

## Appendix B

### Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership



### Strategic Assessment 2020

Produced by: The Community Safety Team, Sevenoaks District  
Council

<b>Table of Contents</b>	
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The aim of this Strategic Assessment</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The background to the Strategic Assessment</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Who produced this Strategic Assessment</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Covid-19</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Part One - Sevenoaks District Profile</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Population Profile</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Ethnic Profile</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Deprivation</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Universal Credit</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Part Two - Overview of Crime &amp; Anti-Social Behaviour in the District</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>General Overview of Crime</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Community Safety Unit</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Part Three - Community Safety Issues 2018-19</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Serious &amp; Acquisitive Crime incl OCGs, Emerging Crime Trends &amp; County Lines</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour Incl Environmental Crime</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Domestic Abuse incl Stalking</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Safeguarding</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Doorstep Crimes &amp; Scams incl Cyber Crime</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Substance Misuse</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Part Four - Coronavirus</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Part Five - Conclusion</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>62</b>

## Introduction

### **The Aim of this Strategic Assessment**

This Strategic Assessment is produced for the Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership using data for the period 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020 unless otherwise stated. It identifies the priorities for the 2021-22 Sevenoaks District Community Safety Strategy & Action Plan.

The purpose of this Strategic Assessment is to provide information and understanding of community safety issues for the members of the Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership. It identifies the emerging priorities by considering the patterns, trends and shifts relating to crime, disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour in the Sevenoaks District. Additionally, it includes a performance assessment of how far the partnership has achieved its previous priorities and an update of issues considered by the local community to be priorities.

### **The Background to the Strategic Assessment**

In 2006, a review of the partnership provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police Reform Act 2002 led to a series of recommendations to strengthen and extend existing requirements through the experience gained from partnership working. This resulted in a new set of national minimum standards, which came into force in August 2007.

The 1998 Act included the requirement to produce a detailed crime and disorder audit through consultation with key agencies and the wider community and to use the findings to identify strategic priorities and take action to address them. The new national standards place an obligation on responsible authorities to comply with the specified requirements, one of which is the creation of an annual Strategic Assessment.

Strategic Assessments should identify current and anticipated crime, disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour issues from sound evidence and robust analysis. Strategic Assessments provide an intelligence-led business planning approach and help Partnerships to respond more effectively to the communities they serve.

### **Who Produced this Strategic Assessment?**

The strategic Assessment has been produced on behalf of Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership by the District Council's Community Safety Team, using data and analysis supplied by their partner agencies and data through Kent County Council's Community Safety Team. The structure of the Strategic Assessment is based on a template used throughout Kent.

### **COVID-19**

This assessment will also be looking at COVID-19 and the effects it has had on the Community Safety Partnership and delivery of services.

## **Methodology**

Data collected for this Strategic Assessment relates to the time period 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020 unless otherwise stated.

The main body of this assessment is split into four sections.

Part one looks at contextual information such as Population, Diversity and Unemployment.

Part two gives a brief overview of Crime, Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour issues affecting the Sevenoaks District. This includes an analysis of trends since the previous assessment and a cross-county comparison.

Part three is the 'In-Depth Analysis', which will first look at the emerging partnership priorities with recommendations for the Sevenoaks District 2020-21 Strategy & Action Plan. It then provides further analysis of the priorities, looking at the scale of each issue, reasons for changes in levels and suggested cause(s) of the issue, including the relevance of location, time, the offender and/or the victim.

The views and priorities of the local community have been gathered through the Partner agency reports and the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) process.

A priority selection process is used to produce a final list of recommended partnership priorities for the forthcoming year.

Part four looks at a broader range of issues including those that are important across the county, and those that have previously been priorities in the Sevenoaks District.

## Part One - Sevenoaks District Profile

### Population profile

The latest population figures from the 2019 Mid-year population estimates show that there are 120,800 people living in Sevenoaks District<sup>1</sup>. This population size ranks Sevenoaks District the 7th most populated Kent local authority district area.

52% of Sevenoaks' population live in urban areas with the remaining 48% living in the surrounding rural area and settlements<sup>2</sup>. 23% of the district's total population live in the Sevenoaks area urban whilst 19% of the total population live in the Swanley urban area.

Overall Sevenoaks has a very similar age profile to the county average. Sevenoaks has a slightly higher proportion of primary school age children and people aged 40 and older, and a smaller proportion of teenagers and those aged 20-39 compared to the KCC average. Over the last 10-years Sevenoaks' population has grown by 6.2% (an additional 7,000 people)<sup>3</sup>. This is the second lowest rate of growth of any Kent district.

The growth in Sevenoaks' population is set to continue with current forecasts suggesting a further increase of 13.9% between 2019 and 2039<sup>4</sup>. This rate of growth is higher than the county average (16.5%). This forecast is based on KCC's assessment of the district authority's future housing targets as at November 2019. Such targets will be subject to changes as district authorities develop their Local development framework.

Further population information can be found [here](#)

### Ethnic profile

95.8% of Sevenoaks District population is of white ethnic origin with the remaining 4.2% being classified as of Black Minority Ethnic (BME) origin<sup>1</sup>. The proportion of the Districts population classified as BME is lower than the county average of 6.3%.

The largest ethnic group in Sevenoaks District is White British, with 91% of residents from this ethnic origin. Within the BME population, the largest ethnic groups are Indian and White and Asian mixed (each accounting for 0.6% of all residents).

Further ethnicity information can be found - **link does not work**

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Facts-and-figures-about-Kent/equality-and-diversity-data>

### Deprivation

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<sup>1</sup> 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 provide a measure of deprivation at both district and sub-district (Lower Super Output Area) level, relative to other areas in England<sup>2</sup>.

In 2019 Sevenoaks District was ranked as the least deprived district in Kent (ranked 11 out of 12 districts, with the most deprived being ranked 1). Nationally, Sevenoaks ranks 253<sup>rd</sup> out of 317 local authority districts in England. This rank places it within England’s least deprived half of authorities.

The county rank of Sevenoaks District has decreased by a place between 2015 and 2019. On the national ranking, Sevenoaks District has moved up by 11 positions from 264<sup>th</sup> in 2015 to 253<sup>rd</sup> in 2019. This indicates that Sevenoaks District’s level of deprivation has increased relative to other areas in England.

The greatest levels of deprivation are found within Swanley St. Mary’s ward. Neighbouring some of the most deprived areas of the District are areas with relatively low levels of deprivation. The least deprived areas of Sevenoaks District are found in the wards of Dunton Green and Riverhead.

Further deprivation information: [link does not work](#)

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Facts-and-figures-about-Kent/deprivation-and-poverty>

### Unemployment - (out of work claimants of Jobseekers Allowance or Universal Credit)

Sevenoaks District unemployment rate is currently 4.3%. This is considerably lower than the county average of 6.3% and the national average of 6.5%<sup>8</sup>.

In September 2020 there were 3,045 unemployed people in Sevenoaks which is 2.0% higher (60 more people) than in August 2020 and 236.5% higher (2,140 more unemployed people) than September 2019.

This is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

District	Claimant Count					
	Total unemployed as of Sept 2020	Resident Base Rate %	Change from previous month Number	Change from previous month %	Change since last year Number	Change since last year %

<sup>2</sup> The English Indices of Deprivation 2019, Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government

	Claimant Count					
Sevenoaks	3,045	4.3%	60	2.0%	2,140	236.5%
Kent	59,785	6.3%	620	1.0%	34,990	141.1%
Great Britain	2,646,960	6.5%	21,210	0.8%	1,511,725	133.2%

Source: NOMIS - Claimant Count

Unemployment rates vary across the district. The lowest unemployment is in Sevenoaks Kippington ward where 2.8% of the working age population are unemployed. The highest rate is in Swanley St Mary's ward where 8.0% of the working age population are unemployed.

A lower proportion of those in Sevenoaks who are unemployed (20.0%) are aged 18-24 years old than the average for Kent (20.7%) but above the national average (19.5%).

Further unemployment information: [link does not work](#)

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Facts-and-figures-about-Kent/economy-and-employment>

## Universal Credit Claimants

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 made changes to the rules concerning a number of benefits offered within Britain.

One of the main changes is the introduction of a new single benefit called Universal Credit. Universal Credit is replacing six means-tested benefits and tax credits: Jobseeker's Allowance, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Employment and Support Allowance, and Income Support. It is available for people who are out of work or who are in work but on a low income.

From July 2019 the government intends to begin a pilot scheme transferring claimants of existing benefits (those that Universal credit was designed to replace) onto Universal Credit. This managed migration will start initially within 10,000 existing claimants. The government will not start moving people over to Universal Credit in great numbers until the pilot scheme has been completed and assessed. However it is planned to have completed the full migration process by the end of 2023.

There are currently 6,115 claimants of Universal Credit in Sevenoaks as at August 2020. This accounts for 8.7% of the resident working age population, below the Kent average 13.2% and the national average 13.7%<sup>9</sup>.

## Table 2

Universal Credit claimants						
District	Total Universal Credit Claimants	Resident Base Rate %	Change from previous month Number	Change from previous month %	Change since last year Number	Change since last year %
Sevenoaks	6,115	8.7%	-40	-0.6%	4,313	239.3%
Kent	125,443	13.2%	224	0.2%	74,277	145.2%
Great Britain	5,565,819	13.7%	58,850	1.1%	3,218,215	137.1%

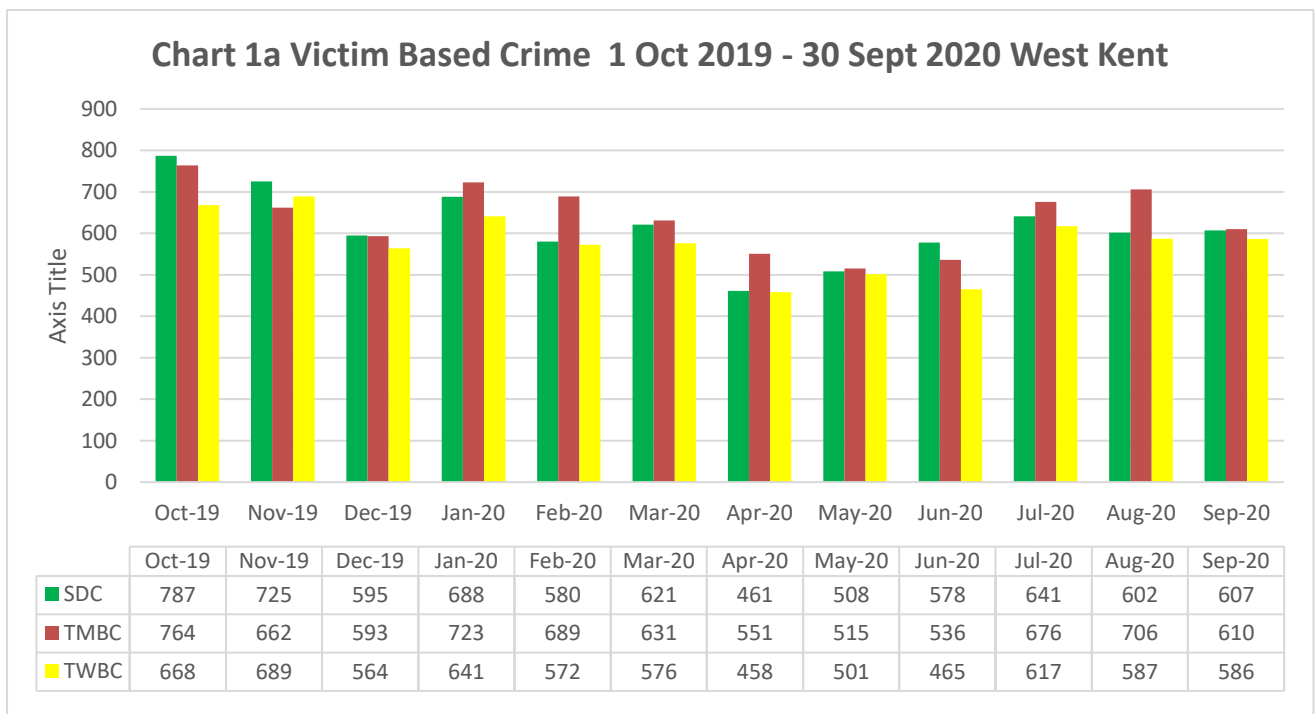
**36.3% of Universal Credit claimants in Sevenoaks are in work, slightly higher than the Kent average of 36.2% but below the national average of 37.5%.**

