

Dover District
Community Safety Partnership

Strategic Assessment 2025/26

**Executive
Summary**



Introduction

Who We Are

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

‘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.’

What is a Strategic Assessment?

The purpose of the strategic assessment is:

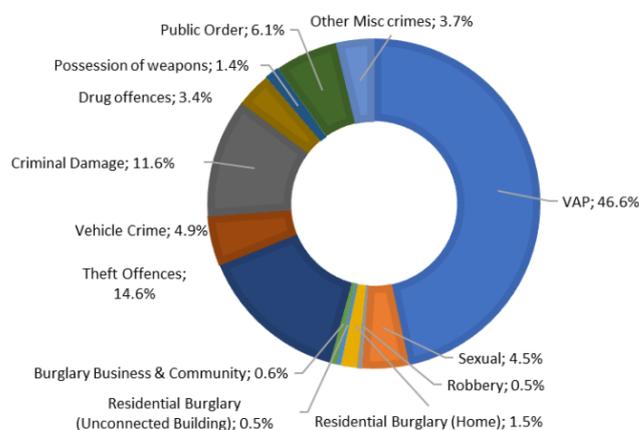
- To review the performance and impacts of the DDCSP agencies over the past year and identify any emerging trends.
- To identify through scanning and analysis the strategic priorities for the DDCSP, which will act as the basis for the partnership plan and as a commissioning / grant giving needs assessment.

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.

Chart 1: Recorded offences and incidents in Dover, November 2023 to October 2024.



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 has rates below the average for most crime types. Dover has slightly above average rates for criminal damage and arson, other crime, possession of weapons and violence and sexual offences.

Table 1: 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

Violent Crime

Violent crime has seen a **-7.2%** decrease (n = **-382**) in Dover when comparing September 2024 – August 2025 (n = **4,950**) to September 2023 – August 2024 (n = **5,332**).

The **-7.2%** decrease in recorded violent crime is higher than the Kent wide reduction of **-2.8%** and is the **third** highest reduction of the Kent districts.

Table 2: Recorded violent crime across Kent districts, September 2024 – August 2025 compared to September 2023 – August 2024.

Recorded	Rolling Year			
	September 24 to August 25			
	This Rolling Year	Last Rolling Year	% change	No change
Dartford	4,980	4,668	6.7%	312
Gravesham	4,472	4,732	-5.5%	-260
Medway	13,153	14,053	-6.4%	-900
Swale	7,108	6,882	3.3%	226
Maidstone	6,885	7,225	-4.7%	-340
Sevenoaks	2,789	3,089	-9.7%	-300
Tonbridge and Malling	3,442	3,402	1.2%	40
Tunbridge Wells	3,150	3,524	-10.6%	-374
Ashford	4,588	4,798	-4.4%	-210
Canterbury	6,571	6,784	-3.1%	-213
Dover	4,950	5,332	-7.2%	-382
Folkestone and Hythe	4,345	4,458	-2.5%	-113
Thanet	7,986	7,636	4.6%	350
Force	74,419	76,583	-2.8%	-2,164

Robbery

Robbery increased by **3.5%** (n = 2) when comparing September 2024 – August 2025 (n = 59) to September 2023 – August 2024 (n = 57).

There was a Kent wide increase of **6.9%**. Analysis shows that in Dover, this is driven by increases of business-related robbery, with ongoing decreases in personal robbery.

Table 3: Robbery by Kent districts, September 2024 – August 2025 compared to September 2023 – August 2024.

Recorded	Rolling Year			
	September 24 to August 25			
	This Rolling Year	Last Rolling Year	% change	No change
Dartford	87	86	1.2%	1
Gravesham	97	115	-15.7%	-18
Medway	258	249	3.6%	9
Swale	109	85	28.2%	24
Maidstone	99	89	11.2%	10
Sevenoaks	28	41	-31.7%	-13
Tonbridge and Malling	42	32	31.3%	10
Tunbridge Wells	42	53	-20.8%	-11
Ashford	46	42	9.5%	4
Canterbury	138	117	17.9%	21
Dover	59	57	3.5%	2
Folkestone and Hythe	54	30	80.0%	24
Thanet	100	88	13.6%	12
Force	1,159	1,084	6.9%	75

Weapon Enabled Crime

Possession of weapons in Dover decreased by **-19.3%** (n = -13), the second highest decrease across the Kent districts. This is compared to a Kent wide increase of **7.3%**.

