

TO: Community Safety Partnership Executive
DATE: Friday 3rd November 2023
SUBJECT: Quarter 2 - Strategic Leads Update Report

1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of the key action and performance updates for discussion in the 2023/24 Swale Community Safety Plan.

Priority 1	Domestic Abuse		
Lead	SATEDA – Carey Philpott		
Performance Stats	Previous Rolling Year (October 2021 – end September 2022)	Current Rolling Year (October 2022 – end September 2023)	Change
No. of Domestic Abuse incidents across the Borough of Swale (Kent Police).	5326	4759	-567 -10.7%
Actions	Status <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	Update	
1.1 Promotion of services available to both professionals and the community	In progress	<p>The professionals' day at The Appleyard was well attended on 9th October.</p> <p>The Marketplace event at Sittingbourne School: Emotional Wellbeing Network event on 17th October, 3.30-6pm, at The Sittingbourne School</p> <p>Kent wide training including DHRs and Victim Blaming available to all <u>book here</u></p> <p>Adult safeguarding week training on trauma informed responses <u>KMSAB website</u></p>	
1.2 Training regarding the link between domestic abuse and radicalisation; and other specialist areas such as cultural awareness	In progress	<p>Prevent & Serious Organised Crime week of action 2023</p> <p><u>Prevent & Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Week of Action - 20/11 - 24/11/2023 Tickets, Mon 20 Nov 2023 at 09:00 Eventbrite</u></p> <p>CP met with KCC to discuss work with GRT. They are looking to understand the</p>	

		community to inform health inequalities. If anyone has any links they would appreciate the support.
1.3 Continue to promote perpetrator services within agencies and consider how to ensure adequate provision aimed at young people	In progress	<p>Mapping of services to be reviewed and shared. CDAP continues to run, delivering a Swale specific programme.</p> <p>SALUS are to start delivering CYP activities in safe accommodation</p> <p>SATEDA are supporting YP 13-16 (girls) who are experiencing abuse in their own relationships, it is hoped that this can be expanded to boys with further funding.</p> <p>CYP services all have waiting lists</p>
1.4 Support delivery of County Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan	In progress	<p>Strategy consultation has now ended. Swale DA forum are meeting regularly with a review of the meetings to ensure appropriate representation. Early indications from KCC team is that priority will be given to accommodation based services as opposed to community provisions.</p> <p>MARAC – a new MARAC manager is due to start in post and a steering group will be established soon after. This will ensure the new process is embedded.</p>
1.5 Delivery of response to adolescents regarding healthy relationships	In progress	<p>SATEDA - 16 days of action awareness cards being delivered end of Nov.</p> <p>SALUS – strict criteria for supporting only those in safe accommodation.</p>

Key Issues/Emerging Trends

NB: cases/referrals –
 SATEDA saw a 39% increase in the same reporting period as the data from Kent police.
 New leaf saw a reduction of -4%
 Victim support are reporting a reduction

Data from other Swale delivery services has been requested.

LA Safeguarding figures in relation to DA (July to October 2023) :
 The highest category this quarter is Domestic abuse which is a massive increase from 14 last quarter to 34, this is closely followed by Homelessness (29). This is linked to the Domestic abuse figures due to victims fleeing their homes resulting in homelessness.

13 cases referred MARAC
8 to specialist DA support services

Family court system - Increasing trend of perpetrators not returning children after child contact and citing mental health concerns for mothers to manipulate court hearings. KCC are keen to learn more about this and if anyone has additional examples please forward to CP.

Women's Aid latest report ['Influencers and Attitudes: How will the next generation understand domestic abuse?'](#)

Some of the key findings of the report include:

Children and young people exposed to misogynistic social media content like Andrew Tate were almost 5x more likely than those not exposed to view hurting someone physically as acceptable if you say sorry afterwards.

1 in 3 women experienced the RSHE they had in school as rushed and awkward.

1 in 4 women felt that it had no understanding of pre-existing trauma.

Whilst 70% of children and young people said they would seek support if affected by domestic abuse, 61% of them were unsure or did not know where to go for this.

Male refuge: Clarion will manage this – opens in November – it is a west Kent service and has spaces for 3 men and 2 children. Referral pathway is the same as access to other Clarion services.

DA Sub Group – Key Updates

Last meeting cancelled as lots of apologies.

