



# Rolling Action Plan 2023 / 24

## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Introduction  | 3  |
| ASCP governance   | 5  |
| Our approach  | 6  |
| Considerations in developing the rolling action plan 2023 / 24  | 7  |
| Our progress in 2022 / 23   | 7  |
| The changing environment  | 8  |
| What the strategic assessment told us   | 10 |
| New priorities  | 11 |
| Reducing serious violence, including youth violence, county lines, organised crime, violent extremism | 12 |
| Tackling violence against women and girls, including domestic abuse, sexual offences                  | 15 |
| Reducing ASB and concerning behaviours, including substance misuse and neighbourhood crime            | 18 |
| Restoring confidence, supporting communities, including location hotspots, offender management        | 21 |
| Next steps  | 24 |

## Introduction

The Ashford Community Safety Partnership (ACSP) brings together a range of statutory and voluntary sector services to jointly determine how they can work together to reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. The aim of the ACSP is to **make Ashford a safer place to live, work and visit**. The overall decision-making body of the ACSP is the ACSP board.

Under the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007, district and borough CSPs in England and Wales are required to:

- Produce an annual strategic assessment
- Produce a three-year rolling partnership plan setting out partnership priorities, with actions to deliver these priorities
- Have a dialogue with communities to both inform these processes and explain the outcomes

Our rolling action plan 2023/24 has been developed following on from our annual strategic assessment, as well as in consultation with stakeholders.

A subgroup of the ACSP will take responsibility for the delivery of each priority identified by the strategic assessment and rolling action plan. They will take the top-level action plan contained within this document, build and develop it into a full, SMART action plan and ensure delivery against it.

The action plans created by the subgroups are approved by the ACSP board and progress against them is assessed at each quarterly meeting. A performance group is responsible for monitoring progress against our key crime and fear of crime indicators, following on from subgroup intervention.

The membership of the ASCP board is:

- The local authority (responsible authority)
- The local police (responsible authority)
- The Fire and Rescue Service (responsible authority)
- The Kent, Surrey and Sussex local community rehabilitation company (responsible authority)
- The Clinical Commissioning Group (responsible authority)
- Kent County Council – Community Safety Partnership (responsible authority)
- The Head Teachers' Forum chair
- Chairs of the ACSP subgroups

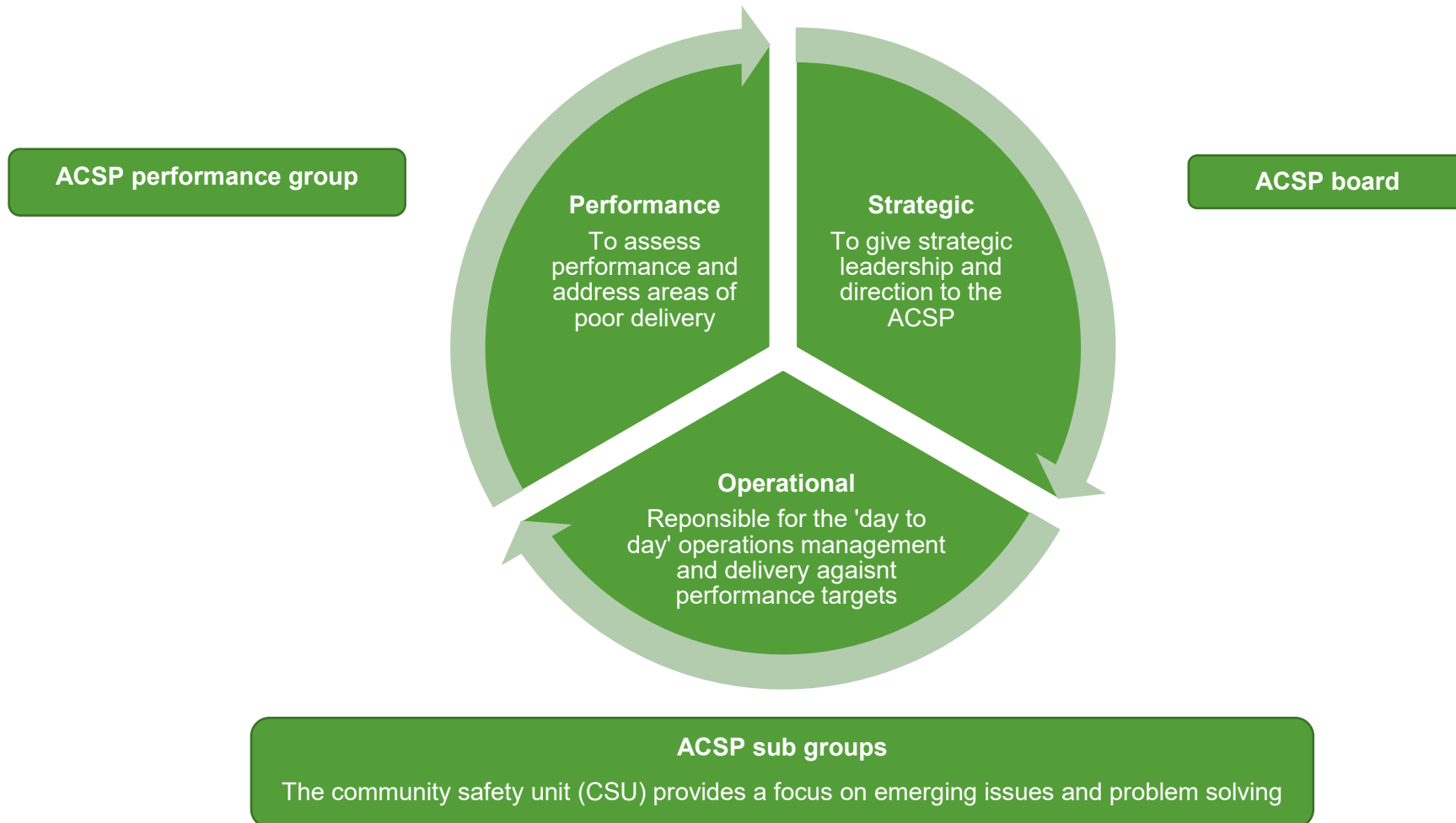
The ACSP will ensure that the priorities, actions and targets that we have identified in the rolling action plan will be delivered through a multi-agency approach by having:

- Strong strategic management
- Tasking our joint resources through well-established partnership operational structures, including identifying, managing and reducing risk
- Strong performance management

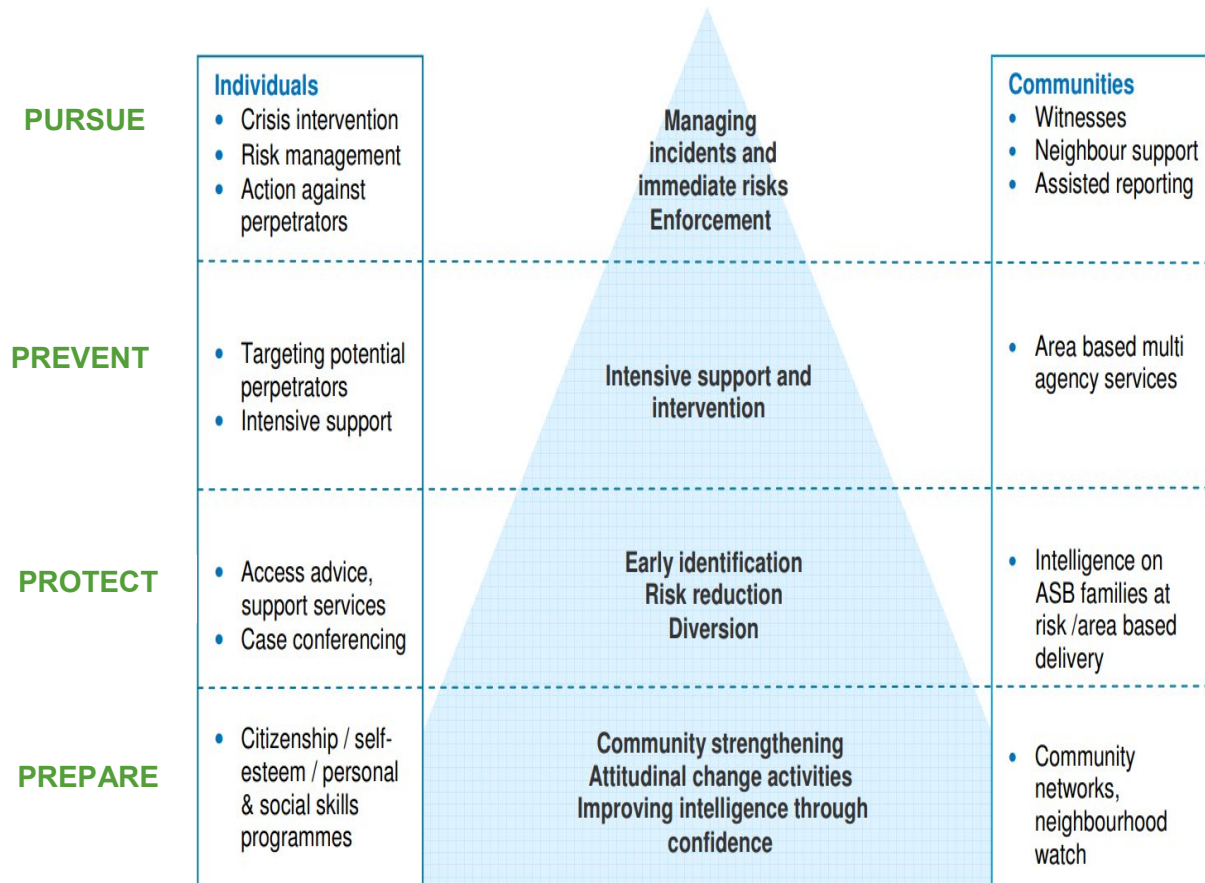
We will continue to work hard to keep all communities in Ashford safe.

