

Tonbridge and Malling

Community Safety Partnership

Partnership Plan

2025 - 2026



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Partnership Plan 2025 - 2026

Introduction

The Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Partnership (CSP) produces an annual plan which sets out the objectives that the Partnership will work towards to address community safety issues in the Borough over the coming year. The Plan is based on a Strategic Assessment that looks at current data and trends to address the priorities for the Borough in reducing and tackling crime and disorder. This year the CSP has agreed to focus on four key priorities, and these will be explained in further details later in the document.

The Community Safety landscape is ever changing and the problems we face are becoming increasingly more complex. The CSP recognises the challenges in addressing these issues and operates alongside a number of cooperating bodies and other multi-agency partnerships. Over the coming year, the CSP will continue to work with partners to address the many issues identified within the agreement, taking into account new duties and strategic plans, such as the Serious Violence Duty, the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy and Tackling Domestic Abuse action plan. Issues such as the significant rise in the cost of living; the invasion of Ukraine with millions of people forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in neighbouring countries; the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the ongoing disruption to imports / exports causing supply chain bottlenecks. Inevitably these global and local issues will impact on the lives of residents and in turn the work of the partnership, but we will keep working together throughout the year ahead and continue to adapt plans as needed.

The Community Safety Partnership continues to develop and work to address different issues as they arise. The Community Safety Unit, based at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council offices, Kings Hill is the operational arm of the Community Safety Partnership and meets on a weekly basis to share information about vulnerable people and other topics of concern.

During the year the CSP continued to hold a number of different meetings to help tackle the priorities. These meetings included the Serious and Organised Crime Group, the Vulnerable Persons Group and the District Contextual Safeguarding Group.

Funding for Community Safety Partnerships from the PCC has been confirmed for 2025/26 and we will use this to address our local priorities. We need to ensure that we work to reflect the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and that the use of the funding reflects these priorities.

Review of actions 2024/25

Crime levels within Tonbridge and Malling are low and the borough remains one of the safest in the county. From April 2024 to March 2025, there were 6,932 incidents of victim-based crime recorded within Tonbridge and Malling, compared to 7,621 the previous year (a decrease of 9%). There have been reductions in violent crime (-9.2%), vehicle crime (-4.9%), criminal damage (-5.8%) and in crimes against society (-6.5%). The borough remains one of the safest in the county and we have the third lowest victim-based crime rate in Kent.

During 2024/25 the Partnership had six priorities, and the tables below show the progress made against these actions.

Acquisitive crime including shoplifting, theft and burglary

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Promote the Safer Towns Scheme to businesses	Safer Towns Partnership Kent Police TMBC	The scheme currently has 32 members and has now extended into Kings Hill, Snodland and Wouldham.	
Hold at least three crime prevention stands to distribute crime prevention items	TMBC KCC Community Wardens Kent Police	During the year four crime prevention stands were held at Tonbridge, Burham and Snodland. At least 150 personal alarms were distributed, 200 purse chains and 50 shed alarms.	
Ensure high visibility patrolling of key hotspot locations	Kent Police	High visibility patrolling was carried out in the hotspot locations of Snodland and Tonbridge.	

Anti-social behaviour including environmental crime.

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Identify perpetrators of ASB and undertake actions to cease their behaviour	TMBC Housing Associations Kent Police	During the year the ASB Officer for TMBC received 429 reports. This is compared to 328 in the previous year.	

Provide mediation to deal with neighbour disputes and family conflicts	Mediation services	During the year the Mediation service received 11 neighbour mediation referrals, 3 family mediation referrals and 8 anger management referrals.	
Hold face to face and online engagement meetings with the public.	TMBC Kent Police KCC Community Wardens	In total five community events/meetings were held during this year. These events included a bike marking event in Wouldham, a crime prevention stand in Snodland and an event to celebrate International Women's Day.	
Work with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's ASB Enforcement Team to tackle ASB hotspot locations	TMBC	The ASB Enforcement Team were in place from April and September 2024, and they submitted 456 reports to the Borough Council on issues they had seen whilst patrolling the borough. As part of this they also identified 80 incidents of flytipping.	
Run Op Assist to target flytipping (subject to funding)	TMBC Kent Police	An Op Assist took place on 11 June 2024 and one Fixed Penalty Notice was issued for a vehicle carrying garden/green waste without a Waste Carriers Licence. The Police also seized a vehicle for having no insurance.	