*16 Days of action – CSP proposal

Cross Cutting Themes (Comments/Impact on priority/specific actions undertaken)

*Reducing Reoffending
Communications and Training
Cultural Awareness and Hate Crime*

Priority 2	Crime and Serious Violence		
Lead	Kent Police – Diane Middlemiss		
Performance Stats	Previous Rolling Year (October 2021 – end September 2022)	Current Rolling Year (October 2022 – end September 2023)	Change
Violence Against the Person (VATP)	7268	6505	-763 -10.5%

Burglary (Business and Community)	183	172	-11 -6%
Criminal Damage	1882	1830	-52 -2.8%
Shoplifting	1068	1704	+636 +59.6%
Actions	Status (<i>delete as appropriate</i>)	Update	
2.1 Work with Kent-wide partners to establish and implement response to Serious Violence	In progress	<p>Vulnerability Panels run once per month with partners to review opportunities to support vulnerable people. Whether victims or involved in crime, including serious violence.</p> <p>Serious Organised Crime Panel takes place once per month to review County Lines/OCG/Serious Violence with partners to support information sharing and collaborative working to reduce serious violence/crime.</p> <p>Weekly Partnership Meetings with Council/Police includes review of any serious violence concerns/individuals/locations.</p> <p>VAWG – multi agency walk and talk, and NTE visits to licenced premises. Including some of the key caravan parks</p> <p>Next Steps: Use of Problem Orientated Policing funding to support further initiatives to reduce violent crime</p>	
2.2 Continue to monitor and respond to as required, for key crime types including burglary (business and community) and vehicle crime	In progress	<p>Burglary - There has been a 21% reduction in Burglary this year compared with last year. The Neighbourhood Team and Crime Group continue to work together to ensure all burglary dwelling victims are visited, to provide crime prevention advice, offer reassurance and complete enhanced</p>	

		<p>enquiries in the location to support crime prevention and identify vital evidence.</p> <p>Robbery- Swale has seen a 26.4% reduction in robbery to date this year, compared with last year. This equates to a drop from 91 to 67 robberies. There have been no identified Robbery crime series. Violence against women and girls, burglary and robbery remain a priority for Kent Police and as such reported incidents, and the policing response and support for victims remains under close daily scrutiny by the Senior Management Team to ensure enhanced service delivery.</p>
<p>2.3 Deliver localised response to Violence Against Women and Girls</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The Swale Neighbourhood Policing Team and CSU have continued to deliver Walk and Talk events across the Summer. Since the last meeting 8 events have taken place throughout Swale, and resulted in the identification of areas of concern within the Community that need remedial action. These have been highlighted to relevant organisations responsible. We have also trialled VAWG events based in primary schools with the first being held at Newington Primary. This was positively received and we found that the turnout is greater than those held within Walk and Talk locations in Town Centres. These events are important to police and partners as it provides an opportunity for local people, women and girls to join a walk and talk, to share experiences and speak about areas where they may feel vulnerable to enable partners/police to address these. Such as lighting, or CCTV. For the Autumn each Beat Officer is in the process of planning further activities which are advertised on @KentPoliceSwale Twitter/X platform and My Community Voice. This will include activities during the Night Time Economy, including licencing checks and visits. This includes the proactive patrolling of venues in the NTE looking for predatory behaviours. During licensing checks Officers liaise with licensees and promote the use of Ask for Angela and Hollie Guard App. Officers identify any knowledge gaps in NTE staff</p>

