

Chief Constable's Report
to
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance and Delivery Board

MAKING KENT SAFER PLAN: DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE

Wednesday 30th November 2022

1. Strategic Overview.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (section 7) sets the statutory requirement for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to have a Police and Crime Plan.

The Police and Crime Plan set by the PCC in consultation with the Chief Constable is called '*Making Kent Safer*' which sets out the priorities that will drive the work of the force, partners and the PCC's resources between 2022 and 2025, and the overall strategic direction for policing and community safety in the county.

The Making Kent Safer Plan complements the joint Mission, Vision, Values and Priorities of the Force and in order to drive operational and long-term priorities for crime prevention, intelligence and enforcement, the Chief Constable sets out a Control Strategy each year which is adjusted and re-aligned to meet any change in policing demand identified through intelligence analysis, highlighting key areas of policing. The Control Strategy for 2022/2023 holds Violence Against Women and Girls and Child Centred Policing at the very heart of this with particular focus on vulnerability, exploitation, high harm crime, serious violence and abuse.

The seven key priorities of the Making Kent Safer Plan are:

- Work with residents, communities and businesses to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour
- Tackle violence against women and girls
- Protect people from exploitation and abuse
- Combat organised crime and county lines
- Be visible and responsive to the needs of communities
- Prevent road danger and support Vision Zero
- Protect young people and provide opportunities

2. Aims of the report.

This report centres around the 7 priorities of the Making Kent Safer Plan and aims to focus on how the Force has delivered against the priorities in the period August – October 2022.

3. Work with Residents, Communities and Businesses to Prevent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

The Force is dedicated to working with communities and local businesses to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Responding to the needs of local residents and communities, carrying out quality investigations, apprehending wanted persons and ensuring offenders are brought to justice are just a few of the measures of success.

Engagement remains a fundamental part of neighbourhood policing. Ward officers, youth engagement officers and community liaison officers lead on the engagement functions of the Community Safety Units (CSU) on behalf of the districts; there is at least one community liaison officer in each district. All districts actively use social media to engage with the public and attend partnership meetings with the local authorities. In addition to face-to-face engagement and use of

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traditional social media, Kent Police have launched a two-way engagement tool for residents, businesses and community groups in Kent and Medway called 'My Community Voice' (MCV) with over 9,000 members now signed up to the initiative. This enables Kent Police to update users with news, alerts, appeals, engagement events and general policing activities and allows the public to comment on these alerts and provide vital community intelligence within a private and importantly secure two-way interaction with Kent Police.

MCV has many additional benefits such as allowing specific groups to be set up based upon geographical location or membership in fields like rural communities, retail, licensed premises or universities. It also has features which allow Kent Police to see who has important evidence gathering tools like doorbell and dashboard cameras. Other exciting features include a survey function, to find out what matters most to communities. Surveys can be conducted at street, ward, district level or areas identified by Kent Police in response to an incident or crime. Through this two-way engagement, Kent Police will be able to respond to the issues which matter most to communities. This will provide vital community intelligence and increased community collaboration increasing public confidence in Kent Police.

To ensure high quality alerts are sent out to problem specific wards, Strategic Partnerships have delivered CPD training via Teams and updated the Sharepoint pages with the Terms of Reference and guidance document. Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association (NHWA) currently has around 5000 co-ordinators, and Kent Police are working alongside key members of NHWA to ensure that all NHWA members sign up to MCV to host the scheme in the same way the National Neighbourhood Watch scheme is hosted by the same platform.

The Digital Asset Management System went live in October 2022 and will work alongside MCV in empowering Kent and Medway residents and businesses to have a police force that they can communicate with in a professional friendly, convenient and secure manner.

3.1 Victim Based Crime

| | Recorded Crime | Last year | % Change | Number change |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| August 2022 | 13490 | 12484 | 8.1% | 1006 |
| September 2022 | 12854 | 12779 | 0.6% | 75 |
| October 2022 | 12045 | 13258 | -9.1% | -1213 |
| 3 Month total | 38389 | 38521 | -0.3% | -132 |

Victim based crime (VBC) has experienced a slight decrease of 0.3%, with 132 less Crimes between August 22 and October 2022 compared to the same period last year. August and September have seen an increase with the month of October seeing a reduction on the same month last year.

The VBC solved rate for the 2022 period was 8.7%, which is a slight increase from the 8.3% in 2021, with increases seen in the volumes of charges (+357) and youth cautions (+42) being administered.

3.2 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The Force is committed to tackling ASB and results in the past have demonstrated that the action taken was successful. Responding to the needs of local communities, carrying out quality investigations, apprehending wanted persons and ensuring offenders are brought to justice are just a few of the measures of success.

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| | Recorded Incidents | Last year | % Change | Number change |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| August 2022 | 3233 | 3135 | 3.1% | 98 |
| September 2022 | 2285 | 2553 | -10.5% | -268 |
| October 2022 | 2205 | 2522 | -12.6% | -317 |
| 3 Month total | 7723 | 8210 | -5.9% | -487 |

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has experienced an overall decrease of -5.9%, with 487 less incidents. There was a small increase in August 2022, higher levels are expected in the summer months with school holidays and the hotter weather. Decreases seen in September and October 2022 compared to last year.

For the three-month period, the following ASB call types saw the largest reductions:

- Rowdy or nuisance gathering in Public reduced by 8.3% (-230 incidents) compared to same period last year.
- Neighbour Disputes/nuisance reduced by 17.3% (-233 incidents) compared to same period last year.

3.3 Working to Reduce Business Crime.

The Force has invested time in building excellent relationships with local businesses and partners, establishing the foundations to work in partnership to reduce business crime in Kent. It ensures a close relationship with the business community through the Business Crime Advisory Group. Organised by the Crime Reduction Project manager this group meets quarterly to ensure a two-way flow of information between the Police and the attendees. The Federation of Small Businesses, the Cyber Resilience Centre, Retail and Business Crime Partnerships and Heritage Watch all attend to give a county picture of business crime.

Strategic Partnerships attend the meeting to update on the latest policing issues, advise on best practice and to ensure they are aware of the most up to date fraud / scams in circulation. The Business Crime Day of Action was well supported on October 19th where every district was encouraged to utilise their Town Centre Constables and focus on Business Crime and persistent offenders. The BCA group was updated by the Retail and Business Crime Partnerships lead on how effective this was in Kent, highlighting specific good work in Gravesham where joint working with security staff led to the identification and apprehension of five offenders. This good work was well publicised on social media and the local press to promote the excellent partnership working arrangements.

The Community Safety Unit SharePoint pages currently reflect the best practice from the National Business Crime Centre and will be updated to reflect contacts and learning from the Business Crime Advisory Group. The CSU Share Point page has also been updated to include 'Current Crime Trends' to recognise what crime is prevalent and what advice and action can be taken around tackling the problem.

Safer Campaigns.

Safer Summer plan campaigns took place during June to August and focussed on the following the following themes:

- Violence - particularly Violence Against Women and Girls, Robbery and NightTime Economy
- Road Safety
- Anti-Social Behaviour during the school holidays

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Districts such as Dartford and Thanet showed additional concentration to specific, area-based issues such as nuisance vehicles and beach crime respectively but whilst the plans incorporated such events as the Queens Jubilee and ASB Awareness Week, districts concentrated primarily on NTE patrolling events, making VAWG their main focus.

32 areas within Kent with high harm scores for violent crime are being supported by Grip funding so each safer summer plan reflected working in these key areas. Each location is supported by an OSARA (Objective, Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment) problem solving Plan. Each summer plan, map and OSARA plan has been listed on the Community Safety Unity Share Point page to enable officers and staff to access information relevant to their area and learn what they can do to assist in their execution.

Safer Autumn plan campaigns took place in September – November and recognised the themes of Hate Crime, Violence, Mental Health, Burglary and ASB with a continuing focus on the GRIP hot spot areas with VAWG running as a theme throughout. Districts showed greater partnership working around developing VAWG walk and talk events throughout the county, particularly Medway and Canterbury who worked closely with the universities to protect and inform new students.

CSUs have also been tasked with assessing licensed premises in preparation for the forthcoming football world cup to establish the appropriate assessments for use by officers which is being delivered alongside the county roll out of Best Bar None to provide safer socialising spaces across Kent and Medway.

3.4 Burglary Business and Community

| | Recorded Crime | Last Year | % Change | Number change |
|----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| August 2022 | 170 | 126 | 34.9% | 44 |
| September 2022 | 165 | 131 | 26.0% | 34 |
| October 2022 | 167 | 188 | -11.2% | -21 |
| 3 Month total | 502 | 445 | 12.8% | 57 |

Burglary Business and Community offences have experienced an increase of 12.8% with 57 more offences compared to the same period last year. Increases seen in August and September; these are against particularly low recorded months last year. There is a reduction in October 2022.

