

Dover District

Community Safety Partnership

3 Year Plan
2026-2029



Our vision

Responding to local resident, visitor and business community safety needs and issues. By working to resolve the root cause of crime and disorder, making the Dover district an even safer place to live, work and visit.



The Executive Group

The Partnership is overseen by an Executive Group, comprising of senior personnel from the responsible authorities and other agencies, including the voluntary and community sector.

The core membership of the Dover District Community Safety Partnership (DDCSP) is:

- Police
- Local Authorities
- Fire and Rescue Authority
- Health Partners
- Probation Services

The Dover District Profile

- **Dover is one of twelve local authorities in Kent.** Dover borders with Thanet to the north, Folkestone and Hythe to the southwest, and Canterbury to the northwest.
- The latest population figures from the 2021 Census show that there are **114,600 people living in the Dover District.** This represents **7.4% of Kent County Council's resident population.**
- **94.9% of Dover's population is of White origin,** with the remaining **5.1% being classified as Black Minority Ethnicity (BME) origin.** The majority of people aged three years and over in the district speak English as their primary language (96.43%). Most people aged 16 years and over in the district identify as straight or heterosexual (90.23%). Just under 3% identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other (LGB+).

- In 2025 Dover district was the **4th most deprived district in Kent** (out of 12 districts, with 1 being the most deprived). Nationally, **Dover ranks 78th out of 297 local authority districts in England.** This rank places it within the 50% most deprived authorities in England. The levels of deprivation vary across the Dover district with **parts of Dover** being within England's **top 10% deprived areas and yet other parts are within England's least deprived areas**
- In April 2023, the **unemployment rate in the Dover district was 3.9%.** This rate compares with 3.4% for Kent and 2.9% for the South East. **Youth unemployment (18- to 24-year-olds) was 6.7%.** This rate is higher than the averages for Kent (5.1%) and the South East (3.8%).

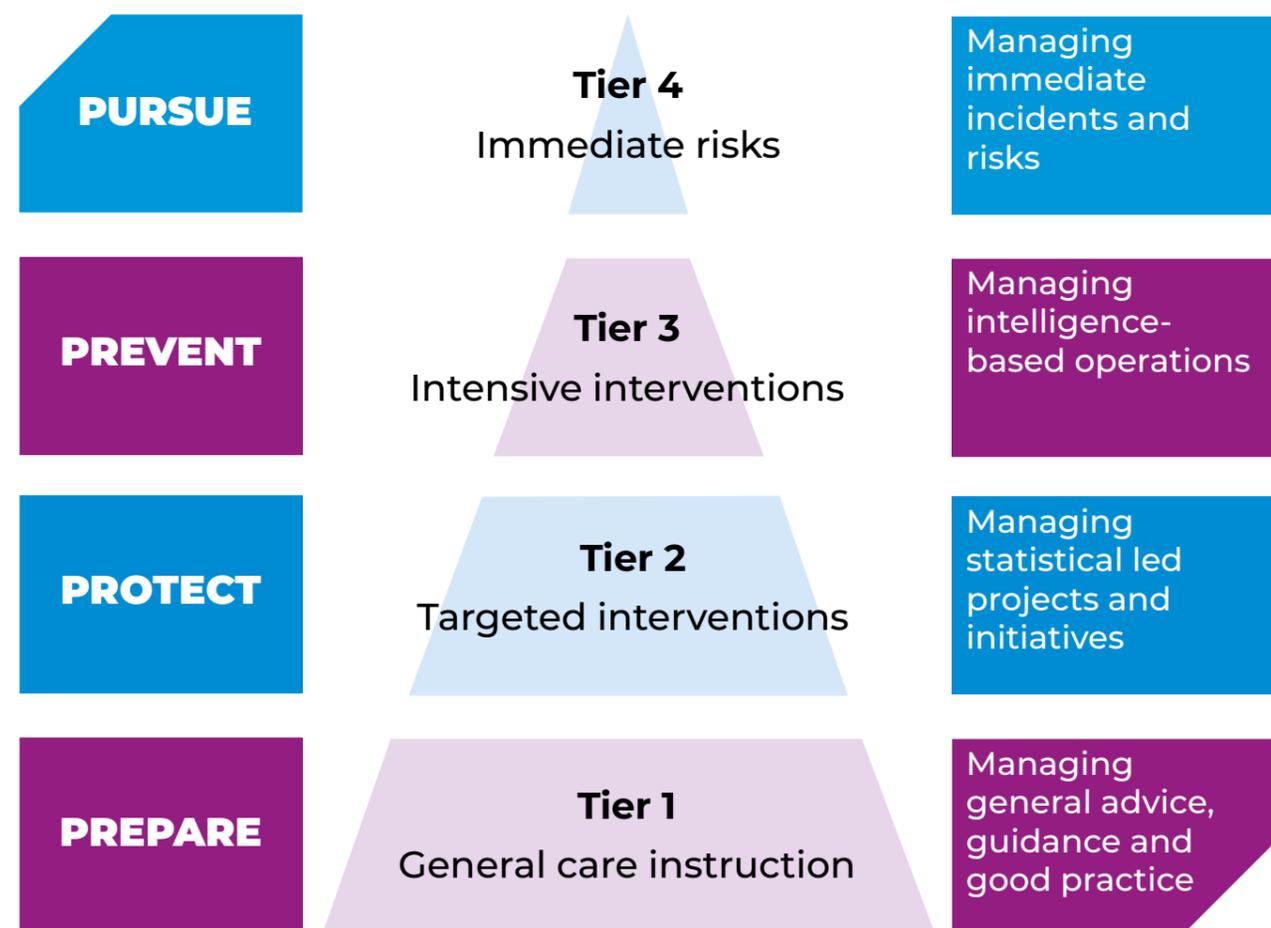
For further information, please use the following link to view the State of the District report:-

