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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2024 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillor Phil Fellows (Chair); Councillors D Green, Austin, Bright, Britcher, Currie, Davis, Farooki, Manners, Paul Moore, Packman, Pope, Wing and Worrow

In Attendance: Councillors J Bayford, Garner and Whitehead

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following Councillors:

Councillor Kup, substituted by Councillor Manners;
Councillor K. Bright;
Councillor Packman.

13. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

14. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor Davis proposed, Councillor Austin seconded and the Panel agreed the minutes to be a correct record of the meeting held on 12 March 2024.

15. THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY SAFETY REVIEW

The Chair advised Members that the Panel was considering this item seating as a Crime and Disorder Committee. The Chair invited Mr James Hose to speak under public speaking provisions. Mr Hose made the following comments:

- There some concerns that communication and community engage with then police was not as effective as it could be;
- Community events were now conducted through online meetings. This had affected the number of individuals that could take part in these events;
- Anti-social behaviour issues should be addressed by all agencies and the communities should be consulted on these issues as they were the ones on the ground and would be the first to know about any such incidents;
- The Police should be more visible in communities.

Penny Button, Head of Neighbourhoods explained that the Thanet Community Safety Partnership was a multi-agency which had an Executive Committee partnership that was Chaired by CI Swallow.

The Chair then invited Chief Inspector Ian Swallow, Kent Police to make his presentation. In his presentation, Chief Inspector Swallow made the following points:

- A number of conversations had been conducted with Mr Hose. Kent Police were in compliance with their statutory obligations that included holding quarterly community engagement events per each ward;
- There was higher level of engagement in busier wards;

- Most of the councillors were aware of who their respective ward police officers were;
 - The strategic assessment review report being presented to the Panel was focusing on the key priorities for the Partnership;
 - Serious crime stats reflected that there had been a decrease in the division from 456 in 2022/23 to 423 in 2023/24. The division included Dover, Canterbury, Ashford, Folkestone and Thanet;
 - Thanet was a very vulnerable district in terms of crime and disorder;
 - There had been a drop of 10% in violent crimes against a person, with Thanet contributing to 26% for the division. Margate Central and Cliftonville West contributed the highest cases for the district;
 - 622 sexual offences had been report in the 12 Kent districts with a 7% reduction in Thanet;
 - Margate Central, had the highest cases followed by Eastcliff ward and Cliftonville West;
-
- Thanet had an increase of 10% in possession of weapons offences;
 - Drugs and county lines offences had increased in the District by 9.9% overall, with 30% being drug offences;
 - Safeguarding cases had increased by 468 in 2023. However, Thanet was no longer the district with the highest number of referrals;
 - Thanet had the second highest number of child safeguarding cases behind Swale with a 13% increase to 2454 cases in 2022/23;
 - There had been an 8.5% reduction in offending and reoffending cases. Thanet had higher number of cases reported than three other districts;
 - Re-offending was higher than the national average;
 - There had been a 13% reduction in violence against women and girls. Thanet had the highest number;
 - Thanet had the highest number of domestic abuse cases but had experienced a 14% reduction;
 - The district had 269 looked after children reported cases in the period under review;
 - Mental health clients increased to 273 in 2022/23 Margate Central and Cliftonville West had the highest cases;
 - The number of safeguarding cases had reduced in 2022/23. Alcohol and substance misuse increased post covid period but was beginning to level out;
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- Thanet had a higher than national average of rough sleeping cases. However, the number had decreased.
 - 248 modern slavery cases had been reported in 2023/24
 - Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) had significantly decreased by 36% in 2021/22 and 10% in 2022/23;
 - Summer months usually witness a spike in ASB;
 - Community Reassurance: meetings were held quarterly in each of the four main towns and the villages;
 - The Partnership had conducted an annual residents' consultation resulting in 89% indicating that they felt safe during day time and 55% saying that they felt safe during night time.
 - Thanet featured as having high crime rates in comparison to other districts in the Eastern Division in Kent. This was impressive work by the Partnership;
 - The key priorities for 2022-26 included reducing serious violence, safer people, safer places and safer people;
 - Safer People: The Partnership working with younger people to tackle barriers;

- Safer Places: The Partnership was tackling ASB, improving housing for rough sleepers;
- Every single ward had its own contactable beach officer. This would improve engagement with the public.

The full details of the presentation were contained in the slides attached as an annex to this minute item.

Panel members made comments and asked questions as follows:

- The Panel congratulated the Partnership for good work done in the period under review;
- The presence of warranted officers had played a big role in crime reduction and this was a good news story;
- In order to improve safety in local streets, KCC should increase street lighting;
- Breaking into houses and cars was what the public mostly saw and reported and they felt that no action was taken to tackle that crime;
- There was a need to find a way assuring the public that something was being done to tackle crime;
- Community engagement should be more effective;
- Whilst the stats were improving it was still a worrying report;
- Information about community engagement meetings was not going out in a clear and simple way;
- Central Harbour ward had a problem of street drinkers. However, the community was not seeing any action being taken to tackle the problem as no prosecution, whilst still seeing the same individuals continuing to offend;
- One councillor said that they were not seen any evidence of police engaging with the community regarding the operation of late licences;
- How was the Partnership working with Health regarding mental health and drug related cases?
- Would the number of beat officers be increased over the years and would they be conversant with the local PSPOs?
- Was the Chief Inspector satisfied with the number of officers in his staff complement and the current PSPOs be implemented with the current number of officers on the ground?
- Were the Police enforcing the conditions of the premise licences as the incident took place and was the Council enforcing the conditions after the incidents?
- There was a need to make more information available to the public about licences that would have been issued;
- There should be more enforcement of conditions particularly for drinking outside the premises;
- Graffiti was blighting some of the local areas. However, this was missing from the crime stats;
- Was the Partnership going to build on the work to promote women safety?
- This would include putting in place a condition that licensed premises to sign up that they will put a sign about women safety on their premises;
- It was important to share widely this information on women safety and this could include conducting school visits;
- Had programmes on supporting reducing reoffending been successful?
- If mental health service was underfunded what could be done by the Partnership to mitigate this situation?

- Ramsgate Town Council used to provide office space to an organisation that provided a service for advice to women on domestic violence. Which part of the Partnership should provide advice to women on reducing violence against women and girls?

CI Swallow responded to the Panel comments and questions as follows:

- Street drinkers were a significant problem in Ramsgate. Common protection notices had been issued to offending individuals. Once the individual breached the notice, prosecution would follow. They were therefore being monitored;
- It was important to note that when premises kicked out badly behaved individuals from their premises, these individuals would then go into the streets. At this point it would no longer be an issue for the licensed premises to deal with. It was therefore not the premises' fault for doing their work by ejecting disorderly customers;
- Health was part of the Partnership. Health Alliance was set up by Health. This organisation should be brought into the Partnership;
- A full establishment of beat officers would be twenty-four officers for Thanet wards. Currently there were fifteen (with fourteen on the beat);
- It was hoped that there would be a full establishment as at the end of 2024;
- The Partnership ran a Summer Programme that drew on county resources. This year the programme would commence in June;
- The Partnership would be working with the Enforcement team. Once embedded very officer would be familiar with the local PSPOs;
- The perception of crime was nearly as big an issue as the actual crime itself. It was therefore important to tackle it and create more positive perception;
- The precept for neighbourhood policing was done by the Police and Crime Commissioner;
- There should be more enforcement of licensed premises;
- Accreditation Schemes for licensed premises: In Ramsgate twenty-four premises signed up to the voluntary scheme. This scheme was for how businesses should look after their premises. The Partnership won an award for this initiative;
- Graffiti was an issue which required further discussion by the Partnership;
- The Community Safety team was doing great work with programmes like My Night Out and Community Shield;
- The Partnership would consider schemes like My Community Voice that were run by other local areas. This was a method for beat officers to speak to the community;
- There were some new approaches coming on board regarding reducing re-offending;
- Training was vital to help mitigate some of the resource limitations faced by part agencies that included Health. Currently there was a Right Care Right Person that was brought in by other Police Forces across the country and the Quality Care Commission;
- Kent Police and other Kent agencies had signed up on this programme. This was a multi-agency approach which had worked successfully across the country. The programme focused mostly on young people;
- Advisory sessions that were conducted at Ramsgate Town Council premises were also attended by Kent Police. The charity organisation that held those sessions was part of the Partnership and attended partnership meetings.

The Chair thanked CI Swallow and Penny Button and the Panel noted the presentation.

16. SPORT ENGLAND SWIMMING POOL SUPPORT FUND (SPSF) RAMSGATE LEISURE CENTRE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS (PV)

Bob Porter, Director of Place introduced the report and made the following comments:

- These were proposals to install solar photovoltaic (PVs) solar panels on the Ramsgate Leisure Centre premises;
- The Panel was being asked to review the proposals, make comments and any appropriate recommendations for consideration by Cabinet;
- A budget of £674k had been set aside for the project. The Decarbonisation Surveyor had secured external funding for the project;
- £7,3k per month would be saved in electricity charges as result of PV installations and the project would also create 63 tonne carbon saving per year.

The Panel made comments and asked questions as follows:

- The Council should be insisting that upgrading and new buildings should have solar energy system installations;
- The Panel welcomed the anticipated savings from this proposal;
- Was the roof at the leisure centre robust enough?
- Had the Council looked into the possibility of inviting solar companies to partner to provide land for solar energy generation projects?
- Were there any plans being considered for similar projects for other swimming pools in the district?

Bob Porter, Andreea Plan, Head of Property and Chris Blundell, Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer responded to questions and comments from the Panel as follows:

- The Council did not have enough scope to get into an arrangement for solar energy projects;
- The funding for swimming pools was oversubscribed and the Council could not get funding for other swimming pools;
- The Climate Change Officer post in the Transformation Service and Decarbonisation Officer in the Property team would assist with the implementation of the solar system installation projects;
- Sharing arrangements had been worked out and credit was given to Matt Sanham and his team for renewing and agreeing the new lease;
- Officers would take the proposal that the Council puts in a condition that all new buildings should have solar photovoltaic (PVs) installations to the officer group for the Local Plan Review.

Councillor Davis proposed, Councillor Austin seconded and the Panel recommended to Cabinet that consideration be given by the Cabinet that all new buildings in Thanet should have solar photovoltaics (PVs) installed on them as a planning condition where physically possible."

The Panel noted the report.

17. PURCHASE OF SECTION 106 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS

Bob Porter introduced the report and made the following comments:

- The proposals in the report were going to contribute to the housing development programme for Thanet;
- The total number of homes secured as part of this programme now exceeds 200, with the first tranche of homes already completed.
- Nearly all of the projects that the Council had implemented had shown an initial deficit but they were projected to go into surplus over time. These surplus would be re-invested into more housing development for the district;
- £300k had been set aside in the reserves to cover for the deficit;
- A Councillor Briefing session would be held in May to provide an update on acquisitions and new builds.