## ACSP governance

The governance of the ACSP has 3 key levels of decision making – strategic, operational and performance.



## Our approach



The ACSP has a whole systems approach to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The diagram opposite illustrates the four tiers of intervention.

Our experience tells us that investing in one type of intervention alone does not resolve the problem. For example, enforcement is most effective if it is supported by local communities and other activity is taking place to change behaviour.

The triangle of intervention is applied when we are looking at any type of crime or anti-social behaviour issue that requires the engagement of a range of services, voluntary and community groups to find long term solutions.

Our whole systems approach is based on four tiers:

- Prepare
- Protect
- Prevent
- Pursue

## Considerations in developing the rolling action plan 2023/24

### Our progress in 2022/23

The ACSP made significant progress in delivery of the plans set out in the rolling action plan 2022/23. Achievements include:

- Progress to reducing knife and weapon enabled crime, including the placement of knife amnesty bins in key locations, the launching of a Knife Pledge for businesses to sign up to, bystander training delivered to target audiences, numerous knife sweeps held across the borough, and five 'buddy tags' issued to young people.
- Work to reduce night time economy related crime has included Pubwatch and 6 Ashford premises successfully securing Best Bar None accreditation (a Home Office approved scheme to identify well run premises that service alcohol)
- Targeted, intelligence led operations to disrupt county lines activities
- Introducing a co-ordinated approach for peak periods impacted by ASB, working with businesses in town centres to do so
- Increasing our use of powers, such as Civil Injunctions

## Considerations in developing the rolling action plan 2023/24

### A changing environment

There have been a number of changes to the landscape the ACSP is part of and works within. The ACSP considers all of these changes within the strategic assessment and uses this analysis to support and inform priority setting. Some of the key changes to our environment are outlined below:

#### The Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence. The responsible authorities (also known as 'duty holders') in the Serious Violence Duty are:

- The police
- Fire and rescue authorities
- Justice organisations (youth offending teams and probation services)
- Health bodies (Integrated Care Boards)
- Local authorities

Educational institutions, prisons and youth custodial institutions will be under a separate duty to co-operate with duty holders, but they are not "duty holders".

The Duty allows for local areas to have the flexibility to determine the geographical extent of their partnership and does not require the creation of new multi-agency structures. Importantly, the guidance advises that existing local structures where possible should be used to comply with the requirements of the Duty. The Duty applies in the defined local area and not at a regional level.

There are key requirements for the duty holder authorities to fulfil together:

- Undertake an evidence-based analysis of the causes of serious violence in their area (and have effective data sharing to enable this)
- Develop a strategic needs assessment based on the analysis
- Develop and implement a strategy with solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area, which will need to be reviewed every year.



## **Violence against women and girls (VAWG)**

The government has published a number of new strategies, expectations and standards relating to domestic abuse, such as the Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan 2022, Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance 2022 and the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Standards 2022. The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan entitled 'Making Kent Safer 2022- 2025' includes VAWG as a priority. In addition, the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) established a Violence Against Women (VAWG) inquiry report was published in the summer of 2022. The Victim's Panel was set up to support the inquiry, and their work continues to inform strategy development. Key themes from the panel includes victims feeling as traumatised, if not more so, by the criminal justice process as the crime(s) themselves, a perception there was no consideration or flexibility to work around victim's life, with the victim expected to work on the system's terms and a common belief that there is unconscious bias at work.