<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Corporate-Information/Facts-and-Figures/Facts-and-Figures-about-the-Dover-district.aspx>

Our approach

The Dover District Community Safety Partnership (DDCSP), uses a whole system approach to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. Experience shows that relying on a single type of intervention does not solve the problem. Enforcement works best when partners and local communities collaborate to influence and change behaviours.

We apply the triangle of intervention to any crime or anti-social behaviour issue that requires coordinated involvement from services, voluntary groups, and the wider community to achieve long term solutions.



What The Strategic Assessment Told Us

Overview – Quick Facts

In Dover between the period November 2023 to October 2024 there were **10,015** recorded offences/incidents by the Police (compared to **10,981** for the same period the previous year, a reduction of **-8.8%**, n = - **966**). This was the fifth lowest volume of crime recorded across the Kent districts. There was a reduction in almost all crime types, except for vehicle crime offences, drugs offences and possession of weapon offences.

A significant volume of the recorded crime in Dover is Violence Against the Person (VAP), which accounts for **46.6%** (n = **4,671**) of the total. This should be considered in the context of a reduction of **-9.6%** (n = - **495**) in VAP when comparing November 2023 – October 2024 to November 2022 – October 2023.



When analysing the rate of various crime types by rate per 1,000 population between the period April 2024 to March 2025 across the Kent districts, Dover had rates below the average for most crime types. Dover had slightly above average rates for criminal damage and arson, other crime, possession of weapons and violence and sexual offences.

Rate per 1,000 across Kent districts by crime types April 2024 – March 2025.

Crime types by rate per 1,000 population	All Crime	Bicycle theft	Burglary	Criminal damage and arson	Drugs	Other crime	Other theft	Possession of weapons	Public order	Robbery	Shoplifting	Theft from the person	Vehicle crime	Violence and sexual offences
Ashford	77.98	0.49	2.86	8.18	2.45	2.48	6.52	0.77	4.25	0.23	9.9	0.39	3.46	35.98
Canterbury	86.52	0.86	2.64	8.6	3.85	2.38	6.75	1	4.67	0.56	11.83	0.75	4.44	38.18
Dartford and Gravesham	105.96	0.5	3.94	11.25	5.9	3.34	8.49	1.02	5.4	0.8	13.36	0.85	8.73	42.36
Dover	84.08	0.48	2.24	9.89	3.01	3.16	5.85	1.12	4.76	0.37	6.09	0.38	4.21	42.52
Force average	87.91	0.58	3.12	9.57	3.45	3.09	6.84	0.96	4.81	0.52	9.13	0.55	4.93	40.36
Maidstone	87.15	0.64	2.7	9.63	3.25	3.11	6.83	1.16	4.81	0.51	9.1	0.55	4.47	40.4
Medway	99.12	0.75	3.32	10.54	3.46	3.64	7.41	1.16	5.81	0.78	8.68	0.68	5.06	47.85
Sevenoaks	59.82	0.24	4.3	7.32	2.29	1.85	5.47	0.52	2.69	0.19	5.48	0.27	5.32	23.89
Folkestone and Hythe	76.58	0.36	2.54	8.56	3.2	2.52	6.17	0.76	4.83	0.28	6.8	0.58	2.38	37.57
Swale	96.47	0.46	3.59	11.15	2.34	4	6.88	1.04	4.76	0.56	10.03	0.38	4.46	46.8
Thanet	107.99	0.95	3.25	10.84	4.41	3.43	7.99	1.22	6.25	0.56	9.34	0.71	4.87	54.16
Tonbridge & Malling	61.03	0.48	2.61	8.14	2.28	2.27	4.79	0.61	3.26	0.23	6.37	0.2	4.8	24.99
Tunbridge Wells	62.4	0.3	2.6	7.14	2.01	1.75	5.21	0.47	3.3	0.38	8.3	0.28	3.49	27.16