Members asked questions and made comments as follows:

- Was the Council installing solar PVs as well on new buildings and if so how was this being funded?
- How was the stamp duty calculated?
- This was one of the most expensive periods for borrowing money. The Council should be building its own properties in order to provide its own temporary accommodation stock;
- Was the Council providing deposits upfront for the acquisitions and was that money protected if the developer failed to deliver?
- Would the quality of the builds be the same as other properties on the estate?

Bob Porter and Chris Blundell responded to Panel comments and questions as follows:

- The Council now factored in solar energy system installations on all its new builds. However, it has less control over properties it would have purchased from developers;
- During the presentation of the Spring Budget, the Government changed legislation on stamp duty land tax. Those are the changes that were used to calculate the duty tax liabilities. The thresholds were aggregated together to get the 15% duty. The Council wanted to comply with its obligations;
- Council was building its own accommodation and had budgeted £2.5million annually for temporary accommodation. The Council's building programme was more expensive per square metre than acquisitions;
- The borrowing would be by drawdown arrangements and would only be when needed;
- There were two forms of S106 agreement. One was buying the property when it was fully developed and the other was paying in stages

Councillor Manners proposed, Councillor Paul Moore seconded and the Panel agreed to recommend to Cabinet that Cabinet further explore the liabilities for stamp duty land tax (SDLT) to ensure that the correct liability is assessed."

The Panel noted the report.

18. **TOURISM REVIEW WORKING PARTY REPORT**

Councillor Britcher, Chair of the Tourism Review Working Party introduced the report and thanked officers who supported the work of the working party. Councillor Britcher also thanked members of the sub group and non-members for their contribution to the findings and recommendations contained in the review report.

In welcoming the report, the Chair said that he hoped that Cabinet would adopt and action the recommendations. Panel members made further comments as follows:

- Could the report include a recommendation on the private business provision of toilets to the public;
- This could be done through placing a condition when renewing leases on Council properties being leased to private businesses;
- In order to expect businesses to supplement toilet provisions in the local area, the Council had to maximise its own portfolio by refurbishing all the toilets that fall under its property portfolio;
- AirBnB needed regulation so that they contribute to the upkeep of the local public spaces.

Councillor Manners proposed, Councillor Davis seconded and the Panel agreed the following recommendation that:

Thanet District Council should consider when renewing or agreeing leases on properties they own where such properties have toilet facilities attached; that those toilets be made available for public use where possible.

Councillor Britcher proposed, Councillor Fellows seconded and the Panel agreed to recommend to that Cabinet considers the tourism review report and adopts the recommendations that are detailed in the report and summarised below as follows, to:

1. Improve beach management in peak season through measures highlighted in para 3.1 of the report;
2. Improve the provision of public toilets, particularly those most used by visitors;
3. Work to maintain cleanliness, manage waste effectively, improve recycling rates and minimise costs of managing additional waste at peak periods;
4. Proactively manage traffic and parking issues during peak season by measures highlighted in para 3.4;
5. Actively investigate opportunities to maximise income to the Council from the visitor economy to help balance its costs to the Council;
6. TDC should consider when renewing or agreeing leases on properties they own where such properties have toilet facilities attached; that those toilets be made available for public use where possible.

19. REVIEW OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2023/24

One Member suggested that of the remaining scrutiny review topics, the Panel should refer the planning enforcement topic to the Planning Department and get an officer report that comments. The Member further suggested that the Panel should ask the Planning Department on how the Council would incorporate the 10% biodiversity net gain that was recently passed into law) into the Council's planning decisions. They also suggested that the topic on the Review of Protocols and Procedures for Emergency Decisions should be referred to the Governance and Audit Committee, whilst the one on the Parking Income should be reviewed through the current parking strategy review. The Panel could receive regular updates for the topic on externally funded regeneration projects rather than conduct a review.

The Chair said that the Panel should be given the opportunity to review the Section 104 Agreement to ascertain how these agreements were being managed. The Panel should also review the performance of on-street parking. The chair further said that the Panel had received an officer report on the Planning Enforcement Review.

Bob Potter said that reports on regeneration projects update would be coming through to the Panel and Cabinet meetings in the coming months.

The Chair confirmed and the Panel agreed the following as members on the External Grant Funding Review Working Party:

Councillor Austin (Chair)
Councillor Pope;
Councillor Davis;
Councillor Fellows;
Councillor Manners (co-opted).

20. FORWARD PLAN AND EXEMPT CABINET REPORT LIST

The Panel noted the report.

Meeting concluded: 9.44 pm



THANET **COMMUNITY**
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Thanet Community Safety
Partnership

2024

KEY PRIORITIES



THANET **COMMUNITY**
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Thanet Community Safety Partnership priorities for the 3-Year Community Safety Plan for 2023-2026 focus on the following key themes:



DEMOGRAPHICS



THANET COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Population

Thanet's population in 2024 is estimated to be approximately 145,700¹. This is a growth of 5.2% over the last 10 years and is 8.8% of the estimated Kent population. It is the 4th largest district in the KCC area. In Thanet, the population size has increased by 4.8%, from around 134,200 in 2011 to 140,600 in 2021. This is lower than the overall increase for England (6.6%), and the South East. Current forecasts suggest the population will increase a further 24.9% by 2041. This is the 3rd highest rate of growth expected for any Kent district and is higher than the county average of 20.1%.

Age Profiles

Thanet's average (mean) age is 43.6 years which is the 3rd highest in Kent and above the Kent average (41.7 years) (see Figure 1). There continues to be a much higher proportion of 65+ at 23.9% compared to the Kent average of 20.4% and an England average of 18.6%. There is a lower proportion of all age groups younger than 55 than the averages for Kent

Figure 1

Average Age, Mid 2022

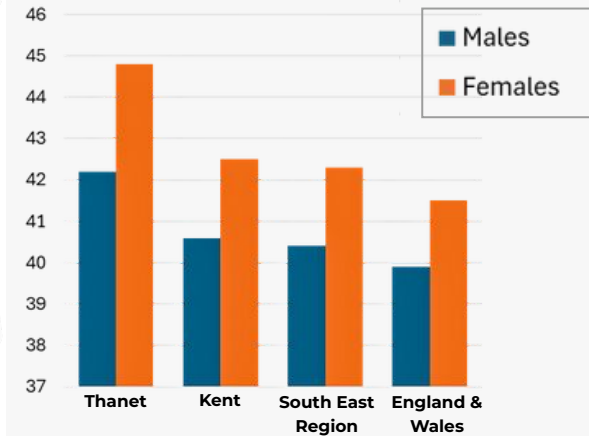
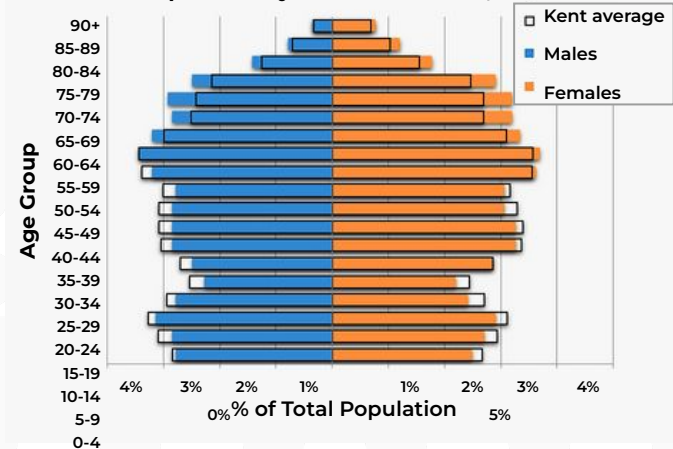


Figure 2

Population by Gender in Thanet, 2022



1 KCC Housing Led Forecast 2021

2 ONS Census 2021

3 ONS Mid-Year Estimates 2022

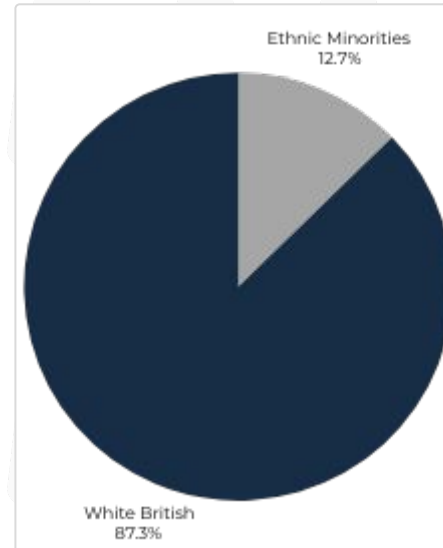
DEMOGRAPHICS



THANET **COMMUNITY**
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Ethnicity

Thanet continues to be the most deprived district in Kent and is the 34th most deprived district nationally (out of 317 local authorities). Of the 84 Lower Super Output Area's in Thanet, 35% are within the top 10% most deprived in England. Margate Central and Cliftonville West wards are the most deprived wards in Kent. Least deprived areas are found in the Bradstowe ward. See deprivation to the right.



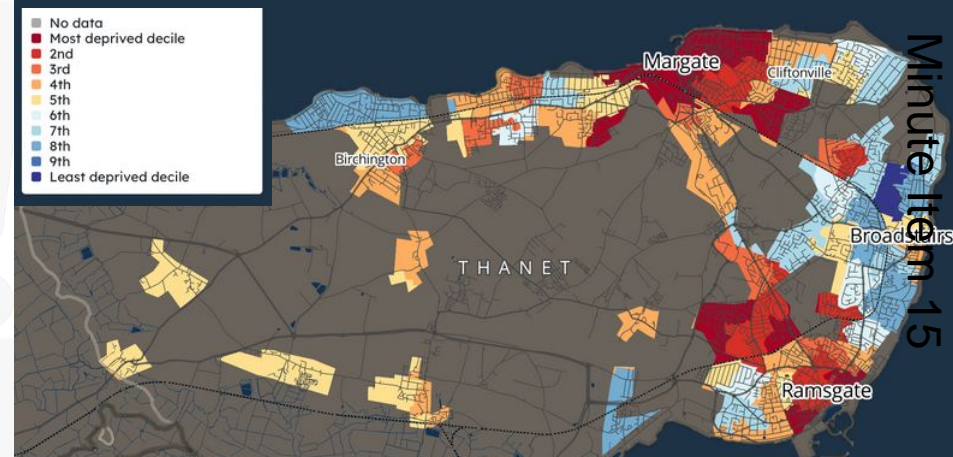
Deprivation

Unemployment

The rate of unemployment in Thanet has maintained between January 2023 and 2024 at 5.6%. This rate is still much higher than the unemployment rate in Kent (3.4%) and the UK (3.7%) despite these rates increasing in the last year. Margate Central is the ward with the greatest unemployment rate at 11.4% whilst Kingsgate has the lowest at 1.8%.