Domestic Abuse

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Work with DAVSS to ensure that all victims of domestic abuse can receive support	DAVSS	In total there were 376 referrals to DAVSS from clients in Tonbridge & Malling for the year. This is compared to 310 the previous year.	
Continue to provide an IDVA and refuge service to support high risk victims of domestic abuse within West Kent.	Lookahead	In total this year there were 344 referrals to Lookahead. This is compared to 335 last year. They continue to provide Refuge accommodation for those people who need this.	

Run a suite of survivor programmes for female and male survivors including the Freedom Programme and Own My Life	DAVSS Lookahead	DAVSS and Lookahead ran the Freedom Programme (33 attendees), Own My Life (43 attendees) and a Children's Freedom (7 attendees).	
Continue to support the One Stop Shop in Tonbridge	Lookahead, Clarion PAS and TMBC Housing	The One Stop Shop continues to run on a weekly basis in Tonbridge. On average three people visit each week.	
Run preventative/educational programmes around healthy relationships in schools (subject to funding)	DAVSS Lookahead	A DAY (programme for young people) ran during the year.	
Continue to support the CDAP programme in Tonbridge	Community Domestic Abuse Programme	At the end of the year there were seven men active in the CDAP programme. 1 of these was from Tonbridge & Malling.	
Progress the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation (DAHA) for Tonbridge & Malling	TMBC	The DAHA accreditation is being progressed. A staff domestic abuse policy is now in place and DA Champions have been identified.	
Undertake training and awareness raising for partners and local businesses	Lookahead DAVSS TMBC	During the year awareness training sessions were held with over 60 people attending.	

Preventing extremism and hate

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Promote the Prevent Strategy within the community via social media etc.	All partners	This is ongoing work although social media has been used to raise awareness.	
Attend Chanel Panels where appropriate and provide support to individuals when required.	TMBC Kent Police	Representatives from the Community Safety Partnership have been able to attend the Channel Panels where appropriate.	

Run Prevent training for staff, partners and Members (as appropriate)	TMBC	Training was held in May 2024.	
Implement Martyn's Law (Protect Duty) when appropriate	TMBC	This has only just become law (April 2025) and so was not able to be progressed during 2024/25.	
Encourage victims to report hate crime and promote the ways to do this.	All partners	This is ongoing work, and residents are encouraged to report all hate crime to the police.	

Safeguarding Vulnerable People – to include mental health, child criminal sexual exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, substance misuse, fraud and scams and youth diversion.

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Provide and support diversionary activities for young people	TMBC, KCC and Project Salus	TMBC have been able to commission Salus to run diversionary activities within the borough. These continue to be successful in engaging with young people.	
Work with Kenward Trust to identify hotspot areas and individuals at risk of becoming involved in substance misuse issues	Kenward Trust	Kenward Trust engaged with 1,770 young people during the year. They worked in Tonbridge, Snodland, East Malling, West Malling and Larkfield.	
Work with schools to raise awareness of substance misuse issues	Kent Police Kenward Trust	This is ongoing work with Kenward Trust continuing to visit schools and raise this issue.	
Work with the Police to address Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking e.g., car washes, nail bars, and pop-up brothels.	Kent Police	This is ongoing work with the police targeting car washes and nail bars to ensure that no one is subject to modern slavery or human trafficking.	

Work with the Community Alcohol Partnership organisation to tackle underage drinking across the borough	TMBC	This is ongoing work and meetings are held twice a year.	
Run training for partners, staff and Members as appropriate	TMBC	Prevent training was held in May 2024.	

Violent crime – including Serious Violence, Violence Against Women and Girls and Stalking

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Link in with the work of the Kent Violence Reduction Unit and progress initiatives as appropriate including the Serious Violence Duty	TMBC Kent Police	The CSP receives funding through the VRU to run sports diversionary activities and during the year Sports Connect have been funded and have engaged with 40 young people.	
Work in Partnership to disrupt recognised OCGs, emerging trends and county lines	Serious and Organised Crime Group	Work is continuing to disrupt organised crime groups within the borough.	
Work with 'Reform, Restore, Respect' to hold educational programmes within schools	Reform, Restore, Respect	RRR went into 6 schools during this year, talking to 351 pupils.	
Consider work to tackle violence against women and girls	TMBC	Women and Girl's Self defence classes were held in Tonbridge and Larkfield with over 55 women and girls attending. The police have also run 'Walk and Talk' events across the borough.	
Raise awareness of stalking to partners	Protection Against Stalking	Training was held during the year with different partners and PAS supported a total of 127 clients during the year.	

Review of projects and initiatives 2024/25

During 2024/25 the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) undertook a variety of projects and initiatives linked to the actions above. Below are more details about some of the initiatives/projects mentioned above and also some additional projects which were run during the year to address issues which arose during the year.

Although it is sometimes difficult to measure success rates, the Partnership believes that these projects and their successes have made an impact and has resulted in positive outcomes for local people.

Acquisitive crime including shoplifting, theft and burglary

The Safer Towns Partnership now has 32 members signed up to the scheme and is running in Tonbridge Town Centre, as well as in Kings Hill, Snodland and Wouldham.

There are also two Safer Spaces locations in Tonbridge, in McDonalds and the new Morrisons Daily in Tonbridge High Street.

Safeguarding Vulnerable People – to include mental health, child criminal sexual exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, substance misuse fraud and scams and youth diversion.



The CSP continues to commission The Kenward Trust to engage with young people in the borough around alcohol and substance misuse (and the associated anti-social behaviour linked to these substances). During the year they were able to visit five different locations and engaged with over 500 individuals. The main issues they have seen is cannabis use, and alcohol use and they speak to the young people around the dangers of using these substances. We will continue to commission their work (subject to confirmation from the Police and Crime Commissioner) during 2025/26.

A number of diversionary activities for young people ran during the year. This year funding was available through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to provide youth provision within the borough. Salus were able to run this provision and were able to support 185 young people. This was through detached youth work and then summer holiday activities during the school summer holidays. The photograph gives an example of an activity that took place during this time.

Work to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking continued with the police carrying out a number of operations in various locations across the borough. On those occasions, no issues were identified but the police will continue to gather evidence and act on this where appropriate to ensure that no one is suffering these issues.

Violent Crime – including Violence Against Women and Girls and Stalking

The Serious and Organised Crime Group continues to meet on a monthly basis, and this brings partners together to share information about individuals likely to be involved in organised/violent crime. A number of operations have taken place, led by the Police, leading to a number of arrests, the seizure of cannabis and disruption to organised crime within the borough. There is currently one identified organised crime group within the borough and partners continue to share information to ensure that we can disrupt any new groups that may be identified.

During the year a charity, Restore, Reform, Respect were able to deliver the 'I didn't know that' anti-crime, early intervention schools project to 351 pupils. They visited six schools within the Borough, including both primary and secondary schools.

The feedback received from pupils and staff was positive with comments such as:

'I know now how bad it is to be in a gang'.

'I found it interesting to know that gangs from London are coming to our area and how harsh prison conditions are'.

'The children were thoroughly engaged and found your insights and experiences both eye opening and thought provoking. Your presentation not only deepened their understanding of the consequences of crime but also encouraged them to reflect on the importance of making positive choices in their own lives'.

The CSP was able to obtain funding from the PCC to run self defence classes for women and girls. These were held in Tonbridge and Larkfield with over 50 women and girls attending. Feedback was very positive with attendees feeling more confident and safe within the borough. The photograph shows an example from one of the sessions.



The Police also held a number of Walk and Talk events during the year, which enabled them to engage with women and get their views.

Protection Against Stalking were also able to run training for partners which was well attended by a variety of organisations.

Domestic Abuse

The Community Safety Partnership continued to provide funding for DAVSS to work with medium risk victims of domestic abuse and during the year they were able to receive 376 referrals, an increase from 310 the previous year. We also continue to support Lookahead (who work with high-risk victims of domestic abuse) and they were able to support over 344 people throughout their IDVA service (compared to 335 the previous year). A number of programmes were run during the year to support survivors including four

Freedom Programmes, with 33 women in total attending. Four Own My Life courses were also run with 43 attendees, as well as a Children's Freedom Programme with 7 children attending.

The One Stop Drop-In service in Tonbridge continued to run throughout the year. These are now held in-person and although numbers were low, they are gradually starting to increase.

The Community Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Programme (CDAP) also continued to run in Tonbridge and at the end of March 7 men were active in the programme. During the year there were 6 referrals to CDAP from individuals in Tonbridge & Malling.

Anti-social Behaviour including environmental crime and road safety.

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a concern for residents. Residents can report anti-social behaviour to the Borough Council and during the year they received 492 complaints, this is compared to 328 the previous year (an increase of 164 reports). The majority of these related to neighbour disputes. 12 Community Protection Warning letters were issued, with three Community Protection Warning Notices issued. We received three ASB Case Review (previously known as the Community Trigger applications during the year, although none of these met the threshold. However, all were offered support with their issues, and this helped them to feel that their voices were being heard.

This year Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council funded an Anti-Social Behaviour Enforcement Team. They ran from April to September 2024 and provided high visibility patrols, as well as enforcement against the Public Space Protection Order. During the time they were in place they submitted 456 reports to the Borough Council on issues they had seen whilst patrolling the borough. As part of this they also identified 80 incidents of flytipping. The project was also awarded a Silver award in the prestigious iESE Awards 2025 (Working Together category).



As part of the PSPO to tackle nuisance vehicles we issued 51 Fixed Penalty Notices to those who had been seen causing a problem in a particular location. We were also able to issue 24 warning letters and the police were able to patrol the area and put 7 dispersal orders in place to prevent the gathering of vehicles.

The Borough Council was also able to use four mobile CCTV cameras to help resolve neighbour disputes and provide evidence to the police. During 2024/25 the cameras were placed in 8 different locations. They will continue to be moved to different locations as required during 2025/26.

During the year we also attended four community events where members of the community can speak to representatives from the Community Safety Partnership about any concerns they have and pick up free crime prevention items. These were held in Tonbridge, Wouldham and Snodland (twice). The photographs shows a representative from the CSP at an event in Tonbridge.

To help resolve anti-social behaviour issues the Mediation service (Maidstone Mediation and West Kent Mediation) were able to provide a number of different types of mediation, including neighbour mediation, parent and teen mediation and anger management. During the year the Mediation service offered neighbour mediation to 11 clients, Family mediation to 3 clients, and Anger Management to 8 clients.



Preventing Extremism and Hate

Representatives from the Community Safety Unit continue to attend Channel Panels (where individuals who may be at risk of being drawn into extremism are discussed). This year Panel meetings were moved online and continued to meet. However, during this year there were three referrals discussed at the Channel Panels from Tonbridge & Malling.

The CSP also linked in with Social Media campaigns to raise awareness of 'Prevent' and counter terrorism and a number of messages have been sent out to let the public know about how to report concerns or suspicious activity. We were able to run Prevent graffiti and stickering training which enabled some front-line staff to know what to look out for and who to report this too.

Priority Issues for 2025 – 2026

The Strategic Assessment undertaken during the autumn of 2024 identified the priority areas for the Partnership to tackle during 2025 – 2026 and the Partnership held a ‘workshop’ in March 2025 to discuss the areas that they would focus on during the next year. The Strategic Assessment used data provided by partners to recommend priorities for the forthcoming year.

The priorities agreed through the Strategic Assessment for 2025/26 are:

- Acquisitive Crime – including shoplifting, theft and burglary.
- Anti-Social Behaviour – including environmental crime
- Exploitation – to include gangs, modern slavery and human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, cuckooing and Prevent.
- Safeguarding people at risk of harm – to include domestic abuse, violence against women and girls, stalking, serious violence and fraud and scams



Partners felt that there was a need to focus on some key topics and therefore to have fewer priority themes this year. They also agreed that there should be cross cutting themes running through each of the priorities – these would be prevention, young people and substance misuse.

Although the main focus of the CSP will be the priorities as mentioned above, it will continue to monitor other types of crime. The Community Safety Unit holds weekly meetings where issues of concern are raised, and partners can be tasked to address issues as they arise. Information on repeat and vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour is shared with partners on a regular basis.

The following pages set out the actions for the CSP for 2025/26. The action plans do not include details about the numerous activities already undertaken by partners, town and parish councils, the voluntary sector, and others as part of their day-to-day work, but will highlight activities in addition to core work, which partners will undertake throughout the forthcoming year.

Funding for actions included within the Action Plan is available from a number of different sources, including the funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. The amount of funding that the CSP will receive from the PCC has remained the same as last year and we have also again been given a ‘tactical pot’ of funding from the PCC that we can access during the year. Regular monitoring of each project will be undertaken by the Partnership and an evaluation will be provided on completion of the project.

When preparing the action plans, issues such as equality and diversity will be considered to ensure that any person, regardless of their protected characteristic feels safe in the Borough. The CSP takes reports of hate crimes seriously and works together to ensure that information is shared to ensure any issues are resolved.

Action Plans 2025 – 2026

Acquisitive crime including shoplifting, theft and burglary

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Promote the Safer Towns Scheme to businesses	Safer Towns Partnership Kent Police TMBC		
Hold at least three crime prevention stands to distribute crime prevention items	TMBC KCC Community Wardens Kent Police		
Ensure high visibility patrolling of key locations	Kent Police		

Anti-social behaviour including environmental crime.

