

Swale Community Safety Plan 2025/26

1. Introduction

The Swale Community Safety Plan highlights how the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) plans to tackle community safety issues that matter to the local community.

This Plan is revised on an annual basis, through reviewing information provided from a wide range of organisations in a strategic assessment, to ensure that current issues can be taken into account into the activities undertaken by the CSP. It also takes into account local emerging issue and new legislative requirements.

2. Background

Swale CSP is a statutory body bringing together a number of public sector agencies to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reduce re-offending. These agencies include Swale Borough Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Probation services, and Health services, working closely with the local housing associations such as Southern Housing, voluntary and community sector organisations and HM Prison Service.

3. Strategic Drivers

- Budgets/grant loss: There are a number of implications from the Autumn Budget, along with wider loss of funding streams that are felt to present a threat/risk to the work of the CSP during the upcoming year and to have a real impact in local families/communities:
 - o Loss of external grants: Safer Streets is one funding stream coming to an end in March 2025 that is not to be replaced. This will see the loss of a number of funded projects including street marshals and youth work. There are also a number of other funding streams that are unclear whether will continue that impact on domestic abuse and youth diversionary schemes.
 - o KCC Funding: KCC are having to make a number of funding decisions due to their financial difficulties which again are expected to impact on the work of the CSP, particularly around the preventative element of our work – some of these have already been made or are due to be made and are expected to see costs shunted onto wider partners due to the longer term implications of the loss of these preventative services:
 - Externally commissioned youth work
 - Wellbeing services for adults aged 55 and over
 - KCC Wardens (numbers and locations reduced)
 - Seashells children centre
 - o National Insurance Changes: NI changes introduced in the Autumn Statement will see many organisations required to pay a greater NI contribution for their staff. Although majority of public sector agencies will be exempt from this, it will have a real impact on VCSE organisations, many of whom are already struggling due to loss of grants. This change is likely to see some community based services cease.

- Cost of Living: Swale communities continue to feel the impact of cost of living, with the Swale COL partnership group still in place to seek to address some of these issues. Nationally it is estimated 9.3 million people facing hunger and hardship in the UK with use of food banks at historically high levels; and the numbers of people on Universal Credit in Kent and Medway (Oct '24) increased by 138% since March 2020.
- Local government reform/devolution: The Government has committed to introducing the English Devolution Bill in the first session putting the Devolution Framework into statute. English Devolution plans includes the development of new Strategic Authorities and local government reorganisation involving replacing all 'two-tier' county and district councils with single tier 'unitary' authorities. Kent authorities have been invited to submit plans for local government reorganisation (LGR) by November 25. This process will likely have an impact on community safety responses by Councils, but in the medium to longer term whilst reorganisation takes place.
- Legacy issues of Covid: There are still ramifications of Covid that need to be considered, particularly in relation to Young People and development points having been missed which fuels other key aspects e.g. jobs/skills/offending/mental health/resitting of exams/behaviour within school-maturity levels. There is a need to understand these concerns and how we can collectively start to address them.
- Place: It is important, in light of all of the above, that the needs of 'Swale as a Place' are not forgotten and that the CSP is a key partner in seeking to address the needs of communities, looking at them as a whole.

4. Priorities for 2025/26

A Strategic Assessment is compiled annually to show progress for the Partnership against its current priorities, along with identifying emerging issues, and recommended priorities for the next 12 months.

The priorities for 2025/26 for the CSP were selected by members of the Partnership, taking into account the findings from the strategic assessment and discussions with partners. A series of cross cutting themes have also been identified which are key initiatives that will support the delivery of all of the priorities.

Domestic Abuse and VAWG

- Understand risk to services of funding changes
- Ongoing sharing of details on local services and referral routes
 - Enhanced Training for partners
- Ensure a local VAWG action plan is in place to address education and locations of concern

Crime and Serious Violence

- Support delivery of Kent Serious Violence Strategy and ensure localised delivery
- Continue to monitor localised crime trends and support response as needed, with a partnership focus on potential increased youth crime/violence

Swale CSP Priorities 2025/26

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Continue to support high risk ASB victims and tackle perpetrators;
- Continue to tackle location based problems including focus on town centres
- focus on a potential increase in youth related ASB and need for diversionary activities

Supporting vulnerable people

- Continuation of Cost of Living work to support those most vulnerable in the community
 - Continue to raise awareness of Prevent agenda and ensure appropriate training is in place
- Focus on the impact of loss of services due to funding on vulnerable groups (including young people)

Cross Cutting Themes

- Young People
- Funding risk
- Reducing Reoffending
- Communication

Summary of Swale CSP Priorities

Priority – Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

Summary of issue: The number of Domestic Abuse (and Secondary) Incidents reported to Kent Police in the reporting period has reduced. However, the CSP Executive Group feel that the decrease reflects changes in recording to the Police, more so than change in demand as local support services are not reporting a decrease in those accessing services or needing support.