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A map of the Lower Super Output Areas in Thanet representing relative deprivation across the UK.



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4 ONS Census 2021

5 Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

6 NOMIS Claimant Count Jan 23 and Jan 24

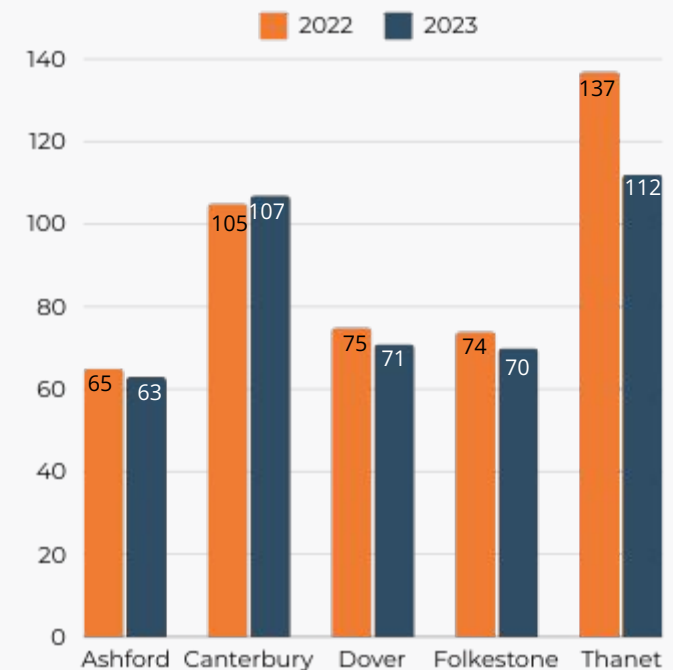


Serious Violent Crimes

Thanet sits within the East Division: Thanet, Dover, Canterbury, Ashford, Folkestone and Hythe. There were a total of 423 serious violent crimes in the division this year (2023) compared to 456 total last year (2022). In 2023, Thanet accounted for 112 of these (22%). This has reduced from 30% in 2022. This is also an 18.2% improvement on last year for Thanet which is the largest improvement made in the division.

Thanet is also ranked highest for violent crime overall accounting for 8054 violent crimes out of 30,090 across the division (27%).

Serious Violent Crime Offences in the East Division in 2022 and 2023



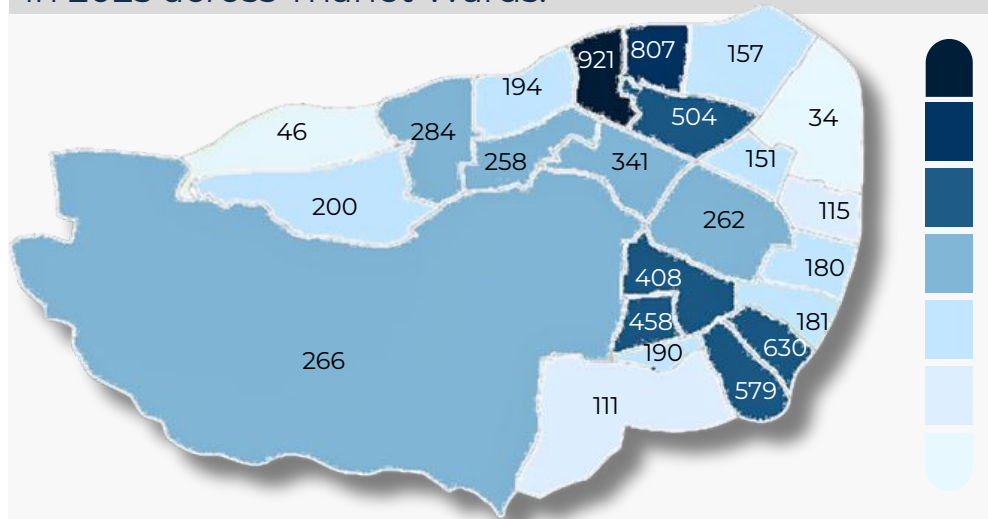


Violent Crimes Against a Person

There were 7340 violent crimes against a person recorded in Thanet in 2023, this accounted for 26.9% of those recorded in the East Kent division and places Thanet as recording the greatest number of crimes in all 12 Kent districts. This was 10.3% less crimes recorded than in 2022 which is in line with the average reduction of 9.1% in the East division.



Number of violent crimes against a person reported in 2023 across Thanet Wards.



Margate Central and Cliftonville West continue to be the wards with the greatest number of violent crimes against the person with 24% of the total crimes reported in these two wards.

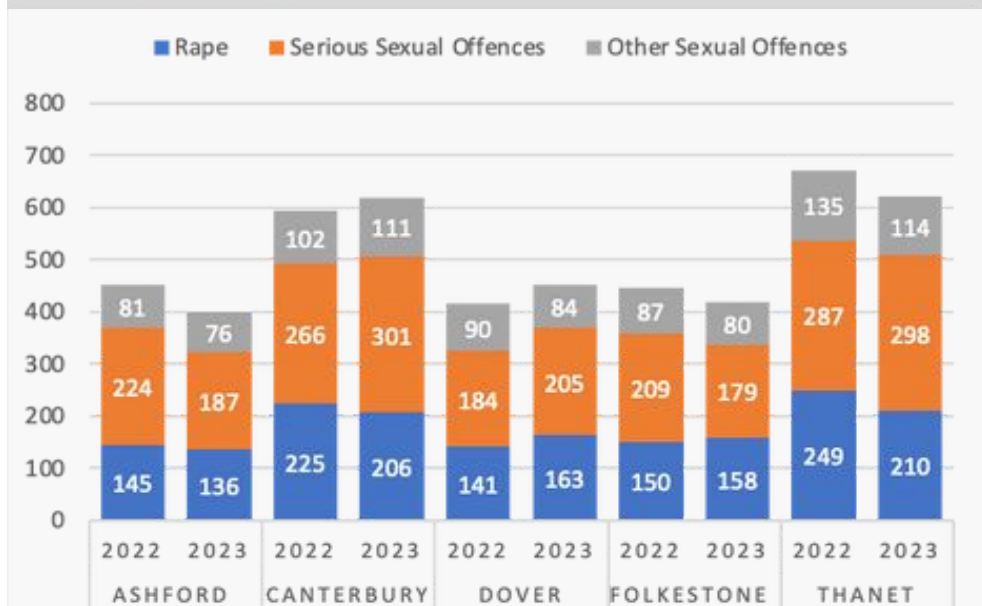
*Numbers represent number of violent crimes against a person in that ward.



Sexual Offences

- Thanet is ranked highest for number of sexual offences out of all 12 Kent districts with 622 sexual offences reported in 2023. Separating by behaviour type, Thanet ranks highest for rape and other sexual offences but ranks 2nd for serious sexual offences behind Canterbury.
- There was a 7.3% reduction in the number of sexual offences in Thanet in 2023 compared to 2022. This is above the average reduction for the East Division (-2.6%) and the entire Kent & Medway force (-4.9%).

Sexual Offences in the East Division in 2022 and 2023.





Sexual Offences

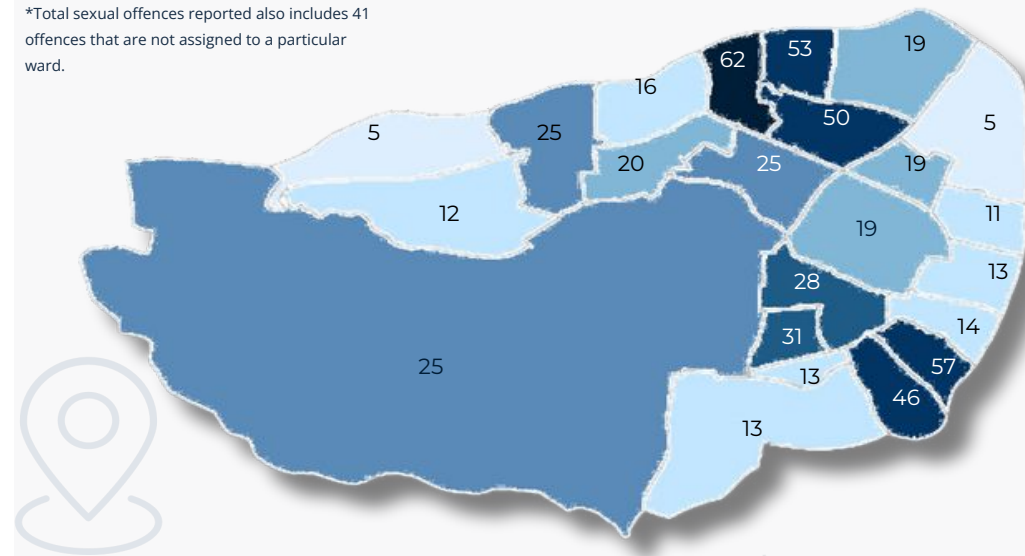
- Margate Central Ward continues to have the highest number of sexual offences reported in Thanet followed by Eastcliff Ward and Cliftonville West Ward. Whilst these three wards remain the highest reporters of sexual offences, they have all seen reductions of between 16.2% and 25.4% compared to last year.

- The Dane Valley Ward has seen a concerning increase in sexual offences in 2023 compared to 2022. A 72.4% increase in number of sexual offences reported means that it has now moved to the 4th highest ward for the most sexual offences reported.

- There is a pattern of the highest reporting wards from 2022 seeing reductions in 2023 whilst the lowest reporting wards from 2022 are seeing increases in reports in 2023.

Heatmap of number of sexual offences reported in 2023 across Thanet wards.

*Total sexual offences reported also includes 41 offences that are not assigned to a particular ward.



*Numbers represent number of sexual offences in that ward.



