

**1. Medway Council - Community Safety Team (CST)**

- 1.1 The team consists of a manager and two Community Safety Officers and has a close working partnerships with Kent Police and other members of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The CST are part of Public Protection. The team use the tools and powers contained within the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 1.2 The team attend a weekly Community Safety meeting with Kent Police and other partner agencies which empowers partnership working to discuss and resolve significant issues of anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- 1.3 The team attend various multi-agency partnership meetings including the Medway Vulnerability Panel, Channel Panel, Clear Hold Build, Serious Organised Crime Partnership, Medway Contextual Safeguarding Panel, Police Liaison Group, Child Exploitation, Derelict Buildings, Kent and Medway Unauthorised Encampments, Partners and Communities Together (PACT) and Rough Sleeper outreach visits to expediate the process of identifying rough sleepers engaging in ASB. The CST has worked on several extensive enquiries that will have a positive impact on Medway's communities and may ultimately bring offenders to prosecution.
- 1.4 In 2025, at the time of this report submission, the CST has dealt with 372 cases, including reports of ASB occurring. These reports have ranged from some simple ASB issue which required a straightforward early intervention to resolve, to complicated community safety issues including safeguarding and cuckooing which needed a protracted investigation, and a multi-agency approach led by Community Safety Officers.

Type of report	No.	Description
Reassurance	187	Broad range of issues including nuisance neighbour issues, location ASB, cuckooing, safeguarding, Prevent
Alley Gating - General	63	Includes maintenance and defect reports.
Community Payback	16	Litter Picks, clearing overgrown vegetation, waste removal, Graffiti removal.
Tent Enforcement	12	Enforcement action taken on tent dwellers involved in ASB or pitched in a location likely to cause significant harm to the tent dweller or have a significant impact on the local community.
Unauthorised Encampments Caravans	23	Unauthorised encampments by caravan dwellers on public land.
PSPO Vehicle / Alcohol	71	Multi agency events.
<b>Total</b>	<b>372</b>	

- 1.5 The team (working in partnership with the Animal Noise and Nuisance Team) provide a mediation service provided by Maidstone Mediation. Mediation is offered as an early intervention tool to residents who are involved in neighbour disputes, rather than engaged in ASB within its true context.
- 1.6 The team are currently pro-actively patrolling in Chatham High Street, in partnership with Kent Police, Rough Sleeper Initiative Team, and Forward Trust working towards reducing ASB, illicit drug usage, and alcohol consumption within the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) zone. The CST Manager is consulting with internal and external partners regarding the possibility of Clear Hold Build extending to Chatham High Street, and a further meeting with Public Health,

Housing, Forward Trust, Kent Police and other internal partners considering other measures to reduce ASB within Chatham High Street including a possible 'wet room' facility where street drinkers, who would otherwise be on the High Street or in the local vicinity drinking, can attend and consume alcohol, under supervision by professionals, with a focus on rehabilitation and signposting to partner agencies to reduce the risk of individual(s) engaging in ASB and in some cases from reoffending.

## 2. Community Payback

- 2.1 A total of 12 Community Payback requests have been completed so far in 2025 which include litter picks, alley clearances and garden clearances. Further self-initiated litter picks have been completed by Community Payback at litter hotspot locations which are not included within the figures below.

Work required	Number
Litter Pick	4
Overgrown vegetation	3
Waste and vegetation removal from alleyways	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

## 3. Kent Police Update

- 3.1 Kent Police in Medway have had 17762 immediate or emergency calls in the rolling year (November 2024-October 2025).
- 3.2 The focus throughout the year has been on Serious Violence and relentless focus to reduce SVC in Medway. There has been a reduction in Most Serious Violent Crime with a reduction of 58 offences across the RY 26% reduction in SVC across the district. High Risk Missing Children remain a significant impact locally and ongoing partnership work is undertaken to ensure our most vulnerable children are safeguarded.
- 3.3 There is a commitment to the people of Medway to ensure they feel included and represented, Groups such as the Independent Advisory Group and collaborative work with many faith and minority groups/charities throughout the district to enhance Trust and Confidence in Kent Police.
- 3.4 The Neighbourhood Policing Model (NHP) is fully embedded with a Beat officer allocated to every ward within Medway. This has been further supported by the Home Office Neighbourhood Guarantee which has seen 10 new officers join the Community Safety Unit (CSU) and the formation of Neighbourhood Task Force (NTF) Town Centre team. The focus throughout the Summer has been on our Town Centres with 123 arrests between June-August 25 in Chatham and a reduction of Serious Violence in Chatham of over 30%. Officers utilise Single Online Home to advertise Beat Surgeries and engagement is via My Community Voice.
- 3.5 The National Intelligence Model (NIM) is fully operationally within Kent Police and Taskings and locations are nominated due to intelligence and information relating to threat and risk. Nominations are reviewed monthly and tracked daily to ensure that those committing most harm is targeted and safeguarding opportunities for the most vulnerable identified and actioned. These are shared with partners and joint activity conducted to target them.
- 3.6 A Problem-solving approach has been fully adopted across the CSU with a PMP for each ward to identify local issues and evidence targeted work to deal with them. PMPs for specific

problems are opened and such examples include Derelict Buildings and Nuisance vehicles. Each Grip Hotspot location has a PMP which is managed and funding activity updated on it.

- 3.7 The Medway CSU has now increased and consists of four main elements – Beat officers, NTF, NTF Town Centre team and Child Centred Policing Team (CCPT). All teams work together to build up intelligence within an area and problem solve with our communities to reduce vulnerability, crime and ASB but also to build community resilience. Activity includes intelligence gathering, enforcement, referrals and signposting to relevant partner agencies, education and multiagency work to reduce vulnerability. Beat officers have ownership of Wards and have built excellent relationships with local communities, partner organisations and key stakeholders.
- 3.8 Medway CSU has carried out 951 arrests across the rolling year, submitting 4333 intelligence reports in this time. This equates to over 3400 more intelligence reports and over 300 more arrests, evidencing the benefits and importance of the investment within Neighbourhood Policing. Medway CSU also seek to utilise preventative measures where appropriate with 86 Community Protection Warnings and 27 Community Protection Notices issued in 2025. Medway CSU are also trialling a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) Panel, the first in Kent, seeking to utilise CBOs to tackle and target those individuals in our community who persistently commit crime and ASB. In 2025, CSU have secured 7 CBOs at court, and these are monitored and enforced by all staff.
- 3.9 The Beat team, consisting of 3 Sergeants and 26 Constables, are responsible for ownership and problem solving at a ward level. Their primary focus is to engage with their communities, within their designated wards, building relationships to identify and target the issues that are adversely affecting both individuals and businesses. The beat officers play a vital role in submitting intelligence in line with the NIM. Each Beat officer has 3 ward priorities, as directed by a quarterly survey of the community via MCV, and work continuously to deliver policing against these priorities.
- 3.10 Our CCPT officers continue to engage with schools, the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), Child Friendly Medway, Medway Council Youth Service and young people within the community to protect and prevent the risk of harm. CCPT currently oversee OP CHECKER – a joint response to young persons at risk of serious violence, actively supporting and engaging with young people throughout the district.
- 3.11 The NTF continue to enhance the CSU's ability to be proactive, visible and engage with all elements of our diverse communities in Medway, their primary focus being on Priority Nominals, Hotspots and tackling outstanding suspects for VAWG and Serious Violence.
- 3.12 The Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) within the team carry out a wide variety of engagements which always have a multiagency element to them. These include directed community engagement, for example, multiagency engagement stands in the town centres, My Community Voice (MCV - an online platform which provides a good line of communication between local residents who sign up and local officers) events and surveys, high visibility patrolling in areas for nuisance bikes, support of Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) with ASB and risk in derelict buildings across Medway. The PCSO's regularly co-ordinate an "ASB car" which targets areas where ASB is known to occur, and they monitor calls coming into the Force Control Room and proactive deal with reported incidents.
- 3.13 In April this year, Kent Police had the introduction of our NTF Town Centre Team, whose primary responsibility is to engage and tackle crime and ASB within our town centres. Consisting of 1 Sergeant and 10 Constables, the NTF Town Centre Team have had an immediate positive impact, based on the rolling quarter (August to October 2025) resulting in

a reduction in recorded Serious and Violent Crime incidents by 24.5% and Shoplifting incidents by 5.8%, coupled with an increased in solved shopliftings.

