

2019-
2022

Dartford Community Safety Strategy

2021 Refresh

Keep Dartford Safe
Dartford Community Safety Partnership



Foreword

Welcome to the Dartford Community Safety Strategy for 2019-2022

The joint Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was formed in 2006, disbanded October 2020 and has been replaced by separate borough CSPs. The current strategy remains live for the duration it was intended however this refresh is the first to be completed by the Dartford Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The joint partnership worked well throughout its lifetime with partners delivering numerous projects and initiatives which contributed to the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour in both Boroughs. Even though this formal partnership has now ended, the good working practices and cross-Borough cooperation continues.

The new CSP allows the partnership to focus solely on the issues affecting Dartford. The final year of this three year strategy retains the four previously identified priorities that deal with the community safety issues that have the greatest impact on our communities and neighbourhoods. It also explains where the focus will be for each priority and how we intend to measure our progress. We are confident that our approach captures and addresses both the priorities identified through evidence gathered across our partner agencies and the views of local people.

We believe this Community Safety Strategy demonstrates how the new Partnership's statutory agencies, together with the voluntary and community sector and residents, will continue to work together to keep Dartford's people and neighbourhoods safe.

The Pandemic has changed many things, including the levels and types of crime and anti-social behaviour happening within Dartford. This, refreshed, strategy reflects that change. One thing that has not changed however; is that people need to feel they are safe, both in their homes and, as the District unlocks, when out and about, enjoying the wonderful opportunities Dartford has to offer



Councillor Jeremy Kite
Leader, Dartford Borough Council
Chair of Dartford CSP



Chief Inspector Junior Dann
District Commander, Kent Police
Vice-Chair of Dartford CSP

Introduction

Dartford Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is made up of statutory agencies brought together under a shared responsibility placed upon them by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act has been amended over the years since its introduction to include responsibilities to not only reduce crime but to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB), recognising that this can have a considerable impact on local communities, and to lessen the reoffending of those who repeatedly commit crime.

The Pandemic has meant that key statutory partners have all faced extra demands on their time and resources at a time when statutory requirements placed on Partnerships have increased and the community safety landscape is changing. Certain strands of criminal activity that impact Dartford's communities and neighbourhood extend far beyond Dartford's border and are particularly challenging. The Partnership will aim to extend its joint working to bring in the relevant expertise and skills to help us tackle them, as well as addressing our local priorities. We will ensure that our progress is monitored closely throughout the life of this strategy, with a full review at the end of each year to enable us to respond appropriately and effectively to changing circumstances.

Our Partnership

The Dartford CSP formed in January 2021 and comprises the following members;

- Kent Police*
- Dartford Borough Council* including:
 - Leader of Dartford Borough Council and/or Cabinet Portfolio Member
 - Director Housing and Public Protection
 - Head of Housing
 - Enforcement and Regulatory Services Manager
 - Community Safety Manager
 - Community Safety Officer
- Kent County Council*
- Clinical Commissioning Group*
- Probation Service*
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service*
- Voluntary Sector representative's i.e. Victim Support and Neighbourhood Watch.

The partner organisations denoted * all have a statutory duty to work together to tackle crime and disorder however, very significant contributions are made to Partnership activities by a host of voluntary and private sector groups, charitable organisations and local community groups, without which, our ability to tackle community safety priorities would be much more restricted. Each year the CSP has a legal duty to complete a Strategic Assessment of the levels of crime and ASB being experienced in our Borough. The purpose of the Assessment is to:

- determine whether priorities remain the same or whether there are new priorities to address;
- highlight performance, progress and achievements against commitments made in the previous Community Safety Plan; and,
- identify key crime, disorder and ASB risks and threats to our local communities.

As part of moving forward and developing a new Community Safety Strategy, the Partnership has also taken the opportunity to look back at successes which have laid the foundation for initiatives, some of which will continue to be developed over the next few years. The following highlights some of our most recent key successes. However it is important to note that the Council has taken on additional roles since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic including delivering humanitarian aid. Although Staff have continued to work through the pandemic there has inevitably been some disruption to some services resulting in Project Work being postponed due to 'lockdown' measures, and the redeployment of staff.