3.5 Burglary Residential

| | Recorded Crime | Last year | % Change | Number change |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| August 2022 | 436 | 393 | 10.9% | 43 |
| September 2022 | 404 | 404 | 0.0% | 0 |
| October 2022 | 420 | 418 | 0.5% | 2 |
| 3 Month total | 1260 | 1215 | 3.7% | 45 |

Burglary Residential offences have seen a 3.7% increase, with 45 more offences compared to the same period last year. August experienced the largest increase of the three month period and August is also the second highest month of the financial year; seasonally burglary residential offences tend to be higher in the summer months with more available opportunities where doors and windows are left open in the hotter weather.

3.6 Violent Crime

| | Recorded Crime | Last year | % Change | Number change |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| August 2022 | 7682 | 7475 | 2.8% | 207 |
| September 2022 | 7204 | 7645 | -5.8% | -441 |
| October 2022 | 6668 | 7741 | -13.9% | -1073 |
| 3 Month total | 21554 | 22861 | -5.7% | -1307 |

With regards to the Home Office counting rules Violent Crime includes a broad range of offences across a spectrum from non-injury reports to the most serious violence, including homicide. The Force's Control Strategy features quite heavily in this category, such as Sexual Offences, Domestic Abuse and Robbery.

Violent crime has experienced a decrease of 5.7%, with 1307 less offences when compared to the same period last year. An increase was seen in August, however there were reductions for September and October with the most notable reduction in October (-1073 offences).

Notably, there has been an increase in the charge rate from 5.5% in 2021 to 6.1% in 2022.

Violence Reduction Unit

Kent and Medway is one of 20 Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) formed in 2019 under the Home Office Serious Violence Projects programme to drive a whole system, preventative approach to tackling the causes of serious youth violence (public place violence involving young people up to the age of 25). The overarching aim of the VRU is to provide leadership and strategic coordination of all relevant agencies, to support a whole systems approach to tackling serious violence locally. It supports a multi-agency, long-term approach to preventing and tackling serious violence, which is not constrained by organisational or professional boundaries and is focused on generating long-term and short-term solutions. The performance indicators for VRUs set by the Home Office and the data to be used to evaluate the impact of VRUs are:

- A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25.
- A reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.
- A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25.

The medium-term objectives are set locally and are focused on increasing agency collaboration to prevent serious youth violence. The VRU is governed by an Oversight Board which is chaired quarterly by the Commissioner or his deputy and includes representation from Kent Police, KCC, Medway Council, NHS England, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Public Health, Her Majesty's Prisons, National Probation Service and the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). The focus for 2022/23 is weapon related harm, County Line risks and identifying and tackling Young Street Groups and the VRU collaborate with Kent Police to deliver the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy.

3.7 Robbery

| | Recorded Crime | Last year | % Change | Number change |
|----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| August 2022 | 130 | 91 | 42.9% | 39 |
| September 2022 | 113 | 90 | 25.6% | 23 |
| October 2022 | 96 | 112 | -14.3% | -16 |
| 3 Month total | 339 | 293 | 15.7% | 46 |

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Robbery offences have experienced an increase of 15.7%, with 46 more Crimes compared to the same period last year, with increases in August (highest recorded month of the financial year) and September and a decrease in October (-16). Offences have been on a decreasing trend for the last three months.

Notably, there has been an increase in the number of suspects arrested and interviewed.

3.8 Chief Constable's Crime Squad.

The Chief Constables Crime Squad (CCCS) continues to oversee serious acquisitive crime offences force wide with officers in North, West and East with a Detective Sergeant each supervising their respective Divisions. The Detective Chief Inspector and Detective Inspector continue to oversee this from a force wide perspective ensuring risk is minimised and force priorities are supported. All residential burglary and robbery offences are reviewed by the team daily and ownership taken of those which fall within the service level agreement of the Crime Squad. However, consideration is of course given to threat, harm and risk and the Crime Squad will either take ownership or assist Divisions with matters outside of this that pose the most threat and harm to the public and the Kent community. For example, providing tactical advice on matters where high risk offenders are outstanding to ensure their arrest is achieved in the timeliest way possible and evidence captured.

The Crime Squad continue to use both proactive and reactive approaches to tackling burglary and robbery offences. Offences relating to the theft of high value vehicles, burglaries targeting jewellery and cash and robberies with weapons have all been and continue to be investigated by the team whether standalone offences or a series. There have been a number of highlights during the last quarter including a number of single offenders being identified and charged with series offences, whether that being residential burglary offences or robbery offences including those which have been perpetrated with a knife.

The team has continued to focus on those offenders that are causing the most harm from a serious acquisitive crime perspective. This includes a group of offenders that were committing serious and serial acquisitive crime offences throughout the coastal towns in and around the Thanet region. The offenders were identified for series of offending over a three-week period. They were identified, arrested and charged with 35 offences including theft of motor vehicle, theft from motor vehicle and a number of Burglary offences. The individuals were recidivist burglary with their time on remand and upon sentencing ensuring they are not able to commit further offences.

Officers from the crime squad have further dealt with singular serious offences, a strong example of this was the West Division Crime Squad team's investigation into an Aggravated Burglary offence in Sevenoaks, where the offenders had entered the house by force, armed with firearms and weapons causing injuries to those inside and stealing money and items of property. The investigation was picked up by the team immediately and they commenced their investigation. Over the next three weeks they identified, conducted warrants and secured charges against 7 different individuals, who originated from different parts of London. The tenacity of the team was impressive particularly as they worked hard to secure charges often working very long extended hours.

Robberies are a key component of the work of the Crime Squad with a focus on those with weapons which invariably have a lasting impact on the victims who have been targeted. The North Crime Squad secured charges against an individual who was committing knife enabled robberies within Dartford. Those noted are indicative of the matters investigated daily by the Crime Squad who continue to target the most prolific offenders and protect victims of crime.

Crime Squad Rolling year total to October 2022

| | Rolling year total |
|--|---------------------------|
| Arrests | 173 |
| Prisoners dealt with | 215 |
| Warrants executed (Inc S32/18) | 117 |
| Positive outcomes linked to investigations | 341 |
| Charges-Total | 554 |
| Stop searches | 67 |
| Intelligence submitted | 367 |
| Sentences | 253yrs 1 month |

4. Tackle Violence Against Women.

Tackling offences against women and girls has always been a prime concern for the Force with victims and witnesses being a top priority, and central to the Control Strategy for 2022/23. However, to enhance the service provided, a new strategy to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG) was implemented with the Force investing in over 900 officers to work in local areas specifically investigating the offences that relate to VAWG, such as Domestic Abuse and Rape Investigation.

Following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard, Kent Police immediately instigated a number of activities, including engagement with over 1,000 members of the public at meetings across Kent, and the introduction of a new Officer Identity Verification Check process. This process enables members of the public, if concerned about an officer's identity, to ask for a check to be made through the Control Room operator who will confirm the officer is on duty and respond on the officer's radio.

The Force has been working within the National Policing VAWG Framework for delivery since December 2021. An ambitious timeline was set for forces to meet which included the development and publishing of a strategy and action plan. The public engagement held across Kent, directly led to the formation of a new Community Engagement Forum, which is now held bi-monthly and chaired by ACC Harman and also informed Kent's new VAWG Strategy. The work of this forum, the original Public Engagement Meetings led by Chief Officers, and the PCC's VAWG Inquiry, has enabled members of the public to directly influence, inform and shape the content and objectives within Kent's new VAWG Strategy. The county roll out of 'Best Bar None' provides safer socialising spaces across Kent and Medway and presently there are 56 premises across Kent and Medway that have already been accredited under the scheme, providing safer socialising venues. A further 34 are planned to be completed by the end of the year with the scheme currently focused on town centres but throughout 2023 the Force will look to expand across the whole of Kent and Medway.

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Kent Police held the annual Diversity and Inclusion conference with the VAWG theme of 'Discovery', there were a number of external speakers who described their lived experience in challenging inequality. DCC Maggie Blythe provided an overview of the National VAWG work and the new Kent Police sexism awareness video was launched which was received well and has provided the platform for the internal Upstander programme to be launched

There are a number of innovative workstream coming to fruition, including the operationalising of the VAWG dashboard, which highlights the highest harm offenders and locations using the performance framework set by the National Task Force. This data is being overlaid with the feedback from public engagement findings from Part 2 of the PCC enquiry and Safer Streets funding to ensure the right people and places are targeted at the right times. A new 'Ask Angela' campaign is being launched on public transport, a project overseen by partnerships to extend the reach to public transport, as this was an area highlighted in part 1 of the PCCs Inquiry as a place where women and girls feel unsafe.

