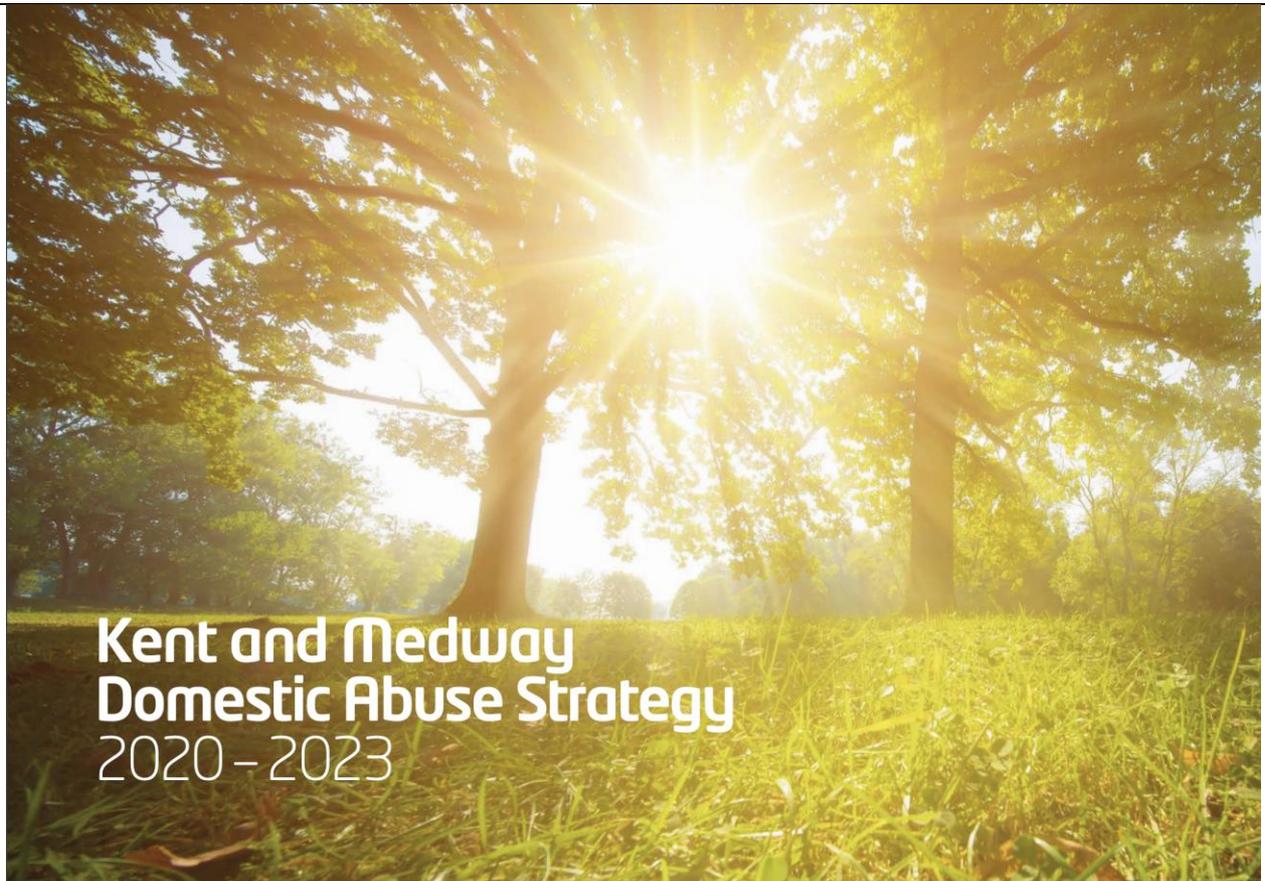


Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020 - 2023



Hello,

This is an easy read of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy.



The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive have written this strategy.

The Executive is made up of, Kent Police, Medway Council, Kent County Council, the NHS, Kent Fire and Rescue, Districts, Probation and other public organisations.

In this document we refer to this group as the Executive.