Reducing Serious Violence

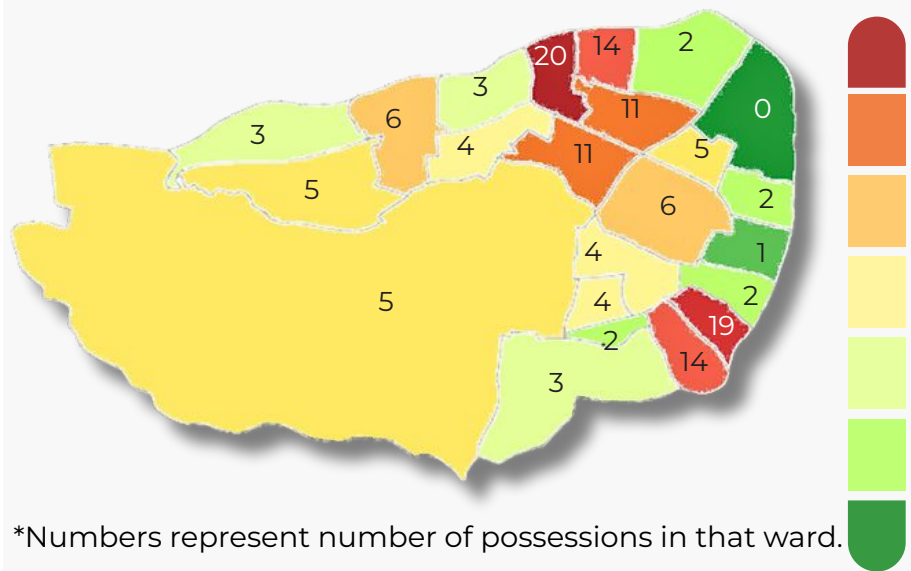


THANET COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

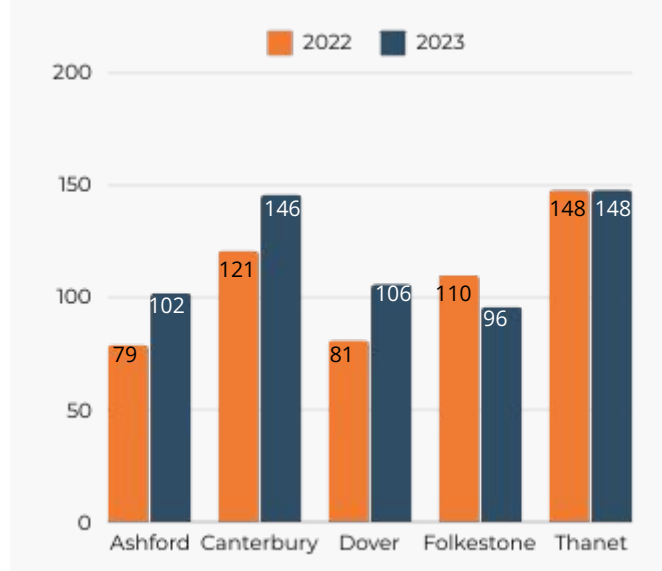
Possession of a Weapon

Thanet continues to have the highest number of weapon possessions in the East Kent Division in 2023. This number has not changed compared to 2022. On average there has been a 10.6% increase of recorded weapon possessions in the Division.

Heatmap of the number of possessions across Thanet wards in 2023.



Weapon Possession Offences in the East Division in 2022 and 2023





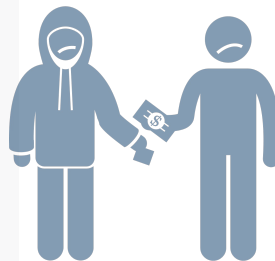
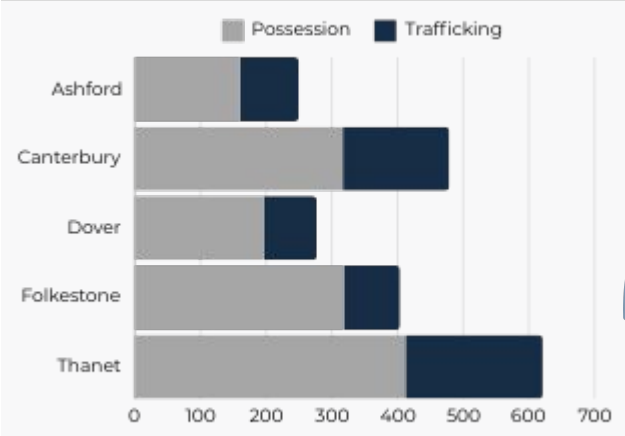
Drug Offences & County Lines

Drug Offences



- Drug offences are on the rise in Thanet with a 9.9% increase overall and a 30.6% increase in drug trafficking in the last year.
- It continues to be the district with the highest number of drug offences in the East Division and in Kent.
- The Margate Central ward accounts for almost 20% of all drug offences in Thanet.

Drug Offences in the East Division in 2023

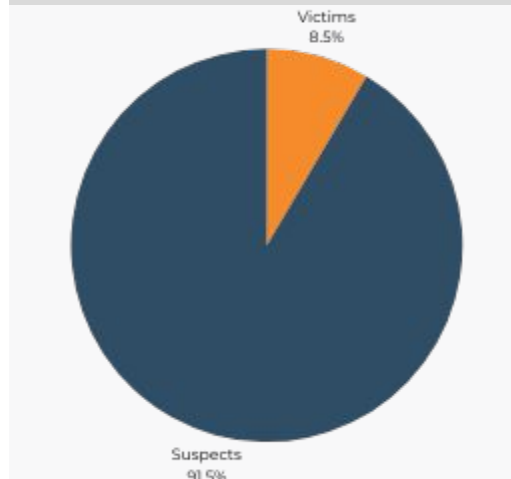


County Lines

In 2023, 43 suspects of a GRIP recorded offence were identified as linked to county lines. There were also 4 victims of GRIP recorded offences that were identified as linked to county lines.

| April 2023 - Feb 2024 | Suspect | Victim | Total |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| Thanet | 43 | 4 | 47 |

Referrals to CLICM, associated with a GRIP recorded offence.



As a new addition to the strategic assessment, the yearly trends on county lines will be comparable in upcoming years.



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Reducing Serious Violence



THANET COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

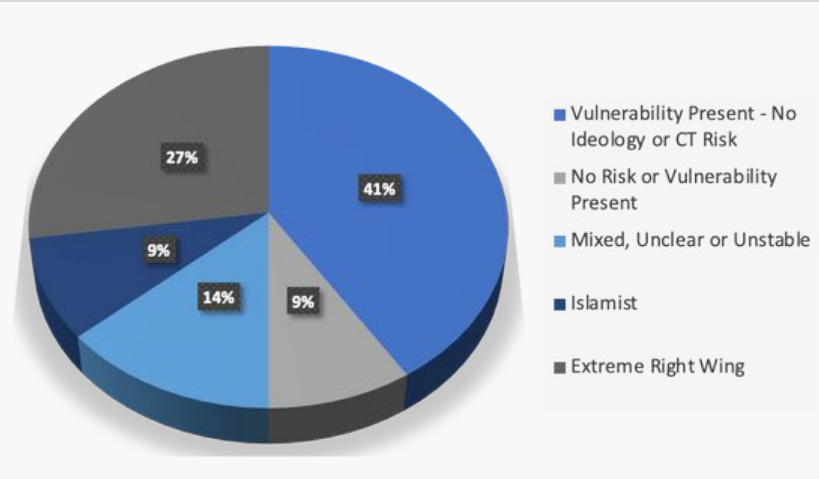
Prevent & Hate Crime

Kent and Medway is a Prevent priority area which has a fully funded Prevent Team.

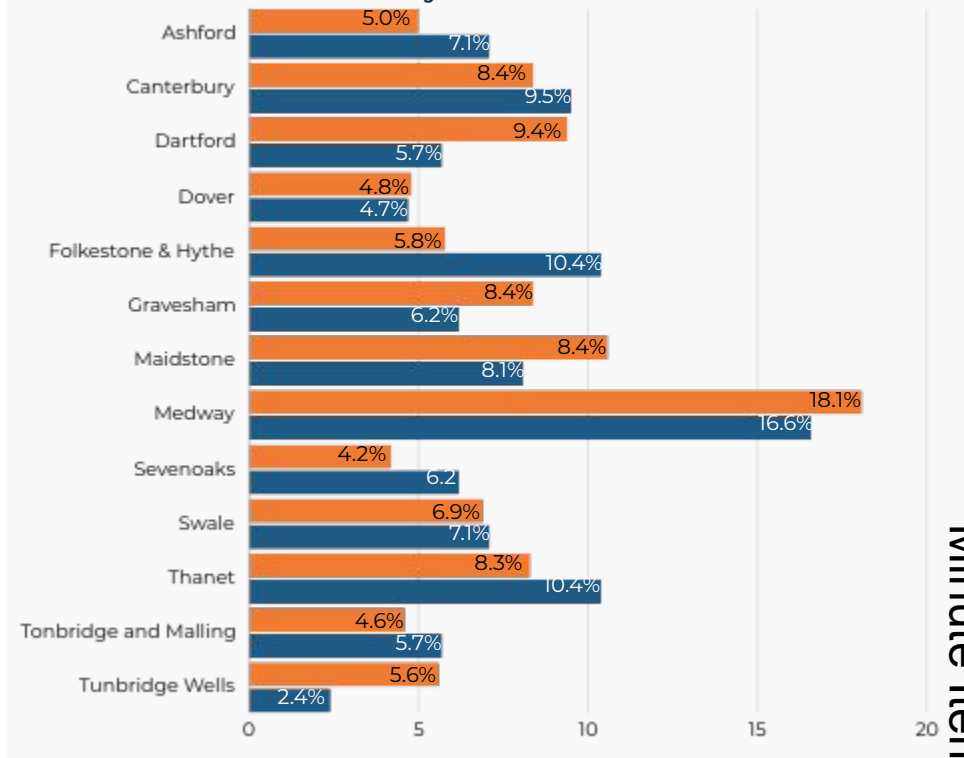
The total number of referrals for Thanet- accounted for 10.4% of all referrals across Kent and Medway during the year of 2022.

Thanet also accounted for 8.3% of all hate crime in Kent and Medway during 2022.

Nature of Prevent referrals in Thanet in 2022.



Distribution of all Prevent referrals and hate crimes across Kent and Medway in 2022.