The Force has continued to strengthen the system, having secured support from partners to include VAWG as a priority across the key partnership boards. Governance arrangements have been introduced at the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Executive Group and the joint Kent Chief's Executive Board. In addition, we are leading the field nationally with a review of MARAC, which has resulted in a proposal for a fully integrated multi-agency team, with shared funding across the partnership. This will provide an improved and more resilient service with wider stakeholder consultation is underway.

Finally, we submitted a joint bid with the University of Kent to develop a simulation style training programme for Child Exploitation. The University has received £50k and Kent Police continue to work with them to ensure that the objectives of developing a trauma informed approach and improving investigations are met. The project commenced in September 2022.

4.1 Rape Offences

The Force has established specific Rape Investigation (Phoenix) Teams to concentrate on this crime type; these are significantly harmful crimes that have a huge impact, not only on victims, but on how safe communities feel. There has also been the investment of Sexual Offences Liaison Officers (SOLOs) to ensure victims receive the highest standards of care, ensuring there is a single point of contact for any victim entering into the Criminal Justice System. The SOLOs attend reports of rape, secure and oversee initial evidence capture, provide key support, and safeguard victims all the way through the investigative process, culminating in attending and remaining with them through the duration of court hearings.

| | Recorded Crime | Last year | % Change | Number change |
|----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| August 2022 | 177 | 192 | -7.8% | -15 |
| September 2022 | 213 | 206 | 3.4% | 7 |
| October 2022 | 203 | 214 | -5.1% | -11 |
| 3 Month total | 593 | 612 | -3.1% | -19 |

Rape offences have experienced a decrease of 3.1%, with 19 less offences compared to the same period last year. Reductions are seen in August and October with a small increase in September 2022 (+7) compared to the same period last year.

The Charge Rate for Rape has increased in 2022 when compared to 2021, improving from 3.6% to 5.4%

4.2 Sexual Offences

| | Recorded Crime | Last year | % Change | Number change |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| August 2022 | 483 | 526 | -8.2% | -43 |
| September 2022 | 595 | 616 | -3.4% | -21 |
| October 2022 | 544 | 620 | -12.3% | -76 |
| 3 Month total | 1622 | 1762 | -7.9% | -140 |

Sexual offences have experienced a decrease of 7.9%, with 140 less crimes compared to the same period last year, with decreases experienced in all 3 months.

5. Protect People from Exploitation and Abuse.

Abuse, exploitation and violence are a crime and a violation of an individual's fundamental human rights. The Force is committed to tackling these crimes and safeguarding vulnerable people from serious harm. The revised Force Control Strategy 2022/2023 highlights exploitation and serious violence and abuse as Force priorities, demonstrating its dedication to dealing with offenders and protecting victims and witnesses of these crime types.

5.1 Domestic Abuse.

DA is a key part of the VAWG strategy however it can affect everyone, men, women, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, colleagues, and friends. Kent Police is constantly seeking new ways to ensure DA victims receive the best service possible. The Force is committed to providing an enhanced intuitive response to victims of DA which will lead to changes in how some DA incidents are dealt with.

| | Recorded Crime | Last year | % Change | Number change |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| August 2022 | 3239 | 3194 | 1.4% | 45 |
| September 2022 | 2880 | 3127 | -7.9% | -247 |
| October 2022 | 2824 | 3296 | -14.3% | -472 |
| 3 Month total | 8943 | 9617 | -7.0% | -674 |

Domestic Abuse offences have experienced a 7.0% decrease, with 674 less offences compared to the same period last year. Notable monthly reductions are September 2022 (-247) and October 2022, they are also the lowest recorded months of the financial year.

Active Crime for DA remains stable, with an average of 2400 active crimes across the Force. Suspect Interviewed Rate has fallen when compared to 2021, falling from 35.9% to 34.2% in 2022.

The Charge Rate has improved to 6.9%, rising from 5.2% in 2021. There has also been an improvement in the Solved Rate across the Force, rising from 7.2% for the same period in 2021, to 9.3% in 2022.

Proactive Domestic Abuse Teams

These dedicated teams are working towards the new requirements and are delivering excellent results, working collaboratively with the DA Hub and Vulnerability Investigation Teams. They use a blend of data to identify offenders who pose the greatest risk and deliver a targeted approach to tackle their offending. Some examples of their excellent outcomes recently include:

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- A DA offender, career criminal with links to gangs and drugs, assaulted his partner and damaged her vehicle. The Proactive DA team gathered intelligence and arrested the suspect as he re-entered the UK. The team recovered a large quantity of cash, expensive clothing and mobile phones so secured the support of financial investigators. The suspect was charged with money laundering and subject to a confiscation order to recover the seized assets and the DA victim was safeguarded through robust bail conditions.
- A DA offender was identified as 'wanted on recall to prison' following a series of burglaries and other crimes across the county. Extensive intelligence checks conducted identified an address where officers forced entry to find the suspect hiding in a cupboard and was arrested. He was recalled to prison and no longer poses a risk to his current or previous partner.
- A Proactive team took ownership for over 10 offences relating to one suspect, including a serious assault on his partner. The victim was fearful and felt unable to support a prosecution. The Proactive team actively located the suspect, carrying out an early arrest and secured a recall to prison. The team engaged with the victim, built her trust and she agreed to make a statement. Officers presented a holistic offending picture to CPS who agreed the only option was to charge the suspect, thereby safeguarding the victim.

Domestic Abuse Hub

The DA Hub is operating seven days a week as planned. The skilled workforce provides a prompt video response to DA victims, utilising video technology and telephony to capture evidence first-hand, assess risk, safeguard victims and make referrals to a wide range of support services. The team have very close links to the Proactive DA Teams who respond swiftly to priority taskings.

Rapid Video Response (RVR) has attracted a lot of national interest and the NPCC want to work with Kent Police to promote the DA Hub as part of the policing response to the VAWG programme they are working on with the BBC. A three month evaluation of the hub has taken place with West Division having gone live in early October and East Division's live date being brought forward.

The role of the proposed Domestic Abuse Liaison Officers has been paused whilst the Neighbourhood policing review and the Offender Management Project are underway.

5.2 Violence Against the Person (VAP)

| | Recorded Crime | Last year | % Change | Number change |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| August 2022 | 7069 | 6858 | 3.1% | 211 |
| September 2022 | 6496 | 6939 | -6.4% | -443 |
| October 2022 | 6028 | 7009 | -14.0% | -981 |
| 3 Month total | 19593 | 20806 | -5.8% | -1213 |

Violence Against the Person has experienced a decrease of 5.8%, with 1,213 less crimes compared to the same period last year. As can be seen from the table above, there has been a reduction in offences in September and October, when compared to 2021.

When looking at where the decline is within the Crime Type of VAP, Stalking & Harassment has seen a reduction of 1060 Crimes for the 3-month period, when compared to 2021 and the charge rate has increased from 5.5% to 6.1% in 2022.

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Homicide Prevention

On 24th September 2022 the Home Secretary sent an open letter to all Chief Constables where she stipulated areas of policing that needed improvement and focus and one of these was homicide prevention. Kent Police has been working on their Homicide Prevention Strategy which has now been formulated and is awaiting final sign off before official release. The Force is considering relevant legislation and how to better utilise it to assist in the prevention of homicide. It is also raising awareness of new legislation relating to the Offensive Weapon Act 2019 as this relatively new Act provides officers with greater powers to seize weapons from private residences which were previously lawfully possessed thereby decreasing the opportunities for these weapons to be used in committing further offences.

The new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 provides police with the opportunity to issue a Domestic Abuse Protection Notice (DVPN) which will provide immediate protection following a DA incident. The new civil protective order (DAPO) issued by the court will provide flexible, longer-term protection for victims. A breach is a criminal offence carrying a maximum 5-year penalty. The Force has also benefited from the Homicide Working Group prevention work led by Kent's ACC Simon Wilson. Homicide reviews happen routinely in Kent; however, these have historically focussed on the quality of investigation and improved response but more recently these have been studied to provide an agenda of the future prevention of homicide.

Kent Police also take part in the Offensive Weapons working group which is a branch off from the Homicide Working Group and from this a Kent Problem Profile is being drafted to assist in the future. The Force has also implemented a homicide rapid review process and an Accelerated Capability Environment (ACE) which bring together organisations to determine whether it is possible using data to accurately predict the likelihood of a homicide occurring.