	<p>The strategy is a plan that tells you about how we want to develop and improve our services over the next 3 years.</p>
	<p>If you need support now telephone Victim Support on 0808 168 9276 or visit www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk</p>
	<p>If you are immediate danger call 999 or Kent Police non-emergency number 101.</p>
	<p>There is also the 24 freephone National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247 or Men's Advice Line 0808 801 0327</p>
	<p>Foreword by Peter Ayling, Chair of Executive, Assistant Chief Constable, Kent Police</p>
	<p>In England and Wales over 2 million people experience domestic abuse.</p> <p>Its impact is very bad on all parts of someone's life and their families.</p>
	<p>Many different services work to support people who are affected by domestic abuse.</p> <p>The Executive will look to strengthen these services.</p>



No person should experience abuse. Through this strategy we will work to prevent abuse and strengthen services to deal with abuse in Kent and Medway.

Introduction



The Executive works together to:
Reduce domestic abuse, and make sure anyone affected by it gets the right support quickly.



We will work together to see what works best.
We will report back on our progress regularly through our action plans and assessments.

What is domestic abuse?



Domestic abuse can be:

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Violent or threatening behaviour
- Controlling behaviour
- Economic abuse
- Emotional abuse

This strategy at a glance



We want to reduce domestic abuse, and make sure anyone affected by it gets the right support quickly.



To do this we have listed 5 important tasks.
We call these our priorities
These are:

	<p>1. Driving change together</p> <p>Promote change by working together. If we work together over our services we can make what we do better.</p>
	<p>2. Prevention and early intervention</p> <p>Reduce domestic abuse through education, a skilled workforce and getting involved earlier.</p>
	<p>3. Provision of services</p> <p>Services that work well for people and groups who have or may be affected by domestic abuse.</p>
	<p>4. Minimising harm</p> <p>Making it easy to report domestic abuse and giving support to those who have been through it. Making sure services meet the needs of everyone who is affected by abuse.</p>
	<p>5. Justice, recovery and on-going protection</p> <p>Having supportive services to keep people safe and give justice.</p>
<p>What do we know?</p>	
	<p>Domestic abuse can happen to anyone.</p> <p>Although we have some numbers of people affected by it, these are not the whole picture as many people never report</p>

	<p>People live with abuse for between 2 to 3 years before getting help.</p>
	<p>2.4 million people adults (16-74) have experienced domestic abuse in the last year.</p>
	<p>Women are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse as men.</p>
	<p>There were 26,149 reported incidents of domestic abuse to Kent and Medway Police in 2017.</p>
<p>15%</p> 	<p>Domestic abuse makes up 15% of all crime.</p>
<p>National policy and the law</p>	
	<p>The Government makes laws and policies. These are there to keep people safe.</p>



Laws and strategies around domestic abuse include:

- Ending Violence against Women and Girls (2016-2020)
- The Domestic Abuse Bill
- The Care Act, 2014
- The Serious Crime Act, 2015

Our strategic priorities



These are the things we want to happen, these will help us make the strategy work.



1. Drive change together:

- Promote change by working together
- Make sure that the right people are involved in sharing information and making decisions
- Challenge negative attitudes



2. Prevention and early intervention

- Prevent domestic abuse from happening through education
- Check schools are aware of where children may witness abuse
- Be aware of what might make someone more vulnerable to abuse
- Teach the workforce to recognise abuse.



3. Provision of services

- Make sure services can act quickly and give the right services at the right time
- Make sure services are person centred
- Develop services with people who have experienced domestic abuse
- Find gaps in services and fill them.

	<p>4. Minimising harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising that not everyone reports abuse • Strengthening safeguarding services between adult and children’s services • Acting on the longer term effects of domestic abuse • Develop our services using recognised good practice
	<p>5. Justice, recovery and on-going protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that the police and law system best supports people who have experienced domestic abuse and promotes behaviour change in those who have caused it • A strong approach to those who commit abuse to bring them to justice or change their behaviour.
<p>Making sure we get things done</p>	
	<p>This strategy shows our commitments in dealing with domestic abuse in Kent and Medway.</p> <p>It is supported by a joint action plan, which gives details around what we have to do to deliver the strategy.</p>
	<p>Each partner organisation will check that they are delivering this plan.</p>

	<p>Feedback from people who use our services will be key in checking things are done.</p>
	<p>There will be monitoring reports.</p>
	<p>Putting this plan into action will take time and effort.</p> <p>We are focussed on making services more joined up, and right for the people of our community.</p>
<p>Further information</p>	
	<p>If you would like to know more you can read our full report online or contact Kent County Council, Strategy, Policy and Relationships. PSRPolicy@kent.gov.uk 03000 415782</p>