Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership

Our Mission

To make our Boroughs safer and cleaner places to live, work and socialise

Community Safety Plan 2013-14
The joint Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was formed in December 2006 and since its inception, numerous projects and initiatives have been delivered by partner agencies working together that have helped to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in both Boroughs very significantly. In the year ending 30 September 2006, there were 24,075 crimes recorded across our Partnership area. In the 12 months ending 30 September 2012, this figure had been brought down to 13,800 offences (6,959 offences in Dartford and 6,841 offences in Gravesham). This is an overall reduction of 42.6% and places our Partnership amongst the best achieving in the country. In real terms this reduction of 10,275 crimes also means thousands less people experiencing crime first-hand.

Local people frequently tell us that better community safety, tackling anti-social behaviour and keeping our neighbourhood environments clean, are some of their main concerns. These are also the issues that the Partnership has made a commitment to tackle. Partner agencies, working with local communities, will aim to provide local solutions to the different community safety issues that are seen as priorities within our neighbourhoods and to meet the needs of local people.

Whilst we have seen a considerable improvement in community safety since the joint Partnership was formed and it becomes more and more challenging to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour further, we recognise that there is still a lot for us to do. We are also aware that reductions in money available for public services means finding new and creative ways of working together to maximize the resources we do have, remaining focused and addressing those issues that really matter.

Our local area is changing: both Boroughs populations are growing and we are proud of the diversity of our local communities as well as the tolerance and mutual respect that people show to one another and their cultures. Making our neighbourhoods safer will also incorporate work to encourage greater cohesion and harmony amongst our different communities.

Strengthening our efforts to reduce crime further will also help us through the current time of recession by continuing to attract business and development and reinforcing the message that both Dartford and Gravesham are good places in which to invest.

Whilst many of the CSP’s partner agencies provide a front-line response to crime and anti-social behaviour, it is the responsibility of all of us who live and work in North Kent to play our part in keeping our neighbourhoods safe. We hope that, through the work that the CSP has planned for 2013-14, we will continue to engage with local people and encourage them to work with us in promoting the well-being of both our Districts – together we can really make a difference.

Councillor Jeremy Kite  
Leader, Dartford Borough Council  
Chairman, Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership

Councillor John Burden  
Leader, Gravesham Borough Council  
Vice-Chairman, Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership
As highlighted in the Foreword, the success of Dartford and Gravesham’s Community Safety Partnership’s (CSP) annual plans means that there are now far fewer individuals, families and businesses that have been victims of crime and/or anti-social behaviour than when our joint Partnership was first formed. Whilst we are proud of our achievements we know that we need to concentrate our efforts to sustain the reductions we have achieved. To help us do this and to ensure that we are fully aware of changing circumstances, the Partnership completes a Strategic Assessment each year – a report that is used to inform strategic decision-making by gathering together crime and ASB data held by all our partner agencies.

The CSP also takes account of issues coming to our attention through contact with local community groups, residents’ panels, community events (when we encourage local people to offer their views) and local public consultation surveys.

**The priorities identified for 2013-14 are:**

- Anti-social behaviour;
- Violent crime including domestic abuse;
- Substance misuse (alcohol and drug-related crime and ASB);
- Property crime (domestic burglary and theft offences);
- Safety on the road;
- Reducing re-offending.

Our experience has also taught us that we need to do more to help local people feel safer and whilst tackling the priorities above we will also do our best to:

- Engage with local communities so that we can be clear about their concerns and use local knowledge to identify solutions;
- Communicate effectively about the work we are doing and the outcomes we achieve;
- Ensure that local people are well-informed about local services that are available to them.
CONSULTATION ON THE PRIORITIES

The Partnership recognises that as well as being dependent on all of our partner agencies working together, the success of our Community Safety Plan is also largely dependent on the active involvement and support of local people. Having carried out the Strategic Assessment process, the CSP appreciates that residents and local people are best placed to really know what the community safety issues are that are affecting their local neighbourhoods. Recognising that there may be issues that are not picked up through statistics, local residents and those who work in either Dartford or Gravesham were invited to give their opinion on the recommended priorities.