		<p>regarding risk factors of potential perpetrators of VAWG and promote staff being active bystanders. Where there is insufficient knowledge amongst NTE staff this is highlighted to our Licensing officers for refresher training.</p>
<p>Key Issues/Emerging Trends</p>		
<p>Shoplifting has increased over the summer period, and has been subject to local and national media attention. Local Policing Teams and NHP Teams continue to work collaboratively to target the most prolific offenders, seeking CBO and remands. This remains a threat particularly when prolific shoplifters are released from custody. Shop Safe has been promoted and welcomed by some businesses, but they are several months later, still waiting on their radios. Emerging threat will be if due to the prison capacity issues offenders are released early or not given custodial sentences.</p> <p>Burglary increased in Sept 23 with one nominal being linked to 5 burglaries, charged and remanded. Threat, again due to prison capacity issues.</p> <p>ASB has reduced in Sept 23, compared with July and August 23. September peaked with the hot weather and Faversham Hop Festival. Halloween/Fireworks and NTE (Xmas related) remains a threat with regards ASB, Serious Violence, DA and VAWG. Safer Autumn plans are in place to mitigate this.</p>		
<p>Serious and Organised Crime Panel – Key Updates</p>		
<p>Swale has one OCG, nothing to report in this forum.</p>		
<p>District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting – Key Updates</p>		
<p>Verbal update will be provided at meeting.</p>		
<p>Cross Cutting Themes (Comments/Impact on priority/specific actions undertaken)</p> <p><i>Reducing Reoffending</i> <i>Communications and Training</i> <i>Cultural Awareness and Hate Crime</i></p>		
<p>Reducing reoffending: As outlined above repeat offenders, prison releases and prolific offenders are targeted and supported through various multi agency forms, including engagement from Probation and IOM.</p> <p>Hate Crime Awareness Week – Will require multiagency plan for next year 2024 and regular activities throughout the year to build trust/confidence in reporting and safeguarding victims.</p>		

Priority 3		ASB	
Lead		Southern Housing – Matthew Robbins	
Performance Stats	Previous Rolling Year (October 2021 – end September 2022)	Current Rolling Year (October 2022 – end September 2023)	Change
ASB Incidents reported to Kent Police	2595	2668	+73 +2.8%
ASB Incidents reported to Southern Housing	162	237	+ 75 +31%
Actions	Status <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	Update	
3.1 Continue joint response to tackle ASB through the Community Safety Unit	In progress	Weekly partnership meetings continue to focus on operational issues and responses through the CSU	
3.2 Implement Kent Police new Neighbourhood Policing Model	In progress	Verbal update to be provided at meeting	
3.3 Monitor incidents of grass/rubbish fires and develop response plan as required.	Not yet started	To be discussed at meeting	
3.4 Delivery of Safety in Action	In progress	Safety in Action has been delivered in Swale. Awaiting final evaluation report.	
3.5 Delivery of dedicated operations and campaigns	In progress	<p>Prior to the summer local officers attended many schools in the local area to provide advice to children about the consequences of Anti Social Behaviour and Crime. Safer Summer plans were created early and had a specific aim to provide visible and robust policing with regards ASB, crime and nuisance youths.</p> <p>The Sittingbourne Skate Park, Sittingbourne Retail park, Bourne Place, and the High street Sittingbourne were repeat locations of ASB, crime/theft and nuisance youth behaviour during the summer, with very large groups of youths with some intent on causing a nuisance and committing crime. Additional patrols and robust policing was deployed daily throughout the summer at these locations, supported by funding from the Home Office Grip funding (ASB Hot Spots). Prompt and</p>	