Domestic Abuse

In Dover between the period November 2023 to October 2024 there were **3,301** recorded domestic abuse incidents by the Police, compared to **3,758** for the same period the previous year – a decrease of **12.2%** (n = **-457**).

This was the **eighth** lowest volume of domestic abuse recorded across the Kent districts and accounts for a rate of **27.8** domestic abuse offences per 1,000 population.

The Kent Single Point of Access Domestic Abuse Service received **1,405** referrals from Dover between April 2023 to March 2024, with **840** assessed as standard risk, **469** as medium risk and **96** as high risk.

Table 4: Domestic Abuse Cases by Risk Level referred to Kent Domestic Abuse Services.

Local Authority	Standard	Medium	High	Total
Ashford	1,002	420	79	1,501
Canterbury	1,142	510	104	1,756
Dartford	772	428	75	1,275
Dover	840	469	96	1,405
Folkestone and Hythe	877	419	46	1,342
Gravesham	915	528	87	1,530
Maidstone	1,311	600	135	2,046
Sevenoaks	553	274	57	884
Swale	1,138	594	101	1,833
Thanet	1,387	832	121	2,340
Tonbridge and Malling	747	379	76	1,202
Tunbridge Wells	608	290	58	956
Out of County	102	24	1	127
Unknown	185	73	3	261
Total	11,579	5,840	1,039	18,458

167 high risk domestic abuse cases were discussed in the Dover Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for the rolling year as of 30 October 2024.

43% of these cases were repeat cases in the last 12 months, and **155** children were discussed as part of the **78** cases with children in the household.

Stalking and Harassment

Stalking and harassment in Dover decreased by **-3.9%** (n = - 56) when comparing September 2024 – August 2025 to the same period the previous year. This is compared to the Kent wide decrease of **-2.2%**.

Table 5: Stalking and Harassment Crimes by Kent District, September 2024 – August 2025 compared to September 2023 – August 2024.

Recorded	Rolling Year			
	September 24 to August 25			
	This Rolling Year	Last Rolling Year	% change	No change
Dartford	1,203	1,217	-1.2%	-14
Gravesham	1,111	1,277	-13.0%	-166
Medway	3,416	3,715	-8.0%	-299
Swale	1,926	1,888	2.0%	38
Maidstone	1,776	1,831	-3.0%	-55
Sevenoaks	754	872	-13.5%	-118
Tonbridge and Malling	1,060	1,089	-2.7%	-29
Tunbridge Wells	903	1,021	-11.6%	-118
Ashford	1,438	1,349	6.6%	89
Canterbury	1,649	1,642	0.4%	7
Dover	1,383	1,439	-3.9%	-56
Folkestone and Hythe	1,211	1,161	4.3%	50
Thanet	2,194	1,973	11.2%	221
Force	20,024	20,474	-2.2%	-450

Sexual offences

When looking at police data for the period September 2024 – August 2025, rape in Dover decreased by **-12.1%** (n = -17) when comparing to the same period the previous year. This is the **third** largest decrease in Kent and compares to a **3.8%** increase across Kent.

Other sexual offences can include offences such as indecent exposure, upskirting and revenge porn. In Dover, other sexual offences decreased by **-3.4%** (n = - 4) when comparing September 2024 – August 2025 to the same period the previous year.

Dover was one of only **three** boroughs to see a reduction in other sexual offences. This compares to a Kent wide increase of **25.9%**.

Table 6: Other Sexual Offences by Kent District, September 2024 – August 2025 compared to September 2023 – August 2024.