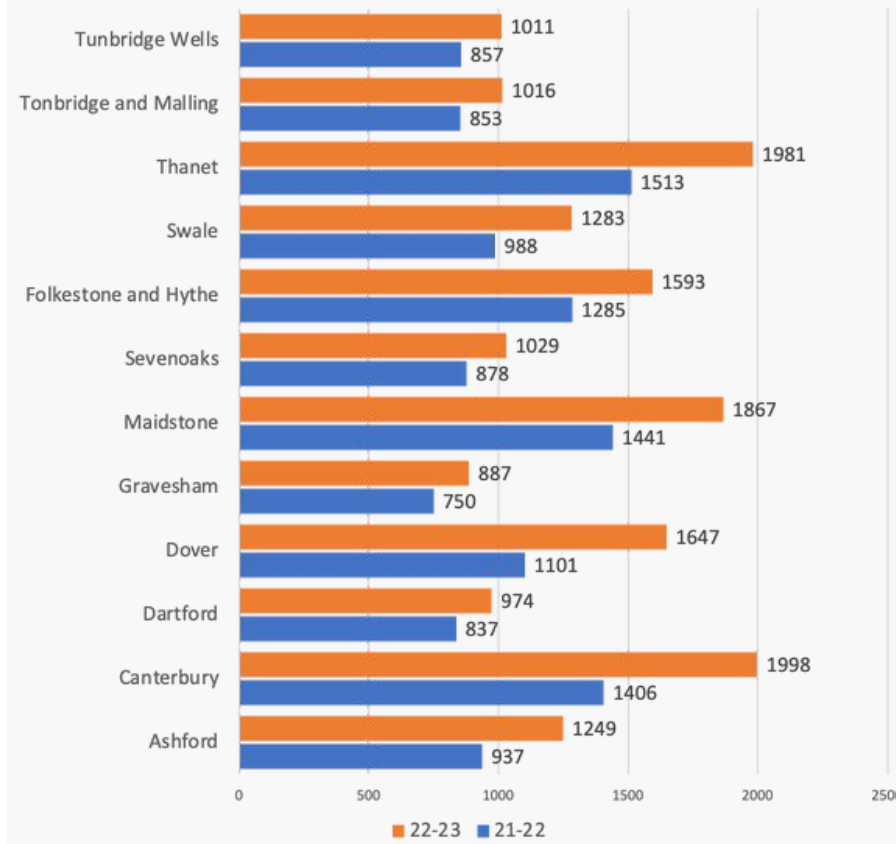
Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism was the most prevalent Ideology (where present). Thanet and Medway have the highest numbers of Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism in Kent.



Safeguarding Adult Notifications

- The number of referrals in Thanet has increased by 468 (30.9%) in 2023. Despite the substantial increase, Thanet is no longer the district with the greatest number of referrals.
- Cliftonville West is the ward with the highest number of referrals within Thanet closely followed by Margate Central.
- In last years assessment, Cliftonville West and Margate Central were 3rd and 6th respectively out of 268 Kent wards for the highest number of referrals. This year they were 7th and 8th.

Number of Adult safeguarding referrals in Kent districts in 21-22 & 22-23.

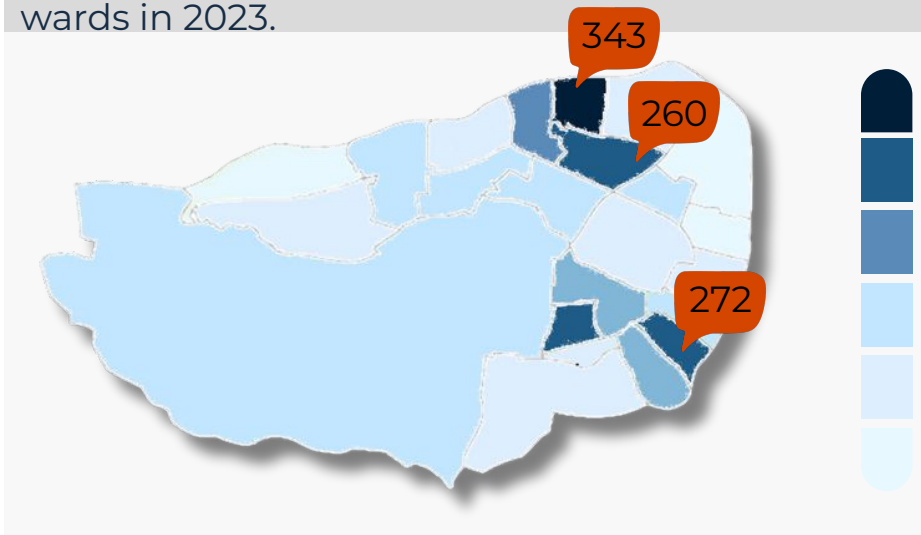




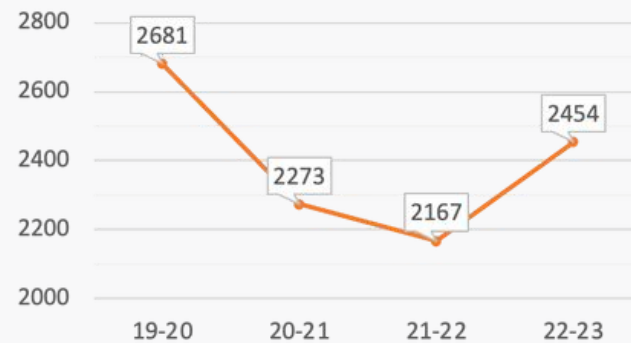
Safeguarding Children Notifications

- The number of child safeguarding referrals in Thanet for 2022-34 was 2454; this was a 13.24% increase on the 2,167 referrals in the previous year.
- Thanet remains the district with the second highest number of referrals in Kent, behind Swale.

Heatmap of the number of referrals across Thanet wards in 2023.



Number of Child safeguarding referrals in Thanet in 2019-2023.



- Cliftonville West Ward has the highest number of referrals in Thanet followed by Eastcliff and Dane Valley.
- All 3 of these are also within the top 10 wards with the highest number of child safeguarding referrals across all 268 Kent wards.



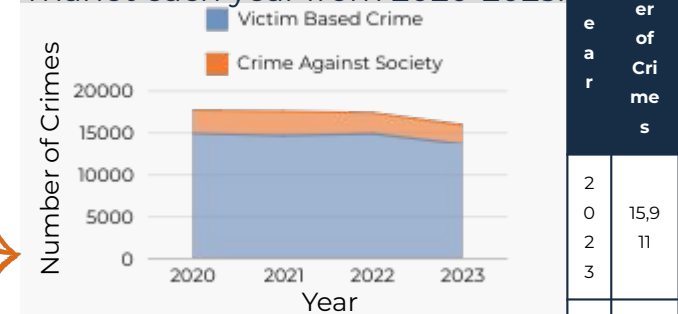
Reducing Offending and Reoffending

- The data below shows all recorded crimes in Thanet across each year. There was an 8.5% reduction in offending this year following several years of smaller 1% reductions.
- There were reductions in the total number of crimes recorded across the whole of the East Division in 2023 compared to 2022.

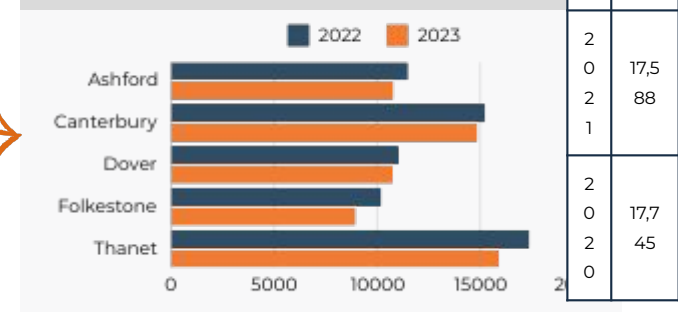
- Whilst Thanet remains the district with the highest crime rate, it did have a higher percentage reduction in crime than three out of the four other districts in the East Division.

- The latest reoffending rates published are for the year 2021 cohort (reoffending in 2022). Thanet is consistently below the national average but above the average for Kent.
- However, Thanet has a greater number of average reoffences per reoffender (4.4) than the national average (3.6). The coming years will shed more light on re-offending rates post-pandemic.

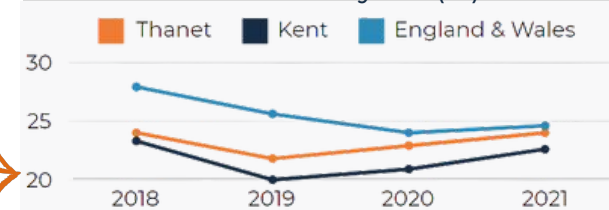
Number of crimes committed in Thanet each year from 2020-2023.



Offending Rates in the East Division in 2022 and 2023



Proportion of offenders that re-offend within one year (%).





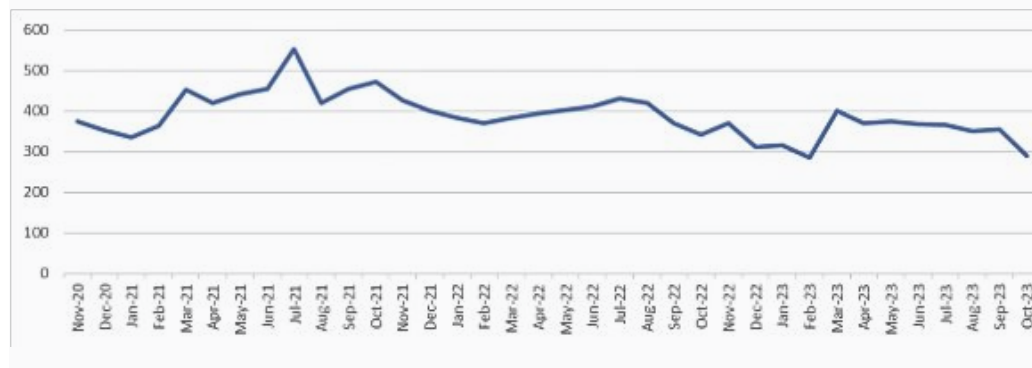
THANET COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)

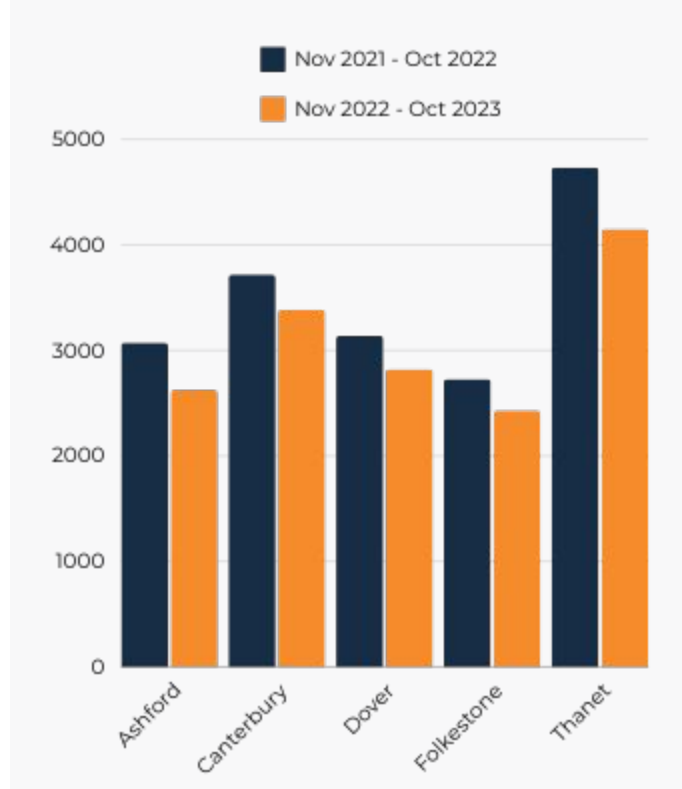
- There were 4152 total incidents of VAWG between November 2022 and October 2023.
- This was a 12.3% reduction compared to the previous year.
- Thanet has the highest number of VAWG incidents out of all 12 districts in Kent.