- 3.14 Medway has 3 designated GRIP Hotspot areas (Home Office directed zones relating to Serious Violence, Knife Crime and ASB). There has been a relentless focus across all uniformed policing teams to enhance visibility in these areas. Since April 2025, officers have completed almost 5000 hours of visible patrolling in these areas. This contributes to 41% of all GRIP hotspot patrolling throughout the whole county of Kent. Each zone has Home Office Problem Solving funds allocated, staff are working with partners and the community to identify relevant schemes and areas to significantly improve public safety and tackle the issues of Serious Violence, Knife Crime and ASB. Recent spends include knife poles, the Street Ambassador scheme within Chatham and increased CCTV across the Great Lines.
- 3.15 Nuisance off road bikes and the impact of this ASB remains a primary focus within the CSU and is owned by the Beat officers. Locally, this is co-ordinated under the operation name Op Irradiate and joint working involving the Special Constabulary, Roads Policing and partners is regularly carried out. Enforcement in the form of Section 59 warnings, fixed penalty notices issued under Medway's PSPOs, E-Bikes and other nuisance vehicles are also targeted; a recent operation in Rochester resulted in 56 Traffic offence reports issued, nine S59 ASB Warnings issued, ten vehicles seized for No insurance and driving otherwise in accordance with a license and multiple arrests were made in relation to driving offences and public order.
- 3.16 NTF and Beat officers contribute towards the engagement and enforcement work within the area of VAWG – deploying within the nighttime economy as part of Project Vigilant which work towards preventing future victims and dealing positively with predatory behaviour. Multiagency Walk and Talks take place across Medway with the latest event held in Rochester High Street on 8th November 2025. These Walk and Talk events help to inform the work within Project Vigilant and are an important part of our partnership work. Of note, whilst on patrol on 8 November 2025, officers were approached regarding a suspicious male approaching young females, who was located, detained and arrested for a number of offences, further evidencing the positive action and effect that visible, targeted policing has on the community. Funding has been secured to assist with this, and joint briefings are conducted with NTE staff and local businesses to ensure safeguarding of vulnerable people is a priority within our District. VAWG OS Suspects are tasked daily and tracked through our daily management meetings alongside Chronic DA taskings linked to repeat victims and perpetrators allocated to beat officers to engage with. There are a number of ongoing initiatives within CSU focusing on improving awareness and safeguarding, notably presenting to larger employers throughout the district. Of note, work is underway with Medway Hospital and the NHS to reach their staff in an informative and educational manner.

#### **4. PACTs (Partners and Communities Together)**

- 4.1 Officers from Medway Council's CST and Kent Police continue to support PACT meetings across Medway.

#### **5. Community Engagement and My Community Voice (MCV)**

- 5.1 MCV is a two-way engagement tool that allows communities to tell them about issues in their area and will allow Kent Police to create a personalised policing response and enables them to have their say in how neighbourhood policing priorities are approached. People can also contact the Beat Officers on this and ask questions. The CSU continue to utilise MCV, whereby surveys have played a large part in community engagement enabling officers to hear the voice of our communities and in turn officers can respond appropriately with enforcement, education and multiagency work where relevant. MCV is a two-way engagement tool that allows

communities to tell them about issues in their area and will allow Kent Police to create a personalised policing response. People can also contact the Beat Officers on this and ask questions. 3300 people are currently signed up to MCV with signups being tracked and reviewed weekly. Each member of staff within CSU has a PDR objective reflecting the drive to increase signups and Medway has led within the county regarding the utilisation of our "MCV Van", a sign written van used for events and days of action, allowing staff to be as visible as possible.

- 5.2 Local Surgeries and drop-in sessions are now fully embedded and published on the Kent Police Website within every ward. Kent Police recognise the importance of these events for localised and targeted community engagement and are attended by the beat officers, who are ring-fenced to ensure attendance.
- 5.3 The Partnership approach which continues means that Kent Police can join other engagement strands with Partners – such as KFRS, Housing, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Victim Support, and Immigration Officers. Kent Police have worked during Safer Business Week, ASB week and Hate Crime awareness week. In addition to this, the CSU have worked jointly with British Transport Police (BTP) and other agencies to deliver on Op Sceptre, which was knife crime awareness intensification week. These intensification or weeks of action compliment the daily partnership working, brought together in weekly CSP meetings.
- 5.4 The Safer Medway Partnership continues to work well. Partner agencies attend regular local meetings and Town Centre Forum Meetings to discuss local issues with Town Centres, residents, and businesses.
- 5.5 Kent Police Licencing Teams works with Beat Officers and Medway Council Licencing to enhance the safety of customers within Medway – Best Bar None is led by licencing and Medway continue to see an increase in sign-ups for this scheme.

## **6. Illegal Tobacco**

- 6.1 The Trading Standards team has continued to collate intelligence relating to the retail sale of illegal tobacco. The team works with partners in Public Health, HMRC and the Police to target premises for enforcement action using specialist sniffer dogs. The Government's plan to bring into force a licensing regime for any trader wishing to sell tobacco or vapes is still being consulted upon. Should this plan result in the implementation of a licensing scheme, this will see a great increase in enforcement time allocated to this area of work.

## **7. Age Restricted Goods**

- 7.1 Age restricted sales continue to be an area where a steady stream of complaints is received. Trading Standards officers carry out regular test purchase operations to check compliance with the legislation and target our inspections at premises highlighted by these complaints. The Recently announced age restriction on caffeinated soft drinks, when introduced, will create a pressure on the service to ensure that all traders are aware of the new restrictions and that any statutory notices are displayed correctly.

## **8. Strategic Community Safety Approach**

- 8.1 A strategic approach continues to be adopted to ensure the CSP is closely aligned with the ambitions of the administration in Medway as a great place to live, work, learn and visit.

8.2 The strategic assessment reviewed the CSPs existing priorities and confirmed that they meet their statutory obligations as a partnership, reflecting the priorities of partner agencies in delivering a safer Medway, and supporting sustainable regeneration.

8.3 The annual strategic assessment this year confirmed the priorities within the 3-year CSP Plan and Action Plan, which the CSP continues to align with the Police and Crime Commissioners Safer in Kent Plan. The Strategic Assessment is being taken to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **9. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)**

9.1 PSPOs are Orders granted to local authorities and police to give more freedom and flexibility to control ASB in places to which the public has access. PSPOs replaced the Designated Public Place Order (DPPO), which created 'alcohol control zones' and Dog Control Orders. From this time the DPPOs were treated as provisions of a PSPO.

9.2 PSPOs are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from ASB.

9.3 There are existing PSPOs prohibiting the consumption of alcohol within Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester and Strood town centres. These are pro-actively patrolled and enforced in partnership by Community Safety Officers and Beat Officers. These zones restrict drinking alcohol in designated public places in an anti-social way, for example drinking in the street

9.4 This does not mean there's a blanket ban on drinking in public but does mean that a police officer or an authorised council officer can prevent you drinking alcohol if you're behaving anti-socially. If you refuse to stop drinking alcohol when asked, you'll be committing an offence. Your alcohol can be confiscated and disposed of, and you can be fined up to £100.00; if you fail to comply you can also be arrested. Pubs, restaurants, and off licenses do not form part of the PSPO.

9.5 A Medway-wide PSPO was implemented to tackle nuisance vehicles, following a public consultation which was approved by a vote at Full Council in October 2023.

9.6 Medway Council is determined to tackle ASB, utilising the tools and powers contained within the Act have helped us to develop our joint work alongside Kent Police. Over the past 6 months the Council has seen a decrease in complaints related to nuisance vehicles, both on the road and off road, which is likely to be due to engagement, education and fixed penalty notices being issued to those breaching the PSPO.

9.7 Nuisance vehicle complaints show that reported ASB has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of residents, reducing their ability to feel safe in, use, or enjoy public spaces.

9.8 The nuisance vehicle PSPO controls the anti-social use of motor vehicles, some of these behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- Driving in convoy
- Racing
- Performing stunts
- Revving engines
- Wheel spins
- Burnouts
- Recording any of the listed activities on any device

- Congregating to spectate the listed activities
- Engaging in any other activity that a reasonable person would consider to be “car cruising”.

#### 9.9 PSPO enforcement –

PSPO FPN Issued	No. Issued	Paid	Other Actions	October 2025
Nuisance Vehicle and Alcohol	71	39	12 x No further action (NFA) - unable to trace for legal action, no realistic chance of a successful prosecution)	2 still within FPN payment period of 28 days. 18 under investigation

### 10. Prevent

- 10.1 The Threat level in the UK remains at SUBSTANTIAL meaning an attack is ‘likely.’ Several national reviews have concluded following Southport and the 2024 summer disorder and the first phase of the Southport enquiry which is thoroughly investigating the circumstances surrounding the attack, as well as the events leading up to it – including the perpetrator’s interactions with different public bodies is currently ongoing.
- 10.2 The Kent and Medway Prevent team continue to ensure local delivery mechanisms are in alignment with national guidance. Over this period there have been some key changes to Prevent.
- 10.3 The Kent and Medway Prevent Duty Delivery Board (PDDB) is the strategic partnership board responsible for overseeing Prevent delivery across Medway and Kent and is jointly chaired by Corporate Directors from Medway Council and Kent County Council (KCC) and has good attendance from a range of partners. The PDDB has met for the last time in 2025, new dates have been set for 2026 where the chair for the year will be the Medway Deputy Chief Executive. The PDDB will also see a refresh of partners to make sure there is a full strategic oversight from Kent (KCC) and Medway UA.
- 10.4 Since the last report there have been several key changes to Prevent as detailed below:
- A reorganisation sees the Prevent Programme move into the newly formed Counter-Terrorism Directorate, which brings together Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Policy and Operations.
  - Following the tragic attack in Southport in August 2024, the Prevent system has been under significant pressure with the number of referrals increasing substantially. Part of the reason for this has been a lack of clarity on the thresholds within which Prevent operates, particularly in relation to cases related to ‘fascinated with extreme violence or mass casualty attacks’. Professionals should continue to have a clear understanding of Violence fascinated Individuals (VFI) and Fascination with extreme violence and mass casualty attacks (FEVMCA).
  - The Home Office has now released the Key Principles of Prevent document, alongside FAQ’s and Case Studies. The Key Principles do not introduce new policies or expectations but clarify practices that have been operational since 2019. The Key Principles have been widely tested with Prevent practitioners and frontline professionals and are drawn directly from existing guidance and training. For professionals and practitioners already working within Prevent, these principles will be familiar.

