system.
- A multi-agency presence was at Create and Tentertainment festivals, providing a highly visible deterrent for any violent behaviour.

The Partnership has responded to emerging issues during 2015/16 and as a consequence the priorities were reviewed mid year and the violent crime actions were amalgamated within other existing priorities of the Partnership.

# Additional Information

## Prevent

### (Lead Agency – Ashford Borough Council)

The **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act** received Royal Assent on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Among other provisions, the act places the Prevent programme on a statutory footing. This means that from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 every local authority had a legal duty to, “when exercising its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Prevent is one of four strands of the government’s counter-terrorism strategy, and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The **Prevent Strategy** was revised in 2011. The other three strands are:

- pursue: to stop terrorist attacks
- protect: to strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks
- prepare: where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact

The intensified and changed nature of the threat, particularly from those seeking to travel to, or return from Syria, now affects all boroughs, not just those deemed “priority areas”.

The Partnership has responded to the introduction of the Prevent duty, establishing a working group and its primary aim is to explore ways of diverting people away from extremism. Various agencies including Kent Police, National Probation Service, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, representatives from local schools, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Ashford Borough Council have been involved in coordinating training sessions to raise awareness of the subject.

## Financial Performance

The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner allocated a grant of £29,905.18 in two instalments for Partnership activities that aligns with the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner’s Plan.

Grants are allocated for initiatives and projects aligned with the Partnership priorities and in 2015/16 these have included:

- Contribution to the Integrated Offender Management programme
- Mobile technology for the Ashford and Weald Partnership Against Crime
- Contribution to the county race hate reporting line
- Safety in Action fortnight
- Domestic abuse flee fund
- Ashford Churches Winter Shelter pilot
- Road safety mascot
- Deployable cameras
- Crime reduction equipment
- Crime prevention property marking initiatives

# Priorities and the Ashford Partnership Plan



In January 2016 a working group of the Partnership came together to consider performance over the past year and to agree the priorities it wishes to recommend for adoption by the Partnership in March 2016. The workshops considered the data presented within this report and sought to align priorities with the Kent Control Strategy, the Police and Crime Commissioner's Plan, and the priorities of partners. The following were recommended:

- Road safety
- Safeguarding
  - Child Sexual Exploitation
  - Human Trafficking
  - Modern Slavery
- Domestic abuse and sexual offences
- Organised crime
  - Drugs
  - Gangs
  - Serious Acquisitive Crime
  - Digital Crime
- Prevent

Local data will continue to be monitored and reviewed by the Partnership but will not be prioritised unless the borough becomes as a specific outlier.

There are particular alcohol issues in the borough, namely:

- Number of admissions to hospital with alcohol being the primary cause of malignant neoplasm (cancer)
- Alcohol related road traffic accidents (all severities)

The Partnership will monitor and review developments to improve these rates and report on progress to the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board through the Ashford Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Partnership proposes the priorities should be set for three years, with the option to add or remove priorities as need arises. The annual strategic assessment that examines community safety related data will still take place.

# Appendix A: Glossary

<b>ASB:</b>	Anti-social Behaviour
<b>DASH:</b>	Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour Based Violence
<b>IDVA:</b>	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
<b>KCC:</b>	Kent County Council
<b>KFRS:</b>	Kent Fire and Rescue Service
<b>KSI:</b>	Killed or seriously injured
<b>MAPPA:</b>	Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements
<b>MARAC:</b>	Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences
<b>NHS:</b>	National Health Service
<b>Partnership:</b>	Ashford Community Safety Partnership
<b>RTC:</b>	Road traffic collisions