5.3 Child Exploitation.

The Child Centred Policing Plan focusses on prevention of Child Exploitation and Child Abuse through drawing out policy implications from serious case reviews, national reviews, peer reviews and working groups. This in turn leads to suggesting, designing and testing adjustments to our policing approaches. The Force has invested in dedicated Missing Child Exploitation Teams for each of the divisions, in order to safeguard those who are most vulnerable in our society, working closely with our partner agencies in doing so. They also work very closely with other teams and departments within the Force to share information, such as the County Lines & Gangs Team, the Schools Unit and Youth Engagement Officers. In addition, the Force's POLIT (Paedophile Online Investigation Team) continue to work tirelessly to pursue those offenders who again, seek to cause serious harm to those vulnerable.

The Force has a dedicated programme of child exploitation awareness training for all teams which evolve based on emerging data and enhanced trauma awareness information. In October 2022, following a peer review of Kent's approach to CSE through the national Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Programme (VKPP), we received our final review report. As an independent review, focus was on our current arrangements to tackle CSE and a task and finish working group will now be working through the recommendations, led by the Child Centred Policing Manager.

The Central Referral Unit are delivering training to front line officer with regards to the new CP/AP Risk Assessments process that seeks to gather a richer picture of children and vulnerable adults, identify and act early through partnership around adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and improve the quality of the voice of the child for police and safeguarding partnerships.

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Op Makesafe continues to be developed in force, with work ongoing between the Child Centred Policing Team, Citizens in Policing and Community Safety Units and the guidance will be utilised by Community Safety Unit for test purchasing deployments focussing on underage sales of age restricted items. When Kent Police are ready to start piloting the test purchasing process under Op Makesafe, the Business Crime Group will be briefed to make them aware of the plans to proceed in testing awareness of child exploitation in the hospitality sector. The Op Makesafe Training Development Sub-Group chaired by the Child Exploitation Trainer for Kent Police has created a national training package for hotel staff. This programme is for the development of a national policing approach to identifying Child Exploitation in the hospitality sector, specifically starting with hotels. Following the completion of the training package, the trainer will take learning from the project and work with the Crime Reduction Project Manager to assess CE training needs across other business types and sectors for partnership CE training and engagement.

5.4 Organised Immigration Crime (OIC) and Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT).

Illegal entry to the United Kingdom remains one of the largest threats to the UK's borders. Significant numbers continue to attempt to enter the UK via marine vessels, aircraft and clandestinely in lorries, hidden in purpose made concealments or in the boots of cars. Illegal entry into the UK is considered an organised immigration crime (people smuggling). However, there is a causal link between organised immigration crime and human trafficking and modern slavery. There are thousands of cases nationally where individuals have been brought to the UK with the intention of exploiting them, thus becoming human trafficking. The exploitation (modern slavery) can take a number of forms but is predominantly borne through sexual, criminal and labour exploitation, and domestic servitude.

Modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) is unfortunately prevalent in communities and remains a hidden crime that is not always easy to identify and tackle. Due to the geographical location of Kent, the county acts as a gateway to and from the continent which organised criminals seek to exploit through the trafficking and exploitation of those most vulnerable in our society. This crime type is often complex in nature, requires the support and co-operation from our partners and considerable investment to develop intelligence, investigate, disrupt those responsible for facilitating it, to safeguard those affected and ultimately to prosecute those responsible for seeking to profit from the misery of others. Predominantly the demand in Kent is linked to those exploited through county lines offending closely followed by forced labour and sexual exploitation.

Kent Police is committed to working with our partners to tackle this crime and is part of identified priorities under the Force Control Strategy. With the introduction of the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Team (MSHTT), Prevent & Protect Officers and the implementation of a myriad of training programmes, officers have a better understanding and ability to identify victims and implement appropriate safeguarding which place them in an excellent position to combat this crime type going forward. This wider understanding helps ensure more victims are referred through the National Referral Mechanism, generating more investigative opportunity and ensuring those most vulnerable receive effective support to help them cope with the trauma they have suffered and eventually reintegrate with society. During the period January to September 2022, Kent Police have submitted 403 NRM referrals.

The Kent SCD MSHT team has recently seen an increase of staff dedicated to this crime type and are focussed on developing intelligence and proactively targeting those criminals and Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) that are involved in the exploitation of vulnerable people specifically with regards to MSHT offences. There is currently no established Organised Immigration Crime Team in Kent, although there are plans to create one and incorporate within the MSHT Team. This would mean Kent Police would take a far more holistic approach to these crime types that are intrinsically linked in many areas.

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During the SCD's Monthly Tasking and Coordination Group meeting, the Kent Analytical team provide a tactical assessment which includes intelligence and recommendations in relation to a plethora of crime types, including OIC and MSHT. This enables discussion to be had amongst the Senior Leadership Team regarding whether further intelligence development is required, and or whether an investigation is to be adopted into SCD. In addition, the meeting is a mechanism for relevant leads to ensure targeted activity is undertaken against appropriate criminality and that regular updates are provided across our SLT to ensure the force continue to focus on the highest threat, harm and risk criminals/OCG's.

6. Combat Organised Crime and County Lines.

The Force understands the challenges in tackling organised crime and the significant impact the associated crime types can have on victims and the wider community. Led through the Kent and Essex collaborated Serious Crime Directorate and the Kent Crime Command and delivered locally through CSUs and local teams, the Force is committed to actively combat organised crime and county lines activity in the county.

6.1 Organised Crime Groups (OCG)

The Serious Organised Crime (SOC) team deal with the offences that cause the most threat, harm & risk within Kent targeting Organised Crime Groups (OCG) who erode the economy and communities, those that are responsible for drug importation and supply, firearms offences, aggravated burglary, and theft of ATMs, amongst other high-profile crimes. An OCG is two or more individuals, working together, with the intent and capability to commit serious crime on a continuing basis. It will include elements of planning, control, coordination, structure and group decision-making. These crimes have a significant impact on the public; the OCGs ruthlessly target the most vulnerable, ruining lives. Serious and organised crime is defined as individuals planning, coordinating and committing serious offences, whether individually, in groups and/or as part of transnational networks.

The SOC team continue to work jointly with the Force Intelligence Bureau, sharing intelligence to build a detailed picture of the threat, risks and harm posed. This allows us to better understand serious and organised criminals and their vulnerabilities more effectively and target disruptions to greater effect. The Force work with a wide range of other investigative and enforcement agencies who play key roles in tackling specific serious and organised crime threats. These include but are not limited to HM Revenue and Customs Immigration Enforcement and the Serious Fraud office.

In September 2021 the Organised Crime Group Management Unit (OCGMU) was formed as a response to a review undertaken by the Kent Inspectorate into OCG management. The inspectorate identified an area of improvement that 'all identified OCGs should be mapped regardless of criminality or victim location.' It was identified that Kent Police had no dedicated resources available to identify OCGs and was below the national average for having identified OCGs operating within their force area. OCGs operate within all communities and can influence all types of criminality which cause significant harm and when they are identified they reflect the police are aware of the criminals who are causing the most harm to the public within their districts and can effectively plan to disrupt them in a directed way alongside other partner agencies. The OCGMU is currently staffed with 2 OCG co-ordinators, soon to be 3 following a recent interview process. The co-ordinators represent each Division in the County, along with 4 Research & Development Police Constables, and a Detective Sergeant to supervise the Unit. Since its inception in September 2021 the Unit has increased the amount of mapped and scored OCG's by 39%.

As of October 2022, there are 50 mapped and scored OCGs in Kent. In the last 6 months, there have been a total of 72 OCG disruptions in Kent and some examples of specific results achieved against them in Kent include one that was dismantled in September 2022 over 3 days whereby

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several warrants were executed at multiple addresses in Kent. 5 members of the OCG were arrested and a quantity of Class A drugs, cannabis, mobile phones, SIM cards and over £14,000 of cash were seized. One member has been charged with an offence of being a person with a dog dangerously out of control, who later pled guilty at Court. Other individuals remain under investigation.

OCGMU have been responsible for the development and mapping of many new OCGs including OCGs adopted by SOC, Division, Money Laundering Team, Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Team and Financial Investigations as well as NCA/ERSOU. OCGMU continue to work on Division, with 18 of the 50 OCGs managed by Lead Responsible Officers (LROs) on Division, and 32 with SCD. Since its inception in September 2021, the OCGMU have worked hard to become an approachable far-reaching and efficient Unit, working well with others in streamlining the development and OCG nomination process. The OCGMU has recently broadened its focus from not just identifying OCGs, but in the training and education of LROs throughout the force in how to effectively disrupt and dismantle the groups.