The Home Office counting rules determine how all Force's in England and Wales are required to record crime. Previously for Domestic Abuse, all offences would be recorded individually that relate to the same incident. This has since been changed to record offences that form part of one incident under one investigation. This means that previously 5 offences linked to 1 incident would be recorded as 5 investigations but under the new rules would now only be recorded as 1 investigation. As such this is likely to be a contributory factor in the reduction of Domestic Abuse offences although it is not possible to determine the extent of this.

The overall analysis of Domestic Abuse across Swale reveals continued high volumes of victims, with increasing complexity and expanding diversity. There continues to be a good partnership working to support victims of domestic abuse and address their needs; however financial challenges ahead may risk some of this work.

There is a need for the partnership to explore the emerging issues identified in relation to suicide and counter with additional training/awareness raising work to take place.

The partnership will continue to support Kent Police in the delivery of regular VAWG surgeries across the Borough. Education programmes will also continue, including engagement with residents on Caravan Parks across Swale with activities and advice.

Violence Against Women and Girls also needs to have a continuing strengthened focus, including education for men/boys through the relaunch of the White Ribbon Campaign and support to tackle locations of concern for the community.

Priority actions for 2025/26:

- Understand risk to services of funding changes
- Ongoing sharing of details on local services and referral routes
- Enhanced training for partners
- Ensure a local VAWG action plan is in place to address education and locations of concern

Priority – Crime and Serious Violence

Summary of issue: During the reporting period, there has been an overall reduction in Crime reported in Swale. Violent Crime has also seen a decrease of 4.8% with Sittingbourne and Sheerness Town Centres being subject to additional funding to tackle violent crimes, allowing additional resourcing of Street Marshalls and increased lighting and CCTV.

However, as the partnership enters 2025/26, it is essential for the to continue monitoring all crime types, focusing on the impact of loss of funding such as Safer Streets and violent crime hotspot projects, particularly the affect on Sheerness and Sittingbourne town centres and engagement with young people.

The Serious Violence Duty remains in place, making it essential that the Swale CSP continue to focus on Crime and SV, ensuring representation on the SVPP. The Swale CSP has been working with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to tackle violence for a number of years which has included working through the District Adolescent Contextual Safeguarding Meeting (DACSM) to focus on youth related violence. This will continue to be an area of focus, looking at key location problems.

Priority action for 2025/26:

- Support delivery of Kent Serious Violence Strategy and ensure localised delivery
- Continue to monitor localised crime trends and support response as needed, with a partnership focus on potential increased youth crime/violence

Priority – Anti-Social Behaviour

Summary of issue: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) reported to Kent Police has seen a slight increase in the reporting period and remains a priority for Kent Police and the Partnership due to the importance to the community. Incidents within the town centres remain a concern and will continue to be a focus in 2025/26.

2024/25 has seen challenges related to young people and the need for diversionary activities. This pressure is only expected to increase as the year progresses due to funding concerns and a partnership group has been developed to monitor impact and explore options for support as required.

The Community Safety Unit (CSU) continue to support those highest risk and vulnerable victims, with action taken against key perpetrators. Equipment has been provided to these to enable better evidence to capture and feelings of safety.

Priority action for 2025/26:

- Continue to support high risk ASB victims and tackle perpetrators
- Continue to tackle location based problems included focus on town centres
- Focus on a potential increase in youth related ASB and need for diversionary activities

Priority – Supporting Vulnerable People

Summary of Issue: Identifying and supporting vulnerable people has been a key priority for the Community Safety Partnership for a number of years. There continues to be good engagement with partners in supporting vulnerable people, with increased work taking place with the Voluntary and Community Sector in supporting those affected by the cost of living crisis, which continues to impact residents as well as individual agencies. A

partnership response to this continues to be a priority, with a specific focus needed on impacts to young people.

During 2022, the partnership launched its complex needs pilot which continued to operate through 2024/25. This has seen a dedicated officer to work intensively with entrenched drinkers with complex needs, to engage them with services.