Confidence in the ACSP partners, particularly criminal justice agencies, is low. There have been numerous high-profile cases, including the horrific crimes perpetrated against Sarah Everard, Zara Aleena, Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman and the Kent Police Community Support Officer, Julia James. Crimes committed by Met Police Officers like David Carrick have also impacted on trust and confidence levels. This has been compounded by the impact on young men and women of social media misogynists like AndrewTate.

## **The cost of living crisis**

The cost of living has become an issue of major political concern in the UK in 2022. The subsequent war in Ukraine and consequential energy challenges, followed by rising inflation and interest rates, have added to the mounting concern and resulted in large scale government interventions.

The cost of living crisis is putting more people at risk of crime. This includes those being exploited by criminals (for example young people being groomed to carry drugs, used to launder criminal money or sexually exploited). Acquisitive crime often increases in periods of economic downturn.

## Considerations in developing the rolling action plan 2023/24

### What did the strategic assessment tell us?

Further information from the strategic assessment is included in the following sections, but key highlights are:

- Total crime in Ashford decreased by **-3.8%** when comparing March 2022 – February 2023 (n = **11,311**) to March 2021 – February 2022 (n = **11,763**).
- Ashford has seen the joint third biggest percentage decrease across all Kent districts of **-3.8%**, compared to the Kent average of a **-2.1%** decrease. This should be compared to the previous strategic assessment, where Ashford had the biggest percentage increase in recorded crime levels across all Kent districts in 2021, with a percentage increase of **7.3%** (n = **768** offences), compared to the Kent wide average of **1.6%**.
- The peak months for crime in Ashford were November (n = **1,033**), August (n = **1,032**) and June (n = **1,021**). The lower months were February (n = **827**) and December (n = **862**).
- The peak crime ward for Ashford by some distance is Victoria (n = **2,284**). This is an increase in volume compared to last year's strategic assessment (n = **1,970**). The wards with the lowest crime are Conningbrook and Little Burton Farm (n = **92**) and Park Farm North Weald (n = **94**).

There are a number of areas we need to understand in further detail, and we need to take steps to address these areas as part of our subgroup activity 2023/24. These areas are outlined in this document and the strategic assessment.

## **New priorities for the rolling action plan 2023/24**

Following on from our strategic assessment analysis as part of the development of this year's rolling action plan we have developed the following priorities for the ACSP in 2023/24:

- **Reducing serious violence, including youth violence, county lines, organised crime, violent extremism**
- **Tackling violence against women and girls, including domestic abuse, sexual offences**
- **Reducing ASB and concerning behaviours, including substance misuse and neighbourhood crime**
- **Restoring confidence, supporting communities, including location hotspots, offender management**

## Reducing serious violence including youth violence, county lines, organised crime, violent extremism

### Our strategic approach

We know that serious violence is made up of a number of distinct crime types and causes. These include youth violence, county lines, violence associated with the night-time economy, violent extremism and others. Our existing strategic assessment approach will ensure we understand each distinct type of violence and that we respond according to the scale of individual problems. This will be supported by the new needs assessment to be undertaken as part of the new Serious Violence Duty.

We work to ensure we have a range of interventions, ensuring both our help offer and our enforcement approach are robust and targeted. We also know that a key part of this work stream is our ongoing communication and dialogue with our communities, ensuring they understand the crime profile in Ashford and that we work closely with them to manage perceptions and fear of crime.

### What did we achieve in 2022/23?

- Kent Police undertook a targeted operation in Stanhope with the support of the Problem-Solving Task Force. This took place between February and May 2022. The team conducted initial surveys, with resident feedback being the driver for activity. A multi-agency safer communities' event was held, providing youth activities and signposting to other agencies and activities. An analysis of the operation's impact identified an overall 5.6% reduction in crime compared to 2021, a 33% reduction in the incidents reported to Police, including a 64% reduction in the ASB linked to rowdy or nuisance gatherings in public.
- Monthly district contextual safeguarding multi agency meetings continue to bring partners together to reduce the risk associated with vulnerable adolescents – as individuals, groups, and in terms of the places they frequent.