Recommended Strategic Priorities for 2026/29

Based on the findings from the Strategic Assessment and engagement across the DDCSP and communities, the following priorities are agreed:

Priority 1: Reducing Violence

Including VAWG, youth serious violence, weapon enabled crime.

Priority 2: Safeguarding Places

Including anti-social behaviour, night-time economy, derelict buildings.

Priority 3: Safeguarding People

Including domestic abuse, substance misuse, children and young people.

Priority 4: Cohesive Communities

Including prevent, hate crime, extremism.



Priority 1:

Reducing Violence

including VAWG, youth serious violence, weapon enabled crime.

Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)

Why this is a priority: VAWG represents a high harm crime type with significant links to domestic abuse, repeat victimisation, vulnerability, and community safety impacts. It accounts for a large proportion of violent crime in the district.

Key evidence:

- In Oct 2023 - Sep 2024 just under 50% of VAWG reports were domestic abuse (DA) related. DA remains a major driver of VAWG demand. There were over 2,450 VAWG related incidents recorded.
- There was a high repeat victimisation as over 40% of cases were potential repeats, which is above the national expected range.
- Young victims and suspects, over 55% of serious violence involved someone under 25, placing young women and girls at heightened risk.

Youth Serious Violence

Why this is a priority: Youth violence, exploitation, school non attendance and additional needs all intersect with criminal exploitation, and long term harm.

Key evidence:

- In Oct 2023 - Sep 2024 there were over 500 cases of youth serious violence, which included over 55% of all serious violence.
- There were over 140 young offenders, which is an increase from the previous year.

- First-time offenders stood at over 35, more than double from 2022/23.
- Over 60% of young offenders had <90% attendance, over 50% were excluded, and 50% had special education needs and/or disabilities.

Weapon enabled crime

Why this is a priority: Weapon enabled crime poses a risk of serious injury or death, closely linked to youth violence, drug markets, exploitation, and public fear of crime. Dover experiences repeated hotspot activity and links to serious violence involving young people.

Key evidence:

- Possession of weapon offences stood at over 125 during Sep 2024–Aug 2025, a 9.3% decrease, but notably Dover had a 40% increase during the previous period, showing volatility. County wide, Kent saw a 7.3% increase, meaning Dover remains comparatively safer.
- The Town & Castle ward as a major hotspot with over 5 weapon possession offences, up 35% from the previous year.
- Serious violence data includes weapon enabled events:
 - During Oct 2023–Sep 2024 there were over 950 serious violence offences.
 - Over 55% involved victims or suspects aged under 25, indicating risk to young people and youth exploitation links.

Priority 2:

Safeguarding Places

including anti-social behaviour, night-time economy, derelict buildings.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

Why this is a priority: ASB directly impacts feelings of safety, damages community confidence, and generates high demand on police, council, and partner agencies. Dover's ASB profile shows stable but persistent volumes, and several wards demonstrate sharp increases.

Key evidence:

- Over 1,650 ASB incidents recorded by police (Nov 2023–Oct 2024), showed only a marginal change, meaning ASB remains consistently high.
- Top ASB categories include rowdy/nuisance gatherings at 34%, and drunken/rowdy behaviour at 25%. There was also an increase in drunken/rowdy behaviour +13.9%, and rubbish/discarded drug paraphernalia +11.7%.
- Ward level ASB hotspots (Apr 2024–Mar 2025) include Town & Castle with over 450 offences being the highest in the district.

Night-time economy (NTE)

Why this is a priority: Behaviours associated with NTE which include alcohol related disorder, rowdy behaviour, and public order offences are driving much of Dover's ASB, violence, and demand on emergency services. These issues are concentrated in areas with pubs, bars, and late night activity.