Three-year trend of VAWG incidents in Thanet.



Total number of VAWG incidents across districts in the East Division.





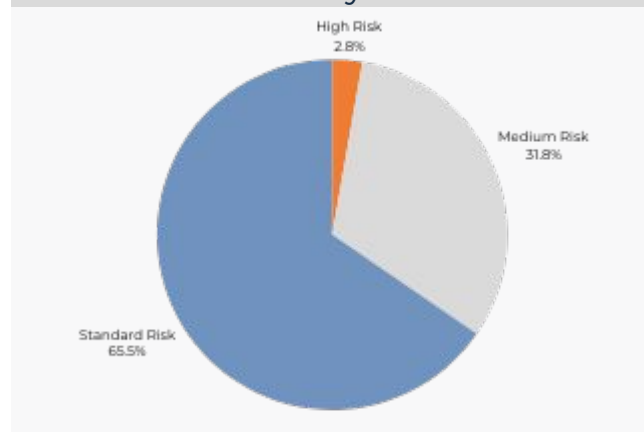
THANET COMMUNITY
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Domestic Abuse

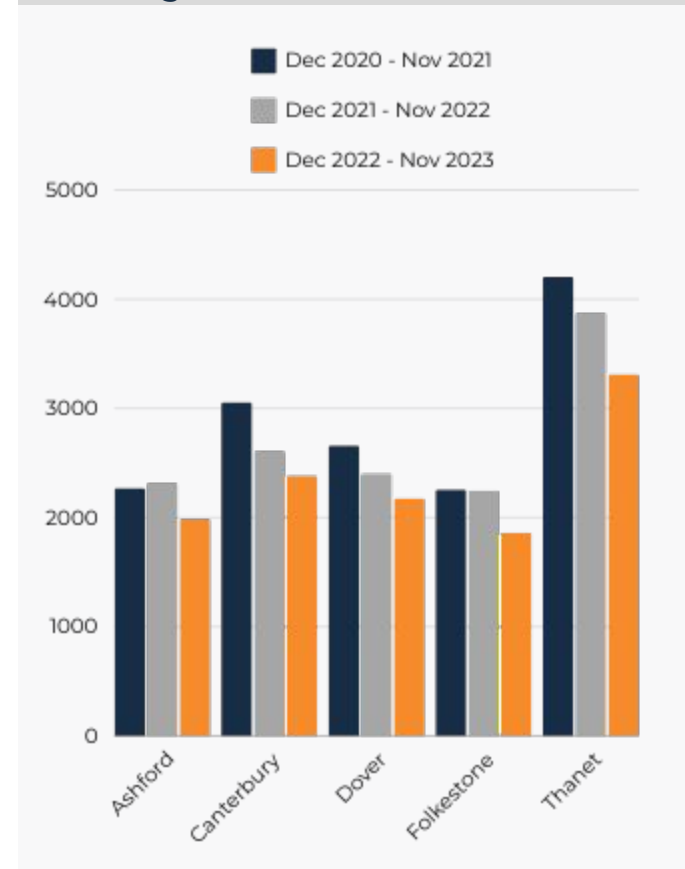
- The number of notifiable domestic abuse offences has continued to reduce across the East division this year.
- Thanet continues to have the highest number of total notifiable offences across Kent despite a 14.4% decrease.

Risk Categorisation of total notifiable offences in the last year.



- Thanet has more than halved the number of high risk referrals this year compared to last and seen a 22.4% reduction in medium risk referrals.

Total number of notifiable offences involving domestic abuse





Looked After Children (LAC)

Oct 2021 - Sep 2022

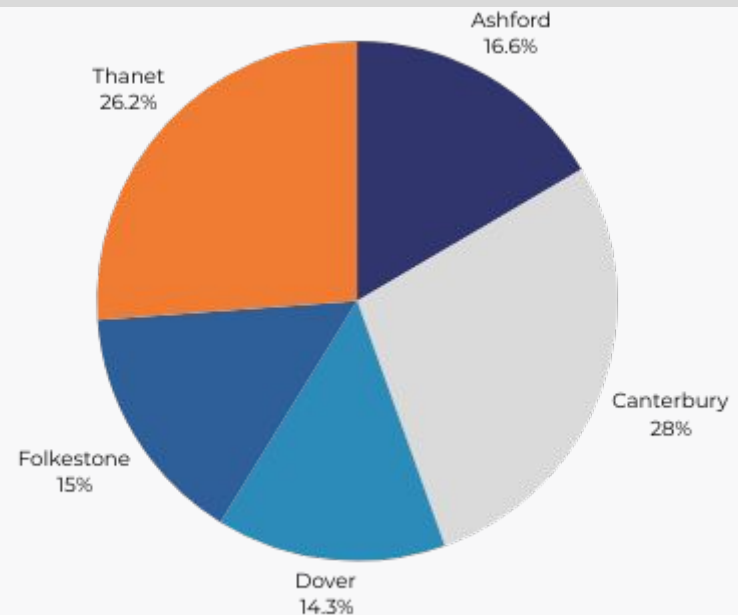
During this timeframe there was a total of 269 looked-after children in Thanet with the highest number being located in Westgate on Sea (25) followed by Garlinge (21), then Central Harbour and Viking with 20.

Oct 2022 - Sep 2023

There were a total of 275 looked-after children in Thanet. The highest number of LAC were located in Cliftonville West (27), followed by Central Harbour (22) and Viking (21).

Thanet is no longer the district with the most LAC in Kent, with Canterbury seeing a larger increase this year.

Proportion of LAC within the East Division in each District.





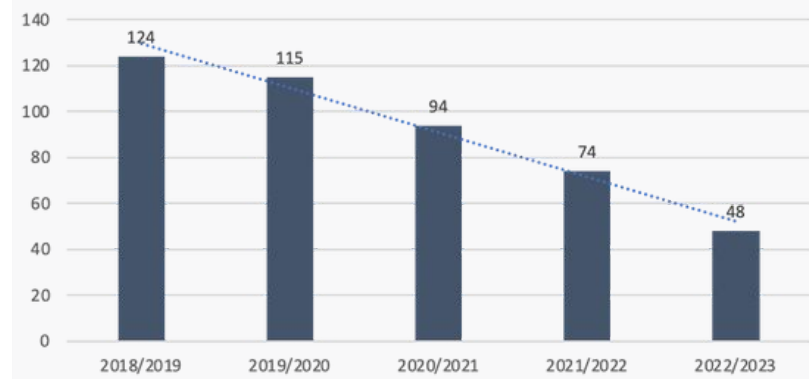
Mental Health

Section 136

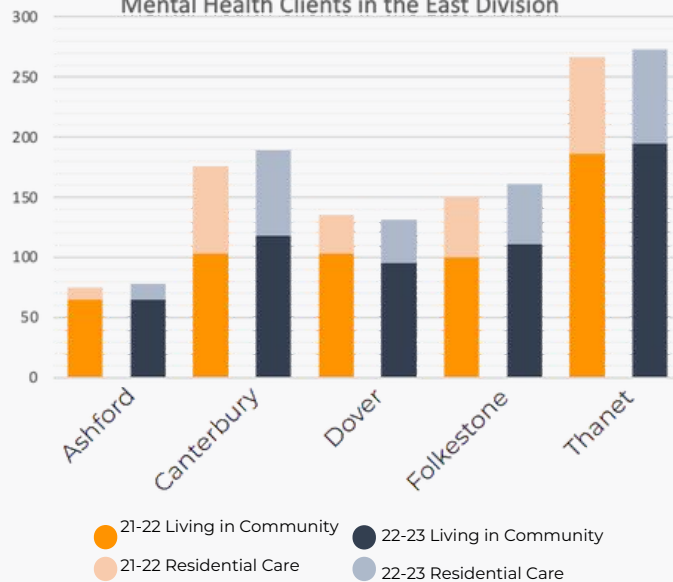
The number of people who have been sectioned under 136 by Kent Police in Thanet has steadily declined in the last 5 years.

* The previous years figures were mistakenly reported in the data provided, therefore the increases that were reported last year were not correct.

Uses of Section 136 in Thanet in the last 5 years.



Mental Health Clients in the East Division



All Mental Health Clients

The number of mental health clients in Thanet has increased again for the period 2022-2023 to 273. Of these, 71.4% are living in the community. Thanet continues to have the highest number of mental health clients in Kent.

Margate Central and Cliftonville West continue to be the wards with the highest number of clients across the past 3 years.



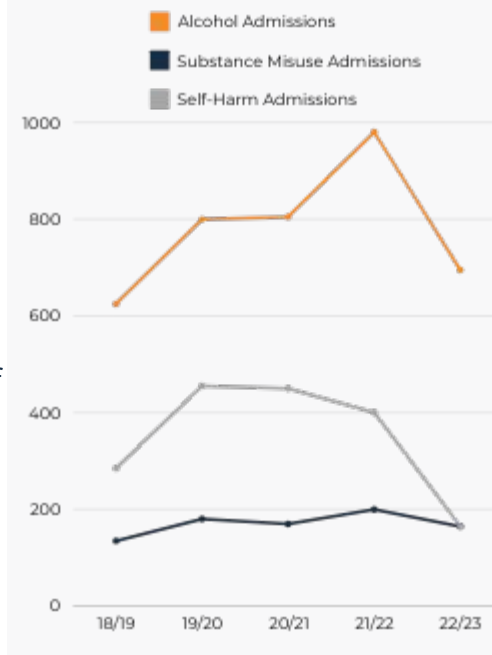
THANET COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Safeguarding Vulnerability

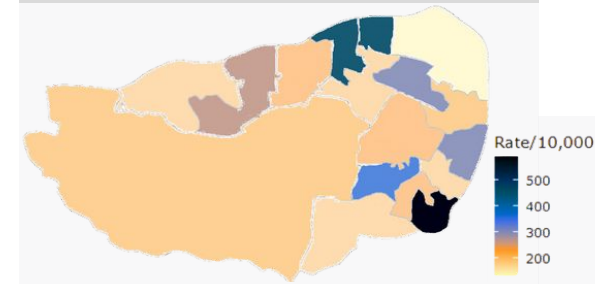
Hospital Admissions Data

- The number of emergency admissions for all three indicators reduced between 2021/22 and 2022/23. Admissions for both alcohol and substance misuse remain higher than records from 2018/19. Alcohol and substance misuse admissions continue to be higher in Thanet than in any other Kent district.
- Admissions by age follow the general pattern for Kent. Age 30-44 was the largest age group for substance misuse. Age 45-64 had a higher number of admissions than age 30-44 for self-harm.
- Alcohol admissions were highest in Ramsgate residents and were elevated in Margate and Cliftonville residents. Substance misuse admissions were highest in Ramsgate, but also elevated in Margate, Newington and Dane Valley.