## The strategic assessment told us

The strategic assessment revealed:

- Violent crime has seen a **-7.1%** decrease, with **5,339** incidents in March 2022 – February 2023 compared to **5,747** incidents in March 2021 – February 2022.
- VAP decreased by **-6.5%** comparing March 22 – February 2023 (n = **4,820**) with the same period the previous year (n = **5,157**). This is in line with a Kent wide decrease of **-7.3%**.
- When looking at violence against the person offences March 2022 – February 2023, the peak month for offences is August (n = **479**) and June (n = **449**).
- The peak ward for violence against the person is Victoria (n = **924**) and Aylesford and East Stour (n = **344**). When comparing this to the same period in the previous year, this shows an increase in reported violence against the person offences in Victoria (n = **772**).
- Robbery decreased by **-2.9%** (n = **-2**) when comparing March 2022 – February 2023 to March 2021 – February 2022, one of only four Kent districts to record a decrease. There was a Kent wide increase of **7%**.
- Violence with injury increased by **5.0%** (n = **55**) when comparing March 2022 – February 2023 to March 2023 – February 2022. This is against the Kent wide increase of **0.7%**. It is the third biggest percentage increase in volume across the Kent districts, behind Gravesham (**5.3%**) and Tunbridge Wells (**5.2%**).
- Most serious violence in Ashford increased by **1.5%** when comparing March 2022 – February 2023 to March 2021 – February 2022. This is against the Kent wide decrease of **-4.1%**.
- Possession of weapons in Ashford increased by **18.1%** (n = **13**) when comparing March 2022 – February 2023 to March 2021 – February 2022. This is the third biggest increase across all Kent districts and is compared to a Kent wide decrease increase of **6%**.

## Reducing serious violence including youth violence, county lines, organised crime, violent extremism – key activity for 2032/24

Lead agency – Ashford Police

| Key Areas      | Key actions   | Key outcomes and performance measures  |
|----------------|---|--|
| <b>Prepare</b> | Joint operations with BTP focusing on county line activity to be conducted at Ashford International Station.  | Increase in intelligence and judicial outcomes   |
| <b>Protect</b> | The Serious and Organised Crime Panels should continue and scaled for maximum impact<br>Preparation for the implementation of Martyn’s law – designing the support available to the relevant organisations  | Priority OGCs and individuals addressed through panels<br>Number of organisations identified and prepared  |
| <b>Prevent</b> | Events to educate 17-19 year olds about staying safe and drinking responsibly in the night time economy, learning from best practice in other night time economy hotspots<br>Task and Finish group to be established to address street drinkers’ behaviours | Awareness raising delivered, numbers reached and impacts on reported night time economy issues<br>Reduction in violence related to street drinking |
| <b>Pursue</b>  | Develop hotspot interventions based on the intelligence in the strategic assessment and that will emerge from the Serious Violence Duty needs assessment  | Hotspots identified and targeted interventions delivered   |

## Tackling violence against women and girls, including domestic abuse, sexual offences

### Our strategic approach

Violence against women and girls is a national priority, and we share the national commitment to ensure women and girls are safe. Violence against women and girls includes domestic abuse, rape and sexual offences – crimes where women and girls are by far the majority of victims. We also know the vast majority of victims do not report crimes to the police.

We recognise that domestic abuse is a serious and life-threatening crime that affects victims and their families. Our priority is that victims of domestic abuse – including children within the family are safeguarded from any further abuse.

Sexual violence affects young women and girls, and we will work with them to support them to feel safe in school, when travelling and when out and about in Ashford. We will also work with men and boys to challenge behaviours.

We want to empower women and girls to move on from abuse and sexual violence, to form healthy relationships and to have increased confidence to report incidents. We will have a greater focus on work around the younger age groups and address any need for interventions around girls and gangs. Other issues for further understanding are female genital mutilation, forced marriage and honour-based violence.

Although we have prioritised women and girls, we recognise that men can also be victims and our response and support services are available for men as well as women to access.

We will continue to take a coordinated approach across the partnership, ensuring all agencies work together to tackle domestic abuse, sexual offences and violence against women and girls.