Key evidence:

- Drunken or rowdy behaviour increased by 13.9% (Nov 2023–Oct 2024), strongly indicating NTE influence.
- Public order offences (linked to alcohol related violence, disorder, street drinking) totalled over 500 during Sep 2024–Aug 2025, a 20% decrease, but the highest volume remained in Town & Castle with over 150 offences.
- Peak ASB categories directly associated with NTE include drunken/rowdy behaviour at 25% of all ASB and rowdy/nuisance gatherings at 34% of all ASB. Behaviours typically spike during evenings and weekends.

Derelict Buildings

Why this is a priority: indicators strongly link environmental neglect to increased ASB, criminal damage, arson risk, and safeguarding vulnerabilities. Derelict and abandoned properties often attract youth disorder, substance misuse, squatting, fires, and criminal activity.

Key evidence:

- Criminal damage and arson trends, offences often associated with abandoned or poorly secured structures, during Sep 2024–Aug 2025 criminal damage had over 1,000 offences and arson had over 25 offences.
- Town & Castle is highlighted as a major hotspot, with an over 38% increase in combined criminal damage and arson.
- Deliberate fires across the district during Oct 2023–Sep 2024 stands at over 55. These incidents traditionally cluster around unsafe or abandoned structures.



Priority 3:

Safeguarding People

Including domestic abuse, substance misuse, children and young people.

Domestic abuse (DA)

Why this is a priority: Domestic abuse is the single largest driver of safeguarding demand across the district, with high volumes, high repeat rates, and clear associated vulnerabilities which include mental health, substance misuse, and coercion and control.

Key evidence:

- Over 3,300 police recorded DA incidents during Nov 23–Oct 24, a 12.2% decrease from the previous year, but still high demand. During this period there was however an increase in medium notifiable incidents, and an increase in both high and medium risk non-crime incidents.
- During Oct 23–Nov 24 Dover’s Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) saw over 165 cases. Over 40% of which were repeat cases (above the national mid range).
- Coercion and control was up over 17%, and DA related sexual offences up over 48%.
- Of the VAWG offences/incidents recorded, over 49% were DA related.

Substance misuse

Why this is a priority: Alcohol and drug misuse are strong predictors of vulnerability, harm, and repeat safeguarding. They are also strongly linked with DA, hospital admissions, exploitation and self neglect.

Key evidence:

- Over 470 Dover residents in structured treatment during Oct 23–Sep 24.
- This included over 170 accessing alcohol misuse services, over 120 accessing opiates misuse services.
- Substance misuse hospital admissions increased by 10% in 2023/24.
- In Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), over 40% of perpetrators had problem alcohol use and over 35% illicit drug use.

Children and young people

Why this is a priority: Youth violence, exploitation, school non attendance and additional needs all intersect with criminal exploitation, DA exposure, and long term harm.

Key evidence:

There were over 520 serious violent crime offences, where the victim or suspect is aged under 25 for Oct 2023 – Sep 2024 (over 55% of all serious violence).

- During 2023/24 the percentage of 10-17 years offending stood at over 1%, higher than the Kent average.
- During 2023/24 there were over 35 First-time entrants (FTEs), over double than the previous year.
- Over 60% of young offenders had <90% attendance; over 50% excluded; and 50% had SEND/EHCP.





Priority 4:

Cohesive Communities

including prevent, hate crime, extremism.

Prevent

Why this is a priority: Prevent is essential to safeguarding susceptible and vulnerable individuals from radicalisation, supporting community cohesion, and tackling the early signs of extremism. The strategic assessment shows that Kent and the South East region continue to generate high levels of Prevent referrals, including an increasing proportion linked to online radicalisation.

Key evidence:

- National and regional Prevent demand remains high, over 6,900 referrals made nationally during 2023/24. Over 1,100 of which came from the South East region.
- Kent and Medway referrals, showing strong local demand.
- Online and digital radicalisation identified as major drivers, social media, gaming platforms, and online forums were cited as prevalent sources for radicalising influences.

Hate Crime

Why this is a priority: Hate crime harms individuals, fractures community cohesion, fuels resentment, and is often a precursor to wider extremist narratives. Although Dover has seen a reduction in incidents, the volume remains significant, and specific wards experience concentrated levels of hate crime.

Key evidence:

- Over 220 hate crime incidents recorded during Nov 2023–Oct 2024, a 30% reduction from the previous year, but still a meaningful number affecting community cohesion.
- Over 60% of hate crimes were race-related, representing persistent racial targeting within the district.
- Town & Castle is the clear hotspot, recording over 60 incidents, making it the highest ward in the district.

Extremism

Why this is a priority: Extremism is a cross-cutting threat affecting community cohesion, public safety, susceptible and vulnerable people.