Key Partnership Successes

Violent Crime and Domestic Abuse

- Funding (£248,242 over 3 years to March 2020) secured from the Home Office Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Transformation Fund to deliver the Altogether Safer Project across Dartford and Gravesham establishing an Out of Hours IDVA Service at North Kent Police Station; delivering the Choose Respect Programme to boys and young men aged 11-18 years and working with BAME and hard to reach victims to encourage accessing of services.
- Secured £137,880 from the MHCLG Domestic Abuse Services Fund to run the Step Change Project (from early 2019) to provide intensive, wrap-around the family support to victims of domestic abuse with complex needs and for 1:1 and group support for their children.
- Targeted work through the Borough's multi-agency Vulnerability Forum to assist individuals with complex needs who are particularly vulnerable to safeguard them from harm and support them in accessing treatment services and accommodation.
- Making full use of both permanent and rapid deployment CCTV camera systems in town centres to deter ASB and more serious offending behaviour, capture evidence and improve public safety.
- Established local multi-agency Serious Youth Violence Group to develop effective plans to provide interventions for young people identified as being involved or at risk of involvement in criminal activity.
- The Community Safety Unit (CSU) had received funding from the [VRU](#) (Violence Reduction Unit) to purchase a number of Trauma Kits, this will be allocated to shops and venues in key locations across the district.
- Dartford have also using funding from the VRU to purchase Knife Amnesty bins, with agreement these are to be placed in youth hotspot areas, and knife wands to be provided to NTE (Night Time Economy) venues, shopping centres etc.
- The creation of a Contextual Safeguarding Forum that has resulted in targeted youth engagement work in Dartford Town Centre, Swanscombe and Oakfield Park

Anti-Social Behaviour (incorporating criminal damage related to ASB)

- Joint work between Dartford CSU and Kent Police to tackle ASB associated with street drinking to encourage individuals into treatment and support services.
- Operation Ransom (Dartford) to address ASB caused by nuisance bikes through intelligence gathering to identify the riders, messaging highlighting offences and impact on local communities and through education delivered by the Youth Engagement PCSO.
- Support provided to the countywide operations and successful multi-agency action in Dartford to address fly-tipping and environmental issues, targeting and using formal action against offenders.
- Interventions and enforcement action targeting adults and young people engaging in ASB to help change and reduce the impact of their behaviour.
- Raising awareness of the dangers of fire raising and delivering fire safety messages.
- Dartford CSU has secured funding from the VRU for the deployment of 6 mobile CCTV cameras.

- DBC, having led on the introduction of the new £400 Fly Tip FPN
- Dartford CSU has been successful in its application for a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) for one persistent offender of ASB in Dartford. Breach of a CBO is a criminal offence and the offender may be arrested if breached.
- Police continue to act on reports of Nuisance vehicles, and make use of dispersal orders where possible, a car meet/gathering was successfully disrupted with the use of a dispersal order which was publicised via social media.
- Tackling Nuisance Bikes through joint action involving Police and Dartford Borough Council Parks Department and on private land with the support of integrated Planning enforcement
- The renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order in Dartford Town Centre
- Expanding Dartford Borough Council's Public CCTV system

Acquisitive and Property Crime

- Delivery of seasonal initiatives raising awareness and providing advice to the public on steps to take to reduce the risk of burglary/guard against shed and garage breaks, motor vehicle crime and theft e.g. Christmas Safety Shop, Safer Summer Campaigns.
- Use of D-TAC Community Protection Warning letters/Notices to deter persistent shoplifters from entering member premises and ensuring that there is good communication between both our Schemes and with other Schemes in the county to tackle cross-border offending.
- Joint work with KCC Wardens and Trading Standards to engage with and raise awareness of residents/communities in areas where issues such as scams and distraction burglary are more prevalent (e.g. elderly residents, residents affected by thefts of Asian gold).

Substance Misuse

- Joint Police and Council Licensing Team visits to licensed premises to ensure adherence to licensing conditions and to encourage the responsible sale of alcohol.
- Referral of vulnerable individuals at risk of exploitation to local Vulnerability Groups to safeguard them against harm e.g. risk of cuckooing of their property due to substance dependency, and share intelligence to help bring offenders to justice.
- Use of enforcement powers e.g. Criminal Behaviour Orders, to take action against identified persistent offenders engaging in ASB where their behaviour is alcohol-related.
- Using D-TAC Community Protection Warning letters/Notices for those individuals repeatedly involved in alcohol or drug-related crime from member premises.

