



Rolling Action Plan 2021 / 22

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Introduction

The Ashford Community Safety Partnership (ACSP) brings together a range of statutory and voluntary sector services to jointly determine how they can work together to reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. The aim of the ACSP is to **make Ashford a safer place to live, work and visit**. The overall decision making body of the ACSP is the ACSP board.

Under the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007, district and borough CSPs in England and Wales are required to:

- Produce an annual strategic assessment
- Produce a three year rolling partnership plan setting out partnership priorities, with actions to deliver these priorities
- Have a dialogue with communities to both inform these processes and explain the outcomes

Our rolling action plan 2021/22 has been developed following on from our annual strategic assessment and matrix construction, as well as in consultation with stakeholders. This year, it is a lighter touch document, recognising the extraordinary circumstances of 2020/21 and the impacts upon our day to day business as well as crime and disorder patterns. There has been a partial update of our strategic assessment, and this updated information is provided in the rolling action plan where relevant.

A sub group of the ACSP will take responsibility for the delivery of each priority identified by the strategic assessment and rolling action plan. They will take the top level action plan contained within this document, build and develop it into a full, SMART action plan and ensure delivery against it.

The action plans created by the sub groups are approved by the ACSP board and progress against them is assessed at each quarterly meeting. A performance group is responsible for monitoring progress against our key crime and fear of crime indicators, following on from sub group intervention.

The membership of the ASCP board is:

- The local authority (responsible authority)
- The local police (responsible authority)
- The Fire and Rescue Service (responsible authority)
- The Kent, Surrey and Sussex local community rehabilitation company (responsible authority)
- The Clinical Commissioning Group (responsible authority)
- Kent County Council (responsible authority)
- The Head Teachers' Forum chair
- Chairs of the ACSP subgroups

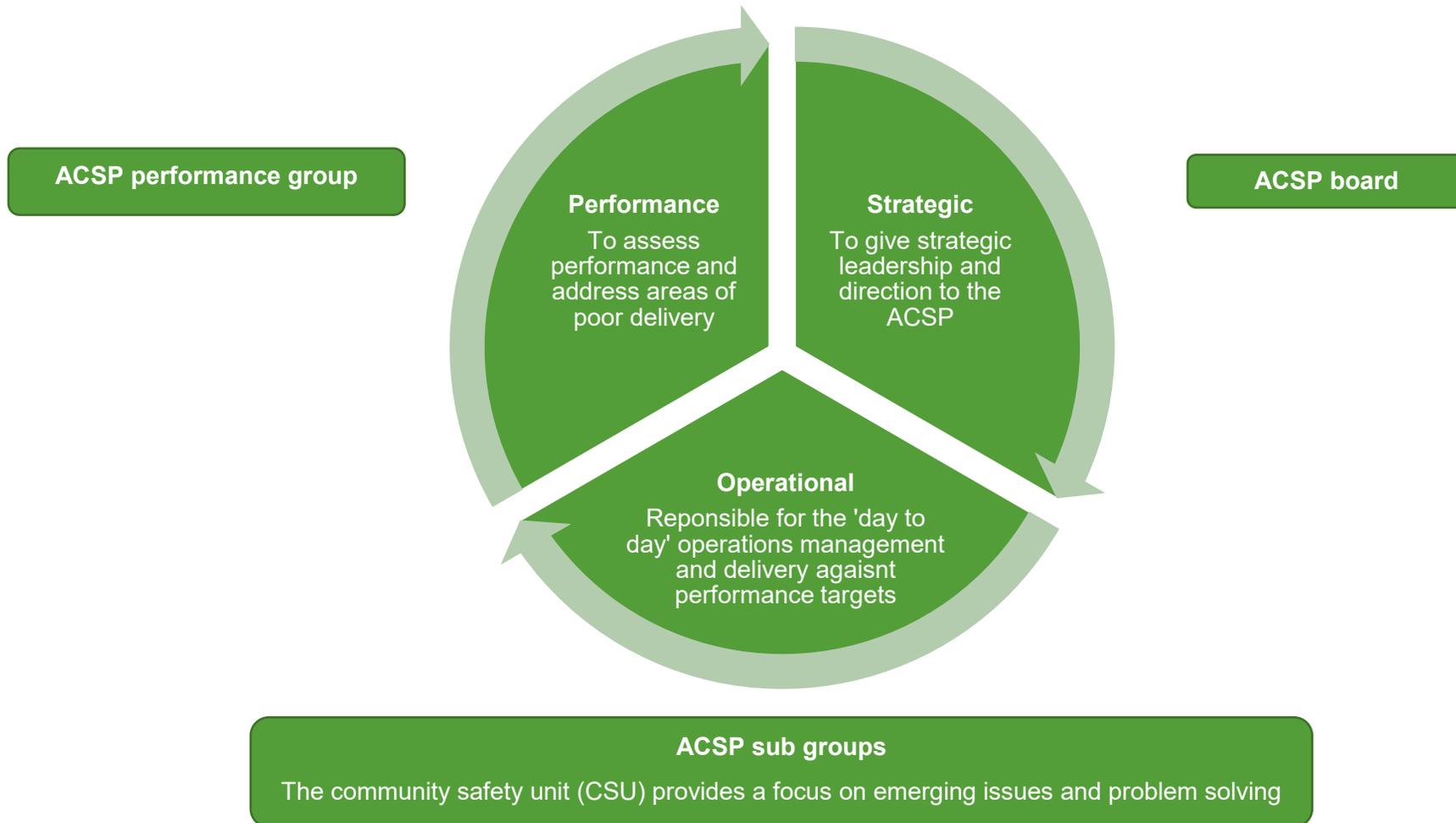
The ACSP will ensure that the priorities, actions and targets that we have identified in the rolling action plan will be delivered through a multi-agency approach by having:

- Strong strategic management
- Tasking our joint resources through well-established partnership operational structures, including identifying, managing and reducing risk
- Strong performance management

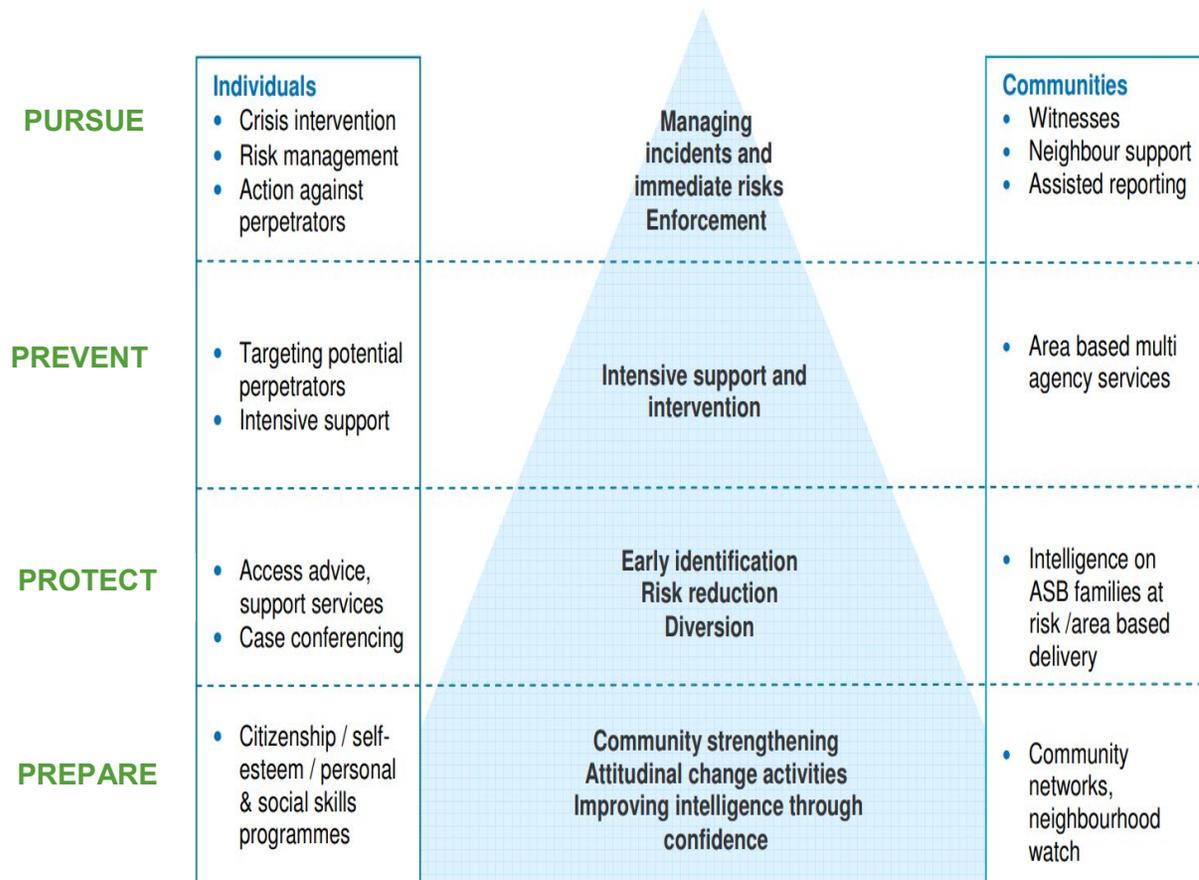
We will continue to work hard to keep all communities in Ashford safe.