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Identify perpetrators of ASB and undertake actions to cease their behaviour	TMBC Housing Associations Kent Police		
Provide mediation to deal with neighbour disputes and family conflicts	Mediation services		
Work with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's ASB Enforcement Team to tackle ASB hotspot locations	TMBC		

Exploitation - to include gangs, modern slavery and human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, cuckooing and Prevent.

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Attend Chanel Panels where appropriate and provide support to individuals when required.	TMBC Kent Police		

Run Prevent and Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking training for staff, partners and Members (as appropriate)	TMBC		
Implement Martyn's Law (Protect Duty) when appropriate	TMBC/all relevant partners		
Work with the Police to address Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking e.g. car washes, nail bars, and pop-up brothels.	Kent Police		

Safeguarding people at risk - to include domestic abuse, violence against women and girls, stalking, serious violence and fraud and scams

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Work with DAVSS to ensure that all victims of domestic abuse can receive support	DAVSS		
Continue to provide an IDVA and refuge service to support high risk victims of domestic abuse within West Kent.	Lookahead		
Continue to support the CDAP programme in Tonbridge	CDAP		
Progress the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation (DAHA) for Tonbridge & Malling	TMBC		
Work in Partnership to disrupt recognised OCGs, emerging trends and county lines	Kent Police		
Work with 'Reform, Restore, Respect' to hold educational programmes within schools	Reform, Restore, Respect		
Consider work to tackle violence against women and girls (such as women's safety training)	TMBC		
Raise awareness of stalking to partners and the public	Protection Against Stalking		

Cross cutting themes – Prevention, Young people and substance misuse

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Provide and support diversionary activities for young people	Salus, Kenward Trust, KCC Early Help		
Work with Kenward Trust to identify hotspot areas and individuals at risk of becoming involved in substance misuse issues	Kenward Trust		
Work with the Community Alcohol Partnership to tackle underage drinking across the borough	TMBC		

Membership of the Community Safety Partnership and contact details.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Tel: 01732 844522 www.tmbc.gov.uk	Kent Police Tel 101 www.kent.police.uk	Kent Fire & Rescue Service Tel: 01622 692121 www.kent.fire-uk.org	NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board Tel: 01634 335095 https://www.kmhealthandcare.uk/
KCC Integrated Youth Services Tel: 03000 414 141 www.kent.gov.uk	KCC Families and Social Care Tel: 03000 414 141 www.kent.gov.uk	KCC Trading Standards Tel: 01732 525291 www.kent.gov.uk	Clarion Housing Tel: 0800 197 2880 www.myclarionhousing.com
Victim Support Tel: 0808 168 9276 www.victimsupport.org.uk	National Probation Service Tel: 01892 559350 www.kentprobation.org	KCC Community Wardens Tel: 03000 413455 www.kent.gov.uk	Neighbourhood Watch Tel: 01622 604395 www.westkentwatch.com
Protection Against Stalking www.protectionagainststalking.org	DAVSS (Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services) Tel: 01892 570538 www.davss.org.uk	Lookahead Tel: 0333 010 4600 www.lookahead.org.uk	Porchlight Tel: 01227 760 078 www.porchlight.org.uk
Moat Housing Tel: 0300 323 0011 www.moat.co.uk	Hyde Housing Tel: 0800 3282 282 www.hyde-housing.co.uk	Southern Housing Group Tel: 0300 303 1773 www.shgroup.org.uk	CGL Tel: 01732 367380 www.changegrowlive.org
Kenward Trust Tel: 01622 814187 www.kenward.org.uk	Citizens Advice in North & West Kent (CANWK) Tel: 0808 278 7810 www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/north-west-kent/	Maidstone Mediation Tel: 01622 692843 www.maidstonemediation.co.uk	West Kent Mediation Tel: 01732 469696 www.wkm.org.uk

Glossary

ASB	Anti-social behaviour
CDAP	Community Domestic Abuse Programme - for perpetrators of domestic abuse
CGL	Change, Grow, Live – Substance misuse organisation providing rehabilitation services.
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSU	Community Safety Unit
DASH	Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence risk identification and assessment model.
DAVSS	Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service
FPN	Fixed Penalty Notice
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
KFRS	Kent Fire and Rescue Service
OCG	Organised Crime Group
PAS	Protection Against Stalking
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
TMBC	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

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