		<p>robust policing did result in short lived episodes of this type of nuisance behaviour, resulting in many arrests for shoplifting, youths being taken home to parents, letters to parents and seizure of items such as E Scooters. Local officers continue to support stakeholder meetings and visits to local businesses to encourage joint working and longer term crime prevention opportunities. Many of the businesses have been very supportive and have worked incredibly hard implementing their own measures to reduce and tackle nuisance and criminal behaviour.</p> <p>Summer Demands: Spring and summer always creates significant demands as local communities and visitors enjoy the better weather, beaches and what Swale has to offer. Good weather, and longer days also result in other call demands, such as missing people/children, mental health concerns and road traffic incidents. It has been an incredibly challenging, long summer for our officers who have worked tirelessly long hours to protect our communities. I am so incredibly proud of them all, for their braveness, hard work and the incredible resilience they show each and every day.</p> <p><u>Road Safety</u></p> <p>Swale Community Safety Unit continues to address Road Safety concerns and with the support of the Special Constables deliver regular activities to support road safety and target nuisance vehicles.</p> <p>E Scooter use remains a concern in our local communities in terms of road safety and nuisance behaviour. Several days of action have taken place, resulting in over 30 E Scooters being seized and removed from our streets, permanently. This remains a priority, and activities to educate and remove illegal E Scooters from our streets will continue.</p> <p>On Saturday 12th August the Special Constabulary conducted a road safety operation. 40 vehicles were stopped and checked, resulting in 26 traffic offence reports being reported, from use of mobile phones, not wearing seatbelts, speeding</p>
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		<p>offences as well as many other construction and use offences.</p> <p>Our Beat PCs continue to review reports and engage with communities to better understand their concerns regarding road safety, so that targeted activities continue into the autumn and winter period.</p> <p>Safer Autumn Plan – Education and visible policing activities will be taking place during the Halloween and Bonfire Night periods, to provide reassurance and deter anti social behaviour.</p> <p>Kent Police are taking part in the National Week of Intensification into Knife Crime taking place from the 13th to the 19th November 2023. Our officers will be undertaking a range of activities including targeted operations, engagement and education to reassure young people they are safer not carrying knives, and to walk away from harm.</p>
<p>Key Issues/Emerging Trends</p>		
<p>KCC arrange a contextual safeguarding meeting which focusses on young people and where ASB is occurring. Information from this meeting could be used to identify hot spots</p> <p>While the weekly partnership group provides a valuable operational oversight, there may be an opportunity for a less frequent meeting to analyse trends or identify gaps that may exist</p>		
<p>Weekly Tasking and Coordination Group – Key Updates</p>		
<p>The weekly partnership meetings provide an opportunity to share information between the police, community wardens, ERT and social housing providers.</p> <p>It provides a useful way to raise operational issues seeking solutions in a timely way.</p>		
<p>Cross Cutting Themes (Comments/Impact on priority/specific actions undertaken)</p>		
<p><i>Reducing Reoffending</i> <i>Communications and Training</i> <i>Cultural Awareness and Hate Crime</i></p>		
<p>Police participated in National Hate Crime Week from Saturday 14 October</p>		
<p>Priority 4</p>	<p>Supporting Vulnerable People</p>	
<p>Lead</p>	<p>SBC – Steph Curtis</p>	

Performance Stats	Previous Rolling Year (October 2021 – end September 2022)	Current Rolling Year (October 2022 – end September 2023)	Change
Vulnerable/repeatedly targeted callers (Kent Police)	573	827	+254 +44.3%
Actions	Status <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	Update	
4.1 Continuation of complex needs pilot	In progress	Funding has been confirmed until end March 25 by KCC. The project is also being rolled out to wider areas, with support from Swale. Monitoring of impact of the project continues.	
4.2 Delivery of training for a greater range of partners on modern slavery and preventing extremism	In progress	KCC Modern Slavery Coordinator is able to deliver some online MSHT sessions for Swale CSP. This request was raised at the last meeting, but no interested partners have yet come forward.	
4.3 Continuation of pilot family hub at Dunkirk	In progress	Further funding was confirmed for the Dunkirk Hub at the end of June – this delay meant that the hub did have a hiatus. A review has taken place of engagement to date and following discussions with partners, will recommence with delivery directly on the target site with a number of partners onboard. If needed, a second off-site location will be added in.	
4.4 Consider partnership response to tackle accidental dwelling fires	In progress	Specific cases where there is a risk of accidental dwelling fires are referred into the vulnerability panel. KFRS have in place their home fire safety team to undertake checks at target locations. SC to link in with KFRS as to whether further partnership action is needed.	
Key Issues/Emerging Trends			
No identified key issues or emerging trends.			
Vulnerability Panel – Key Updates			
<p>Although there has been improvement in CMHT attendance at vulnerability panel, this tends to be when they have made a referral rather than as a standing attendee and their regular participation would be welcomed.</p> <p>Good level of attendance from other partners and good level of new cases.</p> <p>An issue has been raised about some of the commissioned services that refer into the panel, but not being signed up to the Kent and Medway information sharing protocol. Therefore</p>			



meaning they are not able to attend the vulnerability panel meeting to engage with the conversation about their case.

Brotherhood Wood Strategic Group/Dunkirk Hub Project Group – Key Updates

The Brotherhood Wood Strategic Group has not met in a number of months due to apologies given. However, with the re-launch of the hub directly on the site, this is hoped this will increase engagement and allow for increased evidence of any issue on site. KFRS are engaged with the hub now and will seek to engage with residents over fire safety concerns. A review has also taken place of risks to staff in attending the site, which is currently felt to be reduced, hence the refreshed hub taking place on the site. Agency attendance and community engagement will continue to be monitored.

Cross Cutting Themes (Comments/Impact on priority/specific actions undertaken)

Reducing Reoffending
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Safeguarding Adults Week 2023 will take place in November from the 20th to the 25th. KCC are coordinating activity by partners.