### What did we achieve in 2022/23?

- The Ashford One-Stop-Shop saw 171 clients between Jan 22 and October 22.
- High risk MARAC cases were supported, including through rehousing

## The strategic assessment told us

The strategic assessment revealed:

- There were **3,455** domestic abuse offences in Ashford between March 2022 – February 2023. The peak months for domestic abuse offences were August (n = **356**) and May (n = **342**), and the lowest month was January (n = **235**).
- The peak wards for Domestic Abuse Notices to Children’s Social Care during October 2021 – September 2022 were Aylesford and East Stour (n = **14**) and Goat Lees (n = **12**)
- When looking at the community based IDVA services, there has been a 62% increase in medium risk referrals to outreach services across Kent, and a 15% increase to high-risk referrals to IDVA services – accounting for a 30% increase overall – when comparing 2020/21 to 2021/22.
- When looking at the One Stop Shop face to face data for all OSSs in Kent, most attendees access support from domestic abuse special agencies (**35%**), solicitors (**24%**) or the police (**14%**).
- When looking at the OSS face to face data for all OSSs in Kent, **93%** of attendees were women, and **7%** were men.
- When looking at the OSS face to face data for all OSSs in Kent, the most common type of abuse reported is emotional/psychological abuse (**20%**), followed by coercive and controlling behaviour (**18%**).
- The MARAC data shows that there were **177** cases from Ashford considered at the MARAC in the rolling year to October 2022
- Stalking and harassment in Ashford decreased by **-15.7%** (n = - **293**) when comparing March 2022 – February 2023 to the same period the previous year. This is compared to the Kent wide decrease of **-13.4%**.
- Sexual offences in Ashford decreased by **-13.2%** (n = - **69**) when comparing March 2022 – February 2023 to March 2021 – February 2022. This should be compared to an increase of **36.7%** in the previous strategic assessment. The **-13.2%** decrease is the second largest compared to all the Kent districts and compares to a Kent wide average of **-3.8%**. This compares to an increase in Ashford in the last strategic assessment of **14.4%**, which was the highest increase of all Kent districts.
- Rape in Ashford decrease by **- 6.5%** (n = **-10**) when comparing March 2022 – February 2023 to the same period the previous year. This is compared to a **- 0.4%** decrease across Kent. This should be considered in context to an increase in Ashford by **26.8%** in last year’s strategic assessment.



## Tackling violence against women and girls, including domestic abuse, sexual offences – key activity for 2023/24

### Lead agency – Domestic abuse forum

| Key Areas      | Key actions   | Key outcomes and performance measures   |
|----------------|---|---|
| <b>Prepare</b> | <p>Deliver the ACSP Domestic Abuse Action Plan, with review to ensure compliance with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 duties, Home Office Plans (e.g., perpetrator schemes) and national statements of commissioning.</p> <p>Increase promotion of VAWG services, working with local forums and increasing outreach through walk and talk events</p>          | <p>Increase in reports and use of commissioned services.</p> <p>Increase in satisfaction of services to tackle domestic abuse and VAWG by survivors</p> |
| <b>Protect</b> | <p>Review referral pathways of victims across services and systems, ensuring victims get to the right service at the right time, and that risk thresholds are correctly applied across the pathways.</p> <p>Review of risk assessment tools in use to support referral pathway</p>  | <p>Increase in efficiency of referral pathways across service areas</p>   |
| <b>Prevent</b> | <p>Roll out Best Bar None to licensed premises and promote Safer Streets, including exploring opportunities to roll out the scheme outside of the town centre.</p> <p>Identification of spaces/locations where the public feel unsafe and seek solutions to improve the environment through lighting, CCTV, Active Bystanders and other interventions</p> | <p>Increase in feelings of safety at night related to the night time economy and local areas</p>  |
| <b>Pursue</b>  | <p>Maximise the use of existing resources to make safe victims and target repeat and/or most dangerous perpetrators e.g., Claire’s Law, increased MARAC referrals, use of PSPOs to tackle harassment of women and girls in public spaces.</p>   | <p>Reduced repeat victim rate, reduced repeat offender rate</p>   |

## Tackling anti-social and concerning behaviours, including substance misuse and neighbourhood crime

### Our strategic approach

All residents have the right to the peaceful enjoyment of their own homes and neighbourhood. ASB and neighbourhood crime can have a serious impact on the wellbeing of residents and for those who work or socialise in Ashford.

Any behaviours that are regarded as a nuisance could be considered to be anti-social. This behavior can range from low level activity to incidents that are also a criminal offence. We undertake to tackle ASB, with a focus on incidents that are deemed more high risk and impactful upon communities and individuals.

We do understand that some presentations of ASB can reveal some concerning information surrounding the alleged 'perpetrator', for example substance misuse, mental concerns or other vulnerability or safeguarding concern. Where this is the case, we work to tackle these underlying issues and support the person to address the concerning behaviours. Otherwise, emphasis will be on ensuring that perpetrators are dealt with effectively and at an early stage before the problem can escalate.