OCG coordinators continue to liaise directly with Prison and Probation partners in order to 'Lifetime manage' offenders and have imposed prison conditions and licence conditions on OCG members. Liaison with ERSOU/ROCTA has led to this now becoming a recognised 'disruption' and one which OCGMU has taken the lead on from its inception. In August 2022 the OCGMU adopted the coordination of Serious Crime Prevention Orders (SCPOs) for the County, which are utilised to limit OCG members capability to commit crime upon release from Prison. Training and OCG awareness are an ongoing focus for the Unit. Along with the bespoke training delivered to Probationers and Detectives, the OCGMU extended its offering to the Force Crime Academy in the implementation of three inputs across the Force. September 2022 saw the release of a Spotlight on Insite inviting Officers and Staff to attend 3 Lead Responsible Officer OCG training inputs at various locations across the County. To date, two inputs have taken place with excellent attendance from Officers and Staff, partners from local councils and beyond, and Officers travelling from Essex to attend.

6.2 County Lines.

Kent has 3 divisional County Lines and Gangs Teams (CLGT) who provide a proactive and preventative capability to reduce the harm caused to Kent communities from County Line criminality and Kent-based Gang activity. The CLGT investigate the County Line activity which carries the greatest threat risk and harm. The County Lines targeted by the team are those who supply controlled drugs and fit the current NPCC definition taken from the 2018 Home Office Serious Violence Strategy:

'A County Line is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence and weapons.'

The County Line Threat Assessment Matrix is used to prioritise the work of the CLGT. Before a County Line is scored to be entered onto the Matrix it must fit the above definition with auditable information as to how it fits the definition. The matrix scores are determined using various threat, risk and harm factors. It prioritises County Lines which exploit children and the vulnerable, providing an effective response to the most vulnerable people, tackling violence, and taking a child-centred approach. The divisional CLGTs will undertake the investigation of the top 30 scoring County Lines on each division, however where there is an operational need to flex across divisional boundaries to tackle increased threat, risk and harm (TRH) within a given district or division then the CLGT will retain the ability to do this.

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In July the Force recorded 37 active county lines with a threat, harm and risk score of 571. Specific and concentrated work on this area of criminality has resulted in a decrease with the number of county lines, as recorded in October 22, to 29 county lines with a TRH of 365. (By comparison, in July 2020, the Force had 85 scored county lines). In October the CLGT took part in the National County Lines Intensification week, during which the team targeted 25 county lines, the focused week of activity resulted in the arrest of 26 offenders and the securing of 30 charges against those. It is of note that Kent Police recovered more line handsets than any other force in the Eastern region (10 versus 5 in Essex).

There are a number of notable examples of excellent police work over the last three months including the securing of charges against an individual who was residing in the Edgware area of London supplying drugs into Canterbury. The line had only been recently identified and it was the swift and effective action of the team that dismantled the line within a month of it being nominated on the matrix. What is notable about this operation is that the individual was charged with three offences and remanded into court. This was done without the finding or seizure of any drugs, showing the ability of the team to use complex communication data presented in a simple way to achieve positive outcomes.

In addition to the pursuance of county lines individuals, the officers can be faced with often complex Jury Crown Court trials where they must explain complex criminality in simple terms to Crown Court Judges and Juries. A notable example is where an officer was at a recent trial at Maidstone Crown Court where three defendants were sentenced to 4 years of custody each following a guilty verdict. The Judge commended the officer in the case regarding his excellent investigation and his ability to explain the complexities of it in a simple and effective way.

The Divisional County Lines teams also have 5 County Line intervention Officers (CLIOS) and a co-ordinator who seek to bring together a coordinated response to those vulnerable adults and children who are 'at risk' of criminal exploitation. There is effective liaison with the Missing Child & Exploitation Team (MCET) and the CLIOs work closely with vulnerable children and young people identified through the team's activity. Their work is contributing to changing the lives of young people working regularly and closely with external partners, in schools teaching about county lines criminality and providing support around complex young street groups and gangs.

The CLGT continue to work in strong collaboration with our partners within the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS); where working together sharing cross border information and intelligence is increasing prosecutions for dealers crossing into Kent from the MPS. Further work with other collaborative partners has seen close working links with British Transport Police (BTP) such as running a recent operation in and around the Medway stations resulting in two good arrests and notable disruptive activity.

Kent Police Central County Lines and Gangs Team commenced in February 2022 with the remit to dismantle county lines that pose the highest threat risk and harm on Kent communities by identifying upstream opportunities and developing lines identified by the divisions which require a complex investigation and potentially covert tactics. They seek to identify those controlling the line holders and profiting from the supply of Class A drugs. The team have so far arrested 30 suspects and had convictions to date of 9 years and 4 months. They recently secured charges against three individuals in Medway for drugs offences who had been 'hard to reach' in terms of the criminality for a significant amount of time within Kent police.

CLGT activity so far is summarised in the table below:

| | February 2022 to October 2022 |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Arrests | 101 |
| Prisoners dealt with | 101 |
| Warrants executed (Inc S32/18) | 82 |
| Charges-Total | 145 |
| Weapon Seizures | 28 |
| Sentences | 106yrs 10 months |

7. Be Visible and Responsive to the Needs of Communities.

Providing visible and local policing is at the heart of the policing model and remains a priority for Kent Police. Engagement is a fundamental part of neighbourhood policing and it is vital that the Force are responsive to the needs of the different communities by continuing to adapt and ensure the channels of communication are accessible for all. Each of the 13 Districts is served by their own dedicated Local Policing Teams and Community Safety Units. CSUs focus on prevention, deterrence and community engagement, working in partnership to problem solve local issues, particularly where there is vulnerability and community-based crime and ASB. There are now an additional 28 school officers working across 68 schools in the county.

7.1 School Officers

The School Officers Team receive extensive child centred Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to reflect the specialisms around rapport building, engagement tactics, early intervention identification and partnership working. The rapport building and familiarity of Schools Officers with young people in their schools has directly led to disclosures including child abuse and county lines which have enabled Schools Officers to implement safeguarding protocols. The officers have played a key part in the success of the introduction and support specifically from Op Encompass which is a police operation whereby schools are informed of all domestic abuse incidents and other serious crimes that have occurred at a child's residence to support schools in safeguarding children.

Throughout the summer period, although schools were not open, the Schools Team continued in their Child Centred functions, supporting other teams to work with young people and partners to reduce crime and ASB within communities. Recent work has included a programme of Safer Summer deployments across Kent, working with Police teams and partners where young people could be drawn into committing ASB. The teams have been visible and accessible travelling on school transport to engage with children, whilst also addressing ASB on the network. As part of Safer Summer, the School's Officers supported the high street officers in reducing town centre business crime and ASB.

There has been a clear focus on prevention and deterrence in the last three months, with multiple deployments into GRIP hotspots, targeting gangs and arresting them to provide disruption with a focussed deterrent around a young street group that was mapped through School's Officer

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intelligence. Teams have been patrolling on East District beaches to identify and prevent alcohol related risky behaviours and have focussed on high footfall areas frequented by foreign students to educate, reassure, and prevent hate crime. A separate police operation saw support to a CSU to address CSE, also supporting LPT over the summer to assist in ASB repeat locations and increased call demand, whilst also assisting with repeat missing young people. Work has also been ongoing recently to educate young people around inappropriate use of fireworks and respectful Halloween, with the teams supporting local officers in managing the increased demand.

The School Officers Team, currently made up of 29 Officers covering 106 Schools has very recently been redeployed to meet the immediate pressure on the force, improving the capability of the FCIR while maintaining the critical mass on LPT. A small team will provide a single point of contact and triage for all schools to maintain the excellent relationships built to date. The team will signpost or resource to schools where appropriate. Working with the FCIR, posted officers maybe requested to undertake a schools visit to manage demand. This will be agreed in advance with FCIR duty planners where demand allows.

7.2 Mental Health and Section 136 (s.136) Detentions

There continues to be a sustained focus to improve the partnership response to people in crisis ensuring they receive a first-class service from the relevant agency at the point of contact. Kent Police has improved the collection and use of data, to deliver enhanced training, ensuring the appropriate intervention is made when dealing with people in crisis. This work has resulted in better outcomes for vulnerable people by the reduced use of police s.136 powers of detention.

The table below shows the volume of s.136 detentions since the Force started recording. September and October 2022 were the lowest months on record since 2015. The average number of detentions in 19/20, 20/21 and 21/22 was 170, 145, 94.5 respectively. Since driving the new approach with a focus on data, scrutiny, training, and closer partnership working, we have seen a continuous improvement in s.136 use and currently have an average of 78 detentions a month. This financial year and calendar year are expected to be the lowest ever recorded, bringing Kent Police in line with other forces nationally. Having made the culture change in how the Force use s.136 our partners have capacity to commission services to support Kent Police with investment in both staff and technology to the 836-triage line.