ACSP governance

The governance of the ACSP has 3 key levels of decision making – strategic, operational and performance.



Our approach



The ACSP has a whole systems approach to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The diagram opposite illustrates the four tiers of intervention.

Our experience tells us that investing in one type of intervention alone does not resolve the problem. For example enforcement is most effective if it is supported by local communities and other activity is taking place to change behaviour.

The triangle of intervention is applied when we are looking at any type of crime or anti-social behaviour issue that requires the engagement of a range of services, voluntary and community groups to find long term solutions.

Our whole systems approach is based on four tiers:

- Prepare
- Protect
- Prevent
- Pursue

Considerations in developing the 2021/22 rolling action plan

Our progress in 2020/21

2020/21 has been a unique year, with the global Covid19 pandemic impacting our communities and the services they need. It has also impacted the ASCP partners, with a need to change services, delivery mechanisms, respond to new and additional needs and as employers. Our achievements in 2020/21 must be considered within this context. They include:

- A sustained emergency response, working as part of the Kent Resilience Forum
- An increase in police patrols in lockdowns and periods of reduced restrictions - ensuring compliance with regulations, ensuring people are safe and managing ASB
- Ensuring our commissioned services are accessible to all of those who need them, and responding to changing access needs in the context of lockdown
- Undertaking proactive operations, particularly targeting known drug dealers and making best use of police stop and search powers
- Keeping essential services going, such as our CCTV control room, our probation and offender services and education for children and young people

The matrix approach

In order to ensure an objective approach in setting our priorities, as well as ensuring our resources are targeted at the areas most in need, work was undertaken in 2018/19 to develop a new strategic assessment approach, using a matrix tool. The matrix allows for different data and views to be overlaid on each other, ensuring that our prioritisation process takes a big picture view.

This is the main matrix used in identifying the future priorities for Ashford and can be seen below. The matrix summarises various considerations in the assessment of what should become our priorities. The crime/problem types (left hand column in table) are chosen because of their borough priority, political concern, or because they accounted for greater than 1% of the total notifiable offences in Ashford. The following nine variables have been taken into consideration when determining the priorities:

Volume	Seriousness	Generator
Performance	Priority	Cost
Trends	Public Concern	PESTELO

Each variable is then ranked on a scale of concern, with the lowest scores for the lowest concern and the highest scores for very high concerns. The total score across the variables is then calculated for that crime/problem type. A detailed methodology is available in the strategic assessment.

For the 2021/22 rolling action plan update only the volume, performance and trend categories were updated, and priority scores were not adjusted from the 2020/21 matrix. This was agreed by the ACSP in the light of the global pandemic and impacts upon usual crime and disorder patterns.

The crime and disorder priority matrix

	Volume	Performance	Trend	Cost	Seriousness	Generator	Public concern	Priority	PESTELGO	Total
Violence with injury	Red	Blue	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red
Violence without injury	Red	Blue	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Possession of weapon offences	Blue	Blue	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow
Other sexual offences	Blue	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow
Rape	Blue	Blue	Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red
Residential burglary	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Red	Blue	Green	Yellow
Business and community burglary	Blue	Red	Blue	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Green	Green
Robbery (all)	Blue	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Theft from the person	Blue	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Yellow	Blue	Green	Green
Bicycle theft	Blue	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue
Vehicle offences	Green	Green	Blue	Green	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue	Green	Green
Shoplifting	Green	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue
All other theft offences	Yellow	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Green
Drug offences	Blue	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow
Public order offences / antisocial behaviour	Yellow	Blue	Red	Blue	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red
Domestic abuse	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red
Criminal damage	Red	Green	Green	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Green
Arson	Blue	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
Racially/religiously aggravated	Blue	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow

Key

9 - 14.9	Blue
15 - 19.9	Green
20 - 23.9	Yellow
24 - 25.9	Orange
26+	Red

All data is based on April 2020 - December 2020, aside from trend, which is based on Apr - Dec 2016 to Apr - Dec 2020
 Note DA based on police additional measures data, not Foresight data - performance data based on ranking against all Kent districts, not MSG, and is period April - November 2020 (trend data is compared to April - November 2016. Based on total notifiable offences and does not include secondary incidents

Key findings

- Volume – based on the period April – December 2020 violence without injury accounted for **1,421** offences, violence with injury accounted for **747** offences, criminal damage accounted for **989** offences, public order/ASB accounted for **639** offences. Based on data for April – November 2020 there were **1,582** notifiable offences with a domestic abuse flag.
- Performance - business and community burglary, residential burglary, are under performing areas compared to most similar family group, although on the whole Ashford performs well compared to most similar family group (please note DA is compared to other Kent districts). Performance has improved when compared to our most similar family group in bicycle theft, vehicle offences and arson, which in 2019/20 were identified as comparatively underperforming areas.
- Trend – the vast majority of crime types show a downward trend. Public order offences have increased by **299.4%** comparing April – December 2016 to April – December 2020. Racially and religiously aggravated flags have increased by **139.1%** and domestic abuse has increased by **122.5%**.

The below key findings were identified in the priority matrix (data from) 2019/20:

- Cost – rape and business and community burglary rate highly in this category due to relatively high economic and social costs.
- Seriousness – violence with injury, rape and domestic abuse rate highly in this category due to the high potential impact of harm (physical and emotional) on the victim.
- Generator – substance misuse is a significant generator linked to acquisitive and other crimes.
- Generator – domestic abuse is a generator of crime in the short, medium and long term.
- Public concern – violent offences, weapons offences, robbery, residential burglary and ASB all featured as priorities for Ashford and Kent residents.
- Priority – domestic abuse and ASB were identified as key priorities for partner organisations, as well as in a national context. Violence reduction in general, and gang and group related offences were also a priority at a national and local level.
- PESTELO – rape, other sexual offences, domestic abuse and possession of weapon offences score highly in the PESTELO.

Temporal matrix

It was agreed that the temporal matrix for 2020/21 would not be produced, given that Covid19 has had a significant impact on usual patterns of crime and therefore meaningful analysis would not be possible. The temporal matrix for 2019/20 is shown instead.

The temporal matrix is based on Forcesight and ward based police data. Using this information the total percentage contribution by month was calculated for each crime type.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Violence with injury	Orange	Green	Green	Blue	Red	Orange	Red	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Blue
Violence without injury	Red	Green	Blue	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Red	Green	Blue
Possession of weapon offences	Red	Orange	Red	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Orange	Orange	Red	Orange	Blue
Other sexual offences	Red	Blue	Red	Red	Orange	Green	Red	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Blue
Rape	Blue	Yellow	Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Green	Orange
Residential burglary	Orange	Green	Red	Blue	Green	Blue	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Yellow
Business and community burglary	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Orange	Blue	Green	Red	Green	Green	Red
Robbery (all)	Blue	Green	Red	Green	Red	Blue	Orange	Red	Blue	Orange	Orange	Blue
Theft from the person	Green	Red	Red	Orange	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Blue
Bicycle theft	Blue	Orange	Red	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Red	Orange	Red	Blue	Blue	Blue
Vehicle offences	Yellow	Orange	Red	Green	Yellow	Blue	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Blue
Shoplifting	Yellow	Blue	Red	Green	Red	Orange	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Red
All other theft offences	Blue	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Blue
Drug offences	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Orange	Blue	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Blue	Blue
Public order offences / antisocial behaviour	Yellow	Blue	Red	Blue	Orange	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Blue
Domestic abuse	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Blue	Green
Criminal damage	Red	Blue	Red	Blue	Red	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red
Arson	Green	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Blue	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green
Racially/religiously aggravated	Green	Yellow	Red	Blue	Green	Red	Blue	Orange	Green	Red	Green	Blue

Data is rolling year to November 2019, from Forcesight
 Domesic abuse data is rolling year to September 2019, from police additional data

The key shows:

- Red** – performance is significantly above the average for that crime, based on monthly average calculation.
- Amber** – performance is above the average for that crime, based on monthly average calculation.
- Yellow** - performance is average for that crime, based on monthly average calculation.
- Green** – performance is below the average for that crime, based on monthly average calculation.
- Blue** – performance is significantly below the average for that crime, based on monthly average calculation.