Key evidence:

- Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance and is closely tied to Prevent demand across Kent and the South East.
- Increasing online extremism and digital radicalisation through gaming, social media, and online forums is highlighted as a primary vector for extremist influence, which may impact the most susceptible and vulnerable individuals and young people.



Key Highlights

Priority 1:

Reducing Violence

including VAWG, youth serious violence, weapon enabled crime.

Women's Safety Events

In 2025/26, the Partnership delivered a pilot series of Women's Safety Events covering self defence, wellbeing, and confidence building. Over 150 residents took part, with 80% reporting they were 'very satisfied'. Perceived safety and empowerment scores increased from 5.5/10 to 8.2/10. Due to the success of the pilot, funding has been secured to extend delivery to women, men, and boys across the district. Operation Shield also supported communities through VAWG- and DA focused reassurance patrols, licensing checks, and high risk safeguarding visits.

Tackling Youth Violence

In 2025/26, the Partnership delivered a wide ranging violence reduction programme, including over 800 hours of hotspot and NTE patrols, faster attendance at high risk calls, scheduled video response, and the rollout of new weapon detection equipment. Focusing on repeat violent offenders through arrests, bail conditions, and GPS/alcohol monitoring tags, while enhancing victim safeguarding and improving Victims' Code compliance. Schools also received ongoing inputs on violence, exploitation, and healthy relationships. Robbery related harm was addressed through high visibility retail patrols, targeted enforcement, and close partnership working with DPAC.

Tackling weapons

Operation Coastal delivered hotspot focused patrols targeting weapon possession and youth violence, resulting in early disruption, seizures, and arrests. Knife crime education sessions reached over 500 young people in 2025/26. Upgrades to CCTV systems, including mobile deployments, further supported visibility and evidence gathering in violence hotspots.





Priority 2:

Safeguarding Places

including anti-social behaviour, night-time economy, derelict buildings

Anti-Social Behaviour

During 2024/2025 Dover District Council received 153 cases of ASB, in which 134 (87.6%) were closed within the target threshold of 30 days.

Best Bar none

Pubs, clubs and bars across Dover and neighbouring towns were recognised for their contribution in creating a safer night time environment. In December 2025, seven licensed venues received Best Bar None Awards, organised by Kent Police in partnership with Dover District Council, highlighting strong management standards and a shared commitment to community safety.

Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP)

CAP is an initiative that sets up and supports local partnerships that aim to reduce alcohol harm in children and young people, improve their health and well-being and enhance their communities. The partnership has embedded the scheme across town centres, to support in safeguarding our communities.

Derelict Buildings

The Partnership has implemented an internal process to identify, report, and review derelict or unsafe buildings. Through coordinated action, partners work to reduce the risks these structures pose to local communities and to ensure appropriate enforcement measures are taken to secure dangerous or vulnerable sites.

Priority 3:

Safeguarding People

Including domestic abuse, substance misuse, children and young people.

Domestic Abuse Services

The Partnership has established both in person and virtual one stop shop services for Domestic Abuse survivors, delivered in collaboration with Oasis and Strength2Strength. These are supported by additional community services, including The Beehive in Dover, to ensure accessible, holistic support for those seeking help. DA handbooks were also produced to promote the range of support services available to residents in need.

Forward Futures

In partnership with the Forward Trust and Public Health England, the Forward Futures programme provides assertive outreach to individuals with addictions who are not currently engaged with treatment services, offering support and promoting pathways to recovery.

I'm Making Positive Action Choices Today (IMPACT)

Working alongside Community Safety partners, the annual IMPACT Roadshow and IMPACT Festival offer young people fun, engaging activities alongside essential Community Safety inputs, helping to educate, support, and safeguard children and young people across the district.

Priority 4:

Cohesive Communities

including Prevent, hate crime, vulnerable children and adults.

Community Cohesion and Resilience Fund (CCRP)

In partnership with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG), the CCRP scheme funded seven successful applicants, to deliver projects with the aim of strengthening community cohesion across the Dover district.

These included:

- Faith based English language sessions to support conversation, reading and writing skills and promote wider social integration.
- Tabletop gaming sessions for socially diverse young people.
- Cultural community lunches and public speaking activities.
- Family Support Coordinators for residents with disabilities and/or neurodiversity.
- School based awareness sessions on migration, asylum and refugees, alongside education on misinformation, disinformation and malinformation.
- Local multicultural festivals, workshops and community events.





Safer**Stronger**
COMMUNITIES
IN DOVER DISTRICT

Dover District Council
White Cliffs Business Park
Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ