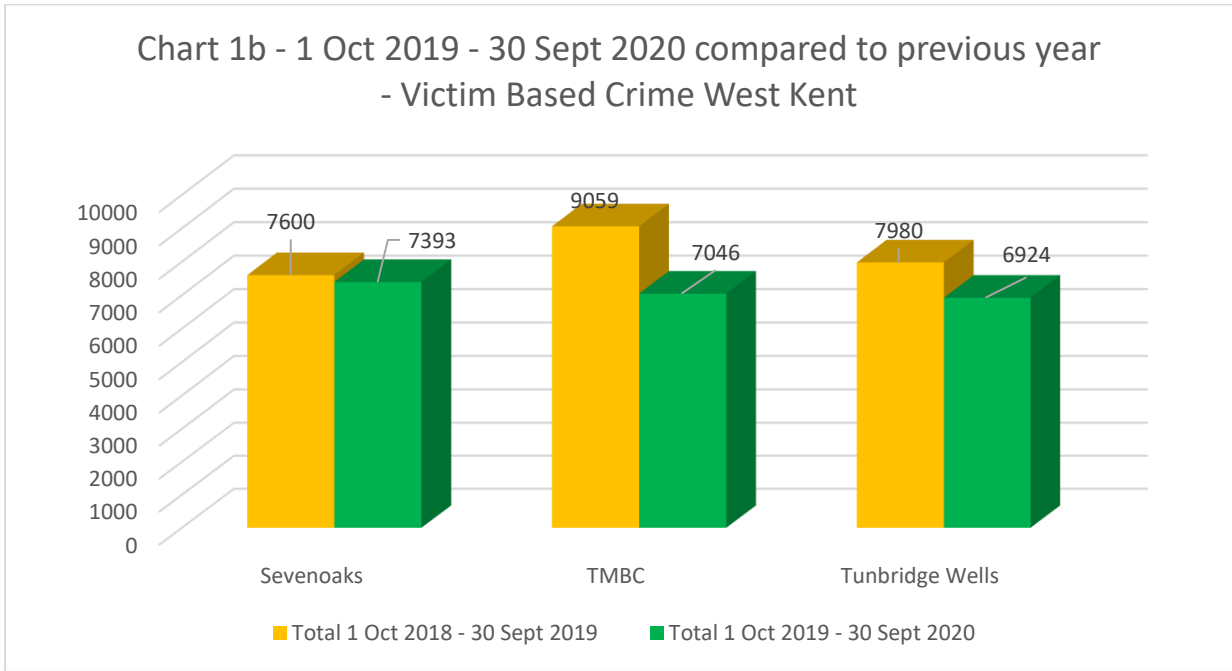


## Part Two - Overview of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in the District

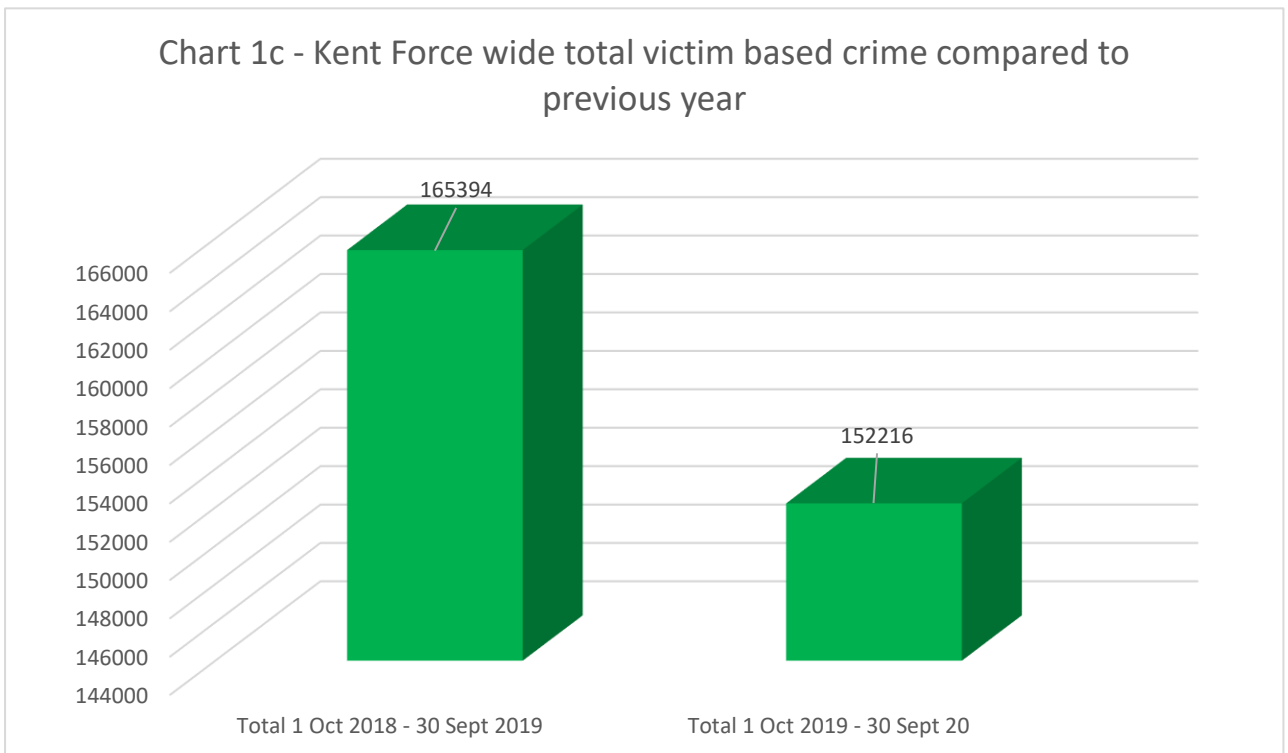
Pages 9 to 31 look at community safety issues to identify trends and comparative performance. Charts 1a, 1b and 1c show victim based crime from 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020 for the District, for West Kent Police Division and for Kent, excluding Medway.

This year's recorded crime figures show that overall crime within Sevenoaks District has decreased from 7600 (in the year before) to 7393 This is a total crime decrease of 3%, with 207 less offences occurring in the same twelve month period. Sevenoaks District had the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest number of recorded crimes in the county at the end of September 2020 (rolling year). All areas in the West Kent Police Division have seen a decrease in crime (TMBC 22% and TWells 13%).





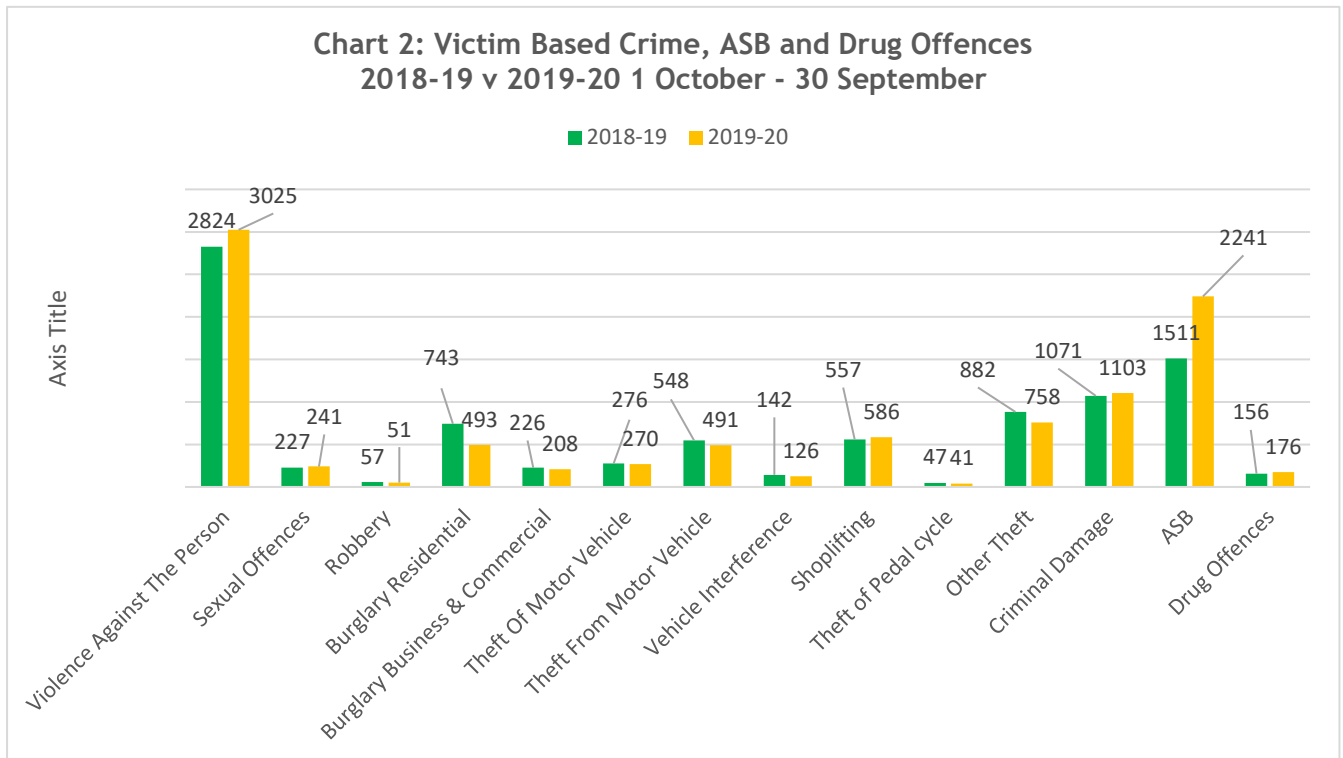
**Victim based crime in Kent has decreased by 7.9% (-13,178 crimes)**



**Charts 1a-c Total Victim Based crime (Source: Kent Police via KCC Portal)**

Chart 2 shows Victim Based Crime by type as well as Anti-Social Behaviour and Drug Offences. It can be seen that Violence Against the Person and Criminal Damage are the highest crime types, both with increases. Anti-Social Behaviour, is

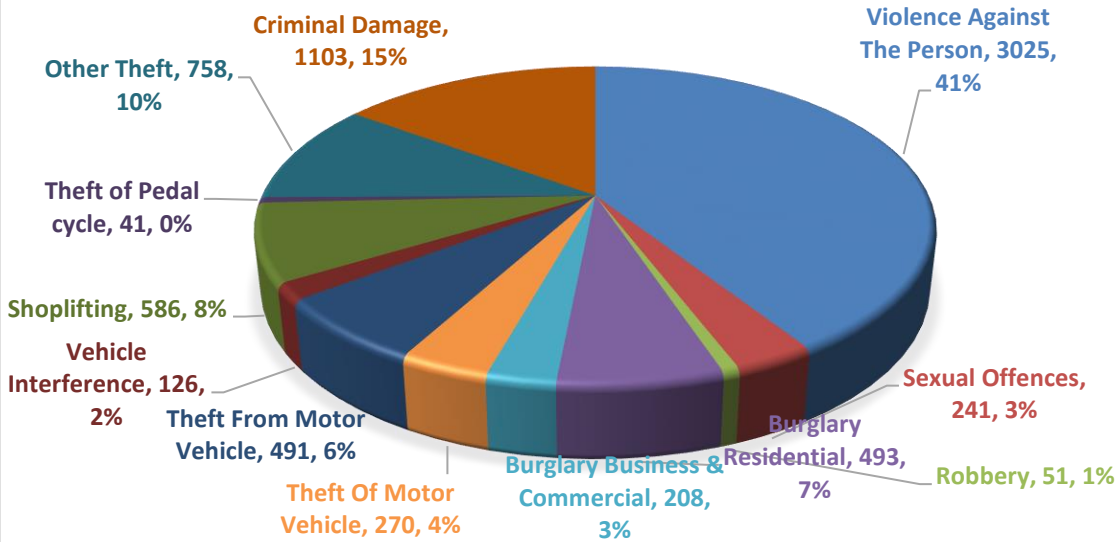
recorded but not as a crime<sup>3</sup>, this has also increased. There have been decreases in Burglary Residential, Burglary Commercial and Vehicle Crime.



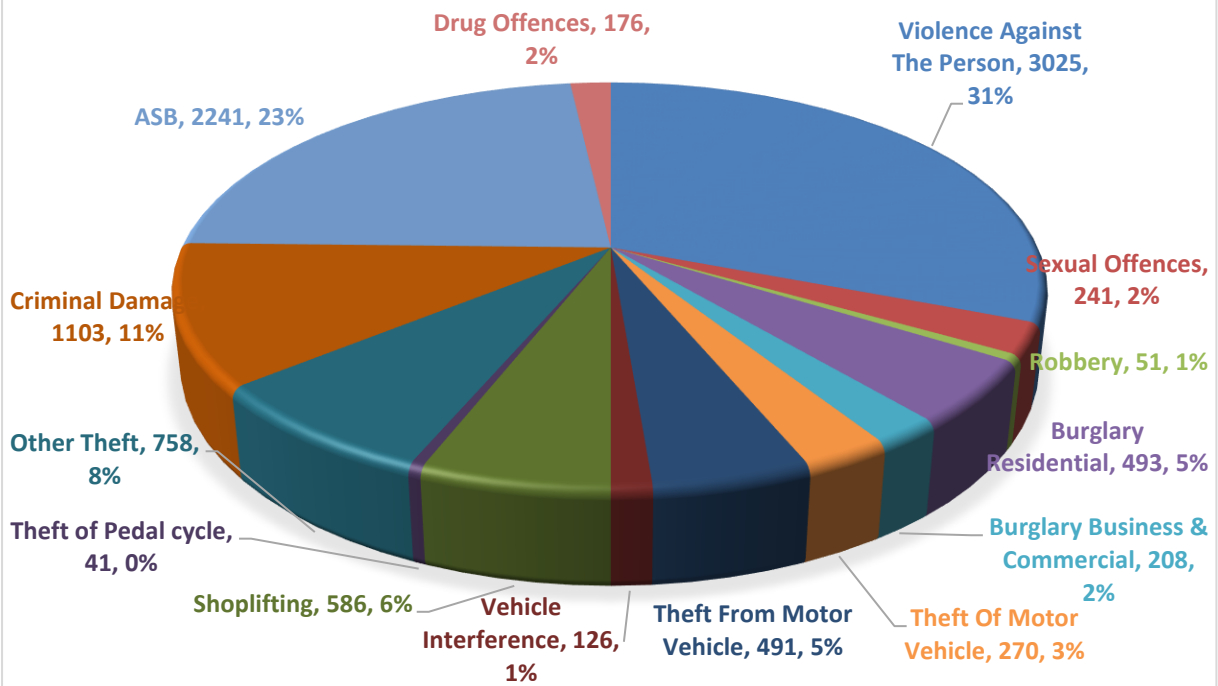
Kent Police figures (1 Oct 2019 - 30 Sept 2020) have been used to generate the following charts, which show a breakdown of crimes in the Sevenoaks District including and excluding the figures for Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). Please note that from April 2017, Burglary categories were changed from Burglary Dwelling to Burglary Residential and Burglary Other than Dwelling to Burglary Business & Community.

<sup>3</sup> Please note that Anti-social behaviour is not within the Home Office Counting Rules and is not a crime.

**CHART 3: TOTAL VICTIM BASED CRIME IN SEVENOAKS DISTRICT OCT 2019 - SEPT 2020**



**CHART 4: TOTAL VICTIM BASED CRIME, DRUG OFFENCES & ASB IN SEVENOAKS DISTRICT OCT 2019- SEPT 2020**



Specific crime types have been examined alongside the rates for last year and crime levels throughout the county to provide a greater understanding of crime and ASB in the Sevenoaks District. These are set out below.

Table 3 - Sevenoaks District Crime Figures 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020 (Kent Police)

Category	Oct 2018 - Sept 2019	Oct 2019 - Sept 2020	Difference	Percentage	Per 1K population	County Position at 30 Sept 2020 (1 = lowest)	Change from previous year
All Victim-Based Crime	7600	7393	-207	-2.7	63.18	3	up 1
Anti-Social Behaviour	1511	2241	730	48.3	12.56	2	no change
Burglary Residential	743	493	-250	-33.6	6.18	7	down 4
Burglary Business & Commercial	226	208	-18	-8.0	1.88	12	up 5
Criminal Damage	1071	1103	32	3.0	8.90	2	down 1
Domestic Abuse - No. of incidents	2161	2408	247	11.4	17.96	2	up 1
Violence Against the Person	2824	3025	201	7.1	23.47	1	no change
Drug Offences	156	176	20	12.8	1.30	1	down 1
Robbery	57	51	-6	-10.5	0.47	2	up 1
Sexual Offences	227	541	314	138.3	1.89	1	no change
Shoplifting	557	586	29	5.2	4.63	4	up 1
Theft From a Motor Vehicle	548	491	-57	-10.4	4.56	8	no change
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	276	270	-6	-2.2	2.29	8	up 2
Theft of a Pedal Cycle	47	41	-6	-12.8	0.39	2	up 1

Sevenoaks District continues to be a safe place, with the third lowest level of recorded Victim Based Crime in Kent (Rolling Year Oct 2019- Sept 2020). However, financial year April - September 2020 sees Sevenoaks District with the second lowest level of recorded Victim Based Crime. ASB although has seen a high increase, also remains low in comparison to the rest of the county.

Sevenoaks Police have a very active and engaging Twitter account, going from 6472 followers this time last year to 6953 currently, an increase of 7.4%. This is largely due to all Policing staff having access to update the account.

The Community Safety Unit is seen as an example of best practice in the county, with excellent joint working arrangements. Recent successes include Operation Mint, tackling ASB across the District during COVID-19 restrictions.

The Serious Crime Tactical Group, a monthly partnership meeting, is recognised as best practice across Kent. Co-chaired by the Community Safety Manager and Community Safety Unit Inspector, it has been pivotal to disrupting Organised Crime Groups on or linked to Sevenoaks District.

The Independent Police Advisory Group continues to thrive, with a healthy attendance and engagement. A real focus on vulnerability, including critical assessment of anonymised Hate Crime investigations has provided useful feedback.

SpeedWatch, co-ordinated by Kent Police Headquarters and SDC with loan of Speedboards, was put on hold during 2020 due to COVID, this was to protect our volunteers at this time.

Specialist PCSO roles are embedded into the CSU, this consist of Domestic Abuse PCSO, Crime Reduction PCSO, Vulnerable Adults and a Vulnerable Youth PCSO.

A general overview of some of the crime types and statistics highlights that Violence against the Person is the highest recorded crime in the District at 41%, with 3025 recorded crimes, there was an increase of 201 crimes (7.1%) compared to the same period the previous year. Despite the rise, the District continues to have the lowest rate in Kent and the majority of these offences are incidents of domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse incidents in the Sevenoaks District have increased by 247 crimes (11.4%). The District has the second lowest number of Domestic Abuse incidents in the county (2408)<sup>4</sup>, Please note: Domestic Abuse incidents are not always reported as violence against the person, if there has been no violence recorded.

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<sup>4</sup> Apparent inconsistency in annual figures arises from the classification of 'incident'. Domestic abuse 'incidents' are not necessarily violent and can refer to verbal disputes which have been reported to Kent Police; as such, not all incidents make it into statistics for violence against the person.

For example, if there was a verbal altercation, this would be recorded as a Domestic Abuse Incident and not Violence against the Person and that is why the numbers are different.

ASB accounts for the second largest recorded issue when compared to individual crime types in the District and makes up 23% of the total recorded figures when included in crime statistics. Figures show 2241 recorded incidents of ASB occurring within the District were reported to Kent Police. The District had the second lowest number of ASB reports in Kent and saw an increase of 48% (730 reports).

Although there has been a slight increase in Drug Offences, this is noted as a positive on the basis that Drugs crimes are mostly discovered by police. It is therefore demonstrative of the Police being active across the District and the CSU attending areas where residents have reported drug use taking place.

This period has seen a total of 701 burglary offences, an decrease of 41.9% (268 offences) compared with figures for the same period last year. Burglary as of April 2017 is divided into Burglary Residential and Burglary Commercial & Business.

These offences account for a relatively small percentage of total crime in the District, 7% for Burglary Residential and 3% Burglary Commercial & Business. The Sevenoaks District rankings have decreased by four places for Burglary Residential, but Burglary Commercial and Business has gone up five places.

### **Community Safety Unit**

The CSU Daily tasking's meetings dealt with 796 ASB/Community Safety calls from October 2019 - September 2020. This is an increase of 258 calls (47%) compared to same period last year. All actions were followed up and residents were kept updated in all actions unless they had been reported anonymously. SDC, Police, Community Wardens, West Kent Housing and SDC Environmental Heath attend the CSU daily tasking on a daily basis.

To address vulnerable and repeat victims & locations, the CSU sets up Task and Finish Groups if a call is logged 2-3 times and needs a more in depth partnership approach. A meeting is set up, followed by an action plan on either a location or a person. In the same time period as above, there were 17 (same as same period last year) Task and Finish Groups. These were:

- 3 x individuals in Seal, Sundridge and Swanley
- Oak Tree Farm
- Sevenoaks Town ASB
- Romney Street, Otford
- Barnfield Park, New Ash Green
- Former Brokehill Golf Club, Halstead
- Hartley Offenders
- Maws Meadow, West Kingsdown

- 120 Chipstead Lane, Sevenoaks meeting
- Attwood Field, New Ash Green
- Obstructive Parking - Knole Park
- Social Distancing/Drugs/Young People
- ASB/Nitrous Oxide
- Op Glass/ASB New Ash Green
- The Sidings, Dunton Green
- Redwood Place, Sevenoaks
- Shenden Close, Sevenoaks
- Eureka, West Kingsdown
- OSARA Rave Plan
- OSARA Edenbridge Plan

There were 18 Partnership site visits to:

- Oak Tree Farm, Halstead
- Maws Meadow, West Kingsdown
- Alexandra Close, Swanley
- Northfield, Hartley
- Attwood Field, New Ash Green
- Romney Street, Otford
- Eglantine Stables, South Darent
- Penshurst Place/Poundsbridge/Ensfild Road
- Angling/Sailing Club - Chipstead Lakes
- Bradbourne Lakes.
- Bentleys Meadow, Seal
- Former Broke Hill Golf Club, Halstead
- Covers Farm, Westerham
- Oak View Stud Farm, Horton Kirby
- Yearling Coppice, Halstead
- Warren Farm, Penshurst
- Chafford Bridge, Penshurst
- Manse Way, Swanley

### **SDC ASB Officer/ CSU**

In September 2020, due to restructure within the Council and resignation of the current ASB Officer, the role was deleted but ASB continued to be dealt with by Community Safety Officer and Community Safety Manager. Recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour were slightly lower in the period from October 2019 until September 2020. The total number of calls received by the Council during October 2019 and September 2020 equals 98 calls. This is 24 less calls than the same period last year, when 122 calls were received, which equates to a 19% decrease in calls received.



Edenbridge South & West had the highest number of reports of anti-social behaviour to the District Council. Farningham, Horton Kirby and South Darenth and Swanley, St Marys are joint 2<sup>nd</sup> highest with 10.

The highest type of anti-social behaviour reported is Nuisance Behaviour with 45 reports. This is followed by reports of Drugs misuse and dealing and vehicle related nuisance. Calls by type are always higher than reports received as residents can report more than one type at a time.

During the period of October 2019 and September 2020, 22 Anti-Social Behaviour warning letters and 7 Acceptable Behaviour Agreement contracts were issued to named individuals. Two Acceptable Behaviour Agreement Breach letters were also served.

The Community MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference). This looks at all repeat offenders and victims to give a wider remit. On average the monthly meeting looks at around 20 individual/families.

The Criteria is:

- ASB incl Disputes & Environmental Crime
- Hate related incidents
- Mental Health concerns
- Persistent offenders of crime and Disorder
- Vulnerable victims and locations including child sexual exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery and gangs
- Vulnerable adults and young persons
- Substance Misuse

Other partners within the CSU such as CCTV, Licensing, Direct Services, West Kent Housing and Environmental Health have provided the following data.

## **SDC CCTV**

From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the CCTV Control Room at Sevenoaks District Council assisted the police with 101 arrests for this period; this is an increase from the previous year.

Anti-social behaviour, theft and drug related issues continue to be our highest crime recorded within the CCTV service way above all other crimes. The CCTV teams continues to work closely with the Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership bringing together all of the agencies in the District who can have an impact on crime, anti social behaviour and the fear of crime.

The CCTV Service is not all about the detection and prevention of crime, during this year the CCTV service assisted police with 109 separate incidents of missing and vulnerable persons.

The Children's Act 2004, section 11, places a statutory duty on District Council's to make arrangements in discharging their functions they have regards to the need to safeguard children and promote the welfare of children. CCTV monitors many parks, open spaces, play areas, skate parks within our areas assisting with many incidents relating to children or young people.

CCTV dealt with 228 child related incidents.

The Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004, places a requirement on Local Authorities including District Councils to participate in preventing Domestic Abuse. CCTV have been involved many serious Domestic Violence cases, some have resulted in life threatening and very disturbing outcomes.

CCTV has been instrumental in bringing offenders to justice and with our partnership working offering the appropriate help and support to victims.

CCTV dealt with nine domestic violence incidents during this period.

The CCTV Control Room works in partnership with Kent Police, the Community Safety Unit and with local businesses to promote the Home Office Business Crime Reduction Partnership. These partnerships manage both the day and night-time economies in our towns, to help combat crime and disorder.

This year during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, the CCTV Control Room remained open. CCTV operators deemed as key workers, patrolling and monitoring our town's centres. Demonstrating and signifying the value of CCTV. The CCTV Control Room is also responsible for the Emergency out of hour's service, dealing with hundreds of COVID-19 related calls.

The District Council remains committed to the use of CCTV in helping to make our communities safer places to live work and visit.

## **SDC Licensing**

The SDC Licensing Team has visited a number of premises, referred by the public and the CSU regarding community safety and licensing issues. They have attended five of the task and finish groups set up by the CSU.

There has been continued training to all taxi drivers on Child Sexual Exploitation and Human trafficking.

SDC Licensing Team have also been involved with the CSU on breaches of COVID-19 Breaches, Temporary Events Notices and Scrap Metal Licenses.

## **SDC Environmental Health**

The Environmental Protection Team is a shared service with Dartford Borough Council and operates from the Civic Centre in Dartford. The team comprises 4

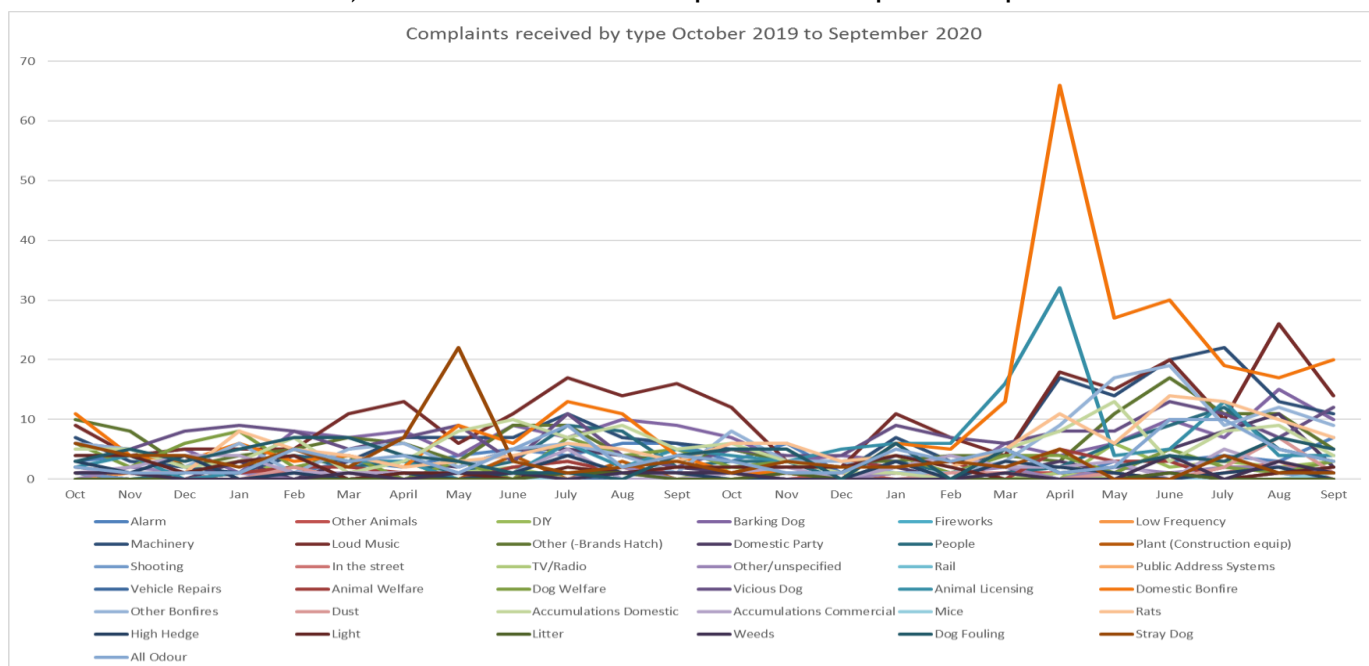
Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), 2 Environmental Protection Officers (EPOs), 1 Scientific Officer (SO), 2 Animal Control Officers (ACOs) and 1 Environmental Protection Support Officer (EPSO).

The team is responsible for areas of work as diverse as Air Quality, Environmental Permitting, Animal Licensing, Contaminated Land, Licensing & Planning Consultations and Private Water Supplies in addition to the investigation of complaints commonly linked or associated with Anti-Social Behaviour/ Statutory Nuisance.

With the exception of the specialist officers (SO and ACOs), officers undertake a varied case load comprising project based work and complaints from members of the public. All officers undertake work within the Dartford Borough and Sevenoaks District.

Between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the Environmental Protection Team received 2571 service requests relating to issues within Sevenoaks District.

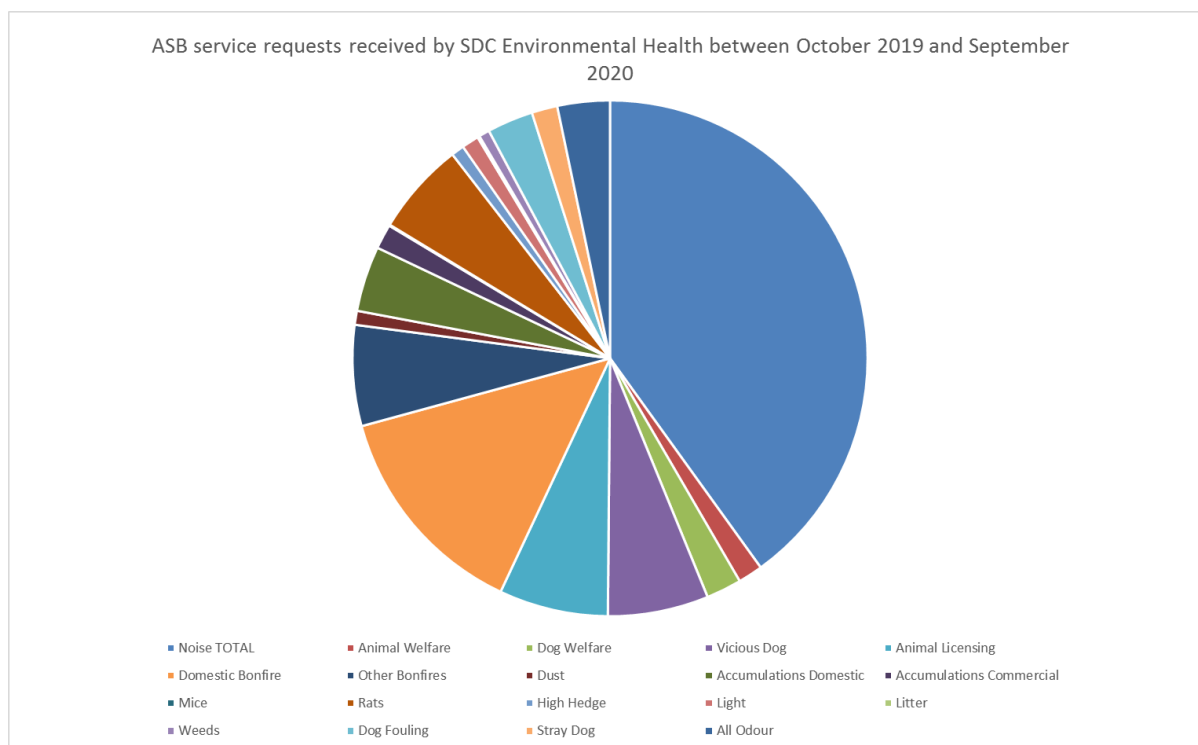
Of the Service Requests received by Sevenoaks, 1488 relate to matters associated with anti-social behaviour (accumulations of rubbish, animal welfare, dog fouling, noise and nuisance). This is 376 more complaints than previous period.



**Chart 5 shows complaints received by type**

This significant rise has resulted primarily as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant ‘lockdown’ between March and June. During this period when residents were encouraged to stay at home, the Environmental Protection Team saw a dramatic rise in complaints about neighbouring properties (particularly bonfires and noise). This combined with the usual seasonal increase during the summer resulted in the team receiving more complaints than ever before during the reporting period.

Of the complaints received, the largest proportion (40%) were about noise. Followed by complaints about bonfires (20%), enquiries about animal licensing (7%), vicious dogs (6%) complaints about rats (6%) and accumulations of waste (6%).



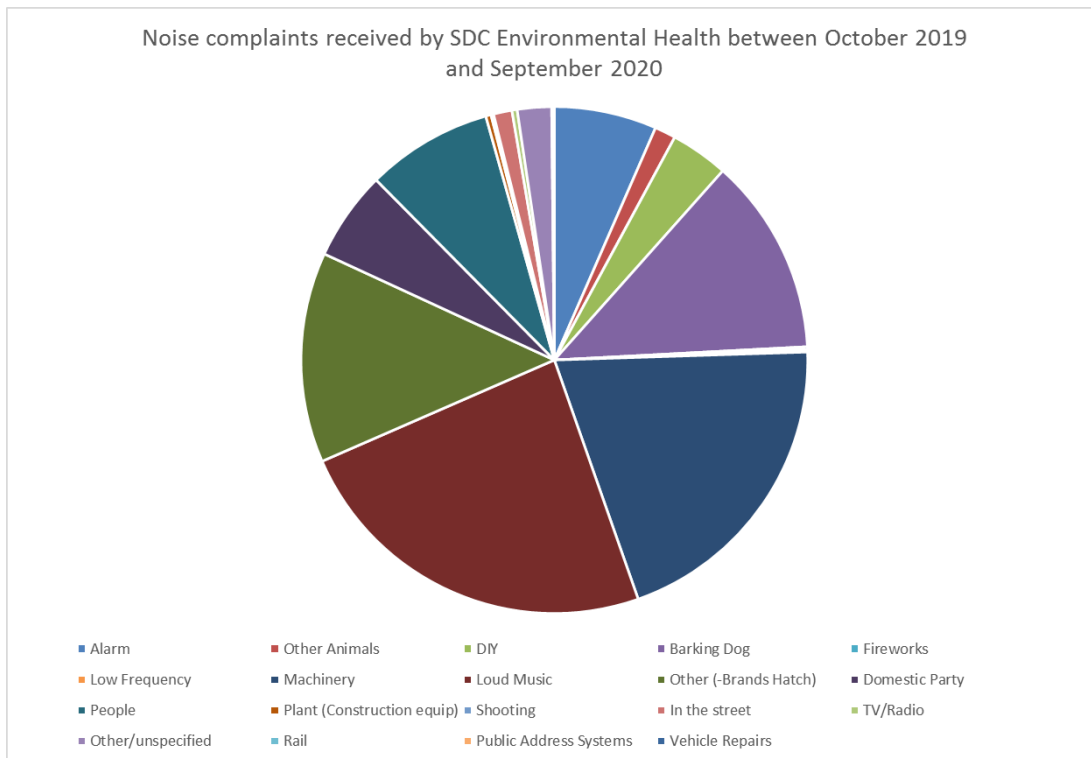
**Chart 6 shows ASB Service Requests**

## Noise Complaints

The number of noise complaints has risen sharply when compared to last year (596 in 2019/20 vs 491 in 2018/19). This significant rise has been driven by circumstances caused during the Covid-19 pandemic including:

- householders being at home for longer periods and therefore more likely to be affected by their neighbours
- children being at home for long periods following the closure of schools creating additional noise
- homeworking by residents who then expect an unreasonable level of quiet.
- Conflict between homeworking and ongoing construction/ DIY.

As a result, “neighbour noise” accounts for the biggest proportion of noise service requests (including loud music- 24%, People noise 8%, unspecified/ other- 13%, domestic parties- 6%). We have also seen a large increase in the number of complaints about the use of construction machinery (an increase of 55) where construction continued during the lockdown affecting residents who were stuck at home.



**Chart 7 shows noise complaints received**

## Noise App

In April 2018 the District Council began to provide residents with access to ‘The Noise App’ (<https://www.thenoiseapp.com/#/>). This is a mobile application which is downloadable to Apple and Android devices and allows residents to log noise as it is occurring and take short recordings which can be listened to by case officers.

This system provides supplementary information to case officers above that which can be ascertained from traditional paper diary sheets and allows us to more quickly and accurately assess complaints and determine investigation procedures.

The number of complainants using the NoiseApp has continued to increase (444 users in 2019/20) and the Environmental Health Partnership now receives approximately 7500 noise reports through this system each year.

During the lockdown period when it was not possible to conduct visits into customers’ homes, the NoiseApp proved invaluable and allowed residents to continue collecting evidence of their complaint and our officers to continue their investigations and take enforcement action where necessary.

## Bonfires

At the start of the Covid-19 lockdown the Environmental Protection Team received a surge in bonfire complaints. These complaints coincided with good weather, large numbers of recently furloughed residents undertaking gardening and the

closure of the civic amenity sites. At the same time residents confined to their homes were unable to get away from troubling bonfire smoke. This 'perfect storm' of circumstances resulted in Sevenoaks Council receiving 168 bonfire complaints between April and June compared to 125 in the entirety of 2019/20

In response the Environmental Protection Team adopted a proactive approach to complaints using our duty officer system. Whenever we received a complaint about bonfires our officers would offer to visit the alleged offender to offer advice and explain how their fire was adversely affecting neighbours. We also worked with the communications team to put out messaging encouraging residents not to have a bonfire during lockdown. Click [here](#) to view it.

## **Animal Control/ Welfare**

The District Council received 150 service requests regarding animal control and welfare during the monitoring period. This is a slight increase compared to last year. A large number of these service requests (63%) relate to complaints about vicious dogs.

The District Council is responsible for investigating such complaints where they relate to attacks on other animals. However we are also often requested to assist Kent Police in the course of their investigations into dog on human incidents.

In April 2018, we changed our procedures for dealing with such incidents to utilise the powers afforded by the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. This change enables officers to take a proactive enforcement approach to such complaints by issuing Community Protection Notice Warning Letters and Community Protection Notices.

A positive impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is that owing to residents being at home for longer periods we have received less stray dogs than in previous years (down 60% on 2018/2019). As a result we have had to rehome fewer animals that might have been the case in a normal year. However whilst this trend has been extremely positive, it would seem that those dogs we have been receiving are generally being abandoned in a poor condition (some with major medical and neglect issues). Fortunately we continue to work with our partners in the Charity Sector to obtain suitable treatment for these dogs.

## **Enforcement**

In 2019/20 the team issued 40 Community Protection Notice Warning Letters (CPWs) under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. These warning were in response to various issues including noise, anti-social dog behaviour, accumulations of waste and bonfires, and overgrown gardens.

Officers served 4 abatement notices under s79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, 3 in respect of noise, 1 in respect of fume/ odour from a commercial premises. In addition we served 5 Community Protection Notices.

Table 4 - Noise Statistics 1 Oct 2019 - 30 Sept 2020

		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	19/20 Total	18/19 Total	Difference
NOIALM	Alarm	3	6	1	4	3	2	0	3	3	4	3	7	39	42	-3
NOIANI	Other Animals	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	8	4	4
NOIDIY	DIY	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	6	2	3	2	3	22	11	11
NOIDOG	Barking Dog	7	3	4	3	0	6	4	6	10	7	15	10	75	78	-3
NOIFIR	Fireworks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	-1
NOILOW	Low Frequency	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	-3
NOIMAC	Machinery	5	3	1	7	3	4	17	14	20	22	13	11	120	65	55
NOIMUS	Loud Music	12	3	2	11	7	4	18	15	20	10	26	14	142	116	26
NOIOTH	Other (-Brands Hatch)	5	3	3	3	4	4	3	11	17	11	11	5	80	70	10
NOIPAR	Domestic Party	1	0	0	2	0	1	3	1	5	8	11	2	34	28	6
NOIPEO	People	3	3	0	3	1	1	2	6	9	12	5	3	48	36	12
NOIPLA	Plant (Construction equip)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	12	-10
NOISHO	Shooting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	-1
NOISTR	In the street	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	7	9	-2
NOITV	TV/Radio	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	-1
NOIUNS	Other/unspecified	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	2	2	1	13	9	4
NOIRAI	Rail	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
NOIPAS	Public Address Systems	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOIVR	Vehicle Repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Noise TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>491</b>	



Table 5 - Complaints 1 Oct 2019 - 30 Sept 202

		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	19/20Totals	18/19 Totals	
ANWEL	Domestic Bonfire	1	1	0	6	5	13	66	27	30	19	17	20	205	76	129
DGWEL	Animal Licensing	4	3	5	6	6	16	32	4	5	13	4	4	102	32	70
DGVIC	Vicious Dog	5	4	4	9	7	6	8	8	13	11	7	12	94	77	17
ANLIC	Other Bonfires	8	3	3	1	1	3	9	17	19	9	12	9	94	49	45
BNDOM	Rats	6	6	3	4	2	5	11	6	14	13	10	7	87	43	44
BONOTH	Accumulations Domestic	6	3	1	1	0	5	8	13	3	8	9	4	61	65	-4
DUST	All Odour	3	1	1	5	3	5	1	2	10	10	5	3	49	38	11
EPACPD	Dog Fouling	5	5	0	6	0	5	1	2	4	3	7	5	43	43	0
EPACPC	Dog Welfare	2	3	3	4	1	4	4	1	5	2	1	3	33	47	-14
EPAMIC	Stray Dog	1	3	2	2	3	2	5	0	0	4	1	1	24	61	-37
EPARAT	Animal Welfare	1	3	3	2	3	0	5	3	3	0	0	0	23	16	7
EPHEDG	Accumulations Commercial	1	2	0	2	4	2	2	3	0	5	2	0	23	21	2
EPLGHT	Light	2	2	2	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	16	23	-7
EPLTTR	Dust	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	7	1	13	3	10
EPWEED	High Hedge	0	0	0	3	0	3	2	1	0	1	2	0	12	17	-5
DGFOUL	Weeds	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	3	1	10	7	3
DGSTRY	Litter	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0
ODR	Mice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
		46	40	27	55	38	71	154	88	112	100	88	73	892	621	

## West Kent Housing Association

Following on from our 2018 / 2019 Community Safety Strategic Assessment our business focus remains unchanged. The analysis supports our ongoing business awareness in creating 'Our Vision,' which is to be a leading community provider of affordable homes in Kent and Medway, encourage tenancy sustainability, an ambitious review of our domestic abuse services, Tackle isolation and to build not just new affordable homes, but communities too. We will help to create in Kent and Medway a prosperous, strong and sustainable society; a place of opportunity for all; where people can plan for their future.

Our vision for our 2018-2022 Strategy is to continue to consolidate the work that we do and strive further to be a valued landlord and partner, renowned for its professionalism, fairness and consistency in promoting community safety across areas where we have homes. This vision is the cornerstone for our strategy from the present day and beyond.

We have developed our own positive culture of working in partnership with customers and stakeholders, to deliver exceptional services in a friendly, solution focused way. We focus on the long term and the needs of the future, as well as current residents. We ensure our residents and customers have real influence on what we do. We provide more than just landlord services because we care about the people and places where we work. We recognise the importance of a local focus and work actively with our local authorities and other local partners to improve and shape places at both a strategic and operational level. These values will be further embedded through the 'Social Housing White Paper'. The impact to the social housing sector cannot be underestimated. Not only are operational activities and performance measures under increased scrutiny by The Regulator, there are new requirements for resident engagement and complaints. There is a greater emphasis on safety, resident voice, performance monitoring and home ownership. Overall, there are seven themes in the social housing white paper, all linked by one common thread - that the safety, wellbeing and opinions of social housing residents is paramount, and it's down to landlords to demonstrate engagement and performance to their residents.

The Government will clarify the responsibilities of landlords and the police in directly tackling anti-social behaviour, so residents understand where to access support and what to expect in terms of a response, including greater clarity around the availability of Community Trigger or multi-agency ASB Case Review arrangements.

Community Safety Strategic Analysis for 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020:

WKHA received 541 complaints of antisocial behaviour and other community safety related matters for the period 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019. This is an

increase of 34% over the same period for the previous year. We have identified increases and decreases in reported categories of Community Safety.

With increased reporting in mind. We have seen a rise from 27 cases to 40 reported cases of domestic abuse, a rise of 48% of which 24 cases referred to 'physical abuse'. This figure does not include cases referred to MARAC. Such a rise should be viewed positively with tenants being confident that they will be listened to and supported through a partnership approach. Equally, adult safeguarding has seen a decline from 14 reported cases to 3. A decrease of 78%. Child safeguarding reports saw a significant decrease from 9 to 2 reported cases. A decrease of 77%. A decline in Physical Violence reports has been minimal from 12 reports to 11 reports, with 'actual assaults' being reported either by or on tenants. Prostitution and alleged incidents of indecency have been reported. The number reported is very low, however we remain mindful of human trafficking / safeguarding during our day to day activities.

We have seen 55 reported complaints regarding drugs / substance misuse and drug dealing with 'Drug user' as the predominant factor. 40 of the reported complaints revolved around 'drug use'. Reported 'Hate Crime incidents have declined from 7 reported alleged incidents to 3 reported incidents for the period 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020.

Significant increases are seen in Litter/ Rubbish / Fly tipping by 106%, Noise 91%, with lifestyle (+28%), music (+ 192%), DIY (+1300%) 1 reported complaint to 14 reported complaints. Misuse of Communal Areas / Public Space or Loitering is up by 200% with 'Pet related nuisance up by 80%.

Verbal Abuse/Harassment/Intimidation/Threatening Behaviour has equally seen a significant rise in complaints with 78 complaints recorded for 2018 / 2019. The same period 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020 has recorded 116 complaints, a rise of 49%, with verbal threats and abuse recording 44 of those complaints or 38%.

COVID -19 restrictions on people movement has and continues to see residents spending more time within their homes and with it the associated complaints as identified above. The above complaints are challenging for the Team and the organisation.

We secured 2 Injunctions following ongoing reports of serious antisocial behaviour that was impacting on the quality of life for residents. One tenant who breached an earlier and unconnected injunction order surrendered their tenancy following committal proceedings at Dartford County Court.

The Team is currently involved with a breach of Injunction at Medway and committal are in progress. Injunction action is pending at Medway County Court for antisocial behaviour and property access.

Various factors can influence recorded data however one significant process is, better reporting channels together with confidence by the client that their report will be listened to and where appropriate acted upon. A more robust approach with tenants over the condition of property through Tenancy Service Officer early interventions and continual assessment.

## **SDC Direct Services**

SDC currently employs two (2) Environmental Enforcement Officers both working a contracted 4 day week. For the requested reporting period there were a total of 1513 fly tipping offences reported, which is an increase from last year of 394 and for the period of the enforced lockdown the increase of reported incidents was 139.

A considerable amount of waste during this period seemed to have been generated by domestic style projects with old kitchen and bathroom materials being tipped illegally mainly on rural roads to the North of the District.

A total of 140 investigations were undertaken by the team resulting in:

- 10 cautions
- 4 Court Proceedings for S33(1)(a) (Fly tipping) and S34 (Duty of Care) Environmental Protection Act 1990 offences
- 17 Fixed Penalty Notices for of S33(1)(a) 90 and S34 90 offences
- 20 investigations resolved by providing words of advice
- It should be borne in mind that the Courts ability to deal with cases were severely disrupted by lockdown and legacy locked down measures.
- There are currently 6 prepared files with legal awaiting Court dates
- Approximately 120 S33/34 EPA 90 (letters of engagement) letters were sent
- Approximately 250 S46 EPA 90 (correct disposal of household waste) letters sent
- 15 KMIP (Kent and Medway Information Sharing Protocol) requests sent to Kent Police requesting vehicle and nominal checks

PACE interviews have continued to take place at the Dunbrik Depot with suitable Covid compliant measures in place. Days of action with the Police have been undertaken to proactively target waste carriers and providing advice and or issuing FPNs

One such day of action took place with a BBC South East reporter and camera crew which resulted in the arrest of a fly tipping offender for non appearance at Court.

A Community engagement process to harness local resources in identifying fly tippers and or obtaining evidence from fly tipping has begun. This has shown signs

of being very successful with sufficient evidence in one case to prosecute a male for three separate fly tipping offences in School Lane, Fawkham.

Signage continues to be deployed in identified hotspot areas and camera deployments both overt and covert have also taken place.

## **Abandoned vehicles**

SDC received 167 reports of abandoned vehicles which is a significant decrease from the reports for the period October 2018 - September 2019.

It should be noted that SDC suspended taking reports for a 4 month period between April 2020 and July 2020

Of the above 15 vehicles were genuinely abandoned and removed. As with the previous reporting year the low proportion of vehicles removed is primarily due to the majority of those reported still either being driven or declared SORN (Statutory Off Road Notice) and parked off-road.

The average time taken to remove abandoned vehicles up to 30th September 2020 was 4.86 days. The target time for removal is five days. This is only partly under SDC's control as, although we establish if a reported vehicle is indeed abandoned and instigate removal, the physical clearance is arranged through a KCC disposal

## **Graffiti**

Graffiti reports to the Council have increased by 4 reports this year with 37 recorded incidents (incl offensive).

There were 15 offensive graffiti reports between October 2019 and September 2020 all of which were removed within the 48 hour deadline set by Sevenoaks District Council.

## **Safer Towns Partnership**

COVID-19 lockdown came into force on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 and has affected all partnership businesses resulting in two businesses withdrawing from the partnership scheme.

Whilst the full effect of this lockdown on members businesses is not yet fully recognised, this has created unprecedented pressure on the ability for the management of the partnership which has also had to deal with periods of furlough during this reporting period.

As an independent 'not for profit' organisation, finances are a concern with late receipt of membership renewal payments from a shrinking client base.

Referring to Kent Police recorded figures for the reporting year show Sevenoaks Town has an increase in shoplifting offences from 143 (in the year before) to 175,

an additional 32 reports while Swanley St Mary's shows a slight decrease recording 50 reports, a reduction of 2 for the same 12 month period.

Dedicated Town Centre police officers are now imbedded in Sevenoaks and Swanley towns building good relationships with retailers with a specific purpose to deter and reduce opportunities and occurrences of shoplifting incidents. Using the partnerships supplied radios, officers can now respond quickly to shoplifting calls in real time by allowing direct communication between CCTV and retailers which further supports the aims of the partnership to deter and reduce low level shop crime.

Utilising the Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) with Kent Police, prolific shoplifting offenders arrested and charged are identified and targeted for the issuing of Exclusion Orders which prohibits the offender(s) from entering any member's stores and supports current police operations. Currently the scheme issues Exclusion Orders to repeat offenders or offenders who have 2 or more offences recorded against them. It is now being considered to enhance the scheme by introducing a two-tier warning and exclusion sanction system. A first offence results in a warning and a second offence results in a 12-month minimum ban from all scheme member premises.

The large retail brand stores in the town continue to remain the prime targets for shoplifting activities and with police colleague's stores are visited and given crime prevention advice and information which is further supported by dedicated inputs to store staff, thereby, encouraging best practices and heightening staff awareness.

Additional crime information is also provided by the E-Watch Newsletter (e-watch) which is circulated weekly to all participating member stores and covers the Sevenoaks policing areas. The newsletter also has regular inputs from Kent Police, Fraud UK, KFRS, KCC and Trading Standards. Other information circulated when appropriate is Prevent - Counter Terrorism Police.

The Sevenoaks Town PubWatch scheme members continue to act robustly to any incidence of anti-social behaviour including any drug related activities in or around member's premises. During this reporting period there have been 13 occasions requiring Exclusion Orders to be issued to offenders, an increase of 5 from the previous reporting year.

The Pubwatch licensees work closely with the towns CCTV control room operators. They also meet regularly with the council licensing officers and the police licensing officer to discuss on-going initiatives and the joint sharing of information.

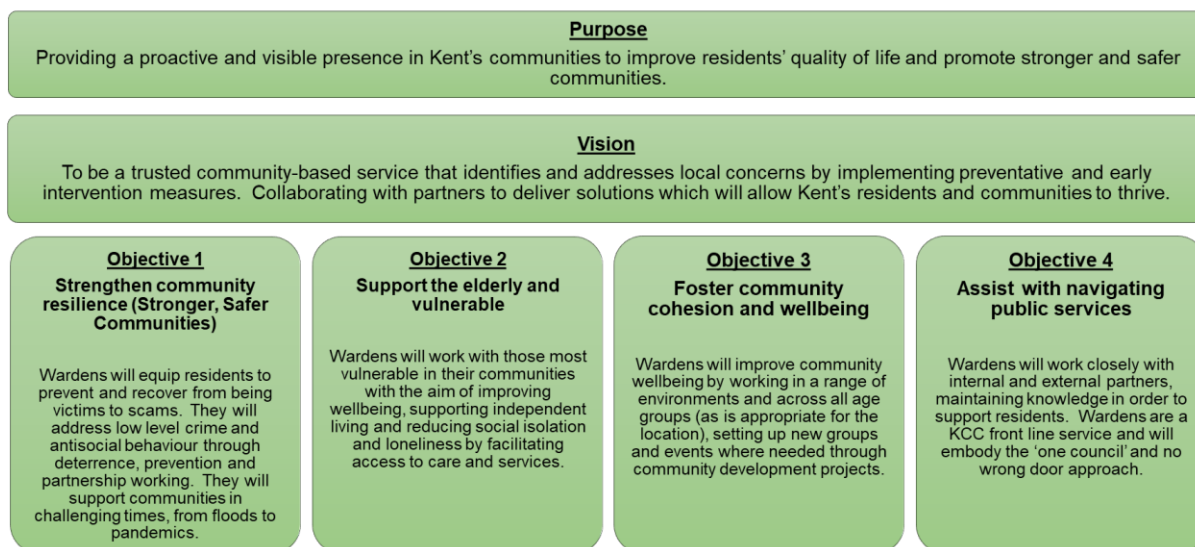
## KCC Community Wardens

A valued element of the Community Warden role remains the uniformed presence which helps build community confidence and reassurance by reducing crime, the fear of crime, deterring ASB, improving access to local authorities and fostering social inclusion.

The Kent Community Wardens Report: April 2019-September 2020 comprises a detailed analysis at District level. The data collected reflects KCWS's broad remit which allows Wardens to adapt to the needs of the communities they work in. The objectives for the service were update in 2020:

KCWS in Sevenoaks District undertook 1,392 operational tasks in the financial year 2019/20. (Task numbers can vary year to year due to changing staffing levels in KCWS). 89% of the operational tasks undertaken in Sevenoaks in 2019/20 were general operational tasks. 11% related to work for a specific resident, including vulnerable persons.

Community Wardens continue their operational duties, without disruption to service. The scope of our activities, during lockdown, were framed by KCC's Pandemic Contingency Plan. We have since moved from a response to recovery / 'business as usual' footing. Our priorities are now defined by the Community Safety Business Plan 2020-21:



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Community Wardens continue their operational duties, without disruption to service. The scope of our activities, during lockdown, were framed by KCC's Pandemic Contingency Plan. We have since moved from a response to recovery / 'business as usual' footing. Our priorities are now defined by the Community Safety Business Plan 2020-21:

Delivery of core Community Warden Service Priorities - Providing a reassuring presence / support for our residents; responding to community needs; facilitating solutions to local concerns; and addressing issues of loneliness & social isolation.

Undertake CSU taskings with / on behalf of partners to address identified local issues / concerns (inc. supporting community hubs during C-19 response and recovery period).

Deliver the Trading Standards scams project through support of individual scam victims; and strengthening communities' resilience to scams.

Working with partners, inc. Adult Social Care, to safeguard and support vulnerable individuals, enabling them to live safely and independently in their own homes (e.g., welfare visits, signposting, initiating referrals).

Provide an operational and welfare response for communities in the event of an emergency, working with the Kent Resilience Team and other partners to support residents (inc. EU Transition and C-19).

A number of well deserved awards have recognised Warden proficiency in key areas of community-based work. A number of joint visits have taken place with SDC's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer and Police.

## **Cyber Crime**

Cyber Crime is a rising crime. There is an increase and this has been reported nationally. It is known from reports at the daily briefings, that the number of online scams and crimes has increased. The CSU set up a Scams Task Groups which includes cyber crime, fraud and rogue/bogus callers. Through the success of this group, the Community Safety Manager has been asked to be part of a county group, which commenced in 2019. Local data is still yet to be provided in detail, but this crime type has risen across Kent including Sevenoaks District. KCC with contributions from Districts and Boroughs will employ an analyst to create joint working and a database around Cyber Crime and Scams. This mapping of this project due to COVID-19 has been delayed and the analyst is now due to be appointed in February 2021. Report below from KCC.



# KCC Public Protection Intelligence Report 2018



## Internet Safety

E-safety campaigns are delivered by SDC and CSP to deliver key messages to local schools and parents about keeping safe on the internet.

Tuesday 4 February 2020, was National Internet Safety Day. Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) invited all primary schools in the District to the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks for a free performance and workshop around internet safety.

Matthew Scott, Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent provided funding for this to the CSP alongside Sevenoaks District Council. We worked with the company 2020dreams who deliver PSHE workshops and performances to schools around the country, to facilitate the sessions. These sessions compliment the work that schools undertake for PSHE and other learning.

There were two sessions, each lasting for an hour. The sessions looked at staying safe online, safe gaming, protection from online grooming, protecting your privacy. We had approximately 200 year 5 and 6 students for both sessions. There were 15 schools from across the District that attended.

Teachers on the day said, "We found this extremely useful and a proactive way of teaching children to have fun online, but stay safe. The sessions were interactive and therefore our pupils really benefitted. We would like to thank the District Council and CSP for providing this great opportunity."

## **KCC Youth Services**

We have specifically targeted for detached work one area (Hartley) because of concerns raised at Community MARAC for the area and for young people. We have been doing street based Youth Work in that area for 18 months. Due to COVID-19 detached youth work ceased from March to September. However many sessions were online.

## **Youth Assembly**

Back in 2019 KCC made changes to the Youth Governance processes and changed Youth Advisory Group to Young People's Partnerships Conversations. We had struggled to get young people involved in these meetings and KCC approached Sevenoaks District Council about holding a young person's conference. It was agreed. At this conference young people were asked about establishing a new youth forum. They felt this was important and so a working group was established and they decided on a name Sevenoaks District Youth Assembly and they created a Constitution and the Sevenoaks District Youth Assembly (SDYA) was officially launched on 20<sup>th</sup> July. The group have been meeting virtually and will be hosting a virtual youth conference on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Members of this group have also fed into and have helped to establish a Kent County Wide project called #Be An Ally which is looking at equality and diversity issues and are currently carrying out a survey to gather young people's views and experiences about hate crime.

## **Kent Fire & Rescue Service**

KFRS reported that there highest number of deliberate fires year to date was 16 in Ash Ward, concentrated in Barnfield Park Travellers site. KFRS also attended 35 Safe & Well Visits completed year to date by Sevenoaks Fire Station. Below shows accidental and deliberate fires across the District.

Category	KFRS Performance Indicators - Sevenoaks		2020/21 ytd	2019/20
Safety	LPI 134	Accidental fire fatalities and casualties	3 (0 fatalities)	9 (0 fatalities)
Safety	LPI 105	Accidental dwelling fires	14	31
MH	LPI 200i	Firesetters and safeguarding requests	49 (KFRS)	No data
Crime	LPI 103ii	Deliberate non-domestic fires	1	3
Crime	LPI 102	Deliberate vehicle fires	29	33
Crime	LPI 132	Deliberate grassland fires	31	34
Crime	LPI 131	Deliberate rubbish fires	50	21

### Part 3 - Community Safety Issues 2020-21

In addition to looking at crime trends, the Partnership has considered wider community safety issues. These include county priorities, Police and Partner Priorities, The Police Crime Commissioners Plan and those issues known to be important to people in the Sevenoaks District.