Serious and Organised Crime (SOC)

- Established multi-agency Organised Crime forums with a broad representation of agencies to share intelligence/take joint action to disrupt Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) operating in our area.
- Joint work between CSUs and Early Help Teams to commission educational interventions to prevent young people being drawn into gang and drug-related activity through 1:1 and group work.
- Working with the Metropolitan Police staff and London Boroughs to improve information sharing, to identify young people who may live, socialise, go to school, or be living in care cross-border, to protect them from harm and/or being drawn into gang-related or other serious criminal activity.
- Training delivered to partner agency representatives promote a better understanding of how OCGs operate, key categories of SOC and identification of good practice.
- Publishing of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statements to raise awareness and guard against such activity presenting within local supply chains.

- Participation in the Kent and Medway Prevent Delivery Group and in Channel Panels following referrals and awareness-raising amongst staff to mitigate against security risks.

Reducing Reoffending

- Joint working between partner agencies through the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) process in order that potential issues that could affect an individual about to be released can be identified early on and tailored interventions developed to address factors influencing offending behaviour e.g. substance dependency.
- Joint work with KSS CRC and the use of Community Payback Teams
- Targeted outreach youth work and programmes to engage with young people involved in repeat ASB to change their behaviour and divert them into constructive activity
- Use of a range of enforcement powers e.g. Acceptable Behaviour Agreements, Community Protection Warnings and Notices, Criminal Behaviour Orders, to prevent reoffending.

Protecting Vulnerable People and Strengthening Communities

- Vulnerability Groups established to ensure that intelligence is fully shared regarding high risk of harm individuals and multi-agency plans delivered to try to meet their needs.
- Second successful bid to the Government's Migration Fund with London Borough of Havering acting as the Lead Authority, partnered by Dartford, Gravesham and Bexley to provide access to the Origins Atlas software system to develop our intelligence in respect of migration and community cohesion.
- Targeted work with women and girls from BAME backgrounds through the work of the Altogether Safer VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) Project with a focus on the development of peer support groups.
- Councils continue to engage with emerging communities through the provision of publicly funded cultural and community events such as local Festivals, various outdoor cinema and theatre shows, Festival of Light, St. Georges Day Parade.
- Dartford Civil Enforcement Officers regularly attend schools in the school safety van at relevant times to ensure adherence to safety measures such as zig-zag markings to reduce risks for school children and their families.
- The relaunch of the ShopSafe scheme in Dartford.
- Kent Police held a Community Engagement event in Swanscombe for residents that felt impacted by the series of thefts from private gardens
- Dartford CSU and Kent Police have held a number of virtual engagement events via twitter
- Council Staff have been and continue to deliver food and prescriptions to vulnerable residents during the COVID-19 pandemic
- The Council have employed COVID Marshalls to patrol the Town Centre enforcing social distancing throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Our Objectives

How have we identified our objectives?

The Partnership has a statutory duty to produce an annual Strategic Assessment to measure performance towards meeting our CSP objectives in tackling agreed community safety priorities. The Assessment collates considerable information and data from a broad range of partner agencies, detailing levels of crime and ASB that enables the CSP to consider the current position and any changing circumstances or emerging issues that could necessitate different approaches or interventions.

Certain other considerations have been taken into account in addition to recorded figures that have helped to identify those areas of work that now form the priorities contained in the final year of this Community Safety Strategy 2019-2022. These considerations include:

- Volume – level of offences as a proportion of total crime;
- Level of harm – impact offences have on victims and communities;
- Community concern – level of priority which local people would attribute to a particular offence;
- Partnership added-value – extent to which multi-agency working can enhance the ability of agencies to tackle a particular strand of offending behaviour;
- Trend analysis – giving due consideration to patterns of increase in an offence type (where it is possible to ascertain).

In addition, existing and emerging national priorities, legal obligations faced by CSPs, policing priorities included in both the Kent Police Control Strategy and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Policing and Crime Plan, are also taken into account.

Public Opinion

The need for local people to be given an opportunity to voice their views and opinions is recognised as crucially important in achieving long-term change and improving community safety. Whilst statistics can provide a good foundation in identifying priorities, relying on them alone may result in issues that are key concerns in local neighbourhoods being missed.