We work closely with the police to ensure that repeat victims are identified and that the council and police work together to support such individuals.

### What did we achieve in 2022/23?

- In response to public concern, we have developed a new ASB strategy with a clear focus on ASB related to young people at key periods, particularly school holidays. We have a new shared approach – 'Engage, Explain, Encourage, and, where necessary, Enforce'.
- Dispersal areas have been implemented on 22 occasions – largely relating to Ashford town centre.
- A total of 27 Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) were issued, with ten escalating to Community Protection Notices (CPNs). Fourteen relate to town centre and anti-social behaviour.
- Safer Streets funding was spent by 31 March 2022., and the positive results from this fund have been seen during 2022/23:
  - An additional 13 CCTV cameras in place in key strategic locations across the borough, as well as increased monitoring of key CCTV by the council's monitoring centre
  - Purchase and distribution of over £5k worth of safety equipment to the public
  - Creation of Safe Spaces and associated bystander training for staff who work within the town centre
  - Launching the first mobile Safe Space. The vehicle supports the Street Pastors' activity in the night-time economy, allowing them to expand their operations to safeguard more vulnerable people.

## The strategic assessment told us

- There were **11,393** ASB reports to police January – December 2021. The peak month for ASB offences were July (n = **1,156**), followed by November (n = **1,107**). The peak ward for ASB recorded by the police was Victoria (n = **595**).
- Public order offences in Ashford March 2022 – February 2023 totaled **804** offences, as compared to **928** for the same period the previous year, a reduction of **13.4%** (n = - **124**). This compares to a Kent wide reduction of **-16.3%**. The peak month for public order offences was June (n = **85**). The peak ward for public order offences was Victoria, by some distance (n = **180**).
- **227** ASB incidents were recorded by Ashford Borough Council between January – December 2022, as compared to **389** for the same period 2021
- Criminal damage offences in Ashford March 2022 – February 2023 totaled **1,285** offences, as compared to **1,504** for the same period the previous year, a reduction of **-14.6%** (n = - **219**). This is the second largest reduction in Kent and compares to a Kent wide reduction of **-6.2%**.
- The peak ward for arson and criminal damage offences in Ashford February 2022 – January 2023 was Victoria (n = **228**), in line with the town centre location.
- Kent Fire and Rescue Services data shows fires in Ashford during the period October 2021– September 2022 increased to **389**, representing the highest number compared to the previous 6 years. The previous year the lowest levels for the last six years was recorded (n=**237**). Kent Fire and Rescue Services data shows deliberate fires in Ashford during the period October 2021– September 2022 increased to **141**, representing the highest number compared to the previous 6 years. The previous year the lowest levels for the last six years was recorded (n=**75**).
- Drug offences in Ashford March 2022 – February 2023 totaled **210** offences, as compared to **230** for the same period the previous year, a reduction of **-8.7%** (n = - **20**). Ashford is one of only three districts to record a reduction in this time period. This is the second largest reduction in Kent and compares to a Kent wide increase of **11.1%**.
- In Ashford the number of emergency admissions for alcohol and self-harm have increased over the five years from 2017/18 to 2021/22 and are much higher than assault and substance misuse which have been largely stable over the same five-year period. This pattern is similar to most other Kent districts. However, self-harm admissions in Ashford show a more notable rise than most districts over the five-year period.

## Tackling anti-social and concerning behaviours, including substance misuse and neighbourhood crime – key activity 2023/24

Lead agency – Ashford Borough Council

| Key Areas      | Key actions   | Key outcomes and performance measures   |
|----------------|---|---|
| <b>Prepare</b> | Continuance of the District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting (DCSM)  | Protective factors increased for key individuals and groups   |
| <b>Protect</b> | Planning and delivery of school holiday events and interventions in order to address peak month hotspots  | Reduction in ASB reported in peak months where young people are identified as the concern           |
| <b>Prevent</b> | Implementation of a multi-agency response through development of an ASB town centre strategy, to be signed off by the ACSP<br><br>Targeted intervention pathways to prevent young people showing concerning behaviours escalating to high risk ASB and violence | Reduction in ASB reported in peak wards, including where young people are identified as the concern |
| <b>Pursue</b>  | Continued utilization of ASB related powers   | Increased use of powers   |

## Building public confidence and supporting communities, including location hotspots and offender management

### Our strategic approach

The ACSP is committed to building public confidence in statutory and member agencies, ensuring that victim and community voices are heard loud and clear, that visible action is taken to tackle crime and anti-social behaviours and solid relationships are built between us and our communities.