Preventing Extremism has been a duty for partner agencies for many years, with county wide mechanisms for referral and support well embedded. Ongoing training for partnership staff needs to continue to ensure that this awareness remains high, as well as the need for partnership conversation around links to Incel/Misogyny.

Through the work with the Medway and Swale Health and Care Partnership, the CSP have become aware of increased suicide rates in Swale. Data review is required to understand this data set and determine any further steps that can be taken to raise awareness of support across the Borough.

Swale BC are also planning to launch a Loneliness Project which is aiming to develop a holistic approach with a legacy that will continue to support residents and reduce requirement for additional services. There is a need for the Swale CSP to be involved in the development of this project and support where required.

Priority action for 2025/26:

- Continuation of Cost of Living work to support those most vulnerable in the community
- Continue to raise awareness of Prevent agenda and ensure appropriate training is in place
- Focus on the impact of loss of services due to funding on vulnerable groups (including young people)

Cross Cutting Theme – Reducing Reoffending

Summary of theme: Reducing Reoffending is a long-standing cross cutting theme for the partnership.

For many offenders their needs are complex and mechanisms are needed to best address these such as the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) process which has continued to run.

Following the general election, the new Government announced an early release scheme, which saw the early release of offenders from all three Swale prisons. This scheme was carefully managed, involving key partners such as HMPS, Prison, Police and Housing and for Swale did see limited impact at the time. Ongoing schemes to manage the prison population are likely to impact on key partners and again would require an ongoing partnership approach.

Cross Cutting Theme – Communication and Training

Summary of theme: There is an ongoing need for clear communication across all agencies and appropriate information sharing to enable effective partnership work. During previous years, this has included sharing of information in relation to national campaigns, such as the 16 days of action against domestic abuse; Safer Street Initiatives; tackling jet ski misuse,

Sittingbourne town centre street drinkers and ASB; and cost of living work.

Battery Fires and Dangerous Dogs are both new areas of concern for which the partnership can support through key messaging.

Communication needs to remain between partners to promote services that are available across all partnerships, along with risks and the ongoing collaboration for resources. There is also a need to consider any underreporting of crimes/issues due to digital isolation or apathy of services.

Cross Cutting Theme – Young People

Summary of Theme:

It is recommended to keep the young person cross cutting theme for 2025/26 that was introduced last year as a result of young people and their needs continuing to be identified as an area of concern across all priorities.

There is a need to prevent young people engaging with crime/violence/ASB but also to better understand the impact of the loss of services seen during 2024/25 on their needs.

Cross Cutting Theme - Funding Impacts

Summary of Theme:

It is recommended to introduce funding impacts as a cross cutting theme in 2025/26 due to the high risk of loss of funding for services which are predominately preventative across all priority areas.

There are a number of implications from the Autumn Budget, along with wider loss of funding streams that are felt to present a threat/risk to the work of the CSP during the upcoming year and to have a real impact in local families/communities:

- Loss of external grants: Safer Streets is one funding stream coming to an end in March 2025 that is not to be replaced. This will see the loss of a number of funded projects including street marshals and youth work. There are also a number of other funding streams that are unclear whether will continue that impact on domestic abuse and youth diversionary schemes.
- KCC Funding: KCC are having to make a number of funding decisions due to their financial difficulties which again are expected to impact on the work of the CSP, particularly around the preventative element of our work – some of these have already been made or are due to be made and are expected to see costs shunted onto wider partners due to the longer term implications of the loss of these preventative services:
 - Externally commissioned youth work
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- National Insurance Changes: NI changes introduced in the Autumn Statement will see many organisations required to pay a greater NI contribution for their staff. Although majority of public sector agencies will be exempt from this, it will have a real impact on VCSE organisations, many of whom are already struggling due to loss of grants. This change is likely to see some community based services cease.