A public opinion survey was conducted between 18 February and 3 March 2019. People living or working in either Dartford or Gravesham were invited to respond to the survey which was made available on both council websites and via social media platforms including Twitter. The survey asked respondents to identify those community safety issues that, in their experience, were of the greatest concern in their neighbourhood. A total of 420 people responded – 299 (71.19%) of these either lived or worked in Gravesham and 121 (28.81%) of respondents either lived or worked in Dartford.

Respondents were asked to select **the single MOST important issue** in their local area. 407 people answered this question and the vast majority stated that ASB was their main concern – 163 (40.05% of all respondents).

Single most important concern in local areas



Once people had identified what they felt was the most important issue in their area, they were also asked to choose their top 3 concerns within that category with the following results:

Most Important Issue	Top 3 issues within this category
ASB 163 respondents (40% of total)	Of 154 respondents to this question: Fly-tipping 65 (42%) Using/dealing drugs 62 (40%) Noisy/rowdy behaviour 61 (39%)
Property crime 94 respondents (23%)	Of 85 respondents to this question: Residential burglary 81 (95%) Shed/garage breaks 63 (74%) Theft of motor vehicles 49 (57%)
Town centre safety 80 respondents (20%)	Of 71 respondents to this question: Groups gathering on the street 45 (63%) Violence in the evening/NTE 43 (60%) Public place violence 27 (38%)
Violence 37 (10%)	Of 34 respondents to this question: Youth violence 22 (65%) Gun/knife crime 19 (56%) Robbery 16 (47%)
Substance misuse 33 (8%)	Of 29 respondents to this question: Drug dealing 24 (83%) Class A drug use 17 (59%) Cannabis use (45%)

Breakdown of respondents who completed the survey

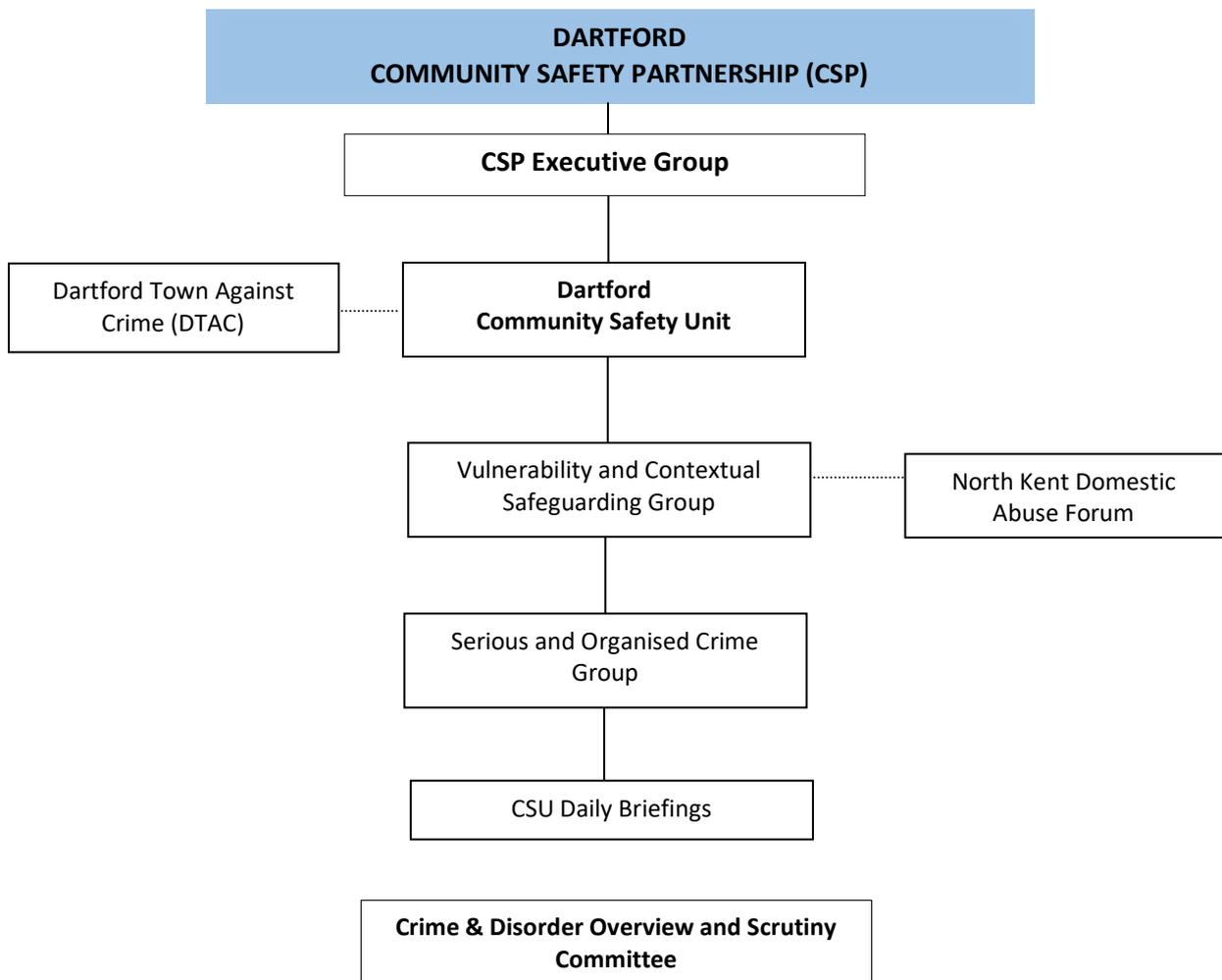
Age from 342 responses %		Ethnicity from 342 responses %		Gender from 342 responses %	
18-24	3.5%	White British	88.0%	Male	30.5%
25-34	9.0%	White Irish	2.5%	Female	66.5%
35-44	14.5%	White Other	3.0%	Transgender	0.25%
45-54	27.0%	White and Black African	1.0%	Not provided	2.75%
55-64	27.0%	Any other mixed background	0.25%		
65+	17.0%	Indian	1.0%		
Not provided	2.0%	Bangladeshi	0.5%		
		Chinese	0.25%		
		Caribbean	0.25%		
		Other	0.25%		
		Not provided	3.0%		