Working closely with the ICB and KMPT we are now supporting wider community initiatives which will alleviate demand on policing. We are currently working on the new NHS 111 option 2 line for people in crisis due to launch in March, urgent assessment teams responding in four hours, community houses for urgent referral and safe havens supported with clinical staff in key locations to divert demand from A&E and policing.

| F/Y Total Sec 136 detentions | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | FY 11/12 | FY 12/13 | FY 13/14 | FY 14/15 | FY 15/16 | FY 16/17 | FY 17/18 | FY 18/19 | FY 19/20 | FY 20/21 | FY 21/22 | FY 22/23 |
| Apr | 93 | 96 | 87 | 73 | 80 | 96 | 117 | 146 | 161 | 113 | 99 | 87 |
| May | 117 | 105 | 103 | 102 | 84 | 138 | 144 | 143 | 205 | 160 | 125 | 108 |
| Jun | 111 | 100 | 132 | 91 | 94 | 107 | 129 | 144 | 149 | 150 | 128 | 69 |
| Jul | 104 | 78 | 134 | 107 | 94 | 120 | 147 | 158 | 200 | 189 | 117 | 80 |
| Aug | 122 | 90 | 113 | 103 | 99 | 116 | 151 | 166 | 194 | 201 | 112 | 73 |
| Sep | 97 | 98 | 117 | 91 | 84 | 120 | 146 | 146 | 196 | 157 | 96 | 64 |
| Oct | 91 | 94 | 102 | 94 | 66 | 100 | 125 | 152 | 200 | 150 | 89 | 64 |
| Nov | 104 | 72 | 89 | 76 | 110 | 88 | 109 | 137 | 170 | 125 | 84 | |
| Dec | 92 | 93 | 65 | 66 | 116 | 97 | 97 | 128 | 136 | 114 | 74 | |
| Jan | 100 | 75 | 79 | 67 | 84 | 114 | 118 | 155 | 146 | 110 | 76 | |
| Feb | 94 | 88 | 74 | 58 | 85 | 117 | 101 | 147 | 155 | 144 | 67 | |
| Mar | 97 | 112 | 91 | 73 | 93 | 117 | 148 | 152 | 138 | 132 | 67 | |
| Total | 1222 | 1101 | 1186 | 1001 | 1089 | 1330 | 1532 | 1775 | 2050 | 1745 | 1134 | |

7.3 Special Constabulary

The Special Constabulary reduced in number over this reporting period, mainly due to several Special Constables (SC) joining the regular force. At the end of October, total numbers of SCs stood at 255, with 108 of those independent. During the period August to October 2022 SCs contributed 23,973 hours of policing and carried out various events and operations, including take over days and community safety work on all Divisions, including an operation to assist with the organisation of property across the county, which contributed to a huge improvement.

During and throughout the period, a Police Operation was agreed and implemented which is a programme to assist achievement of PC uplift by streamlining suitable SCs into the regular force. To date, 12 officers have been accepted into the regular force, with another 16 in process. Close, effective working between Citizens In Policing and central recruitment proved a benefit in setting up and beginning the Operation.

At the end of October, Kent hosted the Volunteer Law Enforcement Officers Alliance annual conference. This was the first time the event had been held outside of the USA and 76 delegates from all over the world gathered in Kent for training and presentations over a 4 day period, showcasing UK policing and specifically how Kent delivers its volunteer officer programme. Feedback has been exclusively positive both in relation to the delivery of the conference, and the content. 38 officers, including 24 Kent Special Constables and 3 Specials from British Transport Police assisted with delivery of the event, either by running a session, driving delegates to tours or offering transport. Next year the conference moves to Las Vegas.

Police Support Volunteers (PSV)

The number of volunteers is steadily increasing after a reduction of numbers during and post pandemic. The Force are seeing a more diverse role being created based on the Zenith plan, the changes to police stations and the staff working within them. We now have over 105 PSVs working with Kent Police.

Community Policing Volunteers (CPVs)

This is the fastest growing strand of volunteering with over 70 CPVs in 9 different roles with more waiting to join. We have over 50 volunteers deployed and completing operational hours with the remainder undergoing their training. There are 18 Canine CPVs in the unit and they assisted greatly at the recent Open Day and other public engagement events and community work. Their work sees them liaising with partner agencies regarding investigations, enquiries, assisting with enforcement, community and internal organisational welfare support.

There are now 19 Aviation CPVs supporting Kent Police and communities by providing incident related aerial reconnaissance and reporting (Op Brock). They also attended the Open Day and received very positive community feedback. The 6 PCSO CPVs have also been working hard supporting communities by providing engagement and reassurance in line with CSU activities and through Force Neighbourhood Policing priorities. They attended the Open Day and multiple community events, with thanks received from community leads and good work reports received for incidents attended in support of regular officers and PCSOs.

There are currently 3 Joint Response Unit (JRU) CPVs in Kent who, in the past 6 months, have provided response based medical and law enforcement and community reassurance to communities across the county. Other strands of CPV include 9 Security CPVs and 14 Equine CPVs with a future strand of Coastal CPV to be progressed imminently. Many future CPVs are waiting in the recruitment, vetting and training channels.

Community Speedwatch

There has been an increase in active schemes with an average of 3,500 letters being sent out each month over the last 6 month period to speeding drivers. There has been tangible benefits and positive feedback received regarding the PC attachment to Speedwatch and this has now led to the post being made permanent, helping to keep Kent roads safe with the intention of encouraging drivers to slow down. So far this year our volunteers have detected 28302 vehicles exceeding the limit with 9097 letters being sent to drivers – 111 addresses attended where officers speak to the driver for 4 incidents of speeding and 44 occasions where drivers have exceeded the limit on 5 or more occasions. There have been 81 vehicles detected as SORN and 695 as untaxed with details passed to DVLA.

7.5 Force Crime and Incident Response.

The public rightly has an expectation that they will be able to contact Kent Police when they need to in a variety of ways that work for them, whether that be to report an emergency, report a crime, seek advice, offer information, or express an opinion. When they do make that contact, they expect to receive a timely and appropriate response. The Force encourages individuals and diverse communities to engage and make contact with confidence, by making its services accessible, appropriate, easy to use and safe. It continues to effectively handle 999 and 101 calls, but also maintain other methods of contact, such as online and through personal interaction, to ensure it is open to all and can respond to user needs and situations. Communication is key and the Force recognises the importance of adapting and being flexible and developing modes of communication to suit all.

| 999 call totals: | August 2022 | Sept 2022 | Oct 2022 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Calls Received | 35,634 | 31,316 | 34,280 |
| Calls Answered | 35,221 | 30,947 | 33,604 |
| Calls Not Answered | 413 | 369 | 676 |
| % Not Answered | 1.16% | 1.18% | 1.97% |
| Average Queuing Time | 17s | 21s | 27s |
| Average Talk Time | 4m 56s | 4m 58s | 5m 18s |

Over the reporting period August to October 2022, the attrition for emergency calls has remained in a relatively stable position, seeing some small fluctuations in October. The overall financial year calls attrition is 1.37% which remains within the aspirational national benchmark of 2%. Call queuing times have also fluctuated since the previous reporting period, with an average of 20 seconds and talk time has remained stable at 4 minutes 55 seconds. Despite the increase in 999 calls, public satisfaction has not been significantly impacted and there has been no increase in dissatisfaction complaints coming through to the command.

Overall, the volume of emergency calls continues to rise in line with national trend. Despite this, and due to the threat, risk and harm within these calls, the primary focus of the command is to protect emergency call handling, 999 call performance has remained stable, with all non-answered calls being recovered daily.

| 101 call totals: | Aug 2022 | Sept 2022 | Oct 2022 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Calls Received | 28,524 | 27,418 | 25,277 |
| Calls Answered | 19,406 | 15,743 | 11,811 |
| Calls Not Answered | 9118 | 11,675 | 13,466 |
| % Not Answered | 31.97% | 42.58% | 53.27% |
| Average Queuing Time | 5m 49s | 10m 6s | 15m 29s |
| Average Talk Time | 8m 34s | 9m 6s | 10m 20s |

The volume of non-emergency 101 calls received during this period remains high but continues to decrease year on year. However, the totality of non-emergency contact demand is growing considerably when taking digital contact into account, which is not reflected in the 101 data. The command has refreshed messaging to encourage the public who are able to use digital channel choices and the Interactive Voice Response has been further refined to be able to be phased in response to demand. Where there are significant increases in 999 demand the Force Incident Manager can authorise messaging for a time limited period in line with demand that directs non-

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emergency calls to digital where possible. This supports the strategic aim and responsibility of protecting our ability to answer emergency calls while providing an effective service to the public.

The percentage of unanswered non-emergency calls remains challenging and saw significant peaks in October mirrored with spikes in 999 emergency calls, against a context of ongoing current resourcing challenges. The overall financial year to date position has deteriorated from 33.49% to 38.77% non-emergency call attrition and call queuing times have increased to 9m 26s. A plan is being devised to combat the issue and resources will be allocated imminently to assist with the pressures the FCR are experiencing presently.