The Partnership has identified its priorities based on a grading system using the following criteria:

- Community Concern
- Level of Harm / Impact on the Community
- Volume
- Trend Over Time
- Performance compared to Districts/County/Most Similar Group
- Whether the Partnership can be effective in addressing the issue

Each of these criteria has been scored using a scoring system based on these values: 0 (No evidence/impact), 1 (low impact/problem), 3 (Slight impact/problem), 5 (serious impact problem).

Table 6 below shows the outcomes of the scanning process as described above. The Partnership has prioritised anything that scored 20 and above for further analysis and action during 2021-22. There are six priorities identified.

**Table 6 - Sevenoaks District Community Partnership Ranking**

<i>Community Safety Issue</i>	<i>Community Concern</i>	<i>Trend Increase</i>	<i>Volume</i>	<i>Level of Harm</i>	<i>Poor Performance comparison</i>	<i>Partnership Contribution</i>	<i>Total</i>
Serious & Acquisitive Crime (incl OCG, Emerging Trends, County Lines)	5	5	5	3	5	5	28
Anti-Social Behaviour incl Environmental Crime*	5	5	5	5	3	5	28
Domestic Abuse	3	5	5	5	3	5	26
Safeguarding (incl Prevent, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking, CSE, Online, Mental Health, Vulnerable Adults and Children)*	5	5	5	5	1	5	26
Doorstep Crimes & Scams (Incl Cyber Crime)	5	5	3	5	3	5	26
Substance Misuse	5	5	3	5	1	5	24

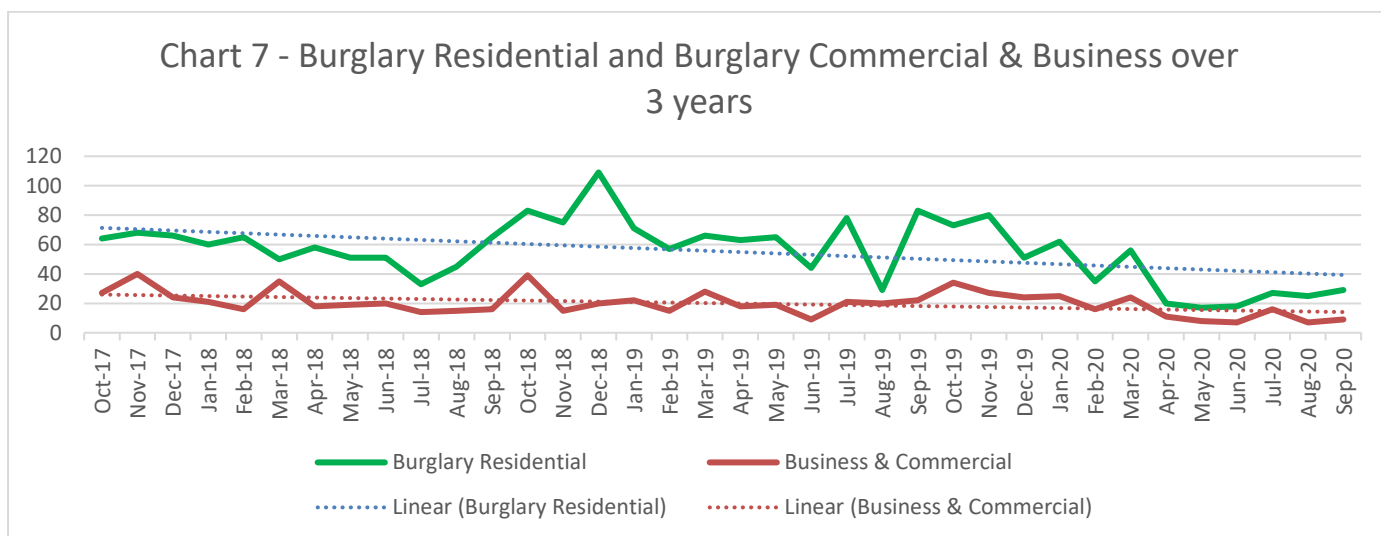
## 2021-2022 CSP Priorities

There are six priorities for the CSP for 2021-22 and a more in depth report is below.

### Serious & Acquisitive Crime (incl OCGs, Emerging Crime Trends & County Lines)

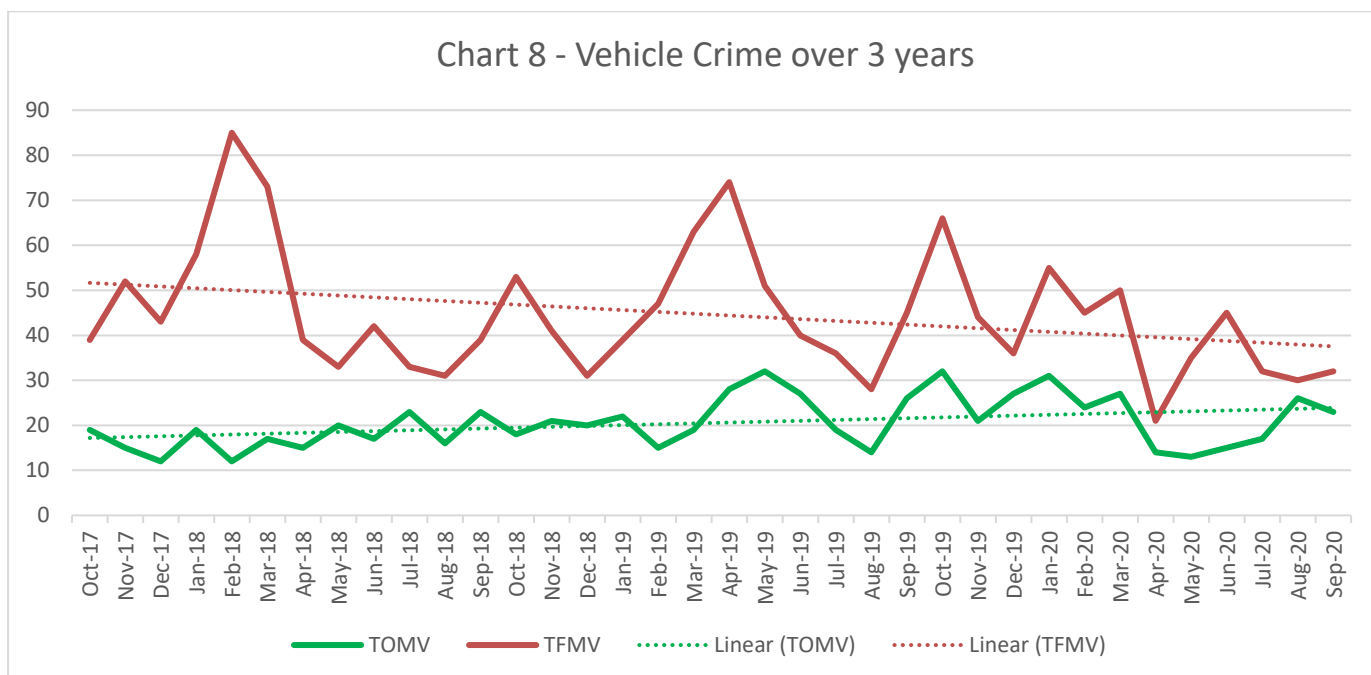
This is a continued priority.

Acquisitive crime consists of Burglary (Residential and Commercial and Business) and Vehicle Crime (Theft of and Theft from - TOMV and TFMV). Although there have been rises and falls throughout the time period, the number of reported crimes are relatively low, but they do sit high in county comparisons. These types of crime have a high impact on the local community.



(Source Kent Police)

The three year trend line shows that, while there has been a decrease over that period for both Burglary types, crime has fluctuated in certain time periods.



(Source Kent Police)

The three year trend line shows that while there has been a decrease over that period for both Vehicle types, crime has fluctuated in certain time periods.

Criminals behind serious and tactical crime often intimidate and create fear, which is intended to prevent the local community reporting what they see. Often the criminals behind this don't even have to try hard to do this - instead relying on word of mouth and reputation. Over the past year, Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and County Lines has seen a more targeted approach by Partnerships. This approach has worked so well that the two OCGs have been removed. However they are still monitored at the monthly Serious Crime & Tactical Meeting. The most common crime types associated with these groups is commonly organised theft.

The number of emerging trends which require an holistic approach around young people and perceived County Lines and Gang activity has increased. Locations where this type of activity has been raised and individuals reported as involved have been addressed via the CSU and Partnership. Task and Finish Groups have been successfully established and used to deliver on action plans tackling such community issues.

Serious & Acquisitive Crime scored **28** this year and will be a priority for the forthcoming year.

Rationale	None	Low	Med	High	
Community Concern				5	
Trend Increasing				5	
Volume			3		
Level of harm				5	
Poor Performance compared to MSG/County				5	
Partnership can add value				5	Grand Total
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>28</b>

### Recommendations

- Continue proactive target action on hot spot areas using Police and Morile data
- Partnership monthly meetings have been set to meet first Thursday of every month.
- To incorporate training for the group and partners
- Data to be shared to agencies on targeted areas
- Partners to be updated on emerging trends and issues
- Serious Crime Directorate to provide more information to partner agencies
- Communities to be engaged through education on reporting crime
- Daily Tasking continue to have crime data to be able to help on links
- Education package for Members, Businesses and Residents
- Work in schools with PCSO and Community Wardens on County Lines, & Child Exploitation
- Targeted work within Youth Clubs and Centres and link in with youth forum on training and education
- Task and Finish Groups for prolific offenders or hotspot locations
- Work with CCTV across West Kent for prolific offenders in town centres
- Link with Police Operations
- Co-ordinated visits with partner agencies to gain evidence
- Continued link in with Community MARACs
- Help address perception of Burglary & Vehicle Crime through communicating effective key message from all front line staff to residents and Town & Parish Councils, through newsletters and leaflets
- Arrange local community events to address community concern
- Work with Facebook groups and know your neighbour websites to address community concerns
- North West Kent Crime Prevention Panel (NWKCPP) to attend village days/fetes across the District promoting Home and Vehicle Security



- Link National and local campaigns around specific crime types
- Initiatives targeted in rural areas such as saddle marking, oil thefts from farm land, TFMV and expensive garden equipment/power tools
- Promote Country Eye
- Link with Police Operations
- Continue to work with KCC Community Wardens on smart water campaign
- Continue to deliver Smart Water to vulnerable and repeat victims of Burglary & Vehicle Crime across the District
- Work with the Community Policing Teams in hot spot locations
- Work with BTP on Vehicle Crime at stations across the District

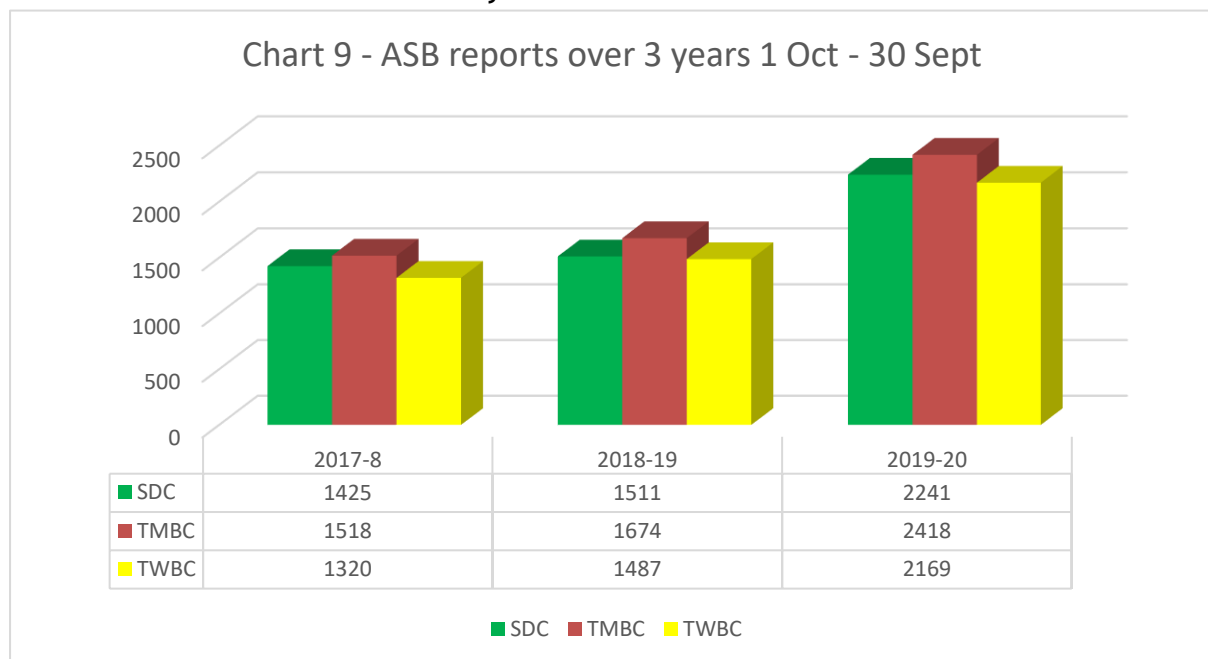
### Anti-Social Behaviour incl Environmental Crime

Evidence shows that ASB remains one of the priority issues within Sevenoaks District among residents and continues to rank highly in reported figures when compared with other issues and recorded crime within the District.

It is important to note that reported calls of ASB to the Police may or may not have also been reported to other partners, so trying to establish a standardised total is difficult.

The largest increases for the year ending September 2020 was reports of COVID-19 breaches as outlined by the Government

Despite the high priority of ASB and nearly a 50% increase the District currently has the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest levels in the county.



Levels of Anti-Social Behaviour between West Kent (Source: Kent Police)

### Priority Ranking

Anti-Social Behaviour scored a total of 24 in last year’s strategic assessment but due to the increase in volume, scores 26 this year. In line with the long-term

Strategic aims of the Community Plan<sup>5</sup> and this year’s data, Anti-Social Behaviour remains a key priority for the forthcoming year.

Rationale	None	Low	Med	High	
Community Concern				5	
Trend Increase			5		
Volume				5	
Level of harm				5	
Poor Performance compared to MSG/County			3		
Partnership can add value				5	Grand Total
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>28</b>

## Recommendations

- Issue warning letters ASAP and put on Community MARAC
- Deploy mobile cameras to deter ASB and Criminal Damage through the CSU
- Respond to ASB issues through the daily Tasking & report back in 100% of cases
- Work with specific families through the Early Help Interventions
- Joint operations with Police and BTP
- Use the Community MARAC to educate, support and use enforcement of perpetrators of ASB
- Work with communities to reduce ASB (including environmental issues) through PACTs and EVAs
- Task & Finish Groups for repeat offenders, victims and hotspot locations
- Continue to increase number of prosecutions for fly tipping through camera deployment and SDC’s Enforcement Officer
- PCSOs and wardens to continue to report abandoned vehicles, graffiti and dumped rubbish.
- Promote legal ways to dispose of rubbish and promote the Moat and WKHA promise to deter fly tipping
- Proactively celebrate good news stories through InShape, Partners publications and through Social Media
- Continue where possible and with match funding projects to help families, individuals and communities
- Continue to promote Neighbourhood Watch, Country Eye and e-watch
- Continue to use CSU Twitter to update residents, businesses and partners of community safety issues including ASB & Continue working with CRC’s

<sup>5</sup> Safe Communities, action 2: tackle Anti-Social Behaviour and environmental crime.

- Continue to use daily taskings to take action on ASB and community safety issues with partners
- Continue to use PACT to identify key community concerns relating to anti-social behaviour and prioritise hotspots
- Continue to publicise the Sevenoaks District Community Safety Unit
- Continue to target through the CSU daily briefings repeat and vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour
- Work with agencies to deliver the new ASB Powers where necessary
- Continue with Themis for quick information sharing on ASB cases (wardens and Police have access so far)
- Use Community Policing Team to work with us on certain areas
- Joint visits with PCSOs/Wardens/Joint Family Management Officer
- More proactive work with Mental Health teams
- Work with IPAG on vulnerable groups
- Continued Proactive use of ASB Powers under the 2014 Act
- Joint site visits with partner agencies.
- Work together with partners on using best enforcement powers
- Deliver Workshops in schools highlighting how ASB impacts the community
- Attend and Deliver community events

### **Domestic Abuse incl Stalking**

Domestic abuse incidents in the Sevenoaks District have increased by 247 crimes (11.%). The District has the second lowest number of Domestic Abuse incidents (2408) compared to being the lowest in the same period last year.

Domestic abuse is not a crime category within its own right, nor is it only a subset of Violence against the Person.

The Home Office definition is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse.

This can apply to any of the above crime categories, as domestic abuse is highlighted by a flag against the crime or incident.

Not all domestic incidents will amount to a crime. However, these are recorded as secondary incidents which may be upgraded to a crime report upon further evidence.

It is important to remember that these figures are only representative of domestic abuse that was reported to the Police and it is widely recognised that there remains a figure of domestic abuse going unreported. Kent figures for October 2019 - Sept 2020 rank Sevenoaks District as having the second lowest for rates of domestic abuse in the county.

There have been no offences under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 in the Sevenoaks District and none in the West Kent Police division as a whole under the time period.

The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Centre (MARAC) assesses high risk cases. Sevenoaks District has the third lowest number of MARAC cases across Kent (Oct 2019 - Sept 2020).

Sevenoaks District Council and CSP fund a number of projects to address Domestic Abuse. This include:

12 week Freedom Programme runs 6 x a year including 2 evening sessions and 3 x 12 week Recovery Tool Kit, which is a follow on from the Freedom programme. On average 8-10 women attend these programmes. They were run in Sevenoaks in January and then went online via Zoom.

Community Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Programme runs weekly on a Wednesday evening. The programme is a rolling programme that runs for 27 weeks and on average 6 men attend the weekly programme. Again from March this was run by phone call sessions and then online in October.

SDC also funds DAVSS (Domestic Abuse Voluntary Support Services) which provides service for low and medium risk. In the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2019, they supported Protection Against Stalking (PAS) seeks to raise awareness of stalking within the community and support victims of stalking and their families.

Data Oct 19-Sept 20	q3 19-20	q4 19-20	q1 20-21	q2 20-21	Total
referrals	234	204	203	274	915
men	18	12	12	16	58
children	303	304	357	460	1424
helpline calls	1172	750	1273	1618	4813
volunteer case work hours	4683	8072	5524	6257	24536
volunteer hours total	9204	11801	9799	10988	41792

The PAS stalking advocacy support service is based in West Kent, during the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 we directly supported 222 stalking victims living in West Kent (202 female, 20 male, 57 high risk). 43 referrals came from the Sevenoaks area (39 female, 4 male, 9 High Risk).

35 clients were supported to obtain protective orders during this period, 9 protective injunctions were obtained by victims living in the Sevenoaks area.

The major challenge during this period was COVID-19. PAS followed government guidelines to safeguard staff, volunteers and clients and prevent transmission of the virus. For the determined, fixated and obsessed stalker, lockdown did not mean lockdown and referrals to PAS quickly increased. We noted, along with other services that referrals became more complex, required effective multi-agency cooperation and coordination and took longer to conclude. A number of clients required ongoing counselling, some required long-term psychotherapy trauma support.

Client feedback and surveys completed when victims enter and leave service indicate all benefitted from the support provided; 95% feel safer, 93% report improved wellbeing and 79% reported improved mental health, this is slightly lower due to clients reporting additional anxieties created through lockdown and the time it takes to heal emotional scars. Vulnerable victims of stalking in West Kent, told us stalking makes them extremely anxious, isolated and fearful. Research indicates 80% of stalking victims display signs of PTSD, some move home and/or change jobs to get away from the stalker. The despair felt is frequently exacerbated by some professionals not recognising stalking or understanding its complexity and impact. In response to this we identified the need to upskill criminal justice and community safety professionals to recognise stalking and be

able to differentiate between harassment and stalking. Awareness training was provided to 115 professionals during the period.

West Kent Police Statistics		
	Stalking	Harassment
2017	98	4017
2018	214	9077
2019	244	8825

As a result of the initial lockdown (March 2020) PAS moved support to a remote service, equipping staff and volunteers with the means to stay in contact

PAS now has 16 volunteers, including two in training. A further two are awaiting training. Volunteers donated over 6,500 hours during the period, which equates to over £104,000 based on the average hourly pay rate in Kent.

Additional PAS support programmes include:

#### Awareness Raising/Training Programme

- Introduction to Stalking
- Recognising Perpetrators
- Relationship between Domestic Abuse and Stalking
- Understanding the legislation (Civil & Criminal)
- Recognising & Understanding Risks in Stalking
- Safety Planning
- Cyber-Stalking
- Stalking Advocacy
- Timeline to Murder (with PAS Patron Jane Monkton-Smith)

#### West Kent Cyber-Stalking Clinic (in partnership with The Cyber Helpline)

- Monthly clinics
- Clients meet expert cyber-security and stalking advisors face to face (online during COVID-19) to understand their cyber-security and stalking issue holistically and options for recovery
- Appointments pre-booked [here](#)

#### Workplace Stalking Guide

- Resource for HR professionals, Managers and Supervisors
- Training and awareness programmes delivered in the workplace or remotely
- Assistance with policy development to stay safe in the workplace
- Equips managers & supervisors to recognise stalking, understand the legal framework and incorporate practical advice and support for victims of stalking in the workplace

#### Complex Trauma Counselling

Provision for clients with one or more of the following;

- Long-term exposure to trauma with one or more perpetrators

- Difficulty regulating emotions with negative self-view
- Emotional/somatic flashbacks
- Feelings of isolation
- Self-harm or thoughts of self-harm
- Unhealthy contorted belief system
- Unhealthy preoccupation with abuser or skewed perception of perpetrator
- Prolonged helplessness
- Vulnerable to abuse/exploitation

Legal Drop-In Clinic (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Each Month)

- 45 minute appointments between legal advisor & client (Online during COVID-19)

### Priority Ranking

Domestic Abuse scored a total of 26 in last year's Strategic Assessment and scores 26 this year. In line with the long-term aims of the Community Plan, Domestic Abuse remains a priority for the forthcoming year.

Rationale	None	Low	Med	High	
Community Concern			3		
Trend Increasing				5	
Volume				5	
Level of harm				5	
Poor Performance compared to MSG/County		3			
Partnership can add value				5	Grand Total
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>26</b>

### Recommendations:

- PAS Training
- Attend Kent DA Forums & West Kent Forum
- Raise awareness and sign posting to local and county wide services and resources including refuges, particularly targeting repeat victims
- Focus on young people and healthy relationships. Dedicated resources across the District using National campaigns and local services
- Continue to support local funded programmes such as CDAP, Freedom, Recovery Tool Kit, DAVSS & Youth project. Work to increase numbers attending these programmes
- Hold annual conference and campaign at certain times eg Christmas, sporting events and National DA week

- Continue training of MARAC and making referrals Continue referrals and attending MARAC
- Training on DASH and Young Persons DASH
- Training on Stalking and Harassment
- Address Sexting and work with young people on being body confident
- Address FGM, Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage
- Continued work with PAS
- Develop the West Kent Forum
- Link in Look Ahead on their annual conference
- Deliver Healthy Relationships in schools and youth hubs

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding includes Young People, Vulnerable Adults, CSE, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking, Prevent, Care Act, Missing Children and Mental Health.

Legislation places a statutory duty on local councils as well as some of the other partner agencies to protect the vulnerable under these crimes. It is also a major contributor to the Kent Police Strategy. The above are a community concern.

## **Counter Terrorism - Prevent Strategy**

This analysis includes the number of calls/ incidents recorded post terrorists attacks in London. Reflecting an increased trust and confidence in the Police, increased alertness of communities and improved access to Police and partners has been made available. Levels of threat are very low in the District. There were three cases dealt with under Prevent Case Management (PCM) between 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020, same as last year. All were found to have no identifiable extremism concerns, but did have other vulnerabilities that needed action so were onward referred to the relevant partners.

## **Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery**

There were 2 trafficking offences reported to Police for Sevenoaks between 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020.

1 reports have been made to the CSU and joint visits with partner agencies have been made. Individuals were spoken to and action taken where appropriate.

## **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

According to Kent Police there were 4 reports of CSE in the Sevenoaks District. The Community Safety Manager continues to be a CSE Champion for the CSP and District Council.

Within Kent, the predominant 'Model' type experienced is the 'Inappropriate Relationship'. However, other types of 'Model' experienced also include, 'Gangs', 'Peer to Peer' and 'Trafficking', but to a much lesser extent. There have been



occasions in Kent where females who have initially been highlighted as potential victims have later come to notice as facilitators and potential perpetrators of CSE.

## Young People and Vulnerable Adults

Especially through COVID-19 there has been a high number of vulnerable adults and young people that have been victims of crime and suffering with mental health. The dedicated PCSOs in the CSU have been working with individuals with the Community Wardens to put safeguarding measures in place.

Table 7 shows number of Young Offenders over a 3 year period in Sevenoaks District

Data has been provided by KCC on young offenders.

Age @ Outcome	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Age 10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age 11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age 12	0	1	0	1	0	0
Age 13	0	1	1	0	0	1
Age 14	0	5	1	4	1	3
Age 15	0	3	0	4	2	0
Age 16	1	6	0	3	1	4
Age 17 +	0	14	0	7	0	8
<b>Gender Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>21</b>		<b>20</b>	

There was a decrease of 1 young offender in the criminal justice system, compared to the same period last year. The highest ward was Hartley & Hodsall Street with three offenders followed by Swanley White Oak, Westerham & Crockham Hill and Crockenhill.

Vulnerable Adults comes under the Adult Safeguarding Board which SDC report into.

There were 515 referrals of safeguarding (all years to KCC) from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2020. This has gone down 6.6% compared to the same period last year.

Anyone may report concerns regarding actual, alleged or suspected abuse or neglect and reports can be made by phone, e-mail or in writing. Safeguarding concerns can include all types of risk, including domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and self-neglect. Each local authority will then need to engage with referrers to determine whether the concerns raised constitute the need to undertake a safeguarding enquiry.

## Mental Health

Mental Health is a priority. The CSU daily taskings have seen an increase in ASB, where there are elements of Mental Health and Safeguarding issues.

Table 8 shows number of people sectioned under 136 1 October - 30 September.

Sum of RowNum	2017-18	2019-20
Row Labels		
Ashford	55	60
Canterbury	81	92
Dartford	53	63
Dover	64	46
Gravesham	58	66
Maidstone	143	115
No Fixed Abode	4	6
Sevenoaks	30	23
Shepway	59	51
Swale	83	78
Thanet	123	114
Tunbridge Wells	44	51
Unknown Postcode/Out Of Area	171	137
Medway	162	198

Tonbridge and Malling	58	49
Grand Total	1188	1149

Table 9 Shows Number of Adults referred into mental health services and Table 10 shows number of young people

<b>Adults</b>		
	2018/2019	2019/2020
Ashford	678	733
Canterbury	1121	1155
Dartford	411	372
Dover	765	813
Gravesham	407	431
Maidstone	851	893
<b>Sevenoaks</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>517</b>
Folkestone & Hythe	745	755
Swale	830	850
Thanet	1005	1074
Tunbridge Wells	711	760
Unknown Postcode/Out Of Area	193	213
Tonbridge and Malling	684	687
Medway	1208	1314
Grand Total	10193	10567
<b>Young People</b>		
	2018/2019	2019/2020
	1167	1170
Ashford	1499	1397
Canterbury	1008	967
Dartford	1170	1108

Dover	968	894
Gravesham	1341	1307
Maidstone	15	12
No Fixed Abode	510	526
Sevenoaks	1188	1132
Folkestone & Hythe	1458	1420
Swale	1642	1609
Thanet	764	853
Tunbridge Wells	648	678
Unknown Postcode/Out Of Area	2715	2658
Medway	845	938
Tonbridge and Malling	16938	16669
Grand Total		

### Priority Ranking

Safeguarding scored a total of 24 in last year's Strategic Assessment and again in this year's Assessment. It continues to be a priority for the Community Safety Partnership.

Rationale	None	Low	Med	High	
Community Concern				5	
Trend Increase			3		
Volume			3		
Level of harm				5	
Poor Performance compared to MSG/County			3		
Partnership can add value				5	Grand Total
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>24</b>

### Recommendations

- Continue multi-agency training around prevent and security of buildings
- Work together around the local District Prevent Action Plan
- Continue to be CSE Champion for the District

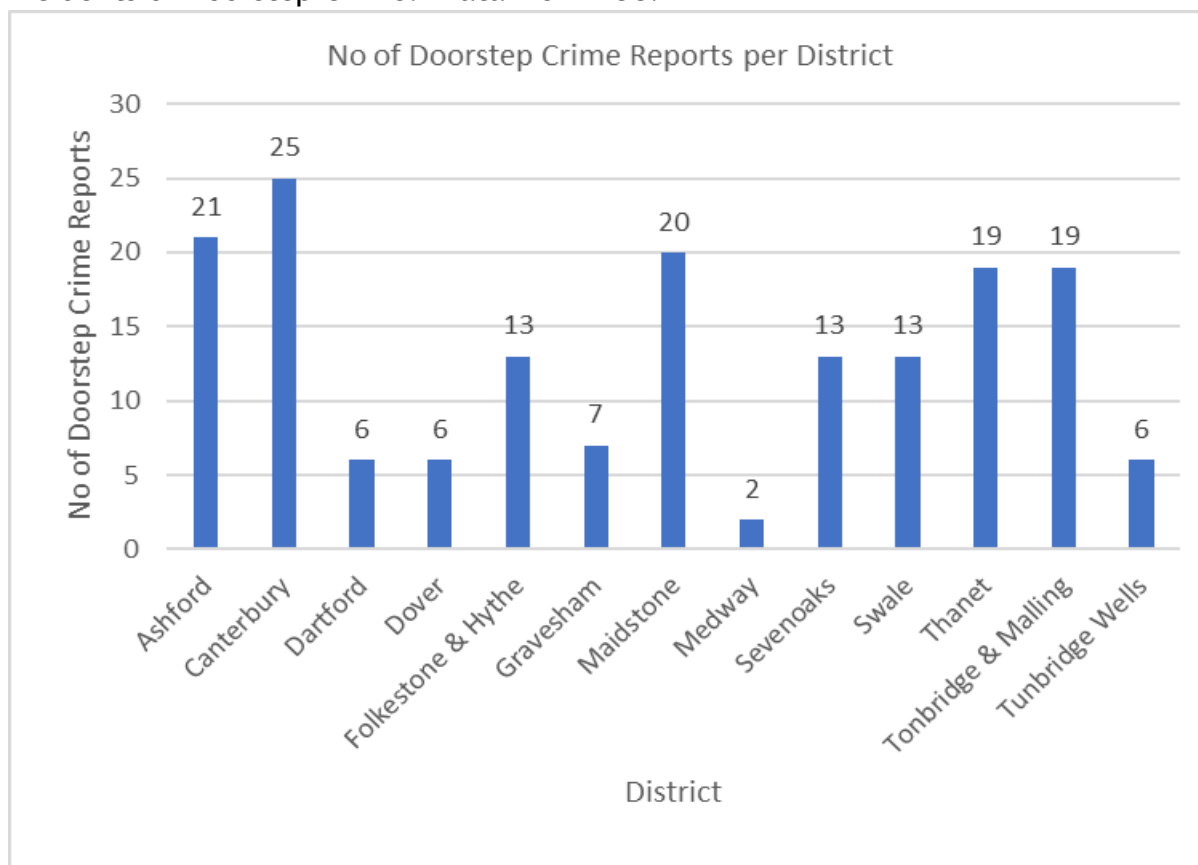
- Attend Risk, Threats and Vulnerable People forum
- Attend Kent Safeguarding Group
- Attend the Risk, Threats and Online County Meetings
- Work with the Police on Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking
- Joint visits to where Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking has been reported
- Work with Police on local projects
- Work with IPAG
- Work with agencies to address local issues
- Update Safeguarding Policy and share with agencies
- Attend Adult Safeguarding Boards
- Provide training on all relevant groups to address emerging concerns and trends
- Make referrals to Community MARAC on Safeguarding concerns
- Promote through Social Media
- Deliver Safeguarding training and promotion of Policy to SDC staff and partner agencies
- Work with young offenders to stop them reoffending
- Work with all agencies around the mental health drop in
- Update our reporting process for safeguarding to a web form

### **Doorstep Crimes & Scams incl Cyber Crime**

Doorstep Crime consists of Rogue Traders, Bogus Callers, Scams, Online Fraud (Cyber crime). Many vulnerable residents are affected by this crime type and it can be detrimental to their mental health. Many people feel too embarrassed to report it and therefore this crime type is under reported until potentially a friend, relative or carer is made aware.

The KCC Community Wardens are working with a high number of vulnerable residents of all ages regarding scams. Through the CSU Daily Briefing, an increase in the number of these crimes reported has been recorded and examined.

## Incidents of Doorstep Crime. Data from KCC.



The above graph Chart 11 provides a breakdown of the number of complaints by area in Kent. These figures only include issues identified in the complaints that were reported as Doorstep Crime.

### Priority Ranking

Due to increases in this crime and community harm and concern, this will continue to remain a priority and has received a score of 26 compared to last year's score of 24.

Rationale	None	Low	Med	High	
Community Concern				5	
Trend Increasing			5		
Volume			3		
Level of harm				5	
Poor Performance compared to MSG/County		3			
Partnership can add value				5	Grand Total
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>26</b>

#### Recommendations

- Work with KCC on the new analyst for Rogue Traders/Scams (starting Jan 2021)
- Help address perception of Scams through communicating effective key message from all front line staff to residents and Town & Parish Councils, through newsletters and leaflets
- Arrange local community events to address community concern
- Work with Facebook groups and know your neighbour websites to address community concerns
- Task and Finish Groups for prolific offenders or hotspot locations
- Media campaign including Community Safety Newsletter and Twitter
- Continue with new Task Group and deliver on actions
- Attend County Meetings
- Set up a repeat and vulnerable database
- Put together an education package to include training
- Work with local youth and older people groups
- Youth app/media
- Deliver training to Businesses and link in with Economic Development Team

### Substance Misuse

#### Drugs

Drug offences have increased from 156 to 176 an increase of 18 reports. There was no recent information from Public Health on the Kents Portal so we can only go on last years data. 1 September 2018 - 31 August 2019 there were 308 admissions relating to 234 individuals for mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use (including alcohol and drugs) in the District. This is the second lowest figure in Kent, and a decrease from last year. This is shown in

Ward Code	Ward Name	Total
E05005026	Sevenoaks Eastern	24
E05005013	Edenbridge North and East	20
E05005014	Edenbridge South and West	19
E05005029	Sevenoaks Town and St John's	19
E05005031	Swanley St Mary's	18
E05005032	Swanley White Oak	18
E05005030	Swanley Christchurch and Swanley Village	17
E05005021	Kemsing	16
E05005012	Dunton Green and Riverhead	15
E05005008	Ash	14
E05005017	Fawkham and West Kingsdown	13
E05005024	Penshurst, Fordcombe and Chiddingstone	13
E05005027	Sevenoaks Kippington	12
E05005009	Brasted, Chevening and Sundridge	11
E05005033	Westerham and Crockham Hill	11
E05005020	Hextable	9
E05005023	Otford and Shoreham	9
E05005025	Seal and Weald	9
E05005028	Sevenoaks Northern	9
E05005016	Farningham, Horton Kirby and South Darent	8
E05005018	Halstead, Knockholt and Badgers Mount	7
E05005019	Hartley and Hodsoll Street	*
E05005011	Crockenhill and Well Hill	*
E05005022	Leigh and Chiddingstone Causeway	*
E05005010	Cowden and Hever	*
E05005015	Eynsford	*
<b>Sevenoaks</b>		<b>308</b>

**Table 9 Sevenoaks District hospital admissions for psychoactive substance use Sept 18 - Aug 19 (Source: KCC Public Health)**

## Alcohol

Until recently, alcohol misuse was measured using alcohol attributable hospital admission rates which have been increasing year on year on a District and county level<sup>6</sup>. It is generally felt that these rates no longer accurately reflect alcohol admission trends as some 'attributable' conditions have undergone massive rises in admission rates over recent years and this is only partly attributable to alcohol.

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<sup>6</sup> Kent has seen a steady increase of alcohol related hospital admissions over the past ten years and alcohol remains the most common substance for those seeking treatment; this year (June 2012 to May 2013) hospital admissions for evidence of alcohol involvement by Blood Alcohol has seen a Countywide increase of 76 (8.2%). Sevenoaks has seen the sharpest rise in numbers during this period (45.5%, 25 additional residents), making a total of 80 alcohol related hospital admissions this year.



Substance misuse treatment services in Sevenoaks District are provided by CGL, who are commissioned by Kent Public Health to deliver an integrated community drug and alcohol recovery service, offering integrated support to individuals across West Kent.

CGL work closely with a range of partner agencies to improve outcomes for substance misusers. Greensands, a supported housing project in Sevenoaks, is assisted by CGL through the provision of group work and peer support to residents for their substance misuse. A joint working programme has also been developed with West Kent Mind to deliver CGL programmes on a weekly basis and a bi-weekly drop in and referral service for Mind service users. This will facilitate better access to drug and alcohol services for these clients.

Addaction are commissioned by Public Health to deliver services to young people.

Kenward Trust is funded by the CSP to deliver Substance Misuse Youth Services Tier 1 and 2. During this last year from 1st October 2019 - 30 September 2020, Kenward in the community have delivered youth and community outreach. The work involves connecting with young people in communities where ASB has risen due to substance misuse.

The youth outreach works well with the CSU model and will support reported incidents within days or a couple of weeks depending on the level of other areas of concern. The team has continued to deliver all through COVID-19 and lockdown.

The teams have focused on areas known as hotspots where ASB and substance misuse are identified via the CSU and Op Mint that was in place.

The team has also worked with schools in the District with education and intervention, this went ahead from September 2020.

Kenward Trust have reached over 750 young people aged 10 to early 20s and work with many adults at events giving education and advice.

### **Priority Ranking**

Substance Misuse scored a total of 22 in last year's Strategic Assessment and scores 22 this year. As such substance misuse remains a key priority for the forthcoming year.

Rationale	None	Low	Med	High	
Community Concern				5	
Trend Increasing			3		
Volume			3		
Level of harm			5		
Poor Performance compared to MSG/County		1			
Partnership can add value				5	Grand Total
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>22</b>

**Recommendations:**

- Update Drugs in the Workplace policy
- Alcohol Awareness Week
- Provide training for front line workers
- Preventative and early intervention youth work to address identified local needs and improve well- being of young people
- Use a partnership approach to address underage drinking where it is reported by communities as a problem
- Structured interventions through the Early Help Service where Substance Misuse is an issue
- Use of Social Media to get information to all residents across the District with a focus on young people
- Detached work in tasked areas by CSU for substance misuse worker
- Continuation to increase numbers of people accessing substance misuse services.
- Police, Wardens and PCSOs to continue to gather intelligence on underage and proxy sales at every opportunity.
- Continue Young People’s Substance Misuse worker
- Continue work with Sevenoaks District Health Action Team
- Work with Kenward Trust on their activity centre

## Part 4 - Coronavirus - COVID-19

Coronavirus had been reported in early March 2020. On 16<sup>th</sup> March the prime Minister and the Government announced lockdown for the Country. This would be until further notice. You could only exercise for an hour a day, no meeting friends and family outside your household and work from home unless it is essential.

The CSP is classed as essential work and has a number of essential key workers in place.

Members of the CSU were in the office on a daily basis. CSU staff helped the District Council with getting the Care for our Community Scheme up and running in the early days with lanyards. They also continued to do regular patrolling of the high streets and beauty parks.

The daily briefings continued to happen firstly by telephone conferencing and then onto Microsoft Teams.

COVID-19 had a huge impact on reduction of crime in certain crime types such as burglary, vehicle crime and Shoplifting (although shoplifting increased from June onwards). Neighbour harassment/intimidation increased as people were mainly working from home.

From the beginning of May the CSU received a high number of reports of nitrous oxide canisters and young people gathering in parks and especially areas where there was water such as Chipstead Lakes. The number of ASB reports doubled over the period April - June. In May - Operation Mint was set up to address the nitrous oxides and ASB reports coming in. This operation looked at the number of young people descending on Sevenoaks High Street and parks, beauty spots. 30 areas were highlighted by residents and Councillors.

The Vine and Sevenoaks Town Centre saw big increase of young people gathering doing NOS and drinking excessively. Police ran joint operations with British Transport Police to deter young people from Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Redhill and South London attending the location.

We conducted a number of site visits with landowners and have been working well with them to help secure their land.

Partners involved are:-

Council	Community Wardens
Police	KCC Detached Youth Team
KFRS	West Kent Extra Youth Team
Kenward Trust	

Actions taken have been

- Wildlife Cameras in place at some locations and CCTV signs
- Extra Patrolling
- Detached Youth Work
- Substance Misuse Youth work
- Film for parents
- Kent Fire & Rescue Service Patrolling
- Warning Letters
- Names and Car reg collated
- Potential Art Project with canisters

All of our partners have adapted their roles, learnt new skill sets to continue to deliver their services throughout this pandemic. We cannot thank our partners enough for all the hard work and commitment they have shown and continue to show through this pandemic.

From 16 March - 30 September 2020 there were 843 Covid breach related calls to Kent Police for Sevenoaks District. These calls would have been related to ASB and gatherings, businesses staying open, more than one family mixing, more than 6 meeting, non-essential travel. The CSU issued 16 warning letters about COVID-19, during this time period. Sevenoaks District Council also issued 7 Community Protection Warnings in this period as well. Upto end of December 2020 Kent Police had issued 5 fines. One to a business and 4 to individuals.

## Part 5 - Conclusion

This Strategic Assessment sets out the priorities that the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) should focus on and identifies the issues that should be considered in developing the 2021-22 action plan.

1. The Community Safety Partnership endorses the priorities set out below, as discussed through this Assessment.
2. Will consider targeted activities in specific geographical areas.
3. Will review current service provision in the light of current needs to ensure effectiveness and efficiency.
4. Consider targeted awareness-raising activities for specific crime types.
5. Continue to review activity on a regular basis to ensure appropriate and proportionate resourcing.

Levels of recorded crime in the Sevenoaks District have seen a decrease in the last year with a few notable increases in specific types of offence. Where new trends in particular types of crime and anti-social behaviour have been identified, recommendations have been made by Sevenoaks Community Safety Partnership to help address the priorities identified for the forthcoming year.

The Sevenoaks District CSP agreed priorities for 2021-22 are as follows:

- Serious & Acquisitive Crime (incl OCG, Emerging Trends, County Lines)
- Domestic Abuse
- Anti-Social Behaviour incl Environmental Crime
- Safeguarding (incl Prevent, Mental Health, Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation, Vulnerable Adults and Protecting Children)
- Doorstep Crimes and Scams incl Cyber Crime
- Substance Misuse

Young People is identified as a priority, as it reaches across all the above priorities. It is recommended that the 2021-22 Strategy & Action Plan resulting from this year's Strategic Assessment have actions dedicated to young people as well as COVID-19 recovery for all of the above priorities.

## Glossary

- ABA - Acceptable Behaviour Agreement
- ASB - Anti Social Behaviour
- Community MARAC - Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
- CSE - Child Sexual Exploitation
- CSP - Community Safety Partnership
- CSU - Community Safety Unit
- DA - Domestic abuse
- KCC - Kent County Council
- KF&RS - Kent Fire and Rescue Service
- LAA - Local Area Agreement
- LSP - Local Strategic Partnership
- MARACs - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
- PACT - Partners and Community Together
- PCSOs - Police Community Support Officer
- PDUs - Problematic Drug Users
- SDC - Sevenoaks District Council
- SORN - Statutory Off Road Notification
- TFMV - Theft from a Motor Vehicle
- TOMV - Theft of a Motor Vehicle