Governance

The newly formed Dartford Community Safety Partnership has been structured to ensure that the priorities in this Strategy can be effectively delivered and that performance and progress is regularly monitored in order to keep our work on track. As well as an overarching strategic group that brings together statutory agencies at a most senior level. To signify the importance of its work, the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Partnership will be held by the Leader of the Council or Lead Member for Community Safety/Public Protection and senior officers from other agencies within the partnership.

In addition, the Partnership has a number of Sub-Groups that are responsible for delivering the strategy at an operational level. Each of these groups has been implemented to enhance the other work partners do as part of their core responsibilities. It is important that the Partnership's operational groups do not duplicate work that is going on elsewhere.

Partnership Organisational Structure



Further Groups also contributing to the work of the Partnership include: Kent and Medway Prevent Delivery Board and the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Meeting.

Priority 1: Violent Crime including Domestic Abuse

Why is this important?

Protecting people from harm has been identified as a priority because the Partnership recognises that personal safety is paramount. Certain offences such as domestic abuse or sexual offences, are known to suffer from under-reporting and significant Partnership work has taken place over a number of years to raise awareness of services and assistance, particularly amongst hard to reach groups and encourage victims to come forward. National and global attention to sexual violence and abuse has generated public debate and this, together with a series of local initiatives that have been helping to fill gaps in services, have contributed to increases in reports to Police and other agencies.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a national priority and considerable work is being undertaken in Dartford and Gravesham through our Home Office funded, Altogether Safer project. The project has helped to provide the right services at the point of need, carried out work with boys and young men to help break the cycle of VAWG and raised awareness within our local BAME community of support services to help remove cultural barriers to access.

Evidence at a national level shows that many areas have seen an increase in reports of domestic abuse during and following the first lockdown period of Covid-19. Stalking and harassment falls within the definition of domestic abuse and data suggests that victims who may have experienced these offences during lockdown felt able to come forward and report them once lockdown restrictions were lifted.

Whilst most serious violent offences remain rare, violent crime (offences of violence against the person, sexual offences and robberies) still accounts for the greatest proportion of total crime in Dartford equating to 40.2% of all crime. The vast majority (over 90%) of violent offences fall within the category of 'violence against the person'. However, of these almost half (44.1%) were offences of 'violence without injury'.