- Prevents core aim is unchanged: to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It is, and always has been, an early intervention programme, designed to offer timely support to those at risk of being drawn in to terrorism. The Key Principles set out that, while ideology is an important consideration, it is not mandatory for a Prevent referral. However, where there is not a concern that someone may be drawn into terrorism, alternative local support services should be considered.
  - This guidance/policy document is due to be published by the end of the year having been delayed due to the change in the Home Secretary. It has been shared that 1/3 of referrals across Prevent contain elements of mental ill health and/or neurodiversity with a huge increase in Prevent referrals for U18's.
- 10.5 The Prevent Coordinator and Prevent Community Engagement Officer (PCEO) continue to deliver a high level of training to colleagues, partners, and communities across Medway. The training is constantly updated and new dates for 2026 are currently being set for Medway staff through Workforce Development. An overview of Prevent information and training courses is available on Medway Council's intranet (MedSpace).
- 10.6 The internal pages on Medspace are currently being updated by Medway internal communications in partnership with the Prevent and Channel manager.
- 10.7 Over this last period there have been significant tensions across Kent and Medway, this has been due to 'Operation Raise the Flag' and narratives surrounding immigration and asylum accommodation. The Prevent team continue to monitor online sentiment, relating to events around small boat crossings, ERW organisations, protests, and campaigns and there remains constant ERW narratives which we continue see online focusing on anti-migration. The Prevent team are at the heart of daily communications across several KCC and Medway teams. Updates from the Prevent team are shared with the Home Office under their new countering emerging threats process. A fortnightly meeting is attended by Prevent with the Home Office for an Asylum Support Response meeting. The Prevent team have worked with Medway CSP to update members of the CSP on community tensions and cohesion which is a standing agenda item at Medway CSP.
- 10.8 The Kent and Medway Prevent team have linked in with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to look at how community cohesion can be fully embedded across Kent and Medway and are working with the Kent Community Safety Team and Medway CSP.
- 10.9 The Prevent prioritisation process started in early November and will formalise with bids in the new year. We currently have no reason to believe that Kent and Medway will not remain as a Prevent priority area and will receive funding – however we will not be aware until the new year of the amount.
- 10.11 Prevent Annual Statistics - on 6 November 2025, the Home Office published official statistics for 'Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme from April 2024 to March 2025'.
- 10.12 Manchester Synagogue Terrorist Attack - this incident was declared a Terrorist attack by Counter Terrorism Police. The Kent and Medway Prevent team were involved in high level local police briefings and updates to strategic partners as well as the sharing of resources and communications through the Prevent Advisory Group (PAG) to support community partners.
- 10.13 Countering State Threat - the Home Office is looking at, how Countering State Threats sit within the Prevent space and how the Home Office can support this emerging risk. State threats encompass actions by foreign governments that, while falling short of direct armed conflict, go beyond typical statecraft and aim to harm or threaten the safety or interests of a



nation. These threats can involve a wide range of activities, which can be classed under the broader term of transnational repression and include -

- Assassinations and physical attacks: Targeting individuals or locations. Targets may include but are not limited to prominent opponents of a regime, such as dissidents, or even journalists.
- Cyberattacks: Disrupting critical infrastructure, stealing sensitive data, or spreading disinformation.
- Financial Influence: Using financial institutions to support hostile activities, such as terrorism or corruption.
- Political Manipulation: Attempting to influence elections, sow discord, or destabilise governments.
- Political pressure or threats to stifle opposition or debate about a state.
- Propaganda and Disinformation: Using online platforms to spread false information or manipulate public opinion.
- Espionage: Gathering intelligence for military or economic advantage

- 10.14 Prevent Radicalisation Funding - through this Home Office fund, the Kent and Medway Prevent Team have commissioned Equaliteach to deliver free training aimed at developing practical strategies for conducting difficult conversations with young people.
- 10.15 This training represents a fantastic opportunity to enhance your skills in this area, boost your confidence in fostering critical thinking among young people, and create a safe environment for discussing challenging subjects. The training is open to everyone working with young people in Kent and Medway, including those from education, local authority, probation, police, social care, health, community groups and more! There will be separate sessions tailored specifically for Educators and Community Professionals.
- 10.16 The Prevent and Serious Organised Crime awareness week, held in October, achieved significant impact across Kent, engaging over 1,557 professionals from a broad range of agencies, organisations, and disciplines. The programme highlighted the strategic value of multi-agency collaboration in addressing complex threats such as modern slavery, serious organised crime, and radicalisation. Key sessions explored intelligence sharing, safeguarding children and young people within educational settings, and looked at sector-specific vulnerabilities, that included those in procurement processes, regulatory responses and in communities. The Prevent and Serious Organised Crime team led the webinars in collaboration with internal experts and partner agencies, including Southeastern Railways, the Environment Agency, and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, alongside powerful lived-experience contributions, including a personal account of radicalisation into Islamist extremism.
- 10.17 Feedback indicated strong satisfaction and increased awareness. These sessions have strengthened frontline understanding of safeguarding, Prevent Duty, and serious organised crime, equipping staff with practical knowledge to identify risks and respond effectively. This investment in awareness and capacity-building directly supports our strategic priorities around community safety, child protection, and resilience against emerging threats
- 10.18 The Hateful Extremism event will take place on the 25th of February 2026 at the Mercure Hotel in Maidstone as in previous years. Eventbrite links and posters are now live.

- 10.19 The Kent and Medway Prevent Team recently resources, including new additions such as the myths and fact Prevent poster can be found at –
- <https://www.kelsi.org.uk/child-protection-and-safeguarding/The-Prevent-Duty-In-Education>
- 10.20 Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) and Counter Terrorism Situational Risk Assessment (CTSRA) - the CTLP has been briefed by the Kent and Medway Prevent team to many partners, including the Medway Contextual Safeguarding meeting, SOC Panel and CSP. Information is used which has been provided by local authorities and partners in highlighting any current and emerging themes linked to radicalisation into terrorism. Local authorities play a central coordinating role in ensuring that local partners can contribute relevant information and data to the CTLP and CTSRA.
- 10.21 The collection of data process for the 2025 CTLP has started. This is disseminated to Statutory Partners and Specified Authorities. This includes Minister of the Crown and Government Departments, Local Government, Criminal Justice Prisons, Youth Offending, Secure Colleges, Probation, Education, Health & Social Care, and the Police.
- 10.22 The two Kent and Medway Prevent Education Officers (PEOs) continue to receive a high volume of calls and emails from education settings requesting support and guidance for Prevent-related enquiries about pupils and potential Prevent referrals. The themes of these enquiries range across all ideological concerns, including Islamist, ERW, anti-migrant sentiment and concerns around misogynistic attitudes and language. Whilst many of these enquiries will result in a formal Prevent referral, many are not strictly Prevent-related and so PEOs are able to assist schools with exploring alternative avenues of support through different agencies such as the Child Centred Policing Team, Early Help, Social Services, CAHMS (Child and Adolescents Mental Health Service) for mental health concerns, or other charities that may be able to offer workshops or support in school. PEO's also support schools to tackle these issues internally through the sharing of educational resources and the offer of student workshops.
- 10.23 Schools are continuing to report racist, Islamophobic, antisemitic, misogynistic, and homophobic language between students, and at times also directed at staff. Pupils presenting with Prevent-related concerns often also present with widespread safeguarding issues and/or mental health needs which in turn appears to impact on behaviours, contact and exposure to content that can lead to Prevent referrals and calls from education settings. Schools are being encouraged to use the Racial Incidents Survey which will assist to map incidents and identify trends.
- 10.24 Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and assorted neurodiversity attributing to fixations continues to be over-represented within the Prevent space, compared to their neurotypical peers. Even in pupils where this is undiagnosed, professionals who know the student well frequently report that they present with ASC (autism spectrum condition) traits. These students can also be specifically targeted in the online space by extremists making them more susceptible to extremist narratives.
- 10.25 The team continue to receive enquiries and referrals concerning children and young people who are perceived to be at risk of committing a violent act or idealising violence against others but have no extremist ideology.
- 10.26 The most frequently reported concerns from education settings remain around ERW views, often referring to Hitler and Nazism, but also local topical issues that have been subjected to Far-Right rhetoric, such as immigration, small boat crossings, and asylum accommodation in the county.