We know that often communities are best placed to tackle their own issues. Key to the work of the partnership is supporting communities to enable this. It is also vital to the work of the partnership to ensure our services meet the needs of all communities, particularly the most vulnerable in our communities such as victims of hate crime and those with multiple disadvantages. We also need to ensure that the perception of crime in our borough reflects the reality of crime in the borough, and we know this requires sustained community leadership and ongoing conversations and effective communications.

## The strategic assessment told us

- Community safety was a key issue for many residents in the Ashford Borough Council 2022 Resident Survey, with **74%** indicating that it was one of the most important things in making somewhere a good place to live. **47%** of residents indicated that community safety was one of the things they would most like to see improved locally. A large majority of residents felt safe during the day (**88%**), whilst **29%** stated that they felt unsafe after dark to some extent. **41%** of residents in deprived postcodes stated that they felt safe after dark, an improvement from **32%** in 2020.
- In the same Residents Survey, most residents indicated that they felt safe in their local area during the day (**88%**), whilst a small minority felt unsafe (**5%**). After dark, 50% of residents felt safe, whilst approximately a third felt unsafe (**29%**). Overall the percentage of residents reporting that they felt unsafe has decreased slightly from **34%** in 2020 to **29%** in 2022.
- The percentage of residents living in deprived areas who reported feeling safe after dark has increased from **32%** in 2020 to **41%** in 2022. Residents in rural, more affluent areas were more likely to report feeling safe at night than those in urban areas.
- In February 2023, the repeat victim rate in Ashford was **15.9%** (n=1,572), compared to the Kent repeat victim rate of **15.5%**.
- Most young offenders are male (n=86), and the largest cohort is males aged 17 + (n=26). This is the same cohort as identified in previous strategic assessments. The most common wards of origin for young offenders in 2021/22 were Beaver (n = 12) and Washford (n = 9).
- Of the **166** nominals currently on IOM across Kent, **78** have been listed as the named offender on at least one crime report whilst on IOM. Collectively these nominals are responsible for **537** offences committed whilst on IOM.
- The Probation Service is a statutory criminal justice service that supervises high-risk offenders released into the community. Most of the caseload is male (n = **334**). Most of the caseload is in the aged 30 – 39 age group (n = **138**). The most common offence category is violence (n = **120**).

## Restoring public confidence and supporting communities – key activity 2023/24

Lead agency – Police / Ashford Borough Council

| Key Areas      | Key actions   | Key outcomes and performance measures   |
|----------------|---|---|
| <b>Prepare</b> | Public engagement through partnership events such as VAWG walk and talks  | Interactions with community logged and responses publicised in a you said, we did style. Those engaged reporting increased confidence |
| <b>Protect</b> | Review and refresh the Independent Prevent Advisory Group and introduction of the Kent and Medway Prevent Advisory Group  | New groups running successfully   |
| <b>Prevent</b> | Complete the CHES project action plans and ensure robust feedback to community<br>Ensure best take up and most efficient use of available grant funding across priority areas and publicise successes | Action plans delivered to community satisfaction<br>Additional resources brought into the ACSP through successful grant application   |
| <b>Pursue</b>  | Build community confidence through targeted actions and you said, we did style communications   | Increase sanction detection rates for priority crime types  |

## Next steps

We need to know how well we are performing and whether our interventions outlined in the action plans above are making a real difference. To do this, we have set ourselves targets under each of our thematic priorities. These will be monitored on a regular basis. The following set of top line indicators will be used to measure performance overall:

- 2% reduction in violence with injury
- 2% increase in reported domestic abuse (or outcomes)
- 5% increase in reported sexual offences (or outcomes)
- 5% increase in reported hate crime (or outcomes)
- 2% reduction in reported ASB (following on a mapping exercise to establish baseline)
- 5% decrease in the number of people stating that community safety services need to improve as per the council's residents survey, with baseline established of resident's perception of safety before and after dark

We will continue to invest in an approach which will allow us to assess priorities and priority crime types and build a detailed picture around the victim offender location triangle for each priority. This will enable real targeted action to be devised and delivered by the partnership, as well as providing a useful tool for individual agencies to mainstream into their wider organisational business planning processes. This should translate into increased activity focusing on real changes to key crime trends and levels. This data will also inform commissioning partners and grant giving decisions moving forward.





*In partnership with*