What is our focus?

- To continue to raise awareness of VAWG in all its forms, to increase victim confidence to report and seek specialist help;
- To work in partnership with the Local Children's Safeguarding Group to address violence committed against children and young people;
- To ensure that specialist support is available to victims of violence to see them through the justice system to help increase the number of perpetrators brought to justice;
- To safeguard vulnerable adults from the risk of harm;
- To improve our intelligence picture of violence occurring in public places.

What is our aim for change by the end of this Strategy?

- Reduction in violent crime (non-domestic) recorded in the Borough;
- Increased accessing of services by victims of domestic abuse (particularly from BAME and other hard to reach victims);
- An increased awareness of the strands of VAWG and support services available;
- Improvement in the detection rate of violence with injury offences (non-domestic);

- Successful monitoring and behaviour change of known offenders through the Integrated Offender Management Programme;
- Sound intelligence picture of hot spot locations for violent offences in public places (non-domestic);
- Reduction in violence with injury offences within hotspot locations and night-time economy areas.

Priority Performance Indicators for 2021-22 Quarterly CSP Monitoring

- Number of domestic abuse reports to Police;
- Number of domestic abuse victims accessing local services;
- Number of violent offences recorded in the Borough;
- Number of serious violent offences.

Priority 2: Persistent Anti-Social Behaviour and Environmental Crime

Why is this important?

Preventing and tackling persistent Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) has been identified as a key priority by many of Dartford's local communities because of the impact it has on their quality of life. Within our town centre, ASB also has the ability to negatively impact our local businesses and is particularly damaging to public perceptions of Dartford. Tackling ASB is resource-intensive and benefits significantly from multi-agency working, particularly where the ASB is intrinsically linked to drug and alcohol misuse as well as fly-tipping - a specific issue that effects both our rural and urban communities.

The impact of Covid-19 on levels of Police-recorded ASB incidents both nationally and locally is in contrast to the reductions seen in some crime categories. Our understanding is that a significant proportion of the increase in incidents recorded is directly linked to reports made to Police of breaches of Covid-19 restrictions concerning people failing to adhere to social distancing guidance.

Factors external to the behaviour itself will also have contributed to the increase in reporting. Many people have had to remain at home or work from home since the beginning of the pandemic and particularly during the first lockdown period – this at a time when the majority of children and young people were unable to go to school. We also saw particularly warm weather throughout much of April and May and with little opportunity to access leisure and social facilities that would ordinarily be used many had to spend far greater time either indoors or if available to them, in their gardens/outdoor spaces linked to their properties. This, as well as the fact that many people saw this as an opportunity to carry out DIY projects, is likely to have contributed to more awareness of domestic noise at a time when tolerance levels may have been tested. For many families, especially those living in accommodation with no outdoor space and restricted financial means, this has been a very challenging year and frustrations and anxiety will have influenced behaviour that may have resulted in disputes that would not necessarily occur between family members and between neighbours.

Considerable increases in ASB have been recorded across Kent. In Dartford, there were 2,855 ASB incidents recorded in the year ending 30 September 2020, an increase of 49.9% compared with the previous 12 months or an additional 950 incidents.

Fly-tipping is seen as a key manifestation of ASB and potentially, a factor in crime and fear of crime and is frequently linked to deliberate fire-setting. It has an adverse effect on the quality of life of local residents and also affects economic development/tourism, making areas less attractive to potential investors and visitors. Dartford Council works with a range of agencies in taking enforcement action against offenders whenever possible through both reactive investigations and proactive operations.

What is our focus?

- To continue to reduce ASB incidents by taking a holistic approach in each case looking at any underlining issues which need to be addressed;
- To utilise the powers and legislation available to Councils and other partners to combat ASB;
- To continue to prosecute individuals that fly-tip in our Borough;
- To reduce the number of deliberate and accidental fires.

What is our aim for change by the end of this Strategy?

- Reduction in ASB incidents recorded;
- Increase in percentage of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for fly-tipping offences;
- Reduction in fly-tipping incidents;
- Reduction in deliberate fires.