5. Action Plan 2025/26

No.	Action	Desired Outcome	Key Milestones	Timescales	Lead agency
Priority 1: Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls					
1.1	Promotion of services available to both professionals and the community	Professionals aware of services available; community aware of how to seek help	Quarterly refresh of mapping of services Annual 'meet the professional' event to promote services available in Swale	Quarterly December 26	Domestic Abuse Group
1.2	Enhanced training focusing on specialist areas such as suicide awareness, dual allegations, alongside ensuring all partners have access to basic domestic abuse awareness training	Increased understanding by professionals of specialist areas relating to DA	Training shared with wider set of partners around recognising domestic abuse and referral routes. Deliver enhanced training around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suicide - Counter/Dual Allegations 	Ongoing Autumn/Winter 26	Domestic Abuse Group
1.3	Support delivery of County Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan	Increased understanding of domestic abuse and focused action on key priority areas.	Participation in county meeting groups and delivery of agreed actions from Delivery Plan. Ongoing support of 'Sanctuary' provision Support rollout and ongoing review of MARAC process Support process for recommissioning of KIDAS contract	Ongoing	Domestic Abuse Group
1.4	Delivery of key actions to tackle VAWG	Increased awareness of VAWG within the community	Relaunch of White Ribbon Campaign Delivery of further Bystander Training	Summer 26 Ongoing	Domestic Abuse Group

			<p>Promotion of services within schools focusing on healthy relationships education including through secondary schools roadshows</p> <p>Review Emergency Call Point Pilot and consider next steps.</p> <p>Support 16 days of actions against VAWG</p> <p>Review locations highlighted of concern and any actions to address safety concerns, applying a problem solving approach to tackle</p> <p>Support the relaunch of Street pastors</p> <p>Engagement activities to promote tackling VAWG, focusing on caravan parks across Swale</p> <p>Continuation of delivery of VAWG surgeries</p>	<p>September 26</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>November 26</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Kent Police
1.5	SATEDA Prevent Pilot Project	Increased understanding of linkage between DA and extremism	<p>Sharing of evaluation report from initial pilot</p> <p>Consider next steps for project</p>	<p>April</p> <p>May onwards</p>	SATEDA
Priority 2: Crime and Serious Violence					
2.1	Work with Kent-wide partners to continue response to Serious Violence	CSP meets its new duties under the Serious Violence Duty; serious violence is reduced in borough	<p>Deliver response to localised violence hotspots</p> <p>Roll out of Knife Arch project</p> <p>Continuation Sports Connect Project</p> <p>VRU/CCPT led response to young people/locations of concern</p>	Ongoing	

2.2	Continue to monitor and respond to localised crime trends and support response as needed	Reduction in acquisitive crime types	Monthly monitoring of youth crime/violence through the District Adolescent Contextual Safeguarding Group Safer Plans in place to address any peaks/trends in crime types Delivery of crime reduction equipment project	Ongoing	
Priority 3: ASB					
3.1	Continue joint response to tackle ASB through the Community Safety Unit	Reduction in ASB	Response to support high risk victims of ASB Delivery of products to increase feelings of safety/evidence capture to victims Ensure partnership response to high harm locations	Ongoing	CSU
3.2	Explore funding opportunities for street marshals	Reduction in ASB	Funding opportunities considered Continuation of scheme, funding permitting	ongoing	CSU
3.3	Delivery of dedicated operations and campaigns, tackling location based problems as required	Reduction in ASB	Managing water safety/jet skis on Isle of Sheppey Safer Leysdown Thematic Safer Campaigns Vacant/Derelict Building Response as required Continuation of Sittingbourne Town Centre focus group	Quarterly	CSU Kent Police
Priority 4: Supporting Vulnerable People					

4.1	Continuation of complex needs project	Increased engagement with services by identified cohort	Continuation on complex needs pilot to March 26	Ongoing	Swale BC
4.2	Prevent Training and Awareness	Increased awareness of Prevent	<p>Delivery of CSP Preventing Extremism Session</p> <p>Delivery of CSP Misogyny and Incel Session</p> <p>Delivery of Member Prevent Training</p> <p>Consider approach to increasing public awareness around 'prevent' terms and language</p>	All by March 26	Swale BC/KCC
4.3	Continuation of Cost of Living work through the Community and Partnerships Team, ensuring linkage with to impacts on Community Safety and young people	Reduced impact of COL to vulnerable residents, including young people	<p>Continued delivery of Household Support Fund</p> <p>Delivery of partnership group</p> <p>Delivery of specific projects to promote support available for COL</p>	Ongoing	Swale BC
4.4	Explore options around potential implementation of Making Every Adult Matter Project in Swale	Increased support and engagement to vulnerable cohort	<p>Multi-agency workshop to map existing services linking to MEAM model and identify gaps</p> <p>Continued link with HCP to implement MEAM model in Swale</p>	Ongoing	Swale BC
4.5	Engagement with Medway and Swale Health and Care Partnership Projects	Increased support and engagement in place to address needs of those that are most vulnerable	<p>HCP Self Harm Evaluation report and next steps</p> <p>Social Regeneration / tackling respiratory health work</p>	Ongoing	Swale BC/HCP