Key findings from 2019/20 matrix

- March (n=1,226) and September (n=1,228) show peaks in a broad range of crimes, making them the peak months by percentage calculation across crime types
- Overall May is the peak month for crime and disorder in Ashford, accounting for **1,236** offences. However, this is largely explained by significant peaks in this month for high volume crimes e.g. violence with injury
- Violence with injury offences peak in May (n=116) and July (n=114), with a general hotspot over the summer months (monthly average n=97)
- Violence without injury offences peak in January (n=201) and October (n=193), with a general peak period over the summer months (monthly average n=176)
- April (n=15), May (n=18), and August (n=16) are peak months for rape, as they were in last year's strategic assessment (monthly average n=10)
- Other sexual offences show a peak in January (n=30), March (n=30), April (n=28) and July (n=31), similar to last year's matrix (monthly average n=23)
- Domestic abuse shows hotspots in July (n=292), August (n=301) and October (n=292) (monthly average n=265)
- Public order offences/ASB peak in March (n=119) and June (n=113) (monthly average n=86)
- Robbery shows peaks in March (n=15), May (n=17) and August (n=16), which may correspond to holiday periods (monthly average n=11)

Location matrix

In as part of the strategic assessment and rolling action plan process for 2019/20 a location matrix was developed. Unfortunately, due to ward boundary changes in 2019 and issues within police data systems, and latterly in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has not been possible to produce a location matrix for 2020/21 strategic assessment and rolling action plan. The location matrix will be completed as soon is reasonably possible after the data issues are resolved.

It is planned to also add accused and victim matrices in future strategic assessments, based on the availability of the required data sources.

What did the strategic assessment tell us?

Further information from the strategic assessment is included in the following sections, but key highlights are:

- Total crime in Ashford has reduced by **-14.2%** when comparing the periods January – December 2019 to January – December 2020. Across Kent there has been a reduction of **- 10.5%** in total crime. All districts record a reduction in crime, and Ashford has the largest percentage reduction.
- There are significant decreases across many crime types, with Covid19 having a significant impact upon many crime types. The crimes that show an **increase** are:
 - Rape (**+9.8%**)
 - Possession of weapon offences (**+25%**)
 - Drug offences (both trafficking (**+102.8%**) and possession (**+66.9%**))
 - Offences with a domestic abuse flag have increased from **2,102** to **2,296**
- Respondents to the Police and Crime Commissioner's survey 2020 were asked how safe do you feel where you live on a scale of 1 to 10 (1=very unsafe and 10= very safe). The mean score across all respondents was **6.97**. Ashford's average was slightly below the Kent mean at **6.87**. Ashford is ranked **9th** out of the 13 districts – this does not reflect actual crime rates and rankings across Kent, and may indicate necessary activity in relation to the perception of crime.

There are a number of areas we need to understand in further detail, and we need to take steps to address these areas as part of our sub group activity 2021/22. These areas are outlined in this document.

Based on the strategic assessment, as well as consideration of the information above, the ACSP board has agreed our priorities for 2021/22 are:

- Tackling violence
- Tackling domestic abuse and sexual offences
- Tackling anti-social and concerning behaviour
- Building community capacity and increasing public confidence

Tackling violence

Our strategic approach

We know that violence is made up of a number of distinct areas. There is domestic abuse (which is dealt with in our other priority area), night time economy related offences, town centre related offences, youth violence and others. Our matrix approach will ensure we understand each distinct type of violence and that we respond according to the scale of individual problems.

We work to ensure we have a range of interventions, ensuring both our help offer and our enforcement approach are robust and targeted. We also know that a key part of this work stream is our ongoing communication and dialogue with our communities, ensuring they understand the crime profile in Ashford and that we work closely with them to manage perceptions and fear of crime.