Recorded	Rolling Year			
	September 24 to August 25			
	This Rolling Year	Last Rolling Year	% change	No change
Dartford	99	73	35.6%	26
Gravesham	170	90	88.9%	80
Medway	349	279	25.1%	70
Swale	161	133	21.1%	28
Maidstone	284	149	90.6%	135
Sevenoaks	72	59	22.0%	13
Tonbridge and Malling	83	79	5.1%	4
Tunbridge Wells	86	62	38.7%	24
Ashford	114	100	14.0%	14
Canterbury	123	134	-8.2%	-11
Dover	114	118	-3.4%	-4
Folkestone and Hythe	105	114	-7.9%	-9
Thanet	181	152	19.1%	29
Force	1,941	1,542	25.9%	399

Violence Against Women and Girls

In Dover between the period November 2023 to October 2024 there were **2,457** recorded Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) incidents (compared to **2,823** for the same period the previous year, a reduction of **-13.0%**, n = - **366**).

This was the eighth lowest volume of VAWG recorded across the Kent districts and accounts for a rate of **20.7** VAWG offences per 1000 population.

Of the **2,457** recorded offences/incidents **1,227 (49.94%)** were domestic abuse related, a reduction of **18.8%** (n = **-284**) compared to the same period the previous year.

Table 7: VAWG in Dover, November 2023 to October 2024, compared to the same period the previous year.

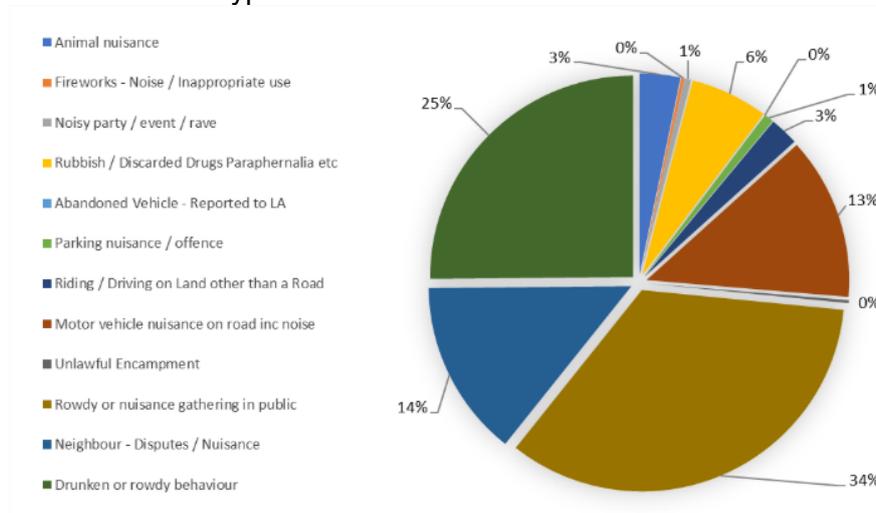
Breakdown	Recorded Offences/Incidents					County Position	
	This Rolling Year	Last Rolling Year	% Change	No. change	Trend	22/23	23/24
Total VAWG	2457	2823	-13.0%	-366	▼	8	8
Domestic Abuse related	1227	1511	-18.8%	-284	▼	7	6
Non-Domestic Abuse related	1230	1312	-6.3%	-82	▼	8	8

Anti-Social Behaviour

When analysing the period November 2023 to October 2024 there were **1,694** ASB incidents reported to the police, compared to **1,699** for the same period the previous year. This accounts for a reduction of **-0.3%** (n = **-5**).

There has been an **11.7%** increase in rubbish/discarded drugs paraphernalia (n = **11**) and a **13.9%** increase in drunken or rowdy behaviour (n = **52**). There has been a **-6.6%** decrease (n = **-41**) in rowdy or nuisance gatherings in public and a **-6.3%** decrease (n = **-16**) in neighbour disputes or nuisance.