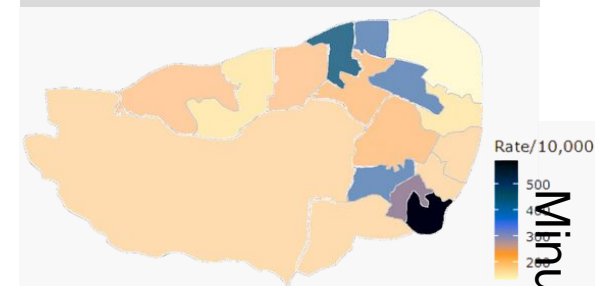
Hospital Admissions of Thanet residents in the last 5 years



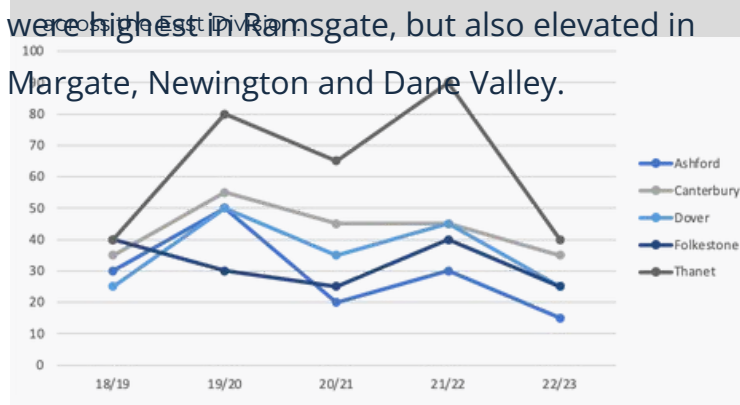
Alcohol Related Admissions in Thanet in 22/23 by resident location.



Substance Misuse Admissions in Thanet in 22/23 by resident location.



Emergency Hospital Admissions for Assault in the last 5 years



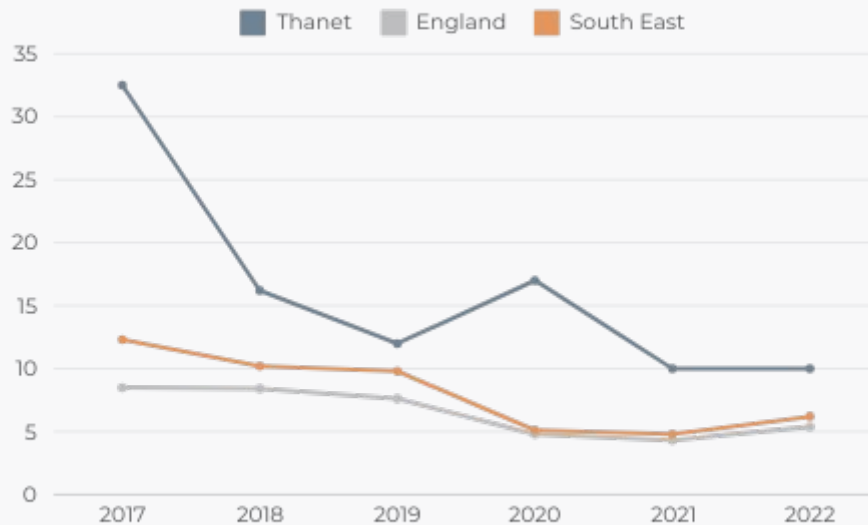
- The number of emergency admissions for assault reduced substantially for Thanet residents in 22/23. This number has returned to the level seen in 18/19 after three years of elevated levels.
- Whilst Thanet still has the highest number of assault admissions in the East division, the 22/23 figures are closer to the other districts compared to previous years.



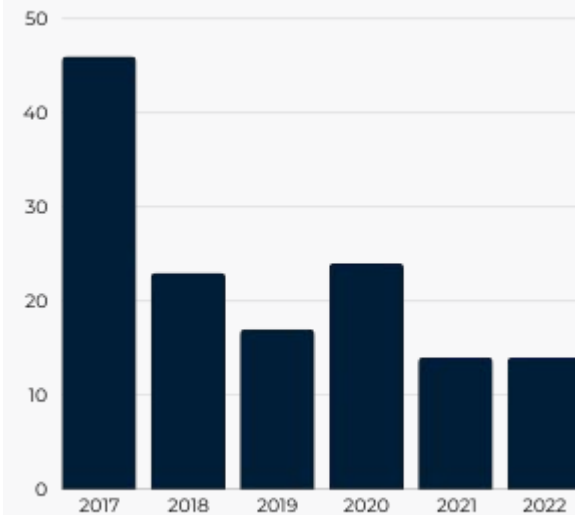
Sleeping Rough

- The number of people sleeping rough in Thanet has decreased over the last few years.
- The rate of people sleeping rough in Thanet is much higher than the national average and average for the South East.

Rate of people sleeping rough per 100,000 people from 2017-22



Number of people sleeping rough in Thanet from 2017-22.





Modern Slavery

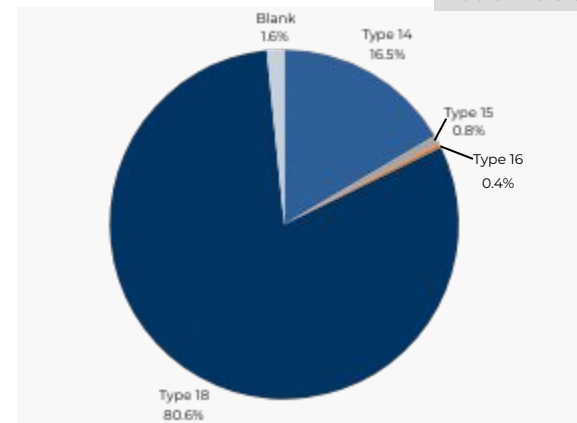
There were 248 Modern Slavery National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals in Thanet in the 23-24 period (April 23 - Feb 24).

| Type | Total |
|--------------|------------|
| DtN | 153 |
| NRM | 248 |
| None | 1 |
| Total | 402 |

| Outcome | Total |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Type 14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based - Suspect Not Identified: Crime confirmed but the victim either declines or unable to support further police investigation to identify the offender. | 41 |
| Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action. | 2 |
| Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential difficulties prevent further action: Victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action. | 1 |
| Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified: Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible - case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available. | 200 |
| Blank | 4 |
| Total | 248 |

- The outcome of the 248 NRM referrals can be seen in the table to the left. The majority of referrals resulted in no suspect being identified.
- In the 1.2% of cases in which a named suspect was identified, further action was prevented by evidential difficulties.

Proportion of overall NRM referrals for each outcome.

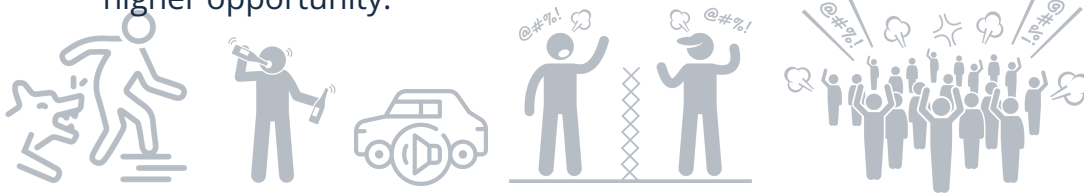
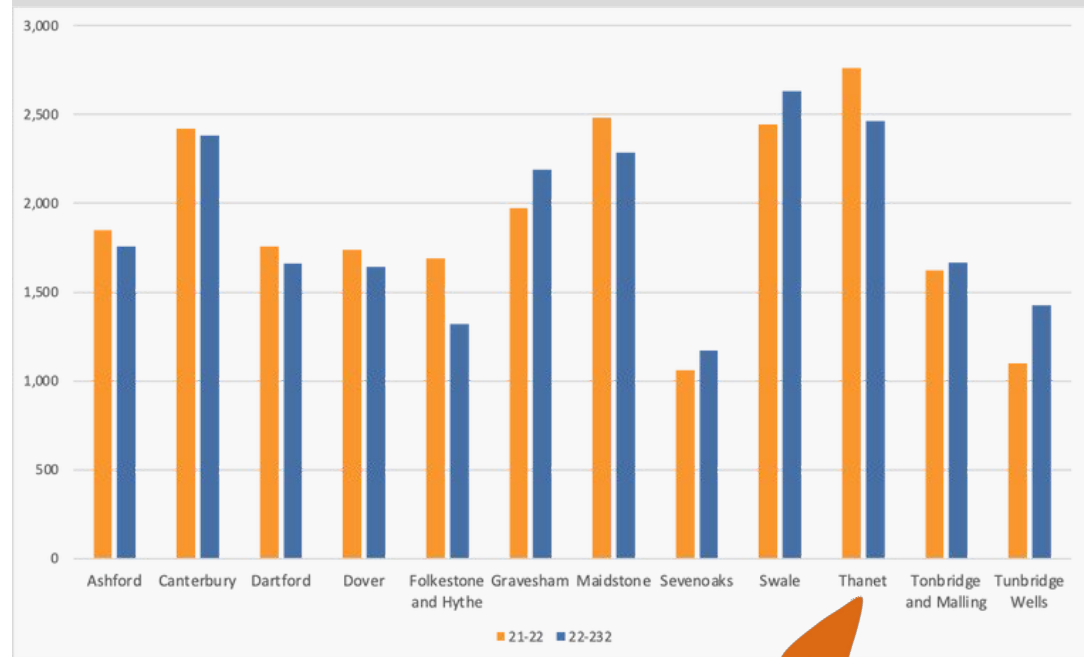




Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

- Tackling Anti-Social behaviour (ASB) is a large part of TCSP's remit. Out of all districts within Kent Divisions, Thanet sits 2nd for the most instances of ASB. Thanet has the highest number of police ASB calls in the East Division.
- After a significant reduction of 36.8% in ASB in the 21-22 period, Thanet has continued to reduce ASB by 10.8% in the 22-23 period.
- ASB peaks primarily in the summer months, which can be for a variety of reasons: tourism, school holidays, environment and higher opportunity.