The strategic assessment told us

The strategic assessment did not update data related to violence. The below highlights are from the 2020/21 rolling action plan:

- Based on the period April – December 2020 violence without injury accounted for **1,421** offences, and violence with injury accounted for **747** offences,
- Violence without injury offences peak in January (n=**201**) and October (n=**193**), with a general peak period over the summer months (monthly average n=**176**).
- Violence against the person has decreased by **-3.1%** (n=**-148**) when comparing December 2017 – November 2018 to December 2018 to November 2019. This should be considered against an increase of **39.33%** (n=**1,361**) comparing November 2017 – October 2018 to the same period in the previous year.
- Most serious violence has decreased by **22%** in Ashford, the biggest reduction in Kent and going against Kent wide trends.
- Robbery has increased by **46.2%** (n=**+42**) based on the period December 2018 – November 2019 as compared to the same rolling period the previous year.
- For the data period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 there were **39** Ashford hospital admissions (including repeat admissions) due to an assault. These admissions relate to **37** individuals. This is an increase from **29** admissions and **29** individuals in the last strategic assessment.

Tackling violence – key activity for 2021/22

Lead agency – Ashford Police

Key Areas	Key actions	Key outcomes and performance measures
Prepare	Ensure positive diversionary activities are in place and linked to those who are most at risk of becoming involved in violence based on our intelligence and data	Reduction in youth violence
Protect	Explore related opportunities to provide hospital based interventions	Reduction in possession of weapon offences in the town centre and other hot spots
Prevent	Build on the success of Operation Jump and develop targeted activity for parents and carers	Increased partnership working with the community, including increased intelligence reports
Pursue	<p>Continue to work with the Violence Reduction unit, where possible linking with our 'top ten' offenders approach and our approach to those at risk of involvement</p> <p>Develop a zero tolerance night time economy approach, building on the success of recent compliance and drug swab action taken in relation to licensed premises</p>	<p>Reduction in gang / offensive weapon related violence</p> <p>Reduction in violence with and without injury</p>

Tackling domestic abuse and sexual offences

Our strategic approach

We recognise that domestic abuse is a serious and life threatening crime that affects victims and their families. Our priority is that victims of domestic abuse and any children within the family are safeguarded from any further abuse.

Although we have prioritised women and girls as victims of domestic abuse, we recognise that men can also be victims and our domestic abuse service provides support services for men as well as women. We want to empower women and girls to move on from abuse and sexual violence, to form healthy relationships and to have increased confidence to report incidents. We will have a greater focus on work around the younger age groups and address any need for interventions around girls and gangs. Other issues for further understanding are female genital mutilation, forced marriage and honour based violence.

We will continue to take a coordinated approach across the partnership, ensuring all agencies work together to tackle domestic abuse, sexual offences and violence against women and girls.

What did we achieve in 2020/21?

Working across Kent partners, significant work was undertaken to ensure services were accessible to victims of domestic abuse during lockdown. Services were remodeled and refocused as required e.g. increasing web based access and telephone access. A great deal of communications activity was undertaken to raise awareness of these changes, for both victims and professionals.

The strategic assessment told us

- The upward trend in domestic abuse continues. During the period January – December 2020 there were **2,296** total notifiable offences, as compared to the period October 2018 – September 2019, when there were **2,102** total notifiable domestic abuse offences in Ashford.
- In January – December 2020 there were **3,305** incidents with a domestic abuse flag.
- **1,832** of the notifiable offences were violence against the person offences, including **557** stalking and harassment offences and **247** coercion and control offences.
- The peak months for violence against the person offences between December 2019 and November 2020 were August (**206**) and July (**202**)
- The peak months for stalking and harassment offences between December 2019 and November 2020 were August (**72**) and February (**62**)
- Between January and December 2020 were **68** sexual offences with a domestic abuse flag, including **43** rapes.
- The peak months for stalking and harassment offences between December 2019 and November 2020 were September (**12**) and February (**8**)
- The peak months for rape offences between December 2019 and November 2020 were September (**8**) and February (**7**)
- The offences with a domestic abuse flag, the arrest rate was **35%**, and the charge rate was **5%**.
- Of the incidents reported to police, only **15.1%** accessed commissioned services, although this is the second highest level of the Kent districts, and above the Kent average of **7.4%**.

Tackling domestic abuse and sexual offences – key activity for 2021/22

Lead agency – Domestic abuse forum

Key Areas	Key actions	Key outcomes and performance measures
Prepare	Develop proposals to utilize our OSS approach on a hub basis, ensuring there is a borough wide provision.	Increase in reports and use of commissioned services
Protect	Ensure we have mechanisms in place to support reporting by all victims of domestic abuse and sexual offences, particularly those who are most vulnerable (including as a response to Covid19)	Increase in reports and use of commissioned services
Prevent	Explore options for community campaign to increase awareness of domestic abuse, its impacts and how to tackle perceived acceptability – including ensuring the effective longer term recovery of victims and their children via a range of programmes in place	Reducing youth crime/ASB, reducing domestic abuse in the long term, reduced repeat victim rate
Pursue	Maximise use of existing resources to target repeat and/or most dangerous perpetrators e.g. the multi-agency risk assessment conference	Reduced repeat victim rate, reduced repeat offender rate

Tackling anti-social and concerning behaviour

Our strategic approach

All residents have the right to the peaceful enjoyment of their own homes and neighbourhood. ASB can have a serious impact on the wellbeing of residents and for those who work or socialise in Ashford.