Priority Performance Indicators for 2021-22 Quarterly CSP Monitoring

- Number of recorded anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the Police in Dartford;
- Number of active ASB cases being investigated by Dartford Borough Council;
- Number of graffiti incidents;
- Number of fly-tipping incidents;
- Number of fly-tipping prosecutions;
- Number of Community Protection Warnings/Notices and Acceptable Behaviour Agreements issued;
- Number of deliberate fires;
- Numbers of repeat victims of ASB;

Priority 3: Preventing Offending and Reducing Re-offending

Why is this important?

Preventing offending has been identified as a priority because the Partnership understands the detrimental impact that crime has on victims, their families and local communities. The focus of partnership activity will aim to disrupt Serious and Organised Crime and prevent and reduce youth offending (which will encompass gang-related crime). Serious and Organised Crime and gang-related youth violence are now recognised as national priorities by Central Government and there is an expectation that Community Safety Partnerships will have a much more proactive role than has historically been the case, in working more closely with law enforcement agencies that have traditionally been the primary organisations to tackle these issues.

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is a multi-agency process for identifying those offenders who have or are causing harm to communities through their criminal and/or anti-social behaviour. Multi-agency expertise and resources are pooled to try to identify ways of reducing reoffending. The most common priority groupings both at county and local level related to involvement in Serious and Acquisitive Crime - equivalent to 35.8% of the total cohort of prolific offenders.

What is our focus?

- To continue to improve our intelligence picture of Serious and Organised Crime Groups, and gang-related activity in our area;
- To work in partnership with appropriate agencies to address re-offending and take a holistic approach, by addressing the reasons why individuals re-offend;
- Raise awareness of gangs and knife crime including an appreciation of the consequences and risks of carrying knives/other weapons both amongst young people and their families but also to increase the understanding of this issue amongst front line professionals;
- To safeguard potential victims of crime.

What is our aim for change by the end of this Strategy?

- Reduction in crime recorded the Borough;
- Reduction in the number of young people committing crime;
- An increased awareness of gangs by young people to avoid them becoming involved in or targeted by gangs;
- Improvement in the detection and disruption of Organised Crime Groups;
- Successful monitoring and behaviour change of known offenders through the Integrated Offender Management Programme;
- Sound intelligence picture of the current gangs operating in and around the Boroughs.

Priority Performance Indicators for 2021-22 Quarterly CSP Monitoring

- Number of total crimes committed in the borough;
- Number of first time entrants into the Youth Justice System;
- Use of Custody by young people (at both remand and sentencing stages);
- Engagement in Education, Training and Employment (ETE) for both statutory school age and post statutory school age;
- Indicative local re-offending rates (introduction date of this KPI is to be confirmed).

Priority 4: Protecting Vulnerable People and Strengthening Communities

Why is this important?

CSP members share Safeguarding responsibilities to protect people who are more vulnerable to harm for a variety of reasons. In addition to those who are susceptible to harm through such factors as their age, disability, gender, religion and belief, or sexual orientation there are those who find themselves in specific circumstances that make them vulnerable to being victimised repeatedly.

Recent work in Dartford has reinforced the value of a joint, multi-agency approach of delivering tailored interventions to identified individuals and/or families. Vulnerable people are frequently repeat victims; ensuring they receive relevant and timely support will help to bring offenders to justice and ultimately also reduce demand on services.

Dartford is already one of the most diverse districts in the county and given projected levels of growth over the next few years, this is set to continue as new communities move into North Kent. Experience from other parts of the country indicates that such rapid change presents a risk of increased community tension and incidence of hate crime and a threat to community resilience and cohesion which is at an already heightened level.

In addition, Local Authorities have a legal duty to take steps to reduce the threats posed by terrorism and extremism as well as mitigating against security risks.

What is our focus?

- To continue to raise awareness of hate crime, in all its forms, to increase victim confidence to seek support;
- To understand the changing demography of the CSP area;
- To continue to provide events that are accessible to all and strengthen communities;
- To raise awareness amongst children who are vulnerable by age to criminal exploitation;
- To safeguard vulnerable children who are directly at risk of harm;
- To protect specific communities who are more vulnerable to particular crimes.

What is our aim for change by the end of this Strategy?

- A better understanding of the changing demographic profile of Dartford, with effective community cohesion between long standing and new communities;
- Increase in confidence of hate crime victims resulting in greater reporting of hate crime and the number of offenders brought to justice;
- Established working practices between us and neighbouring London Boroughs that identify and mitigate risks caused through the safeguarding moves of families whose child/children have been criminally exploited.