A brief survey was made available on both Local Authority websites, the CSP’s own website, circulated to all Parish Councils and posted to a Residents’ Panel. In total, 456 responses were received.

440 respondents answered the question that asked whether they felt the priorities we had identified for 2013-14 were the right ones. Of these, 408 (93.0%) agreed that they were the right priorities, 16 respondents (3.5%) felt they were not and 16 respondents (3.5%) said they did not know.

The survey also asked respondents to tell us what level of priority they felt each of the following should be given:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Response count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reducing anti-social behaviour</td>
<td>390 (87%)</td>
<td>56 (12.5%)</td>
<td>3 (0.5%)</td>
<td>449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing burglary</td>
<td>365 (81.5%)</td>
<td>80 (18%)</td>
<td>3 (0.5%)</td>
<td>448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tackling theft and handling stolen goods</td>
<td>298 (67%)</td>
<td>137 (31%)</td>
<td>9 (2%)</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing drug and alcohol-related problems</td>
<td>309 (69%)</td>
<td>123 (27.5%)</td>
<td>15 (3.5%)</td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tackling domestic abuse</td>
<td>236 (53%)</td>
<td>174 (39%)</td>
<td>36 (8%)</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with offenders</td>
<td>129 (29%)</td>
<td>246 (55%)</td>
<td>72 (16%)</td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving road safety</td>
<td>205 (46%)</td>
<td>195 (43.5%)</td>
<td>47 (10.5%)</td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting and engaging with local communities</td>
<td>171 (38.5%)</td>
<td>217 (48.5%)</td>
<td>58 (13%)</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top 3 other issues that local people felt should be a high priority included:

- More visible policing/more police patrols;
- Specific road safety issues e.g. irresponsible parking, speeding nuisance bikes;
- Environmental issues e.g. littering, fly-tipping, graffiti and dog fouling.
Respondents were also asked how much of a problem, if at all, they thought each of the following was in their neighbourhood:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>A very big problem</th>
<th>A problem</th>
<th>A slight problem</th>
<th>Not a problem</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
<th>Response count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burglaries/break-ins</td>
<td>38 (8.5%)</td>
<td>165 (37.5%)</td>
<td>140 (32%)</td>
<td>35 (8%)</td>
<td>61 (14%)</td>
<td>439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime</td>
<td>26 (6%)</td>
<td>73 (16.5%)</td>
<td>117 (26.5%)</td>
<td>147 (33.5%)</td>
<td>78 (17.5%)</td>
<td>441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle crime</td>
<td>40 (9%)</td>
<td>106 (24.5%)</td>
<td>178 (41%)</td>
<td>61 (14%)</td>
<td>50 (11.5%)</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teenagers hanging around</td>
<td>81 (18%)</td>
<td>91 (20.5%)</td>
<td>139 (31.5%)</td>
<td>118 (26.5%)</td>
<td>15 (3.5%)</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drunk or rowdy behaviour</td>
<td>57 (13%)</td>
<td>66 (15%)</td>
<td>143 (32.5%)</td>
<td>153 (34.5%)</td>
<td>22 (5%)</td>
<td>441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism/criminal damage</td>
<td>64 (14.5%)</td>
<td>111 (25%)</td>
<td>159 (36%)</td>
<td>83 (19%)</td>
<td>23 (5%)</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubbish/litter lying around</td>
<td>141 (32%)</td>
<td>145 (32.75%)</td>
<td>110 (25%)</td>
<td>42 (9.5%)</td>
<td>4 (0.75%)</td>
<td>442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noisy neighbours/loud parties</td>
<td>31 (7%)</td>
<td>53 (12%)</td>
<td>110 (25%)</td>
<td>228 (51.5%)</td>
<td>19 (4.5%)</td>
<td>441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People using/dealing drugs</td>
<td>48 (11%)</td>
<td>60 (13.5%)</td>
<td>96 (22%)</td>
<td>137 (31%)</td>
<td>99 (22.5%)</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandoned/burnt out cars</td>
<td>8 (2%)</td>
<td>26 (6%)</td>
<td>81 (18.5%)</td>
<td>278 (63.5%)</td>
<td>44 (10%)</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speeding cars/road safety</td>
<td>99 (22%)</td>
<td>121 (27%)</td>
<td>147 (33%)</td>
<td>74 (16.5%)</td>
<td>7 (1.5%)</td>
<td>448</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top 3 other issues that respondents felt were a very big or big problem in their neighbourhood included:

- Irresponsible parking/inconsiderate parking on footpaths/at school times/on double yellow lines;
- Nuisance bikes;
- Dog fouling.