			Consider next steps in preventative work and ensuring no one 'falls through the gaps'		
4.6	Support the reintroduction of Street Pastors in Sittingbourne	Increased uniformed presence within Sittingbourne high street in NTE or other periods	Support Street Pastors to engage with partners and increase volunteer numbers	Ongoing	Executive
4.7	Review of suicide/self harm data in Swale	Increased awareness of mental health support	Support Kent and Medway HCP in data review of suicide/self harm rates in the Borough Determine further steps to raise awareness of mental health support	Ongoing	Swale BC/HCP
4.8	Launch of Loneliness Project in Swale	Developing a holistic approach with a legacy that will continue to support residents and reduce requirement for additional services	Launch of project and support where required	Ongoing	Swale BC/Executive
Cross Cutting Theme 1: Reducing Reoffending					
Other training and communication actions are identified within individual priority sections.					
5.1	Promotion of DA Perpetrator programmes	Ensure partners are aware of scheme available	Promotion of existing schemes	Ongoing	DA Group
Cross Cutting Theme 2: Communication and Training					
Other training and communication actions are identified within individual priority sections.					
6.1	Safe use of batteries	Encourage safe use of batteries to prevent fires	CSP Partners to support KFRS in promotion of safe use of batteries	Ongoing	KFRS/CSP Exec
6.2	Dangerous Dogs	Promotion of key messages to support Kent Police	CSP Partners to support Kent Police in key messaging around dangerous dogs	Ongoing	Kent Police/CSP Exec

6.3	Promotion to public of reporting mechanisms	To promote reporting mechanisms and increase confidence in reporting to address concerns around underreporting	Promotion of services such as Kent Police 101 and My Community Voice	Ongoing	CSU
Cross Cutting Theme 3: Young People					
Other actions relating to the Young People Cross Cutting Theme are identified within individual priority sections.					
7.1	Focus on monitoring and responding to implications of youth service cuts and subsequent increase in youth related ASB	Minimising impact of youth service cuts and ensuring adequate provision for young people	Mapping of existing services delivering programmes for young people within schools Joint response to emerging issues/gaps and consider funding available for project delivery Completion of research piece regarding impact of loss of services on young people	Ongoing Ongoing Summer 26	Executive
7.2	Delivery of community safety inputs in primary/secondary schools	Young people better aware of different types of risks and able to make safer decisions	Safety In Action for Students delivered and explore funding opportunities for 2026 Secondary School Roadshows delivered	May 25 October 25	Police/SBC - CSU
Cross Cutting Theme 4: Funding Impact					
8.1	Safer Streets Funding – monitor impact of funding ending.	Consider impact of loss of funding streams on services and complete any mitigating actions if possible	Regular Executive item around funding changes/consultations Completion of any evaluation/impact studies as needed Completion of any funding bids as needed	Ongoing	Executive Group
8.2	Review loss of any funding streams on local services				Executive Group
8.3	Respond to any appropriate consultations on services changes that may impact local Swale communities				Executive Group

8.4	Continuation of youth services loss impact meeting		Bi-monthly meeting group (see action 7.1)	Ongoing	Youth services impact group
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7. Delivery of Priorities

The Swale Community Safety Partnership priorities will be delivered by a number of mechanisms. Some will be delivered and monitored via the Executive Group or sub-groups. Others will be delivered directly by staff within the multi-agency Community Safety Unit (CSU).

The below table details the key tasks of each of these groups.

Meeting Group	Key Functions
Executive Group	Thematic strategic discussions of key issues within CSP Plan Strategic updates from all statutory partners Oversight of all subgroups Performance Monitoring Funding Monitoring
Sub-Groups	
Domestic Abuse Group	Mapping of key issues and development of solutions Support delivery of Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy and Local Action Plan Sharing of learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) Coordination of any training/communication
Vulnerability Panel	Monthly meetings to discuss vulnerable adults at risk of crime/ASB; self-neglect; or non-engagement with services. Identification of key trends or themes affecting this cohort
Serious Organised Crime Panel	Six weekly meeting to discuss organised crime groups (OCGs); individuals of note; gangs/county lines; and Youth Street Gangs.
District Adolescent Contextual Safeguarding Meeting	Monthly meeting to discuss individuals and locations of concern in relation to young people. Lead on actions to tackle identified locations of concern.
Weekly Tasking and Coordination Group	Weekly meeting to discuss ASB victims/offenders; and key locations of concern.
Youth Impact Group	Bi-monthly meeting to review the local impact and identify service gaps.
Sittingbourne Town Centre Group	Bi-monthly meeting to tackle ASB and Crime