Chart 2: Breakdown of ASB Type in Dover



Public Order

Public order offences include drunk and disorderly, threatening behaviour, affray and intentional harassment alarm and distress. It can give some indication of some of the more serious ASB experienced. Public order offences in Dover for the period September 2024 – August 2025 totalled **534** offences, as compared to **670** for the same period the previous year, a reduction of **-20.3%** (n = - 136).

This compares to a Kent wide reduction of **-11.9%** and is the **third** largest decrease of the Kent districts.

Table 8: Public Order Offences by Kent District, September 2024 – August 2025 compared to September 2023 – August 2024.

Recorded	Rolling Year			
	September 24 to August 25			
	This Rolling Year	Last Rolling Year	% change	No change
Dartford	594	619	-4.0%	-25
Gravesham	546	593	-7.9%	-47
Medway	1,573	1,793	-12.3%	-220
Swale	707	763	-7.3%	-56
Maidstone	769	976	-21.2%	-207
Sevenoaks	306	397	-22.9%	-91
Tonbridge and Malling	385	482	-20.1%	-97
Tunbridge Wells	409	409	0.0%	0
Ashford	552	539	2.4%	13
Canterbury	726	808	-10.1%	-82
Dover	534	670	-20.3%	-136
Folkestone and Hythe	523	577	-9.4%	-54
Thanet	791	898	-11.9%	-107
Force	8,415	9,524	-11.6%	-1,109

Arson

Police recorded arson offences in Dover between September 2024 – August 2025 totalled **28** offences, as compared to **36** for the same period the previous year, a decrease of **-22.2%** (n = 8).

This is the **third** biggest decrease across the Kent districts.

Table 9: Arson Offences by Kent District, September 2024 – August 2025 compared to September 2023 – August 2024.

Recorded	Rolling Year			
	September 24 to August 25			
	This Rolling Year	Last Rolling Year	% change	No change
Dartford	43	26	65.4%	17
Gravesham	20	37	-45.9%	-17
Medway	98	89	10.1%	9
Swale	127	108	17.6%	19
Maidstone	47	41	14.6%	6
Sevenoaks	18	25	-28.0%	-7
Tonbridge and Malling	26	26	0.0%	0
Tunbridge Wells	20	21	-4.8%	-1
Ashford	35	43	-18.6%	-8
Canterbury	60	43	39.5%	17
Dover	28	36	-22.2%	-8
Folkestone and Hythe	36	21	71.4%	15
Thanet	34	31	9.7%	3
Force	592	547	8.2%	45

Drugs and Alcohol

When looking at data from Kent commissioned substance misuse services for the period October 2023 – September 2024 there were **472** people accessing services who live in Dover.

There were **351** drug offences in Dover, as compared to **353** for the same period the previous year, a decrease of **-0.6%** (n = -2).

Dover is one of only two districts to record a reduction in this period and should be seen in the context of a **35.0%** increase across Kent.

Table 10: Drug Offences by Kent District, September 2024 – August 2025 compared to September 2023 – August 2024.

Recorded	Rolling Year			
	September 24 to August 25			
	This Rolling Year	Last Rolling Year	% change	No change
Dartford	536	330	62.4%	206
Gravesham	736	523	40.7%	213
Medway	1,166	800	45.8%	366
Swale	374	296	26.4%	78
Maidstone	667	467	42.8%	200
Sevenoaks	270	206	31.1%	64
Tonbridge and Malling	340	201	69.2%	139
Tunbridge Wells	226	231	-2.2%	-5
Ashford	374	265	41.1%	109
Canterbury	740	561	31.9%	179
Dover	351	353	-0.6%	-2
Folkestone and Hythe	451	308	46.4%	143
Thanet	704	595	18.3%	109
Force	6,935	5,136	35.0%	1,799

Adult Safeguarding Concerns

For period 1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024, there have been **19,938** adult safeguarding concerns across Kent. This demonstrates an increase from **17,284** the same data period the previous year. There were **2,061** safeguarding adult concerns received by Kent County Council for the period for Dover, accounting for **10.3%** of all referrals.

Table 11: Safeguarding Concerns by Kent District, 1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024.