- 10.27 There have also been many concerns raised to PEOs following the conflict in the Middle East between Palestine and Israel. Concerns raised are around Islamophobia or antisemitic because of this conflict, and these concerns originate equally from both primary and secondary schools.
- 10.28 The Prevent Community Engagement Officer (PCEO) continues to work alongside all 12 Kent district/county CSUs as well as Medway CSU, and work with the Kent Police Community Liaison Officers to ensure the Prevent team is embedded across the county. The PCEO has been delivering training to several organisations. This has been a mix of Prevent Awareness sessions and follow up sessions for specialist training e.g. Graffiti and Sticking sessions, Incel sessions and Venue Hire Guidance. The team have had more requests for specialist training e.g. LASIT, Emerging Ideologies, Islamist Extremism.
- 10.29 The Prevent Advisory Group (PAG) met 4 times in 2025. The group has steadily grown in the last year, with members inviting others to attend the meetings where possible. The aim has been to have a meeting every quarter, 3 times online and the last meeting in October was in person. The meetings this year have focussed on community cohesion, Prevent referrals and the data that the Prevent team collates. A new Chairperson has been elected, who is a prominent member of the community.
- 11. Channel Panel**
- 11.1 Channel uses a multi-agency approach to: identify people at risk, assess the nature and extent of that risk, develop the most appropriate support plan for the person concerned.
- 11.2 Channel provides early support for anyone who is at risk of radicalisation, supporting terrorist organisations, or committing acts of terrorism, regardless of age, faith, ethnicity or background. People can receive support before they begin on, or once they are on a trajectory towards participating in terrorist related activity. Cases should not be adopted onto Channel where no such terrorism concerns exist.
- 11.3 The Kent and Medway Channel Panel consist of one Channel Panel Chair for Kent and Medway with a KCC deputy Chair and two Medway Deputy Chairs who started in November.
- 11.4 Across Kent and Medway, we are continuing to see some very complex and challenging cases. We have continued to meet twice a month to cover all the open cases and new referrals.
- 11.5 All dates for the monthly 2026 Channel dates have been sent to all standing panel members, CSU Inspectors and LA Community Safety Managers. The new KCC Assistant Director for CONSENT and SOC will chair panel from December 2025. There are also two new Medway Deputy Chairs who started chairing in November 2025.
- 11.6 A Channel Panel Development Day is currently being arranged for January 2026. This will look at relevant updates for standing panel members and thematic presentations.
- 11.7 Police Led Partnerships (PLP) update - The new Partnership Advisory Group set up to help to help test and support the development of ongoing Police-led Partnerships (PLP) work, met in August. This group will play a key role in shaping and refining our approach by providing practical insights from those working directly with PLP. The Kent and Medway Prevent and Channel Manager is part of this group, and more information will be shared in the next JEG report.

- 11.8 Practical Mentoring support for Channel cases - from 1 August 2025, the Home Office launched the Practical Mentoring intervention pilot scheme. This is a six-month initiative enabling Channel and PMAP panels to access tailored practical mentoring support for individuals at risk of radicalisation. This expansion addresses a recognised gap in provision for those without a clearly defined ideology; allowing panels to commission mentors who can help provide practical support in areas such as education, employment, online safety, and to support individuals as they increase their own critical thinking skills. The pilot, limited to 50 cases nationally, is being evaluated by Homeland Security Analysis and Insight to assess demand and inform future rollout.
- 11.9 Channel Family Interventions - As you may be aware, the Home Office is looking to expand the range of interventions we offer in line with previous Ministerial commitments. As part of this effort, we are looking to pilot a new family intervention to further support you in managing cases more effectively.
- 11.10 These family interventions will focus on several key areas: improving families' understanding of risk and radicalisation and explaining how and why someone might become involved in extremism; enhancing skills in conducting constructive conversations; and, where appropriate, signposting to other organisations for additional support and advice. Additionally, in relevant cases, the interventions can provide online safety advice as well as educational resources.
- 11.11 This will be a Home Office funded small-scale pilot running nationally for a maximum of six months. Throughout this period, we will be conducting a thorough evaluation to understand what works best, so you will need to be willing to fill out a survey and/or have a short interview with our team.
- 11.12 The national evaluation of the Channel programme, launched in January 2025, continues with a positive turn out of acceptances to take part in the evaluation of adopted cases at the Kent and Medway Channel Panel.

## **12. Serious and Organised Crime Partnership (SOCP)**

- 12.1 The SOCP meeting continues locally and is an opportunity for partners to discuss ways to tackle serious criminality including organised crime groups (OCG). Information sharing via the partnership continues and is a vital part of tackling these serious issues.
- 12.2 County Lines and local drug dealing networks continue to be focus area for Proactive teams in Medway with a number of arrests and prosecutions by local officers and proactive CID teams. This work has increased with the uplift of staff within Neighbourhood Policing and visits and reassurance visits to vulnerable addresses are daily business for local officers. CCPT work with young people on the periphery of this activity under Op Checker and Op Abbey to enforce, educate and provide support through VRU and Medway Youth Services engagement to divert behaviours. The Child Centre Policing Team work with the VRU in identifying vulnerable youths who may be in danger of becoming involved in this criminality using joint engagement and education to move them away from this threat. Kent Police continue the education within schools and working with young person's families they are able to prevent future children becoming involved. A multi-agency approach is conducted via the VRU.
- 12.3 Beat officers and NTFs work closely with the Intelligence departments and Proactive Investigators to conduct Drugs warrants at local addresses that might not be part of ongoing investigations, this work is linked to Local Officers reacting to and dealing with local issues raised by the communities they work in daily. Results are updated utilising platforms such as My Community Voice – You Said we Did and Kent Police social media.

- 12.4 The Neighbourhood Policing Team work closely with investigation teams, exchanging information and disrupting activity when overtly required. To provide a better understanding a local officer may have knowledge of a drug issue within their area – provided by intelligence through policing, this knowledge will then produce intelligence stops on those involved, which then results in the recovery of a substance and the suspects arrested for supply this drug. This activity from Beat officers and NTF damages organised networks.
- 12.5 Collaborative work with other Police Forces such as Met Police and BTP continue to target County Lines and Serious Violence within Medway. Operations such as OP Sceptre are supported with joint working at Train Stations and other locations throughout the district to reassure the community and target those using public transport to commit crime.
- 12.6 Serious Violence is often linked to Serious and Organised Crime – this has been a priority for officers within the CSU throughout the year with particular focus on visible policing and proactive patrolling in known locations to prevent and detect crime. Utilising GRIP funding and the uplift of officers there has been a real push on GRIP patrolling this has resulted in a reduction of Serious Violence in Medway.

### **13. Blue Light Project**

- 13.1 Medway became a Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) Area in 2022, and the experience has provided valuable insights into working with highly vulnerable individuals. Following strategic discussions, it has been decided to combine the objectives of the MEAM and Medway Multiple Disadvantage Network (MMDN) and align these with the newly created Medway Intensive Support Team (MIST).
- 13.2 Multi agency work to support multiply excluded people will continue as in previous iterations, but work has been started to add additional governance and build in longevity to the model. The current name will be changing to the MIST Delivery Partnership. Key delivery partners will include Rough Sleeping Initiative, Adult Social Care, Substance Use Treatment Services, NHS Complex Care Nurse, Neighbourhood Health Teams, Kent Police and Mental Health Teams.

### **14. Homelessness**

- 14.1 Housing Services' Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) Outreach Officers carry out several sessions of 4.30am outreach per week, followed by visits and support during working hours to people who are sleeping rough in Medway. Oversight of support activity is carried out by the Rough Sleeping Coordinator who also manages a team of Navigators who work with people who the Outreach Team have placed into accommodation, to provide ongoing support and minimise the risk of repeated sleeping rough.
- 14.2 The team also carries out bi-monthly counts across Medway in partnership with police, public health, commissioned services, and the voluntary and community sector, running from midnight until 5.00am the next morning. A range of accommodation and support provision is commissioned, ranging from self-contained with floating support, to 24 hour staffed services for people with a higher range of need.
- 14.3 There is a recognised need for a higher support provision for people who have been multiply excluded from services due to the level and complexity of the challenges they face. Attempts will be made to secure funding either as housing or through a wider partnership approach. There are 36 people currently living in our commissioned RSI services with a further 40 living in shared or self-contained accommodation with visiting support from our Navigator Service, this adds to the average of 30 people supported directly by the Outreach Officers.