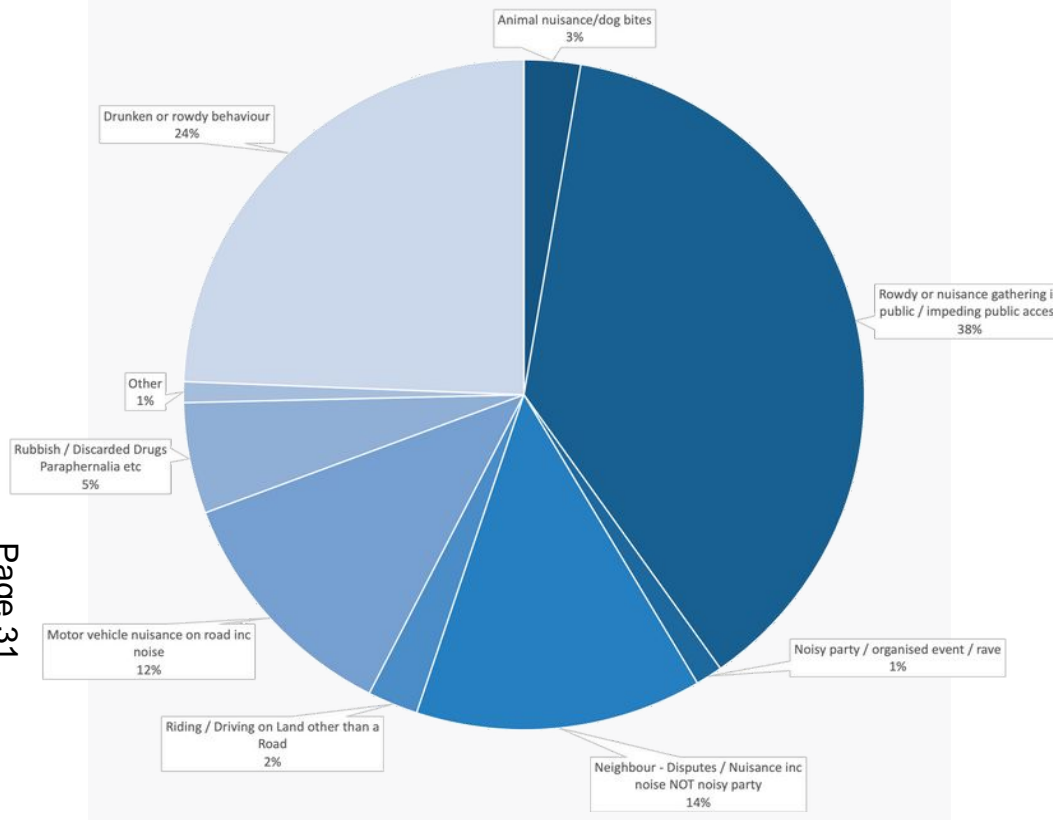
Total ASB reports across Kent districts in 2021-22 and 2022-23.





Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Category of ASB behaviour reported in Thanet in 2022-23.

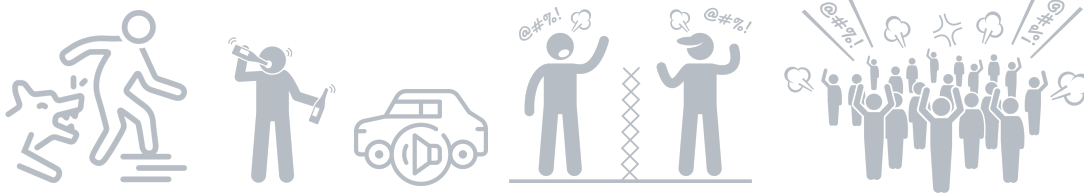


The most significant increases in ASB in the year 22-23 were seen in animal nuisance and motor vehicle nuisance, both of which roughly doubled compared to the previous year.

| | This Year | Last Year | % change |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Animal nuisance/dog bites | 73 | 49 | 49.0% |
| Motor vehicle nuisance on road inc noise | 269 | 175 | 53.7% |

The most prominent ASB issues in Thanet are 'Drunken or Rowdy Behaviour' and 'Rowdy or Nuisance Gathering in Public' which collectively account for 62% of ASB reports in Thanet. This is followed by neighbour disputes accounting for 14% of reports. All three of these issues have seen positive improvements in the year

| | This Year | Last Year | % change |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Rowdy or nuisance gathering in public / impeding public access | 952 | 1055 | -9.8% |
| Drunken or rowdy behaviour | 631 | 728 | -13.3% |
| Neighbour - Disputes / Nuisance inc noise NOT noisy party | 368 | 541 | -32.0% |





Community Reassurance

Neighbourhood Engagement Meetings

Neighbourhood Engagement Meetings are held every quarter in each of the 4 main towns in the Thanet District; Margate, Ramsgate, Broadstairs (including St Peters) and Birchington/Garlinge (including the villages). These meetings are led by members of the community and they are attended by representatives from Thanet District Council and Kent Police

Social Media



TCSP's Facebook page has 1,400 followers.



The TCSP Instagram page has 250 followers and has published 123 posts.



The TCSP Twitter/X account has 519 followers.

Facebook Engagement

- The Thanet CSP Facebook page has gained 88 new followers since April 23.
- The average number of posts and reach of posts has decreased this year.
- However, the average interaction per post has increased slightly.

| Year | Average Number of Posts per Month | Average Reach per Post | Average Interaction per Post |
|-------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 22-23 | 11.4 | 996.8 | 8.2 |
| | ↓ | ↓ | ↑ |
| 23-24 | 9.7 | 831 | 8.3 |



Annual Resident Consultation



The **top 3 things** that influenced how unsafe people feel included:

1. Certain areas or locations
2. News in the local media



89%

Felt safe or very safe during the daytime



55%

Felt safe or very safe during the night-time.



70%

Reported their feelings of safety have stayed the same in the last 12 months.



57%

Had no incidents of noisy neighbours and/or loud parties.



45%

Had no incidents of people using or dealing drugs.



48%

Had no incidents of vandalism or other deliberate damage to property or

vehicles.



20%

Had 10 or more incidents of vehicles in their road that are causing a nuisance.



68%

Reported they were concerned or really concerned about nuisance parking.



47%

Reported they were concerned or really concerned about street drinkers.



53%

Reported they were concerned or really concerned about people dealing drugs.



31%

Reported they were concerned or really concerned about anti-social neighbours.

Conclusion



THANET COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

- Thanet has seen improvements in almost all areas in the last year and the data is demonstrating that things are heading in a positive direction.
- Nevertheless, the level of deprivation in Thanet far exceeds the rest of Kent and most of England. Alongside this, Thanet has inflated levels of unemployment, rough sleeping, mental health issues, looked after children, alcohol misuse and substance misuse. These risk factors make Thanet more vulnerable to crime and anti-social behaviour and contributes to why it continually has some of the highest levels of criminal behaviour in Kent.
- This is why it is important for us to highlight the improvements being made year-on-year to combat the disadvantaged position that Thanet is in.
- This year presents some of the first data that is not directly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, due to the current economic and cost of living crisis it is possible that identical issues will present themselves in the upcoming year: loss of jobs, businesses closing, mental health struggles and further deprivation.
- Despite the statistics at a glance still indicating serious issues in Thanet, Thanet is improving exponentially compared to most other districts.
- Notably, whilst most districts have seen a rise in weapon offences, Thanet has seen no change. The Tackling Knife Crime project comprised of Knife Amnesty Bins alongside The Knife Crime Awareness Programme, which adds an educational element around the law, impacts and safety of knife crime in educational settings across the Thanet district. These components may explain this comparatively positive outcome.
- Anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Thanet continues to see reductions, with the most prominent issues: drunken behaviour and rowdy gatherings; seeing the most substantial improvements. This could indicate that the implementation of the Alcohol and ASB Public Space Protection Order as well as the Coastal Enforcement Team show efficiency in tackling these issues.
- Whilst the current economic climate and level of deprivation are conducive to mental health remaining a prominent issue in Thanet; improvements are systematically being made. For example, Police are having better access to mental health services during crisis which may explain the marked reduction in the use of Section 136. Additionally, the steady increase in the use of mental health services may also be the result of reduced stigma surrounding help-seeking. With the new 'Right Person, Right Care' model being introduced this year, Thanet should see further success in the provision of mental health services.
- The Multi agency RISE team, embedded in 2018, also continues to work with rough sleepers whilst combating mental health, substance misuse and providing support for long-term resolutions. Statistics demonstrate another positive for Thanet district with a steady decline in rough sleeping since this team was formed.
- Drug-related issues have been highlighted as an area that could be improved. Increases in drug offences and particularly in drug trafficking as well as drug-related issues being a prominent mention in the neighbourhood perception survey, indicate that Thanet could benefit from a targeted project combating drug-related issues.
- Residents of the Thanet district have reported increased feelings of safety and there has been a greater reduction of offending behaviour this year compared to previous years.
- The projects currently being implemented by the TCSP value the safety plan priorities. These are supported through a multi-agency approach that shares resources for the best outcomes; 'Community Shield', 'Community Engagement', 'My Night Out', 'VAWG', 'In Her Shoes' and 'Tackling Knife Crime' consistently raise awareness and directly impact vulnerable groups, which may account for these positive developments.

2023 - 2026 Priorities



THANET COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



REDUCING SERIOUS VIOLENCE

- Knife Crime
- Assaults
- Domestic Abuse
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Gang Violence
- Mental Health
- Poverty and Unemployment
- Exploitation
- Diversionary Activities
- Sexual Offences
- Safeguard Adults
- Safeguard Young People
- Disruption of Crime
- Burglary Dwelling
- Hate Crime
- Cyber Crime
- Complex Fraud
- Street Robbery
- County Lines
- Organised Crime Groups



SAFER PEOPLE

- Building Young People's Resilience
- Building Adult Resilience
- Domestic Abuse
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Serious Financial Crime
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Fraud
- Reducing Offending/Reoffending
- Radicalisation
- Cuckooing
- Modern Day Slavery
- Rehabilitation of Offenders
- Rehabilitation of Substance Misuse
- Supporting Victims of Crime
- Supporting Families



SAFER PLACES

- Anti-social Behaviour
- Open Spaces
- Town Centres
- Housing Conditions
- Substance Misuse
- Human Trafficking
- Modern Day Slavery
- Diversionary Activities for Young People
- Environmental Crime
- Events
- Mental Health
- CCTV
- Unauthorised Encampments
- Safe Spaces
- Designing Out Crime
- Improper Use of Land
- Target Hardening
- Fly Tipping
- Transient Population Management

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