Digital Contact

| Digital Contact: | Aug 2022 | Sept 2022 | Oct 2022 |
|---|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Number of Digital Contacts into FCIR | 11,924 | 11,451 | 13,876 |

Overall, digital demand into the FCIR has again continued to increase significantly over the past 3 months. This is positive as it offers an enhanced service to the public given their ability to select and self-serve via a digital channel of their choice 24 hours a day providing an effective and customer focussed service.

Online Crime Reporting (OCR):

| OCR totals: | Aug 2022 | Sept 2022 | Oct 2022 |
|---|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Number of 'Report a Crime' Submissions | 3,786 | 3,994 | 4,832 |

Online crime reporting was relatively stable but has seen a larger spike in October; this mirrors a rise in digital contact. Again, this is a positive increase allowing channel choice at the most convenient time for victims of crime.

Live Chat

| Live Chat totals: | Aug 2022 | Sept 2022 | Oct 2022 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Live Chat volumes | 6,513 | 5,987 | 7,035 |

Live Chat is now well embedded as a contact choice and again continues to grow in terms of demand. It allows a flexibility of service by the Command enabling the effective use of any home workers in addition to those in the building. Given that most operators are managing up to 6 Live Chats at the same time, there are obvious efficiencies in service delivery, whilst providing an effective and customer-focussed quality service to the public at a time of their choosing through their preferred channel.

Investigation Management Unit (IMU)

| IMU & Crime totals: | Aug 2022 | Sept 2022 | Oct 2022 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Recorded Crime | 15,652 | 14,971 | 14,008 |
| Cancelled Crime | 582 | 416 | 435 |
| % of Total | 3.6% | 2.7% | 3.0% |

Recorded crime peaked in the summer and is decreasing now. This is an average increase of 235 per month compared to the previous reporting period in 2022. Cancelled crime remains stable overall with an average of 3.1% over the 3-month period, showing minor reduction of 0.17%.

Current and Future State

- In line with all forces nationally, 999 calls in Kent are continuing to increase. This is recognised by the NPCC lead, ACC Todd and by BT who are similarly challenged with meeting public demand, particularly at peak periods.
- Emergency call handling remains the priority recognising the threat, harm and risk that sits within these call types.
- Recruitment continues to be a significant challenge but joint work between the command and central HR is now delivering a sustained higher yield of new joiners. August saw a course of 23 who now operational and an October course of 28 new starters which will assist to make in-roads into the current vacancy rate.
- Chief Officers have allocated a further 35 police officers from the Force to be posted into the command for the next 6 months to assist with 101 calls; these will become effective from mid-November 2022. These will then form part of a planned strategic reserve of 100 officers who can assist the FCR, ideally through duty planning, to manage demand peaks.
- Retention options are being considered under the FCIR transformation project in order to achieve workforce stability given the growing numbers being recruited, in order to maintain skills and experience and provide a high-quality service to the public.
- A programme of strategic transformation has been directed and agreed by T/CC Smith which is now under way. It will build a command that seeks to provide a first-class service, that can meet multi-channel future requirements, including the exponentially growing digital demand and a move to Coldharbour as part of the Zenith programme.
- Options are being scoped for investment into IMU to support initial crime investigation and appropriate resolution. This supports the force's continued focus on improving its quality of investigation and providing a quality service to all victims of crime.
- A CDI Audit that mirrors the HMICFRS approach has recently taken place with excellent results (95.5%). Many Forces have difficulty in recording incidents of ASB, particularly where people are specifically targeted. Kent's performance has been achieved without additional Op Promise spend, demonstrating that the previous investment made has been used to learn lessons, improve and get it right first time at the front end. The audit demonstrates that the FCIR are now routinely recognising the risk and recording it where appropriate. The audit shows there is not over recording in order to achieve these results, demonstrated by mistakenly over recorded crime being less than 1%.

8. Prevent Road Danger and Support Vision Zero

Vision Zero is the KCC's five-year Road Safety Strategy to deliver safer roads, towns and villages in Kent. It identifies Kent Police's continuing responsibility to reduce driver behaviours that put themselves and others at risk such as distraction, impairment, inappropriate speed and other similarly socially unacceptable behaviour. Kent Police coordinate enforcement and education activity using data provided by the Road Safety Analyst and information provided in the Road Safety

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Forums, chaired by the Head of Roads Policing and attended by all Districts. In addition, the Roads Policing Unit also coordinate activities in accordance with the NPCC national operations focussing on the Fatal 4 offences, namely speeding, substance misuse, seatbelt offences and mobile phone use.

The current position is there a 38% reduction in road deaths during the reporting period of August to October 2022, compared to the same reporting period in 2021, which equates to 7 less fatalities.

The Serious Collision Investigation Unit (SCIU) attended 25 road deaths in this period in 2021 and 17 in the same reporting period in 2022.

The fatalities in this recent period consist of:

- 2 drivers
- 1 Motorcyclists
- 4 Passengers
- 2 Pedal Cyclists
- 8 Pedestrians

The most common theme is vulnerable road users, in particular pedestrians.

Kent Police is committed to supporting Vision Zero, the Partnership Road Safety Strategy that seeks to eliminate road deaths. The Vision Zero approach is incorporated into the daily business of the following teams: Roads Policing Unit, Roads Safety Unit, Serious Collision Investigations Unit, Safety Camera Team, Special Constabulary Roads Policing Unit and Community Speedwatch. Vision Zero branding has been added to Force Safety camera vans and external communications.

Local Policing Teams and Community Safety Units are contributing to Vision Zero through participation in NPCC campaigns and localised taskings following serious collisions. Officers from the Road Safety Unit work alongside LPT and CSU officers in locations that have been identified as collision hotspots.

Kent Police continue to chair a weekly partnership meeting which focusses on opportunities under the following headings: Education, Engagement, Enforcement and Reaction. The membership to this meeting has grown allowing more activities to be coordinated across all partnership resources, concentrating on locations where road deaths and serious injury collisions have occurred. Key topics of discussion include upcoming events, national campaigns, partner communications, response plans and community concerns. Members include KCC, KMSCP, Medway Council, National Highways, KFRS, Community Speedwatch and Kent Police.

The Kent Roads Policing Unit continues to implement the simple and flexible 7-day response plan, following any road death. Throughout the reporting period there have been 11 plans commenced. Results from these plans include.

- A KCC led education plan aimed at raising the awareness of HGV drivers to pedestrians and cyclists on certain routes.
- The creation of two new mobile speed camera van sites.
- Increased levels of speed enforcement checks.
- Increased education and engagement with young motorcyclists.
- Roads Policing Officers tasked with patrolling routes used by vulnerable pedestrians and cyclists during hours of darkness.
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Coordination and Governance

- Weekly Vision Zero partnership meeting chaired by Kent Police.
- Bi-monthly KSI meeting chaired by Kent Police.
- Quarterly Roads Safety Forum involving all CSUs across the County.

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- Quarterly Safer Roads for Kent Strategic Meeting with KCC Head of Transport and Tac Ops Superintendent, chaired by the PCC.

During the reporting period August to October 2022 some examples of education and engagement are:

- BikeSafe which is a national programme that raises motorcyclists' awareness of road safety and includes demonstrations of responding to collisions involving a motorcyclist. 4 workshops have been delivered by Kent Police during the reporting period with a total of 39 attendees.
- Attendance at various events to capture target audiences such as:
 - British Super Bikes event at Brands Hatch
 - Attendance at various bike meets during the summer months.

Some examples of enforcement during this period are:

A multi-agency roads policing operation led by Kent Police. These operations are planned to take place once a quarter on each Division and involve Local Authorities and partnership organisations. The latest operation yielded the following significant result:

- 3 x arrests for driving whilst impaired
- 1 x arrest for offence of taking a vehicle without consent
- 3 x uninsured vehicles were seized
- 20 x Traffic Offence Reports (including seatbelts, mobile phones and excess speed)
- 1 x summons for overweight and dangerous and unsuitable use of a vehicle.
- 1 x Hackney carriage Licence immediately removed.