- 14.5 The RSI accommodation provisions and staff are funded through Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government grant, which for 2025/26 was £925,880, with a further top up of funding of £425,000.
- 14.6 The additional top up funding will cover extended staffing hours to allow our assessment centre to work with a larger group of people who were recently sleeping rough, as well as a supported housing unit for four people moving on from the assessment centre and form the central fund to run a winter night shelter from January-March 2026. The night shelter will have multi agency input and additional funding is provided by Public Health's Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant and Medway's Household Support Fund.

## **15. Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop (OSS)**

- 15.1 The Medway Domestic Abuse Forum (MDAF) is a multi-agency practitioner forum with the aim of raising awareness of Domestic Abuse (DA) and increasing support provision for victims of DA in Medway. MDAF members represent statutory and voluntary sectors including Medway Council, Medway Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Social Care, Domestic Abuse specialist services and many voluntary partners.
- 15.2 The Medway OSS is strategically run by MDAF, with an OSS Steering Group overseeing the operational side. Medway's OSS operates on a Tuesday morning at the Sunlight Centre in Gillingham, for victims (female and male) of DA, offering a safe community location.
- 15.3 During first six months of the current year there have been over 158 attendees to the session, an increase on last year. The OSS has resources such things as door bars, personal alarms, food vouchers, emergency mobile phones, phone credit and hygiene packs to distribute to those in need. There is also a flight fund available for victim/survivors who need transport or assistance in accessing refuge or fleeing the area.
- 15.4 Medway's OSS has consistently seen the highest number of attendances/victims across the whole of Kent and continues to be offered in person with a growing number of professionals from different services supporting victims. The OSS is well supported by the commissioned Domestic Abuse service in Medway and has a dedicated coordinator commissioned via MDAF to ensure the efficient running of the service.

## **16. Doorstep Fraud**

- 16.1 The Trading Standards Team continues to offer free 'no cold calling' stickers and information packs to residents via our social media pages, public events and our partners at neighbourhood watch. These aim to reduce instances of doorstep crime and increase awareness of the problems that may be faced by consumers contracting for works with cold callers. These information packs have recently been updated to include information regarding the telephone preference scheme to help consumers deal with cold callers over the telephone.
- 16.2 Officers regularly attend call outs to consumers homes where work has been carried out by rogue traders and where the traders are still on site, or traceable, appropriate action is taken to protect the consumer and limit the financial detriment. This area of work requires a great deal of information sharing with our partners at Kent Police, the National Trading Standards Scams Team as well as other council services who may notice doorstep callers or works being carried out at clients' homes.

## **17. Unauthorised Encampments**

- 17.1 Unauthorised encampments (UEs) are defined by the Government as "encampments of caravans and/or other vehicles on land without the landowner or occupier's consent and constituting trespass". Unauthorised camping is not a criminal offence. It is a civil offence (trespass), giving landowners the right to repossess their property using the due process of law. The prevention of trespass is the responsibility of the landowner.
- 17.2 The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to treat someone less favourably than others because of their protected characteristic, including race (which includes a person's ethnic or national origins and nationality). The Public Sector Equality Duty, under s149 of the Equality Act 2010, applies to the police (as a public authority) and places a duty on the police to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons of different racial groups.
- 17.3 The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 gives Local Authorities in England and Wales powers to make directions to leave land being used by itinerant groups (section 77). It is offence to fail to comply with such a direction. If a direction to leave is not complied with, a Local Authority can apply to the Magistrates Court for an order requiring the removal of vehicles and any occupants from the land (section 78).
- 17.4 Medway Council CST seek to immediately attend a site to carry out a welfare check and risk assessment. They will then serve verbal and written notice for the encampment to vacate, subject to a satisfactory welfare assessment.
- 17.5 In 2025 the CST has received and investigated 23 reports of unauthorised encampments resulting 14 Section 77 notices; 9 required an escalation to a Section 78 notice. All encampments vacated following the issue of a Section 78 Court Order and therefore bailiff costs have not been incurred during this reporting period.
- 17.6 In certain Circumstances a senior Police Officer has the discretion to order the travellers to leave and remove any vehicles and other property they may have with them (sections 61 and 62 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003). One encampment required Kent Police to utilise section 61 powers due to an increased level of ASB associated with the encampment.

## **18 CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television)**

- 18.1 The primary purpose of the CCTV service is there to support the Council and the CSP to reduce both the level of crime and fear of crime across Medway. Kyndi Ltd provide CCTV Services and monitoring on behalf of Medway Council.
- 18.2 There are 87 community safety CCTV cameras across Medway and in the main, these are in High Street areas.
- 18.3 Since November last year to October this year, 2,525 incidents have been captured and 159 arrests made, directly attributable to the use of CCTV monitoring and partnership working across Medway.
- 18.4 CCTV Infrastructure Improvement: Kyndi and Council officers have scheduled a programme of rolling capital improvement works around Medway, utilising the CCTV capital fund approved in the Council budget. These funds will enable our transition from legacy analogue to digital.

- 18.5 Rapid Deployment Cameras (RDC): There is a pool of rapid deployment cameras available, in instances where the Council have to act swiftly to tackle crime hotspots and spikes in criminal activity or civil disturbance. Medway Council currently has a pool of 29 rapid deployment cameras in stock, all of which are deployed –
- Three at Mardale Close, Rainham
  - Two in Hoo St Werburgh; one on Knights Road and another on Pottery Road (at the entrance to Recreation Ground).
  - One at Splendly Works, New Road, Chatham.
  - One at Ordnance Street, Chatham
  - One on Beacon Hill.
  - One at Gillingham Park
  - One at Cliffe Woods
  - Three at Barnfields, Chatham
  - One at Luton High Street
  - Three at Luton Road Arches area
  - One at Rainham Recreation
  - One At Station Road Rainham
  - One at Rhodes Street
  - One Maidstone Road, Rochester
- 18.6 The pool of RDCs once installed, tend to remain in situ for around 12 weeks. At the end of this period, a review is carried out whereby Council officers and Kent Police analyse crime statistics and trends over that period. Thereafter, a decision is taken to propose to extend the monitoring period, remove the RDC if monitoring is no longer required, or to make a recommendation for the camera to be a permanent addition.
- 18.7 Digital Asset Management System (DAMS): Traditionally, digital CCTV footage evidence which is requested via appropriate channels is uploaded to blank DVD desk by Kyndi and collected in person from the CCTV monitoring centre in Strood. This process requires more storage, more visits to the monitoring centre to collect, increased workloads in specialist areas to capture and download, and more complex security and legal retention procedures. Not to mention the amount of wastage for Kyndi. This system is now LIVE with benefits being seen by both Kent Police and Kyndi Control Centre.
- 18.8 In essence, DAMS will enable footage to be uploaded digitally to the cloud, in a secure and timely manner; whilst maintaining the integrity of the data from a data protection perspective. This new way of working will have considerable mutual benefits, both transforming policing locally by enabling better, more timely and proactive decision making; but also improving the efficiency of both front-line Police staff and Kyndi operatives working on behalf of the Council. More importantly though, the positive impact on victims from our ability to transfer evidence in a more agile way and potentially reduce lengthy waits for trial is incalculable.
- 18.9 Monitoring: Each month a report is generated by Kyndi that lists activity levels of all cameras and circulated to the Council's CCTV Single Point of Contact (SPOC). The report includes numbers of incidents and arrests attributed to CCTV, any faults on the network and will also highlight the number of hits (i.e., any unusual activity picked up by the camera).
- 18.10 Process for a new camera or decommissioning: If it is found that a camera is serving no specific purpose in the opinion of the CCTV SPOC, the CST and Kyndi Ltd, based on documented evidence, it will be submitted to the CSP for decommissioning or re-deployment elsewhere. It is at this point the qualified professionals of the board may intervene with their



own service-based intelligence. If it is decided that a camera is to be removed, Ward Members will be notified of the decision and rationale behind it.

- 18.11 If a Ward Member, a Member of the Public or an Officer of the Council feels a location would benefit from a new camera due to anecdotal evidence of increased activity in an area, this may be reported to the CST (to note the distinction between the CST and the CSP).

## **19. Environmental Enforcement (including Street Scene Enforcement)**

- 19.1 The Environmental Enforcement Team continue to work in partnership with Kent Police and neighbouring local authorities. The use of Kent Police's custody suite to facilitate the interviewing of suspects in environmental crime investigations, has been stopped. As there are currently no suitable facilities at Gun Wharf, the use of Gravesham Borough Council facilities is being undertaken when required.

- 19.2 Op Assist, a monthly undertaking targeting illegal waste carriers and scrap metal collectors, continues in partnership with Kent Police, who changed the participation in this Op from Rural Task Force to the local Neighbourhood Policing Unit as of April 2025.

- 9 Operations – 61 vehicle stops, 2 site visits.

- 19.3 Days of Action – 2 days of action have been undertaken in partnership with Medway Police neighbourhood Policing Unit in April and August 2025. Predominately our reason for participating was again to target illegal waste carriers and scrap metal collectors.

- Strood / Peninsula Day of Action – 4 vehicle stops, 1 site visit.
- Rochester Day of Action – 12 vehicle stops.

- 19.4 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) issued 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025. These totals include FPNs issued by Environmental Enforcement and Street Scene Enforcement Teams.

Type	Legislation	No. Issued	Paid	Other Actions
Littering	S.87 Environmental Protection Act 1990	17	9	2 voided, 2 prosecuted, 1 at court, 1 referred to case file, 1 within payment timescale, 1 under further investigation
Failure to Comply CPN	S43-58 Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014	9	0	8 referred to case file, 1 within payment timescale, 1 NFA
Failure to Provide Authority to transport Waste.	S1 Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989	0	0	
Failure to Provide Waste Documents	S34 Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Business Duty of Care)	46	23	11 voided, 4 referred to case file, 5 under further investigation, 1 at court, 1 within payment timescale, 1 NFA

Fly Tipping	S33 Environmental Protection Act 1990	7	5	1 referred to case file, 1 voided
Householder Duty of Care	S34 Environmental Protection Act 1990	32	17	1 voided, 6 under further investigation, 4 referred to case, 4 NFA
Abandoned Vehicle	Section 2/2A Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978	0	0	

- 19.5 Case files compiled 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025. Case files are only compiled by Environmental Enforcement Team officers. Note: There are significant delays in the availability of Magistrates Courts slots for hearings to take place.

Offence	No. Compiled	Status	Court Outcome
S33 EPA 1990 – Depositing Waste	1	1 With legal for review/court date	N/A
S34 EPA 1990 – Duty of Care (Business / Household)	41	4 at court, 12 under further investigation, 16 NFA, 9 with legal	N/A
S48-58 ASBCPA 2014	9	2 with legal for review/court date, 1 at court, 4 NFA, 1 under further investigation, 1 within payment timescale.	N/A
S87 EPA 1990	5	2 prosecuted, 1 with legal awaiting court date, 1 at court, 1 under further investigation	2 cases – Fine £220, costs £300, Victim Surcharge £88 each case
S1 Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013	4	1 at court, 2 with legal for review/court date, 1 under further investigation	
S1 Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989	1 (In conjunction with a S1 SMDA case)	With legal for review/court date	
S215 Town and Country Planning Act 1990	1	Under further investigation	
S110 Environment Act 1995	3	2 with legal for review/court date, 1 under further investigation	

19.6 District Enforcement (litter) from November 2024 to October 2025 -

- 2,031 FPNs issued.
- 1,459 FPNs Paid (72% payment rate).

19.7 Income from November 2024 to October 2025 –

- Cumulative - £140,910 (70% to District / 30% to Medway Council)
- District contract - £98,700
- Medway Council - £42,210

19.8 Case files for unpaid littering FPNs forwarded by District Enforcement. Medway Council retain the element of reviewing unpaid FPNs for quality and possible prosecution action purposes.

Offence	No. Compiled	Status	Court Outcome
S87/S88 EPA 1990 – Littering (District Enforcement FPNs)	51	5 With legal for review / court date. 40 prosecuted, 6 being compiled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 cases – Fine £220, costs £130, Victim Surcharge £88.</li> <li>• 2 cases – Fine £220, Costs £300, Victim Surcharge £88 (after not guilty plea and trial).</li> <li>• 14 cases – Fine £220, Costs £250, Victim Surcharge £88.</li> <li>• 1 case – Fine £40, Costs £34, Victim Surcharge £16 (Guilty plea and financial status taken into account).</li> <li>• 5 cases – Fine £220, Costs £0, Victim Surcharge £88.</li> <li>• 7 cases – Fine £50, Costs £80, Victim Surcharge £20.</li> <li>• 4 cases – Fine £220, Costs £20, Victim Surcharge £88.</li> <li>• 1 Case – Fine £40, Costs £100, Victim Surcharge £16. Guilty plea taken into account.</li> </ul>

19.9 One Case File submitted to legal is for providing false details under S88 EPA 1990. A total of nine were withdrawn by the Legal Team –

- Seven offenders could not be traced after service of court documents.
- Two paid FPN amount with agreement.
- One out of court settlement.
- Forty-four had no further action.

19.10 Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) issued 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025.

- Refuse Out Early – 653
- Untidy Land - 60
- Fly Posting - 6

19.11 Community Protection Notices (CPNs) issued 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025.

- Refuse Out Early - 41
- Untidy Land – 14

19.12 Fixed Penalty Notices (Non-compliance CPN) – 9

## **20. Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)**

20.1 The VRU is funded by the Home Office to develop a public health informed preventative approach to serious violence amongst those aged under 25. The team are drawn from Kent Police, Medway Council and Kent County Council and use four key approaches that underpin their work: data sharing across all services; multi-agency collaboration; evidence-based activity and evaluation of new approaches; hearing the voice of communities and young people.

20.2 In September 2025 serious violence amongst those under 25 across the County was lower than the previous three years. Medway has again seen a reduction, year on year, in public place serious violence involving those aged under 25 of around 14% in the last year (174 less incidents) which reflects the active collaboration of agencies to tackle violence. Across the county there remains a concern around children and their involvement in knife related violence both as the suspects or the victims of violence, as they are over-represented in these cohorts. Medway has consistently had high levels of overall serious violence when considering either volume or harm and remains a priority area for the VRU.

20.3 The VRU coordinator for Medway and Swale provides expertise on serious violence to support a strategic response to the issues facing Medway. A number of challenges, such as violence linked to groups of young people, cut across geographic boundaries and the coordinator ensures that the response to violence brings together partners for single, shared approach to violence prevention.

20.4 The coordinator has led the work to tackle problematic semi-independent accommodation for children placed in Medway by other authorities. The work has been delivered in partnership with the Medway Youth Service and other partners. They have also led the work to design Safe Spaces for children which allows fast food restaurants and other community locations to be trained in how to keep adolescents safe. The scheme ensures that these locations advertise that they are a safe space for children should they need support when outside the home. The VRU has funded and helped to deliver school safety roadshows for Medway secondary school students, along with different organisations, to allow children to hear about how they can keep themselves safe.

20.5 Medway A and E Reachable Moments - Medway Council youth workers offer support to young people admitted into hospital due to serious violence and maintain the support in the community. The project has identified victims of physical violence and those experiencing problematic mental health due to their fear of violence that might affect them.

20.6 Focused Deterrence - The objective of the FD approach is to enable the necessary interventions to provide a long-term reduction of harm to young people and the community, by deterring and supporting individuals from continuing the activity. To achieve this, the specific objectives are:

- Reduce offending and re-offending behaviour.
- Encourage young people to consider the effects their behaviour is having on the victims/community.

- Improve young people's self-esteem and sense of purpose.
  - Support and enable parents and carers to help keep young people safe in the community.
  - Support access to education, employment, or other structured activities.
  - Bring about community change/ resilience and problem solving to avoid displacement and provide sustainable outcomes.
- 20.7 Medway Council have funding from the VRU to initiate FD on Young Street Groups (scored by the VRU) or on individuals posing a high harm threat. This is also funding Community Conferencing training in early 2026 which will upskill Medway Council staff and Police in how to look at location-based problem solving, how to bring the community onboard to this process and how to effectively bring the young people and the community together.
- 20.8 Education - Pupil Referral Units still receive support from a clinical psychologist to enable their staff to deliver Social Skills to students. The Social Skills approach teaches children how to better manage conflict and challenge in their lives. In May 2025, the VRU commissioned a product entitled, Pol-Ed, which is an educational resource bank aligned to both Policing Priorities and the RSE/PSHE syllabus. The initial offering of this platform was to all schools and educational providers within the county, and we have seen a fantastic uptake. Within the first 3 months, we have 50% of all schools using this platform for their PSHE lessons! Further information can be found here –
- A positive force in education | Pol-Ed - A positive force in education.
- 20.9 As of 1 December 2025 the new Local Authority/Community section/resources will be available for free too! This includes separate sections for local authorities, youth justice and community organisations. More comms will be coming out shortly.
- 20.10 Active Bystander focuses on the response to violence, how and when to intervene, reflecting some of the principles of contextual safeguarding. The VRU has funded delivery of this training to professionals and supported a 'train the trainer' model to further spread the learning in the area. The principles have also been presented at conferences and events supported by the VRU. The VRU now have Clock it, Check it, Change it Active Bystander poster resources to print in educational areas of locations where young people visit. This can also be adopted and tailored for CSPs and Community Organisations. Further information can be found here –
- Active Bystander
- 20.11 Buddi Tag is a VRU-funded intervention which provides GPS tracked ankle tags to young people at risk of or involved in exploitation, crime, or violence. The young people voluntarily wear the tags which helps give them a reason to engage less in criminality or risky situations and demonstrate the will to change behaviour. These can be fitted by local police teams and early help/youth justice workers. There is a referral form which must go through the VRU first. Further information can be found here –
- Buddi Tag
- 20.12 Catch 22 Intensive mentoring is a VRU-funded intervention providing 1:1 support to children and young people under 25 who are at risk of child criminal exploitation or county lines involvement. The support is bespoke and includes protective and preventative measures, close collaboration with the individual's support network, and a holistic, trauma-informed approach. Further information can be found here –
- Catch 22 - Intensive mentoring.

20.13 Eyes Open is a dedicated campaign aimed at raising awareness about the growing issue of child criminal exploitation and county lines. The stand-alone website has Kent and Medway tailored advice. Further information can be found here –

- Eyes Open Campaign

20.14 The VRU are offering an evidence-based scheme called Safer Knife Replacement Scheme (SKRS) to replace pointed kitchen knives and replace them with a safer alternative. The Police or partnership agency can offer the SKRS to eligible households or businesses. This will provide them with a pack of four knives or a single 5" rounded-end kitchen knife, alongside safety advice and guidance. This is in exchange for replacing all the pointed knives. The VRU are leading the national working group for this and will soon be offering to replace the knives in schools and colleges. Eligibility for the SKRS will be based on the circumstances of the family home, young person and their family/guardian engagement. Further information can be found here –

- Safer Knife Replacement Scheme

20.15 The Serious Violence Toolkit for Schools and Colleges is a toolkit has been written to offer ideas and resources to school leaders that will help to prevent violence from occurring, and ways to support young people who have been affected by violence. It emphasises the importance of providing a positive approach to building children's resilience and how to support them with the life skills needed to overcome any adversity they may have experienced or continue to experience. Further information can be found here –

- Serious Violence Toolkit for Schools and Colleges

20.16 Funded by the VRU, Street Aid training was delivered to Early Help teams, Police and Youth Workers. It provides information and a toolkit to help teach young people how to respond if someone suffers a knife wound/injury whilst in the community and incorporates generic first aid skills. Further information can be found here –

- Street Aid

20.17 The Young Futures pilot is a new pilot that the VRU have secured funding for. This is just for the Medway area and is a joint venture between the Police, VRU and Medway council to look at providing early intervention, so looking at young people who may just be coming onto the police radar or who schools have concerns about but for whatever reason, they are not open to services.

## **21. Communications**

21.1 The corporate Communications team continue to promote the work of Medway Council Front Line Services. Additionally, the CSP has its own 'X' account with messages being sent on behalf of the partnership with general community safety advice as well as messaging when and where community engagement events are held. The account currently has 1,493 followers. The Public Protection Project Officer will be overseeing this work in future.

## **22. Environmental Health Food and Safety Team**

22.1 The Food and Safety Team in Environmental Health delivers a broad range of statutory duties and functions. These include food safety and food standards; health and safety at work;

infectious disease control and port health. The team works closely with Medway Trading Standards and Medway Public Health.

## 22.2 Food Hygiene key facts and figures for 2024/25:

- The team continued to focus on interventions in high-risk (A and B) and unrated premises.
- No category A or B premises were overdue >28 days as at 1st April 2025.
- Over 960 food hygiene inspections were completed.
- Over 370 new food businesses registered.
- 1797 (98%) of eligible food businesses held a food hygiene rating of 3-5 at 1/4/25.
- Just 30 (2%) of businesses had a food hygiene rating of 0, 1 or 2.
- The Team carried out 21 sampling visits, taking 47 samples.

22.3 The percentage of Medway food businesses deemed to be broadly compliant with food hygiene law remained around 94% (94.43%). This was largely due to the team managing the number of new businesses awaiting their initial food hygiene inspection (food businesses are automatically deemed to be non-broadly compliant until they have been inspected).

22.4 The team responded to over 1,000 service requests from businesses and the public. These included:

- Over 370 new food business registrations.
- Over 270 food hygiene complaints.
- Over 225 requests for advice.
- Over 65 food standards complaints.

22.5 The team also responded to over 95 reportable work-related accidents.

22.6 The team received 300 notifications of cases of infectious disease in Medway residents. These included over 225 cases of Campylobacter, 48 Salmonella, 15 Cryptosporidium, 8 Shigella, 6 Hepatitis E, 4 E. coli, 2 Hepatitis A, 1 Typhoid and 1 Giardia. Each case was dealt with in accordance with agreed protocols with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

## 23. Environmental Health – Animal and Noise Nuisance

23.1 Stray dogs - Animal Control Officers are available to collect stray dogs Monday to Sunday 9am to 5pm. Outside of the above hours, reports can be made via the Council's out of hours line on 01634 304400.

23.2 The statistical data for 2024/25:

<b>Stray Dogs</b>	
Stray dogs reported	393
Number of stray dogs not collected (returned to owner prior to officer attendance)	180
Number of stray dogs returned to owner from kennels	24
Number of dogs returned direct to owner	78
Number of dogs passed to external agency / authority (found out of area)	8
Number of section 150 agreements – where the finder can request to keep a stray dog	2

Number of dogs relinquished to Battersea Dogs and Cats Home	36
Number of dogs relinquished to other rescues	24
Duplicate reports	23
Dogs PTS - medical	1
Dogs PTS - behavioural	3
Dogs PTS – banned breed	11
<b>MISSING DOGS</b>	
Number of missing dogs reported	71
Missing dog found	58
Owner to provide update	13
<b>GENERAL</b>	
Total number of service requests for Animal Control Officers	384
Notices served for non-compliance of Microchipping of Dogs legislation:	38
Community Protection Warnings served for dog related issues	5
Community Protection Notices served	1

- 23.3 Animal Control Officers have responded to 163 dog fouling complaints. These complaints will be investigated working with Waste Services to ensure any fouling is cleared. The PSPO for Dog Management allows officers to issue fixed penalty notices to those dog owners who fail to remove their dog faeces when sufficient evidence is gathered.
- 23.4 The team carry out stencilling of footpaths as part of their ‘bag it and bin it’ campaign and do have the ability to issue Fixed Penalty Notices should they witness an offence of dog fouling whilst on duty.
- 23.5 The team has received 97 reports of dangerous dogs. When an incident is regarding a dog attacking another companion animal such as a dog or cat, and is caused by irresponsible actions of the owner, the team will investigate the issue further. These cases have primarily been resolved through education but, if necessary, they will be pursued under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and joint visits have often been carried out with the Police. Should any owner be seeking compensation for veterinary treatment or other costs associated with an incident, they are advised that it would be a civil matter. The issues below are the responsibility of the Police. The public will always be advised to report the issue directly to the Police. However, if a report is anonymous or the reporter has agreed for their details to be passed to the Police, the team will refer the matter on their behalf:
- a dog injuring someone, or if someone is in fear of being injured
  - a dog chasing livestock
  - any incident involved a banned breed
- 23.6 XL Bully Ban - Since the XL Bully ban announcement in September 2023 and its implementation in 2024, the team have had a significant increase in complaints related to suspected XL Bully types and also Pit Bull Terriers, this includes an increase in bully breed types being reported as stray dogs. In addition to this, we have received numerous requests from dog owners asking for help in relinquishing their dogs. We are unable to source a rescue or rehome a banned breed and therefore the Council has no option that to euthanise a stray dog that has been typed as a breed identified under section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, which has directly impacted the increase in our euthanasia numbers. It has been a



difficult time for the team, not just in terms of resources, but it has also had an emotional impact on officers with dealing with issues arising from the ban.

- 23.7 Dog Management PSPO - Due to a continuing increase in anti-social dog related issues a new dog management PSPO was agreed at full Council on 23 January 2025 and imposes the following:
- A 'dog fouling of land' prohibition, which makes it an offence if dog owners do not remove their dog's faeces from land in Medway.
  - A 'dog exclusion' prohibition, which enables the Council to stop dogs from entering certain areas including BMX tracks, children's play areas, multi-use games areas, outdoor gyms, skate parks, small parks, splash pads and children's water features, sports courts, sports playing pitches, and water sports centres.
  - A 'dogs on leads' requirement, which requires dogs to be kept on a lead near highways and pedestrianised areas, this also includes cemeteries and certain areas of our Country Parks.
  - A 'dogs on leads by direction' requirement, which gives officers the power to request that dogs be put on leads where they are not under the appropriate control of their owner, or where they are causing damage or acting aggressively.
  - A 'maximum number of dogs' requirement, which makes it an offence for one person to have more than four dogs under their control at any one time.
- 23.8 Anyone found breaching a PSPO would be guilty of a criminal offence and can result in £100 fixed penalty notice or a fine up to £1,000 if prosecuted.
- 23.9 Animal Licensing - Businesses involving animal activities are licensed under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018. These include animal boarding, dog breeding, sale of pets, hiring of horses and the keeping of training of animals for exhibition. In addition to this, any person wishing to keep an animal listed on the schedule of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 will also require a licence.
- 23.10 The team currently licence 38 businesses and 1 zoo under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. All licensed premises can be found on our [Animal Licensing Register](#).
- 23.11 Medway Council also has a duty to investigate complaints regarding licensed premises and complaints regarding unlicensed animal activity such as dog breeding will also be investigated. During this period 20 complaints / enquiries were received.
- 23.12 Service Awards - Medway Council was awarded the RSPCA's Platinum PawPrint Awards this year for our outstanding work with stray dogs and animal licensing. The RSPCA's flagship PawPrints awards is the only scheme of its kind which recognises local authorities and public bodies for going above and beyond to deliver world-class animal welfare services. Medway Council is one of only 4 Local Authorities nationally to be awarded Platinum for both their stray and animal licensing services.
- 23.13 Noise nuisance - Medway Council has a statutory duty to investigate noise and nuisance complaints such as, (and not limited to), loud music, DIY works, construction noise, odours, flies, bonfires, wood burners, house and vehicle alarms, artificial lighting, accumulations and dust. Investigations are carried out under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. For an issue to count as a statutory nuisance it must unreasonably and substantially interfere with the use or enjoyment of the property.

23.14 The team must take steps as reasonably practicable to investigate a complaint of a nuisance listed in the Environmental Protection Act 1990, but it cannot take legal action unless it is satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists and can be proved beyond all reasonable doubt. Where a nuisance may not meet the threshold for a statutory nuisance, action may be considered under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

23.15 To assist in the investigating of noise complaints, complainants can utilise The Noise App. This allows a person affected by a noise to make short audio recordings and enter details about the nature of the disturbance using a smartphone. An officer can listen to the recordings remotely and they form part of a noise investigation. A complainant has to be approved by the investigating officer prior to be given access to the Noise App. The online reporting form has been improved to enable complainants to report a noise complaint and upload their diary records at the same time, which will enable their complaint to be investigated more efficiently. The Noise App breaks down recordings showing the type of noise and where the recording is made. This information is used when determining if further action is required or can be taken as part of a noise investigation. The recordings cannot be used as evidence on their own and it is likely that the customer will be given access to the Council's daytime monitoring service. This will enable the customer to call officers out to witness and substantiate how they are being affected within their home. Case officers will also programme in proactive visits to a complainant's property to assess a complaint.

23.16 Statistical data for 2024/2025 is below; number of complaints received:

Noise	1075
Light nuisance	45
Odour	93
Bonfires	120
Dust	12
Smoke from chimneys	10
Drainage	65
Community Protection Warnings	8
Community Protection Notices	2
Noise Abatement Notices	1

23.17 Temporary Event Notices (TENS) are also reviewed. These are received for temporary events involving activities which would normally have to be licensed under the Licensing Act 2003. TENS allow an event organiser to notify the Council, the police and our environmental health service of small-scale events that involve licensable activities which need to be authorised. These events can be held at a premises where there is already a premises licence or club premises certificate, or they can be used to licence an unlicensed premises. During this period, the team reviewed 533 TENS applications.

23.18 Pest complaints and hoarded properties. The team investigate and enforce complaints where there is a pest related issue on private land or property. Where a complaint is concerning a Council owned property or land, it will be referred to the responsible department. Pest complaints include those relating to rats, mice, pigeons, bedbugs, fleas, cockroaches and flies and are investigated under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 and Public Health Act 1936.

23.19 These complaints can lead to the detection of hoarded properties, which can take a considerable amount of time and team resources to resolve. Referrals are also received from

Adult Services, which require partnership working with KFRS and mental health to ensure the occupier is supported whilst any pest issue is resolved. This may result in the clearance of these properties in default of a formal notice served on the owner/occupier of the property, however this will be the last resort when all other measures of engagement have failed. The number of pest related complainants investigated in this period is 310.

## **24. Parking Enforcement**

- 24.1 Parking enforcement is a statutory function carried out under the Traffic Management Act 2004. Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) enforce the presence of parking controls that have been implemented in accordance with a Traffic Regulation Order, and issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) for contraventions of compliant signs and road markings. The Council has a team of 29 CEOs and 4 Supervisors working in shifts between 7am and 1am, seven days per week. These hours align with the enforcement hours of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) and other restrictions across Medway. Training and support are provided, with CEOs obtaining qualifications in City and Guilds Parking Enforcement Level 2 and Conflict Management.
- 24.2 In addition to the enforcement of on-street parking controls, including 20 CPZs, 56 flat surface car parks are monitored and enforced, as well as 2 multi-storey car parks.
- 24.3 The aims of parking enforcement are reflected in our clear and consistent parking enforcement strategies, which provide:
- A safe environment for drivers and pedestrians with clearer roads and pavements
  - Improved traffic flow and accessibility
  - Safe and clear access for Emergency and service vehicles
  - A contribution towards maintaining quality public realm
- 24.4 The Medway Parking Enforcement Policy (MPEP) focuses on customer needs by:
- Providing an efficient, robust and customer friendly parking system
  - Ensuring enforcement is effective, fair, and consistent to maximise compliance
  - Consulting and communicating with internal and external stakeholders over parking management and enforcement issues.
- 24.5 Medway has over a hundred schools and many experience parking issues at peak times. A school enforcement rota system enables us to deal with the most problematic locations and distribute available resources across as many schools as possible using foot patrols and our CCTV vehicle. Since Medway Council has received the powers to enforce using ANPR cameras, we now enforce six schools that have 'school keep clear' restrictions using static cameras.
- 24.6 Members of the public can report illegal parking via our telephone hotline (7am until 12 am) or on the Council's website. The Council does not have the power to enforce pavement or verge parking, however, which remains the responsibility of the Police.
- 24.7 PCNs are issued when a vehicle is parked in contravention of the Traffic Regulation Order that is in place. PCNs are set by the Secretary of State, to ensure that charges are consistent. PCNs for higher level contraventions, such as parking in a restricted street, are charged at £70. Lower level PCNs for less serious breaches, such as parking with an expired permit or ticket, are charged at £50. Additional fees are applied if the charge is subsequently registered as a debt and if enforcement agents are engaged.

- 24.8 PCNs are administered by following a regulatory process to recover payment. There is also an appeals process, which is heard by an independent parking adjudicator. The decision of the adjudicator is final. All authorities are obliged to consider any advice provided.
- 24.9 PCNs can be paid either online, by post or by telephone. Once payment has been made, there is accepted liability for the PCN and a challenge or representation against the PCN is no longer possible.
- 24.10 Bus lanes help to improve journey times, reliability and punctuality. When bus lanes are misused, they are less effective and can cause delays and increase the risk of accidents.
- 24.11 CCTV cameras record vehicles using bus lanes and PCNs are issued based on this information. Enforcement officers check the recordings to determine whether a contravention has taken place. There are nine approved cameras on the network:
- Globe Lane, Chatham (north-western).
  - Globe Lane, Chatham (south-eastern).
  - Waterfront Way Chatham.
  - Canal Road, Strood.
  - Kestrel Road Bus Terminal.
  - Chatham Hill - toward Rock Avenue.
  - Chatham Hill – toward Luton Arches.
  - High Street, Chatham – toward the Brook (by the old Gala Bingo/Go Outdoors).
  - Corporation Street, Rochester.
- 24.12 Local Highway Authorities outside of London with civil parking enforcement powers are now able to apply to the Secretary of State for powers to enforce moving traffic offences under Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This brings the rest of the country in line with London, where local boroughs can use video analytics and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras to identify offences and issue PCNs to drivers committing moving traffic contraventions. These contraventions include driving through a 'No Entry' sign, turning left or right when instructed not to do so, entering yellow box junctions when the exit is not clear, driving where and when motor vehicles are prohibited, and going the wrong way in a one-way street.
- 24.13 The Council was granted powers to enforce moving traffic offences in June 2023 and have installed Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras at key locations across Medway to enforce traffic restrictions such as 'no entry' signs, pedestrian only zones and yellow box junctions. These powers have also enabled the introduction of School Streets, where temporary vehicle restrictions at peak times promote a safer environment for parents and children to travel to school.
- 24.14 Five Red Routes are now in place in Medway, improving traffic flow and congestion by discouraging vehicles from stopping, loading or parking along these key routes. The Red Route restrictions have replaced the yellow lines currently in place at these locations and will continue to reduce congestion and make journeys more reliable, prevent illegal and unsafe parking and decrease idling and slow-moving traffic. Parking and loading in dedicated bays is permitted, in the interests of supporting local businesses. The PCN progression, appeals and recovery process is very similar to that for parking and bus lane enforcement.

- 24.15 The Council publishes an annual report providing information on the number of parking and traffic-related PCNs issued during the year, the revenue and expenditure recorded in the Parking Account and how the surplus was allocated to meet our wider transport and highway objectives. The report for 2024/25 will be available shortly.