Priority Performance Indicators for 2021-22 Quarterly CSP Monitoring

- Number of reported hate crimes reported;
- Number of Safe and Well Visits conducted by Kent Fire and Rescue;
- Number of Community Events held;
- Number of homeless applicants placed in Temporary Accommodation.

Partner Priorities

Dartford’s Community Safety Strategy brings together agencies to tackle the issues that are important to local people. It is made up of other agencies all of whom have their individual plans aimed at delivering specific actions which, in many cases, lay alongside the objectives outlined in this Strategy. It is important that the other daily business of these agencies is understood by the CSP to enable it to understand what they are delivering across the District, offer support where it is needed, and also avoid duplication of effort which is both wasteful and inefficient. Where partner agencies have identified their key objectives, these are set out below.

Kent Community Safety Team (KSCT)
Priority 1 – Violent Crime including Domestic Abuse
Priority 2 – Persistent Anti-Social Behaviour and Environmental Crime
Priority 3 – Preventing offending and reducing re-offending
Priority 4 – Protecting vulnerable people and strengthening communities

Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP)
Priority 1 – Serious Violence and Organised Crime’ and ‘Domestic Abuse
Priority 2 – Anti-social Behaviour
Priority 3 – Safeguarding Vulnerable People’
Reduce Reoffending is a cross-cutting theme in the Kent Community Safety Agreement

Kent Police
Priority 1 – Putting victims first – Ensuring victims and witnesses feel confident to report crime and receive swift and effective help and support.
Priority 2 – Fight crime and ASB – Work with partners and local communities to understand, prevent and tackle crime and ASB
Priority 3 – Tackle abuse, exploitation and violent – develop and share intelligence to build a detailed local picture of threat/risk/harm and vulnerabilities to enable the deployment of the right resources to prevent, disrupt and investigate offending
Priority 4 – Provide visible neighbourhood policing – focus on local problem solving, together with partners and local communities.

Kent Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Priority 1 – Hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of the Kent Police’s Priorities
Priority 2 – Enhance Services for Victims of Crime and Abuse
Priority 3 – Commission services that reduce pressure of policing due to mental health
Priority 4 – Invest in schemes that make people safer and reduce re-offending
Priority 5 – Make offenders pay for the harm that they have caused
Priority 6 – Actively engage with residents in Kent and Medway

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)
Priority 1 – To build safer, stronger and more active communities in which the people of North Kent can thrive.
Priority 2 – To encourage public participation in the prevention and solution of crime, so that effective liaison can be achieved between the public and the police.
Priority 3 – To work collaboratively as a team in partnership with relevant police organisations and other statutory bodies such as Dartford CSP.
Priority 4 – To remain relevant, accountable and inclusive in all our work and relationships.
Priority 5 – Aspire to be welcoming to all people, to be trusted, dependable, approachable and supportive of the 600+ NHW schemes in Dartford and Gravesham.
Priority 6 – To keep members fully supported with resources and crime prevention information, thereby increasing wellbeing and minimising crime.

Key Contacts

<p>Dartford Borough Council Community Safety Unit Civic Centre Home Gardens Dartford Kent DA1 1DR Tel. 01322 343434 www.dartford.gov.uk</p>	<p>Kent Police Thames Way Northfleet Gravesend Kent DA11 8BD Tel. 01474 369055 www.kent.police.uk</p>
<p>Kent Police and Crime Commissioner 1st Floor, Gail House Lower Stone Street Maidstone Kent ME15 6NB Tel. 01622 677055 www.kent-pcc.gov.uk</p>	<p>Kent County Council Community Safety Unit Invicta House Maidstone Kent ME14 1XX Tel. 08458 247247 www.kent.gov.uk</p>
<p>Kent Fire and Rescue Service The Godlands Straw Mill Hill Maidstone Kent ME15 6XB Tel. 01622 692121 www.kent.fire-uk.org</p>	<p>Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company Joynes House New Road Gravesend Kent DA11 0AT Tel. 01474 569546 www.ksscrc.co.uk</p>
<p>NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group NHS Kent and Medway CCG Kent House 81 Station Road Ashford TN23 1PP Tel: 01634 335095 www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk</p>	