Any behaviours that are regarded as a nuisance could be considered to be anti-social. This behavior can range from low level activity to incidents that are also a criminal offence. We undertake to tackle ASB, with a focus on incidents that are deemed more high risk and impactful upon communities and individuals.

We do understand that some presentations of ASB can actually reveal some concerning information surrounding the alleged 'perpetrator'. Where this is the case, we work to tackle these issues from a supportive angle. Otherwise emphasis will be on ensuring that perpetrators are dealt with effectively and at an early stage before the problem can escalate.

We work closely with the police to ensure that repeat victims are identified and that the council and police work together to support such individuals.

What did we achieve in 2020/21?

- Our modern slavery statement was produced and agreed by Ashford Borough Council.
- Our Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) have been reviewed and refreshed
- We have produced an ASB toolkit, with all processes, services and tools contained within it
- We have a new online community trigger form and we have established the new ASB vulnerability meeting
- A new ASB caseworker officer was appointed. This role has had significant success in managing and closing complex ASB cases.

The strategic assessment told us

- There were **842** public order offences in Ashford during the period January – December 2020, compared to **1,023** during the period January – December 2019, a drop of **-17.7%**
- There were **1,094** ASB reports to ABC during 2020/21, compared to **296** in 2019/20. **144** of the calls in 2020/21 were related to amplified music (compared to **91** in 2019/20), and **107** were in relation to barking dog (compared to **76** in 2019/20). The significant increase is explained by the pandemic and lockdown periods, and this is reflected in the most frequent types of complaint.
- The peak months for ASB reports to the council were July (**152**) and August (**122**)
- The Police and Crime Commissioner's 2020 survey asked respondents to select up to six issues from a pre-defined list of 22, which they felt to be the most important. **3,276** people selected at least one issue. ASB was the most frequently selected issue, with **53.24%** placing it in their top six issues.
- ASB was the top issue for those over 30, those living in urban and rural areas and black and minority ethnic groups. It was not ranked as an issue by those aged 29 or less.
- Kent Fire and Rescue Services data shows deliberate fires set in Ashford during the period October 2019 – September 2020 return to the levels in line with long term trend (n=**115**), after a peak in October 2018 – September 2019 (n=**134**). Victoria shows an increase in deliberate fires set during the period October 2019 to September 2020. Increases are also seen in South Willesborough and Weald Central. There is a long term decline in incidents in Beaver.

Tackling anti-social and concerning behaviour – key activity 2021/22

Lead agency – Ashford Borough Council

Key Areas	Key actions	Key outcomes and performance measures
Prepare	<p>Ensure positive diversionary activities are in place and linked to those who are most at risk of becoming involved or are involved in ASB based on our intelligence and data</p> <p>Work with housing associations to ensure robust measures and powers are in place to tackle ASB</p>	<p>Reduction in ASB</p> <p>Attendance at any planned events</p>
Protect	<p>Consider investment in technology to support victims such as “ring door bells”</p>	<p>Reduction of ASB reports in Victoria ward</p> <p>Reduction in repeat victims that progress from ASB to victims of crime</p>
Prevent	<p>Develop a Multi-Agency Plan to tackle NTE. Consider the resourcing levels of partners and contain measures to deal with the current issues experienced in Ashford town centre.</p> <p>Work with partners to produce a strategic, case-managed approach to dealing with the long-term street drinkers, street populations etc.</p> <p>Develop a program for partnership operations and visible partnership patrols, targeted at ASB hotspots</p>	<p>Reduction in ASB reports to all partners</p>
Pursue	<p>Continue to work with the CSU, where possible linking with our ‘top ten’ offenders approach and our approach to those at risk of involvement</p> <p>Work with the Kent Community safety team on producing a streamlined and recognised platform for dealing with Community Triggers.</p>	<p>Reduction in repeat/complex ASB cases, increased community capacity to tackle issues</p>

Building community capacity and increasing public confidence

Our strategic approach

We know that often communities are best placed to tackle their own issues. Key to the work of the partnership is building sustainable community capacity to enable this.