District	Contacts	Percentage of total
Ashford	1,489	7.5%
Canterbury	2,215	11.1%
Dartford	1,217	6.1%
Dover	2,061	10.3%
Gravesham	1,977	9.9%
Maidstone	1,079	5.4%
Sevenoaks	2,314	11.6%
Folkestone and Hythe	1,265	6.3%
Swale	1,569	7.9%
Thanet	2,532	12.7%
Tonbridge and Malling	968	4.9%
Tunbridge Wells	1,252	6.3%
Total	19,938	100%

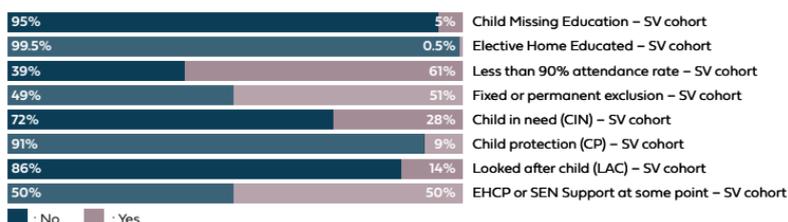
Youth Offending

When analysing youth justice data for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, compared to the same period in previous years, the percentage of 10-17 years offending as a percentage of the population is **1.3%** (n = **145**) of the population, compared to the Kent wide figure of **0.7%**.

When analysing the Kent wide cohort, there are several factors affecting the Youth Justice Serious Violence Cohort:

- **61%** had a less than 90% attendance rate.
- **51%** had a fixed or permanent exclusion.
- **28%** were a Child in Need and **9%** had a Child Protection Plan.
- **50%** had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Special Education Need (SEN) support at some point in their school career.

Chart 3: Factors Affecting Youth Justice and Serious Violence Cohort in Kent.

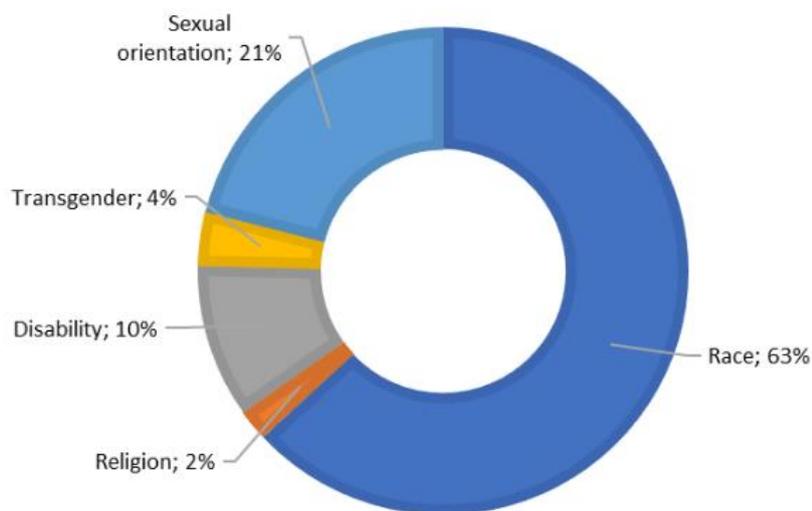


Hate Crime

When looking at the period November 2023 to October 2024 there were **229** hate crime incidents reported to the police, a slight decrease from **346** incidents in the same period for the previous year (**-33.8%**, n= **-117**). This is the **fourth** lowest level of the 12 Kent districts.

63% (n = **123**) hate crime incidents recorded were race related. There was an **-18.5%** (n = **-28**) decrease in race related hate crime comparing this strategic assessment period to the same period the previous year.

Chart 4: Hate Crime in Dover by Type.



Recommended Strategic Priorities for 2026/2029

Based on the agreements of the DCSP Board and the findings of the strategic assessment, the following priorities are recommended:

Priority 1: Reducing Violence

Including VAWG, youth serious violence, weapon enabled crime.

Priority 2: Safeguarding Places

Including anti-social behaviour, nighttime 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.