The CSP tries to make the consultation survey as widely available as possible within the resources available to it. Respondents are asked to provide brief personal details relating to age, gender and ethnicity in order we can bear in mind how representative the survey sample is of the local population.

The survey also asked respondents to provide their postcode for CSP operational purposes to enable us to better target our resources in addressing issues that may have come to light to those areas identified. Postcode details provided in responses are not listed below as they are intended primarily as an information tool for local agencies.
Details of the survey sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Under 18 (0.25%)</th>
<th>18-24 (1%)</th>
<th>25-34 (4%)</th>
<th>35-44 (11.75%)</th>
<th>45-54 (20%)</th>
<th>55-64 (27%)</th>
<th>65/+ (33.5%)</th>
<th>No answer (2.5%)</th>
<th>Total (100%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>White British 395 (86.5%)</td>
<td>White Irish 6 (1.25%)</td>
<td>White &amp; Black Caribbean 1 (0.25%)</td>
<td>White &amp; Black African 2 (0.5%)</td>
<td>White &amp; Asian 4 (0.75%)</td>
<td>Any other White mixed background 1 (0.25%)</td>
<td>Indian 15 (3.25%)</td>
<td>Pakistani 1 (0.25%)</td>
<td>456 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male 204 (44.5%)</td>
<td>Female 239 (52.5%)</td>
<td>No answer 13 (3%)</td>
<td>Total 456 (100%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chinese 2 (0.5%)</td>
<td>Any other Asian background 0</td>
<td>Caribbean 0</td>
<td>African 3 (0.75%)</td>
<td>Any other Black background 0</td>
<td>Polish 0</td>
<td>Lithuanian 0</td>
<td>Slovakian 0</td>
<td>Other 4 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No answer 14 (3%)</td>
<td>Total 456 (100%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
OUR PARTNERSHIP

Partnership Groups

The Partnership has a very sound structure to ensure that the work set out in this Plan can be effectively delivered and performance and progress regularly monitored. As well as a joint Dartford and Gravesham overarching strategic group that brings together statutory agency representatives at the most senior level, the Partnership has a number of operational Sub-Groups that deliver projects on the ground.

Partnership Organisational Structure

Both the Main Joint Strategic Group and the CSP Support Group meet on a quarterly basis. The Chairs of the Sub-Groups attend the Support Group meetings and provide progress reports on projects that their Groups are implementing. Whilst the North Kent Domestic Abuse Forum is not a CSP Sub-Group, it is a key practitioner group for local agencies working directly to reduce domestic abuse, one of the CSP’s own priorities. Therefore, it is important that links between the CSP and the Forum are maintained and this is achieved by the Forum’s Chairman attending CSP Support Group meetings to ensure that there is a clear line of communication.
The CSP Management Group is made up of senior managers from both Local Authorities and Kent Police. This Group oversees the direction of the Partnership and on an annual basis, considers the findings of the Strategic Assessment (a local audit of crime and disorder levels) to identify the priorities for the following year. These priorities are then recommended to the CSP for endorsement.

This structure means that there are a number of checks and balances in place to keep all involved on track with working towards achieving our goals by the end of the year.

**Community Safety Units (CSUs)**

On a day-to-day basis the Community Safety Units in each Borough, jointly staffed by both Kent Police and Council Officers, monitor both the progress being made overall in tackling our key priorities and make every effort to respond quickly and efficiently to any new issues that come to light. Colleagues from other partner agencies e.g. Kent County Council’s Community Wardens and Town Centre Crime Reduction Initiative Co-ordinators also have a base within the Community Safety Units and regularly attend briefing meetings to ensure that partners are kept appraised of key incidents and the pattern of events.

In both Dartford and Gravesham, the CSUs are based within the Council Civic Offices. Briefing meetings take place on a daily basis to take stock of crime and ASB reports that have been received by the Police and other services in the previous 24 hours. This allows appropriate members of the CSU to be tasked with responding to any issues that arise. It also means that consideration can be given to the different solutions that could be applied e.g. technical options such as mobile CCTV units and ensures that referrals are made to colleagues within other Council service departments best-placed to help or other partner agencies without delay.
## Priority

**Tackling and challenging anti-social behaviour together with local communities**

### Why is this a priority?

Tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) is a priority both for local partner agencies and for local people. The CSP is committed to driving down levels of ASB by trying to resolve issues at the earliest stages to prevent problems from escalating and taking enforcement action where problems persist despite early intervention. We have achieved significant reductions in reported ASB but we understand the need to continue to focus on nuisance and inconsiderate behaviour that causes damage to local neighbourhoods and affects quality of life.

### What do we want to achieve?

- A continuing reduction in reports of ASB and particularly, a reduction in repeat occurrences;
- A reduction in deliberate fires;
- A reduction in criminal damage offences;
- Continued improvements in public satisfaction in the way in which we deal with ASB.

### How are we going to do it?

- Using appropriate action and tailored interventions to deal with specific individuals who are behaving anti-socially from advice and support to change behaviour to the use of formal action such as ABAs, ASBOs, ASBIs and Possession Orders where necessary;
- Using all our powers to enforce against environmental crime offenders including the use of on-the-spot penalty notices and with our partners, proactively investigating and prosecuting perpetrators;
- Planning and delivering joint work to address seasonal fluctuations in ASB;
- Making full use of licensing laws and powers under licensing legislation to ensure that licensed premises are well-managed;
- Through the Troubled Families Programme, providing support for families to address underlying causes that may be contributory factors to ASB;
- Focussing resources on those geographical areas where ASB is most prevalent and working with local communities in those locations to develop targeted responses that include community participation;
- Utilising the Risk Assessment Matrix process to continue improving the identification of vulnerable adults experiencing ASB and the provision of appropriate support to them;
- Deploying mobile CCTV units (where feasible) to assist with evidence gathering in relation to ASB incidents;
- Working with Kent Probation’s Community Payback Teams to assist local communities in improving the physical appearance of their local neighbourhoods;
- Actively engage with young people at risk of involvement in ASB through preventative measures including leisure, sport and recreational activities and targeted youth services in key ASB locations.
### How will we measure our success?

- Anti-social behaviour incident rates and actions (including enforcement measures utilised);
- Criminal damage rates;
- Sustainment of improvements in ASB perceptions as measured by the KCVS and other consultation processes;
- Deliberate fire rates.

### Co-ordinating Group(s)

Both Dartford and Gravesham have established multi-agency ASB Groups that share information on named perpetrators of ASB (young people and adults). The Groups identify appropriate interventions and actions that may help to resolve the behavioural problems whilst ensuring that victims of the ASB are provided with the necessary support and reassurance they require.
# Priority

## Reducing violent crime (including domestic abuse)

### Why is this a priority?

Protecting people’s personal safety is always a priority for both agencies and local residents alike and whilst there has been a very good reduction in serious violent crime, there is further work to be done to ensure that people are physically safe both in their own homes and when out and about. Approximately a third of all violent crime recorded locally is domestic abuse, affecting hundreds of victims, their children and families each year. The Partnership has worked hard to encourage people to seek help and advice by reporting incidents and is committed to continuing to develop local services to meet the needs of families facing abuse within the home environment.

### What do we want to achieve?

- A reduction in incidents of violence against the person;
- A reduction in repeat incidents of domestic abuse;
- Services to support and protect victims of domestic abuse are maintained;
- A reduction in alcohol-related violent crime as part of a wider multi-agency strategy that deals with reducing the harm caused by alcohol misuse to families and communities;
- To prevent repeat offending by those involved in violent crime through rehabilitative programmes.

### How are we going to do it?

#### Responding to domestic abuse

- Focusing on repeat incidents of domestic abuse and supporting and protecting victims;
- Working with the North Kent Domestic Abuse Forum to help deliver the Kent Domestic Abuse Strategy;
- Continuing to raise awareness of domestic abuse issues and the local services available to both victims and perpetrators;
- Ensuring that victims of domestic abuse are able to report and receive advice and information at as many outlets as possible and further developing services provided through our One Stop Shops to tailor assistance to victims’ needs;
- Continuing to support high-risk victims in remaining in their homes by improving home security through the Sanctuary Scheme.

#### Responding to all violent crime

- Providing multi-agency support to any Police-led targeted operations, targeting geographical locations in which violent crime is more prevalent and known offenders;
- Working with partners such as G-Safe (Gravesham), the Dartford Town Against Crime Initiative and licensed premises to implement measures that will reduce the opportunity for alcohol-related violence e.g. Safer Socialising Schemes, Purple Flag Accreditation, Street Pastors.
How will we measure our success?

- Violence against the person offences rate;
- Repeat incidents of domestic abuse rate;
- No. of people accessing domestic abuse services e.g. IDVA service, visits to One Stop Shops;
- No. of victims benefitting from the services of the Sanctuary Scheme.

Co-ordinating Group(s)

CSP Violent Crime Sub-Groups operate separately for Dartford and Gravesham. Each of them is a multi-agency Group that is led by Kent Police. The North Kent Domestic Abuse Forum operates independently of the CSP but close links are maintained; the Chair of NKDAF reports to the CSP Support Group and the NKDAF is in turn attended by Community Safety Managers and Kent Police Officers who also report to the CSP.
Priority  Reducing drug and alcohol-related harm

Why is this a priority?

Substance misuse is inextricably tied up with crime and disorder: there are established links between alcohol misuse and violent crime and between drug dependency and acquisitive (property) crime. Their problematic use also has a major impact on people’s health and well-being and the quality of life of those living in neighbourhoods where these issues are more prevalent. Nationally the focus is currently on reducing demand, restricting supply and building recovery from drug addiction. Alcohol is a major player in anti-social behaviour as well as being a contributory factor in violent incidents, particularly domestic abuse. There is also recognition that young people are accessing alcohol at a younger age, making partnership working especially important in ensuring that educational, preventative and diversionary measures are delivered to reduce the risk of harm from excessive alcohol consumption.

What do we want to achieve?

- A reduction in drug offences;
- A reduction in alcohol-related offences;
- A reduction in the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions;
- An increase in the number of people accessing drug and alcohol treatment services and completing recovery programmes;
- An improvement in public perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour in public as a problem (KCVS);
- An improvement in public perceptions of people using or dealing drugs as a problem (KCVS).

How are we going to do it?

- Increasing referrals of those misusing drugs and/or alcohol and coming into the criminal justice system into appropriate treatment services;
- Through the Troubled Families Programme, ensure that appropriate steps are taken to safeguard young people whose parents/family members have substance misuse problems and that appropriate interventions are used to encourage the accessing of treatment services by those family members that need it;
- Carrying out multi-agency preventative work to continue to educate and raise awareness of alcohol and drug-related harm, including initiatives targeted at the night-time economy carried out in conjunction with G-Safe (Gravesham) and Dartford Town Against Crime;
- Using Licensing controls (including Late Night Levy and Early Morning Restriction Orders if appropriate) and other enforcement powers to ensure that licensed premises do not encourage binge drinking, sell to those underage or allow drug dealing/consumption on their premises;
- Using appropriate enforcement powers against prolific identified offenders e.g. Exclusion Orders and Drink Banning orders where alcohol is a factor in their offending behaviour;
• Carrying out targeted operations focusing on known offenders to disrupt local drugs markets;
• Ensuring businesses continue to be educated and trained in relation to responsible management of premises and sales of alcohol and to encourage competition in meeting the standards required by the Safer Socialising Scheme;
• Running the Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (KCAP) scheme to promote a culture of responsible drinking amongst young people.

How will we measure our success?

• Drug offences rate;
• Alcohol-related offences rate;
• Alcohol-related hospital admissions;
• Number of people accessing and completing treatment services;
• KCVS public perception data.
• No. of test purchase operations delivered and outcomes;
• No. of licensed premises and young people participating in KCAP schemes;
• No. of licensed premises in receipt of the Safer Socialising Award.

Co-ordinating Group(s)

Work will be co-ordinated by the CSP Drug and Alcohol Action Group which is a joint group covering Dartford and Gravesham. This Group is currently chaired by the Service Manager, Commissioned Services, Supporting People and Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team (KCC).
## Priority

### Property crime (domestic burglary and theft offences)

### Why is this a priority?

Despite some improvements the volume of theft offences means that this crime category generally accounts for between a fifth and a quarter of all crime committed locally and therefore, needs to be retained as a priority. Increases in theft and other forms of property crime including domestic burglary, have been experienced nationwide: the continuing demand for scrap metal and high asset price of certain metals have continued to drive criminal activity whilst the economic climate may be leading some of those with very little disposable income towards crimes such as shoplifting. Whilst the burglary rate in North Kent is still very low compared to many parts of the country, there has been a slight increase in the last 12 months.

Both tackling domestic burglary and wider theft offences will benefit from multi-agency partnership activity. Partners can work with local communities, whether they are residents in local neighbourhoods or local businesses in our town centres, to help protect against property crime generally, enabling residents to feel secure in their homes and local businesses to feel that our two Boroughs are attractive places in which to trade.

### What do we want to achieve?

- A reduction in domestic burglaries;
- A reduction in theft and handling stolen goods offences;
- A reduction shoplifting offences;
- A reduction in metal theft offences.

### How we are going to do it?

- Delivering targeted initiatives focusing on locations and groups most at risk to raise awareness and provide practical suggestions for improving security;
- Continuing to work with Kent Police and other partners to enforce legislation in relation to scrap metal dealers, car salvage operators and second hand goods dealers to stamp out illegal activity;
- Targeted awareness-raising activities focussed on properties more likely to be at risk of metal theft and the provision of advice to reduce risks;
- Working with Planning Departments to ensure that alternatives to lead are recommended as part of the planning process and that security of building development sites is always given consideration;
- Proactive operations and multi-agency approaches to identify and prosecute prolific offenders of burglary, theft and shop-lifting (working closely with both G-Safe and Dartford Town Against Crime);
- Providing personal and home safety advice to individuals who may be more vulnerable to certain forms of property crime (e.g. distraction burglary – elderly residents);
- Develop work with local community volunteers to promote and use ‘community messaging’ with a focus on collating intelligence as well as issuing crime prevention advice;
To make full use of crime prevention measures such as Smartwater and the use of CCTV mobile units, to assist with the identification of offenders;

To target awareness-raising exercises to key locations where burglary offences are more prevalent and to those times of year when offending levels may be higher e.g. seasonal factors that may influence/create greater opportunity for criminality.

**How will we measure our success?**

- Domestic burglary rate;
- Rate of theft and handling stolen goods offences;
- Rate of metal theft offences;
- Rate of shoplifting offences;
- Public events delivered to provide advice and information to local residents.

**Co-ordinating Group(s)**

There is not a specific CSP Sub-Group to deliver work in this area but activity to reduce domestic burglary and theft offences will be largely led by Kent Police supported by partners as appropriate, with some joint work being co-ordinated through the CSUs. The CSP Support Group will be provided with an update of operational work that has taken place to address these crime categories at its quarterly meetings.
### Why is this a priority?

At a county level road safety is seen as a priority for CSP action in each of Kent’s Districts. The recommendation from Kent County Council is that a partnership approach to road safety will help to counter the impact of reducing public service resources to deal with this issue and to ensure that it remains high on the agenda of preventative work. Whilst Dartford and Gravesham have the smallest land area of Kent Districts the two Boroughs have the greatest number of people per km². Throughout Dartford there are major trunk roads such as the M25, A282 and A2 whilst Gravesham also benefits from the M2 and A2 – all major roads that facilitate the majority of the traffic through the Districts. Despite reductions in road traffic collisions, Dartford still has the second highest number of collisions in any Kent District and although numbers are very small indeed, the second highest number of casualties from road traffic collisions in which people were killed or seriously injured.

There are numerous development plans for the regeneration of North Kent that will be delivered over the next few years. These will see even greater numbers of people living, working and visiting the area and consequently there will be more pedestrians and vehicles on all of our transport networks. In anticipation of this, the CSP has chosen to make safety on the road a key priority this year to give emphasis to this important community safety issue and to develop further the work that is already taking place between partner agencies to reduce problems arising on our roads. This includes not only the more serious road traffic accidents but other related issues that cause considerable concern in local neighbourhoods such as speeding vehicles and irresponsible parking and that also impact on personal safety.

### What do we want to achieve?

- A reduction in road traffic collisions (Dartford) and to maintain the low level of road traffic collisions (Gravesham);
- A reduction in road traffic collision casualties (Dartford) and to maintain the low level of casualties (Gravesham);
- A reduction in incidents involving driving whilst under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs;
- Multi-agency approaches that take full account of the impact on road safety of planned developments in the area.

### How are we going to do it?

- Local multi-agency campaigns to raise awareness and linked to speed, seat-belt wearing and preventing injuries;
- Seasonal work to focus on the risks driving whilst under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs (Christmas) and winter road safety services e.g. salting of roads;
- Taking a firm stance in dealing with irresponsible drivers for speeding and parking offences;
- Preventative work around identified ‘hot spots’ e.g. school areas during at school start and
• Work with Planning Departments and development agencies to ensure that road schemes do not disadvantage or put at risk pedestrians, cyclists, people with disabilities and public transport users (incorporating a ‘safety audit’ within the design process);
• Investigate areas of concern to the public and consider appropriate responses to deal with any identified problems (subject to financial resources);
• Supporting ‘pre-driver’ training courses for young people;
• Ensuring that selected offenders are referred to appropriate speed awareness training sessions.

How will we measure our success?

• No. of road traffic collisions and casualties;
• No. of preventative schemes delivered and no. of people participating/benefiting;
• Public perceptions data in respect of speeding vehicles (KCVS) and level of public concern in respect of parking issues (through the annual Community Safety Survey).

Co-ordinating Group(s)

Multi-agency work to address this priority will be led by Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KF&RS) for the CSP. Activities undertaken will be reported to the CSP Support Group on a quarterly basis.
Why is this a priority?

Reducing re-offending is cutting crime by stopping and/or changing the behaviour of known offenders. Whilst repeat offenders are small in number, they are responsible for a significant number of offences and cause disproportionate damage to our local neighbourhoods. Multi-agency approaches through the CSP aim to deliver a balance between enforcement and protecting the public and providing offenders with the help and support that they need to steer them away from offending again in future. Certain factors are recognised as ‘pathways’ to offending e.g. lack of accommodation/housing, lack of employment; Partnership activity to evaluate how we may be able to improve current practices and procedures in respect of housing or assist ex-offenders into training or employment, will make a sound contribution to reducing the risks of individuals re-offending.

What do we want to achieve?

- A reduction in local re-offending rates;
- An overall reduction in total recorded crime;
- A co-ordinated and integrated response to the resettlement of offenders;
- A reduction in the number of prolific offenders who re-offend due to drug and/or alcohol dependency issues;
- A reduction in the number of repeat offences of domestic abuse.

How are we going to do it?

- Working with the Integrated Offender Management Unit (IOMU) and Kent Probation in identifying ways of improving multi-agency working arrangements to reduce re-offending for those who have been prolific offenders;
- Tackling youth re-offending through joint initiatives with the Youth Offending Service, through the Troubled Families Programme and through schemes such as the Youth Inclusion Support Project to stop young people entering the criminal justice system;
- Working with partner agencies as appropriate to carry out an evaluation of current practices and procedures for the provision of accommodation/housing for ex-offenders and make any possible improvements;
- Develop and deliver schemes that provide training and work experience to ex-offenders with a view to helping them into employment;
- Rolling out restorative justice practices as appropriate;
- Addressing the high level of repeat offending in domestic abuse (through projects and services developed via the Violent Crime Group and the North Kent Domestic Abuse Forum).
### How will we measure our success?