It is also vital to the work of the partnership to ensure our services meet the needs of all communities, particularly the most vulnerable in our communities such as victims of hate crime and those with multiple disadvantages.

We also need to ensure that the perception of crime in our borough reflects the reality of crime in the borough, and we know this requires sustained community leadership and ongoing conversations and effective communications.

The strategic assessment told us

- The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) annual policing survey was conducted in 2020. The survey was conducted across Kent and Medway. The top issues of concern to respondents were ASB, gangs, county lines, child sexual exploitation, knife crime and burglary.
- The residents survey undertaken by Ashford Borough Council revealed **89%** of our residents feel fairly safe or very safe in their local area during the day, **70%** feel safe or very safe in their local area in the evening and **49%** feel fairly safe or very safe after dark in their local area.
- Respondents from Roman Ward felt the most unsafe during the day (**16%**), followed by Bockhanger (**11%**), Victoria (**9%**), and Beaver (**9%**).
- Respondents in Beaver ward felt most unsafe during the evening (**29%**), followed by Singleton West (**28%**) and Bockhanger (**28%**).
- Respondents from Norman ward felt the most unsafe after dark, with **71%** of them reporting they feel unsafe to an extent. This is followed by Godinton (**70%**) and Victoria (**61%**) wards.
- There were **1,632** referrals to KCC specialist children's services, with the peak wards being Washford (**198**) and Beaver (**187**).
- Between December 2019 and November 2020 there were **226** hate crimes reported. There was a charge rate of **6.6%**.
- The fall in the number of offences committed by young people continues (**229** in 2014/15 to **71** in 2019/20). There are, however, variations across crime type (although please note all volumes are relatively low) including:
 - Most crime types have fallen, including significant decreases in motoring offences, public order offences and theft and handling
 - There has been an increase in drugs offences, and violence against the person
- Ashford experienced the highest rise in drug offences in Kent in 2020. Drug offences recorded by the police increased by **75.0%** (n=+**120**) in Ashford when comparing January – December 2019 to January – December 2020. This compares to a Kent wide increase of **28.0%**. Largely this increase has been caused by lockdown restricting movements of drug dealers, enabling a large number of proactive operations and arrests by police.

Building community capacity and increasing public confidence– key activity 2021/22

Lead agency – Ashford Borough Council

Key Areas	Key actions	Key outcomes and performance measures
Prepare	Deliver the CHES community engagement and leadership project – as soon as is reasonably possible in light of current circumstances. The project will deliver area based activity to reduce violence and increase community capacity and resilience	Reduction in violent crime offences related to the geographical location of the project
Protect	Continue to support community capacity through the effective use of Police and Crime Commissioner grant, using the intelligence within the strategic assessment to ensure grants are aligned to priorities	Project targets linked to priority targets and achieved
Prevent	Continue to support the development of Neighbourhood Watch and Pubwatch and Shopwatch schemes	Increased number of Neighbourhood Watch schemes, reduction in night time economy related violence, reduction in shoplifting
Pursue	Review activity in the context of Covid19 community responses in relation to community safety and capacity	To be developed based on review

Next steps

We need to know how well we are performing and whether our interventions outlined in the action plans above are making a real difference. To do this, we have set ourselves targets under each of our thematic priorities. These will be monitored on a regular basis. The following set of top line indicators will be used to measure performance overall:

- 2% reduction in violence with injury
- 2% increase in reported domestic abuse (or outcomes)
- 5% increase in reported sexual offences (or outcomes)
- 5% increase in reported hate crime (or outcomes)
- 2% reduction in reported ASB (following on a mapping exercise to establish baseline)
- 5% decrease in the number of people stating that community safety services need to improve as per the council's residents survey, with baseline established of resident's perception of safety before and after dark

In preparing the 2021/22 strategic assessment and rolling action plan, we will seek to build on this year's document. We will continue to invest in an approach which will allow us to assess priorities and priority crime types and build a detailed picture around the victim offender location triangle for each priority. This will enable real targeted action to be devised and delivered by the partnership, as well as providing a useful tool for individual agencies to mainstream into their wider organisational business planning processes. This should translate into increased activity focusing on real changes to key crime trends and levels. This data will also inform commissioning partners and grant giving decisions moving forward.



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