On a daily basis the Force continue to focus on the offences that have the most impact on road deaths, commonly known as the 'Fatal 4' (speed, not wearing seatbelts, drink / drug impaired driving and use of mobile phones). Whilst the September onwards data is not yet available the following enforcements have been recorded.

| | Speed TOR | Mobile Phone TOR | Seatbelt TOR | Drink Drive Arrest | Drug Drive Arrest |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| July | 7634 | 142 | 271 | 137 | 56 |
| August | 6744 | 173 | 175 | 126 | 52 |
| September | 6003 | 165 | 156 | 129 | 67 |
| Oct | U/K | U/K | U/K | U/K | U/K |
| TOTAL | 20,381 | 480 | 602 | 392 | 175 |

The Roads Policing Unit have supported other proactive tactical operations teams as well as ongoing deployment to Op Brock during Port disruptions and contribution to Operation London Bridge (the Queen's funeral). They also actively participate in the NPCC National Road Safety Campaigns and during the last campaign, Drink and Drug Drive enforcement, Kent officers stopped 120 vehicles and conducted 90 breath tests and 29 drug wipes. Officers from the Roads Safety Unit are now trained to use Tru-Cam equipment which provide additional speed enforcement across Kent where it is not possible for a mobile safety camera van. Further training for Roads Policing Unit officers and Special Constabulary is planned for 2023.

Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership

This consists of Kent Police, KCC, Medway Council and National Highways. There are 4 mobile camera vans in operation, which attend KMSCP sites, Community Speedwatch locations and sites of community concern. There are 75 fixed speed camera sites in Kent, an increase of 2 since the last reporting period. There are also 4 Red Traffic Light enforcement camera sites in Kent. The mobile camera operators are trained in enforcement of not only speed offences but also other road safety offences such as seatbelts, mobile phone usage and drivers not being in full control of their vehicle.

Special Constabulary Roads Policing Unit

Kent Police are extremely fortunate to have a dedicated Special Constabulary Roads Policing Unit (SCRPU), which is aligned to the Roads Policing Unit and the Road Safety Unit to promote road safety and support the delivery of Vision Zero. The SCRPU fully support the National NPCC road safety campaigns and are trained to the same standard as regular Roads Policing Unit officers and now includes Police motorcyclists. They also now have a qualified Police Driver Trainer who assists regular Driver Training colleagues in ensuring that the Force display the highest standards of driving and road safety across the organisation.

Policing Response to Just Stop Oil (JSO)

Kent Police saw protest activity on the M25 from Just Stop Oil between 07/11/2022 to 10/11/2022. A high visibility patrolling regime was undertaken by officers to detect and deter activity and Protest Removal Teams (PRT) were readily available to intervene should protestors be able to climb gantries. This enabled swift intervention thereby reducing the disruption to the public of Kent. Over the 4 days officers from RPU, Tactical Teams, Public Order Serials, PRT, Investigators and a command structure were dedicated to the operation equating to about 160 officer shifts. Kent Police made 10 arrests in total for Conspiracy to Commit Public Nuisance including 5 from a proactive stop check with offenders in possession of climbing gear, banners and harnesses. All offenders were charged and remanded to Magistrates Court. The Metropolitan Police are coordinating the casefile build for all the national protests and Kent Police will keep the threat and risk assessment under review, based on intelligence, and plan resources accordingly. Contingency plans and resources remain in place for any unforeseen events.

9. Protect Young People and Provide Opportunities

9.1 Child Centred Policing

Child Centred Policing is at the heart of the Force Control Strategy and in October 2021, Kent Police launched the Child Centred Policing Plan which sets out the strategy for the organisation to develop and continue the journey of embedding a Child Centred Policing culture, enabling staff and officers to effectively talk to children, safeguard them and identify vulnerabilities through a 4E approach: Engagement, Early Intervention, Education and Enforcement. The Child Centred Policing Team consists of the Youth Justice Team, operational Schools Team, Child Exploitation Trainer and Missing Child Co-ordinator, led by the Child Centred Policing Manager. The team has a cultural remit of sharing evidence-based Child Centred practice throughout the organisation which has led to the launch of Kent's first Child Centred Policing Plan in October 2021, setting out key child vulnerability priorities.

Version 2 of the Child Centred Policing Plan is planned for launch in January 2023 with an updated focus on Early Help, Prevention and reflecting on the success of the School's Team in identifying and managing hidden harm. The vision of Child Centred Policing is to support trauma informed working across a wide range of professional settings and services to provide a consistent approach to trauma informed practice. This is supported by the Force working alongside KCC's SPACE Matters

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steering group (Supporting People with Adverse Childhood Experiences) and Medway Council's Trauma Informed Community of Practice Network.

AWARE Professional Curiosity e-learning supporting Trauma Informed Practice, the identification of Adverse Childhood Experiences and reflecting the need to improve the quality of Voice of the Child information capture will be available from January 2023 and will be mandatory for all officers. AWARE is the force-developed mnemonic to support officers in areas to focus their professional curiosity covering Appearance, Words, Activity/Behaviours, Relationships/Dynamics, and Environment. This mnemonic has been built into the new Child Protection and Adult Protection Risk Assessment Process.

9.2 Youth Justice.

Kent Police has a dedicated Youth Justice Team who are the gatekeepers for youth justice decision making for the Force, acting as advisors around deferred prosecution, out of court disposals and diversionary educational activity. There is a Youth Justice Multi Agency Panel Meeting held every week to discuss complex cases. The meeting is attended by several different agencies and aims to reach an out of court disposal decision whilst also identifying the most suitable intervention opportunities. Consideration of exploitation as a part of the offending cause is part of the panel criteria.

A Youth Justice Custody project is also underway currently where the Youth Justice Team have attended several Custody Partnership Meetings as part of their planning process for the youth justice custody checklist. This will be rolled out across all custody suites for Detention Officers to utilise when a young person comes into custody. The checklist will incorporate AWARE principles which will help to identify ACEs and any concerns or risks associated with the young person. These will be shared with partner agencies, if relevant, to ensure that appropriate interventions are utilised. This will help the Youth Justice Team to prevent reoffending and therefore reduce crimes. For example, if a young person is identified to be living in poverty or is misusing substances, the suitable interventions can be put in place to address these concerns. It could be that due to the above young person's circumstances, they have been found to be Shoplifting. By addressing these concerns directly through intervention, the Youth Justice Team will be able to work towards reducing business crime.

Outcome 22 is a deferred outcome that seeks to provide an opportunity for offenders to address their offending behaviour. Outcome 22 will provide educational diversion to young people rather than No Further Action. This project is currently with Partner Agencies to adapt their reporting systems and working processes as they are supportive of embedding this into Youth Justice processes. Outcome 22 will include diversionary options which involve communities and businesses. This could be restorative work in the community or facilitated restorative meetings.

9.3 Cadets Programme.

Mini Cadet programme.

A total of 53 schools have enrolled in the mini cadet scheme since the inception of the programme which is a total of 593 young people participating. The programme continues to be supported by the Youth Engagement officers and the Mini and Junior Cadet Co-ordinator continues to be actively engaged, focussing on identifying further ways to keep the programmes rolling out across Kent.

The popularity of the mini cadet programmes continues to increase with schools now becoming more aware of its existence and the mini and junior cadet co-ordinator receives frequent requests from schools to be included in the programme to a point whereby a short waiting list has been drawn up with some schools now scheduled to start in January 2023. The feedback from schools continues in the same positive tone and schools are reporting 'a massive difference already within the children'.

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Senior Cadet programme.

The Senior Cadet programme has now fully recovered from the aftermath of the pandemic with the numbers increasing in September to 420 with a view to approximately 450 by the year end. The waiting list is 294 now and it has become necessary to close the majority of waiting lists due to the number of young people waiting, to enable the Force to appropriately manage expectations. Improved engagement is evident across all units with refreshed enthusiasm following the September new intakes.

The Duke of Edinburgh programme continues to gain momentum with a total of 66 young people now registered with two training days and expeditions that have now successfully been completed. Likewise, the CVQO programme has also seen an increase in numbers and a renewed interest in this qualification.

During the summer period cadets took part in various activities including a Football Tournament, two days at Bewl Water and a trip to the Ninja Warriors park. They also assisted with the training of probationary officers by taking part in numerous role plays over the summer holidays. They continue to be active in communities across the county assisting with summer fetes, Paws in the Park and Leaflet drops. Cadets also assisted with the PCC's Blue Light Job fair and in September 142 Cadets passed out over two days.

In October, the first ever Kent Police Lord Lieutenant's Cadet was appointed and commenced his duties on the 13th October.

Cadet Transition Pathway.

Support continues to be available for cadets wishing to join Kent Police in any capacity and there are currently 35 previous cadets now working for Kent Police as either Police Officers, Special Constables, PCSOs or PSEs. The Transition Pathway is due to be relaunched in 2023.

10. Summary

In summary, the established Mission, Vision, Values and Priorities of the Force and the revised Control Strategy for 2022/2023 work in harmony with the PCC's Making Kent Safer Plan. The Control Strategy of the Force focusses heavily on a Violence Against Women and Girls strategy with child centred policing woven through all the crime types, ensuring the voice of the child is always heard. The Force is operating effectively but absolutely recognises the need to continuously improve and develop, in order to provide the very best quality service to all those who live in, work and visit Kent.