Sheppey Jet Ski Meeting	Quarterly meeting to monitor issues around misuse of Jet Ski's on Sheppey and associated actions
Staffing Resource	
Community Safety Unit	Support to High risk ASB victims ASB Enforcement Coordination of Community Triggers Coordination of Keep Safe scheme Problem Solving for location based problems (ASB and Crime) Provision of crime/ASB reduction equipment Delivery of agreed projects

Partners will commit staffing resource to each of these group as relevant to their agency. Additionally, a grant provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Community Safety Partnership will be allocated towards the delivery of this plan.

If further resources are needed for completion of actions, further funding may have to be sought.

Priority leads will be allocated from the CSP Executive membership to drive forward the agreed actions in this plan and to be responsible for performance.

8. Performance Monitoring

The performance of the Community Safety Plan will be undertaken by the Executive Group on a quarterly basis by means of an exception report. Monitoring will be undertaken on key performance indicators and progress against identified actions.

9. Risk Assessment

Key risks to the delivery of this Community Safety Plan are considered annually by the Partnership.

- Budgets/Grant Loss: There are a number of implications from the Autumn Budget, along with wider loss of funding streams that are felt to present a threat/risk to the work of the CSP during the upcoming year and to have a real impact in local families/communities:
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see costs shunted onto wider partners due to the longer term implications of the loss of these preventative services:

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- Cost of Living: Swale communities continue to feel the impact of cost of living, with the Swale COL partnership group still in place to seek to address some of these issues. Nationally it is estimated 9.3 million people facing hunger and hardship in the UK with use of food banks at historically high levels; and the numbers of people on Universal Credit in Kent and Medway (Oct '24) increased by 138% since March 2020.
 - Southern Housing have also raised the concern of the impact of Cost of Living on their residents, as will the uncertain economic conditions and increases in fuel costs.
- Southern Housing have raised their restructure and others concerns around the housing market: During 2024/5 our systems and staffing will be fully integrated which will inform the way work and the services delivered locally. Extra resources are being focussed on ASB and safeguarding teams. In addition, the continued uncertainty of the cost of living crisis is impacting the housing market generally and adversely affecting social housing development programmes, together with supply chain issues which affect our maintenance service, difficulty to recruit to roles and the emerging themes coming from the Grenfell Tower enquiry, and the tragedy attributable to mould growth, and the impact on revenue generation through rent setting criteria.
- Local government reform/devolution: The Government has committed to introducing the English Devolution Bill in the first session putting the Devolution Framework into statute. English Devolution plans includes the development of new Strategic Authorities and local government reorganisation involving replacing all 'two-tier' county and district councils with single tier 'unitary' authorities.. This process will likely have an impact on community safety responses by Councils, but in the medium to longer term whilst reorganisation takes place.
- Place: It is important, in light of the above, that the needs of 'Swale as a Place' are not forgotten and that the CSP is a key partner in seeking to address the needs of communities, looking at them as a whole.
- Legacy issues of Covid: There are still ramifications of Covid that need to be considered, particularly in relation to Young People and development points having been missed which fuels other key aspects e.g. jobs/skills/offending/mental health/resitting of exams/behaviour within school-maturity levels. There is a need to understand these concerns and how we can collectively start to address them.
- Family court: Issues are becoming increasingly complex. Perps have been "getting in first" and using mental capacity as a reason to try to remove children. Social

media is fuelling information on how to use systems/legislation to abuse (Professor Jane Monkton Smith calls it System Abuse). There is also evidence that some da services do not have a robust process to manage this, where DA services use the DASH RIC alone to assess risk we see the perpetrator scoring higher than the victim and being referred to MARAC. If there are allegations about victims we have seen cases where the victim has been denied support for their harmful behaviours. There is a lack of understanding of post separation Abuse, MRA tactics and System/Legislative Abuse where old approaches do not work because these tactics have been designed to exploit them

- CAFCAS: New policy in place to centralise da at the centre of their assessments. Parental alienation has been dismissed as a concept. This is being shared with courts too.
- Legislation that may provide opportunities/concern:
 - Renters Bill Act
 - Further legislation to affect prison populations
 - Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Bill
 - Martyns Law