- Local re-offending rates;
- Overall crime rates;
- Rate of repeat offences of domestic abuse;
- No. of ex-offenders assisted into employment, education or training.

### Co-ordinating Group(s)

Work in this area is co-ordinated by the CSP Reducing Re-offending Sub-Group. The Sub-Group is led and chaired by Kent Probation.
CONTACTS

Dartford Borough Council  
Community Safety Unit  
Civic Centre  
Home Gardens  
Dartford  
Kent DA1 1DR

Tel. 01322 343434  
www.safedartford.gov.uk

Gravesham Borough Council  
Community Safety Unit  
Civic Centre  
Windmill Street  
Gravesend  
Kent DA12 1AU

Tel. 01474 337000  
www.gravesham.gov.uk

Kent Police  
Thames Way  
Northfleet  
Gravesend  
Kent DA11 8BD

Tel. 01474 369055  
www.kent.police.uk

Kent County Council  
Community Safety Unit  
Invicta House  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 1XX

Tel. 08458 247247  
www.kent.gov.uk

Kent Fire and Rescue Service  
The Godlands  
Straw Mill Hill  
Maidstone  
Kent ME15 6XB

Tel. 01622 692121  
www.kent.fire-uk.org

Kent Probation  
Joynes House  
New Road  
Gravesend  
Kent DA11 0AT

Tel. 01474 569546  
www.kentprobation.org

Dartford and Gravesham NHS  
Darent Valley Hospital  
Darent Wood Road  
Dartford  
Kent DA2 8DA

Tel. 01322 428100  
www.dvh.nhs.uk

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner  
1st Floor, Gail House  
Lower Stone Street  
Maidstone  
Kent ME15 6NB

Tel. 01622 677055  
www.kent-pcc.gov.uk

Domestic Abuse Hotline  
Tel. 0808 2000247

Kent Hate Incident Line  
Tel. 0800 3289162

Anti-Terrorism Hotline  
Tel. 0800 789321
HELPING US TO MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY SAFER

Whilst all the partner agencies work hard together to make Dartford and Gravesham better places to live, as local residents or regular visitors to our Boroughs, you can take some simple steps to help us. Some crime relies on opportunity and could be prevented; some anti-social behaviour issues could be avoided if we all take some personal responsibility and show consideration to our neighbours and our environment. Importantly, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour is largely dependent on having good and reliable information – please report incidents to local agencies so that they have the information they need to act.

- Report incidents of anti-social behaviour – take a stand in your community
- Report incidents of environmental crime such as fly-tipping when you see them – even if the problem is not on your street
- Report incidents of illegal or under-age sales of alcohol
- Get involved – find out about local groups such as Neighbourhood Watch, Residents’ Associations or community volunteering schemes
- Get to know your neighbours
- Don’t leave items on display in vehicles
- Make sure that your home and your vehicle is secure and don’t allow entry to your home to anyone you don’t know without checking their identification
- Make sure your home is not a fire risk – arrange a free home fire safety check and maintain a working smoke alarm
- Respect parking restrictions – consider others when parking, particularly pedestrians and especially when dropping off or picking up children from school
- Remember that noise travels – be considerate towards your neighbours and keep noise to a reasonable level
- Dispose of your rubbish correctly – whenever possible only put rubbish bags out for collection early in the morning of the day of collection or late the previous night
- Make arrangements for the disposal of unwanted large items – your Council will be able to give to further details. If you pay for the removal of waste from your property ensure that the company you use is a registered waste carrier (with the Environment Agency) and ensure you are given a transfer note.

REMEMBER – if you want to report an incident or have any details about a crime that has been committed but do not want to be identified, you can report anonymously using the Crimestoppers Reporting Line on Tel. 0800 555111.

For more information, please visit the websites listed on the contacts page or get in touch with any of the partner agencies directly.