

FOLKESTONE & HYTHE DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN

1 April 2021 - 31 March 2024



FOLKESTONE & HYTHE
**COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP**



Introduction

Folkestone & Hythe Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body bringing together a number of public sector agencies to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reduce re-offending.

The Community Safety Partnership is overseen by an executive group, comprising senior personnel from the responsible authorities and other agencies, including the voluntary and community sector. Sub-groups, addressing the agreed directions of action, have been set up to deal with priorities of the CSP. Each sub-group has an action plan to address the objectives set by the Community Safety Partnership Executive. Additionally the CSP utilises its multi-agency Community Safety Unit – CSU (co-ordinated by Folkestone & Hythe District Council) to carry out operational delivery.

This plan has in the past been renewed on a yearly basis, however the CSP is now moving to a three yearly partnership plan but with an annual review. The plan is informed by an annual strategic assessment process (statutory requirement and a restricted document).

The purpose of a Strategic Assessment (SA) is to provide knowledge and understanding of community safety issues to partners of the CSP, support development of the plan and help identify key priorities for the CSP. This is done through intelligence analysis to identify the emerging priorities by considering the patterns, trends and shifts relating to community safety. The yearly SA process will help identify any revisions required to the plan over its three year life span (the time span for data is October – September i.e. for this year 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020).

The CSP also works closely with other relevant agencies, the voluntary and community sector, the business sector and local residents.

In addition the Kent wide CSP also influences activity and the County Community Safety Agreement (CSA) produced by Kent County Council (statutory requirement) requires local CSPs to have regard to the activity contained within the CSA. KCC also takes into account the priorities of District CSPs in Kent when formulating the CSA.

The current global pandemic and the introduction of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 will have had an impact on activity in the last year and will have an ongoing impact within the district.

The full effect of Brexit on Kent and its businesses is still largely unknown at the time this plan was produced. Finally, consideration must be given to issues such as the Prevent strategy, which focuses on safeguarding people and communities from extremism and radicalisation, modern day slavery and other vulnerabilities that our communities face.

Background

The latest population figures from the 2019 mid-year population estimates show that there are 113,000 people living in the Folkestone & Hythe district. This population size ranks Folkestone & Hythe as the third smallest Kent local authority district area. 63% of the district's population live in urban areas with the remaining 37% living in the surrounding rural area.

The Folkestone urban area is home to 48% of the total population whilst 16% of the district's residents live in the Hythe urban area. The age profile of the Folkestone & Hythe population shows that the district has an older age profile compared to the county average, with a greater proportion of people aged over 50 than the average for the Kent County Council (KCC) area.

In terms of crime, the area has one of the lowest rates in Kent for vehicle offences, shoplifting and some theft offences, public order offences and violence with injury. However it has a higher rate than some other districts for violence without injury, violence against the person and victim based crime. (For further information see appendix 1 to this plan.)

Key issues facing the area include the necessary adjustments from leaving the EU and changes to legislation including the new Domestic Abuse Bill, the Policing Bill and Violence Reduction bill and the resulting impact on partnership activity.

Other tensions may impact from time to time around national and international issues such as Black Lives Matter, wider inequalities and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The impacts of COVID-19 will bring about its own challenges as the area recovers. However support continues to be provided to communities e.g. through the community hubs and keeping people safe is a priority as restrictions are eased.

Ongoing education and advice on any current or new guidance around minimising COVID spread, as well as preparedness for any major increases in infection level, will continue as areas of work. More information is available at: folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/community-hub



Legislation

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation the responsible authorities commonly referred to now as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), were required to carry out three yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies.

The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced scrutiny arrangements in the form of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, as well as introducing a number of amendments to the 1998 Act including the addition of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and substance misuse within the remit of the CSP strategies. Reducing reoffending was subsequently added by the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 set out further revisions to the 1998 Act, the most notable of which at district/borough level included the requirement for producing annual strategic assessments and triennial partnership plans. For two tier authorities such as Kent, the statutory Community Safety Agreement was introduced.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. This brought with it a requirement for the PCC to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs and for those authorities to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The legislation also brought with it a mutual duty for the PCC and the responsible authorities to act in co-operation

with each other in exercising their respective functions. The Kent and Medway Police Panel meets on a quarterly basis and is attended by a Cabinet councillor from Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

The requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into effect on 13th April 2011 as a result of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). In Kent and Medway it was agreed that these would be commissioned by the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) utilising pooled funding on behalf of the local CSPs including Medway. The DHR process has been developed and enhanced since its introduction including the implementation of updated statutory guidance from the Home Office.

All CSP partners will have other duties around enforcing key legislation such as the Modern Day Slavery Act 2015, Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014, Prevent Duty, safeguarding legislation etc. and this features in some of the activities that the CSP carries out.

Work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

Strategic assessment

It is a statutory requirement to analyse crime and other trends and to use this data in defining priorities. This analysis is collated in a document (SA) and will include school exclusions, hospital admissions from substance misuse, self-harm etc as well as key crime data and levels of anti-social behaviour. The SA is a restricted document and contains further analytical data to support the production of this plan and helps partners to assess which areas of work to prioritise.

Folkestone & Hythe Community Safety Partnership

The statutory CSP meets quarterly and has a number of sub groups with links across to many other key partnerships and plans. The CSP ensures activity to address priorities and that other emerging trends are dealt with appropriately. The CSP has many statutory functions that it discharges and these include addressing counter terrorism through Prevent and tackling issues such as modern day slavery, domestic homicide, gangs and county lines via violence reduction initiatives and drugs and alcohol misuse strategies. The sub groups of the CSP are shown in the chart below and their activity later in the plan.

Structure of the F&H CSP



Community Safety Partnership priorities – 2021-24

Safeguarding & Domestic Abuse Subgroup

- Domestic abuse
- Mental health
- Drugs and alcohol
- Safeguarding children and adults
- District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting (DCSM) – Children
- Missing children

Cross Cutting Themes

- Violence reduction
- COVID Recovery
- Reducing offending

Crime & Community Resilience

- Modern slavery and human trafficking
- Cuckooing, gangs, county lines and criminal exploitation
- Fraud
- Financial and acquisitive crime
- Drug dealing
- Integrated Offender Management
- Hate/mate crime
- Prevent strategy
- Violence reduction
- Serious and organised crime (SOC) and Organised crime groups (OCGs)
- District Vulnerabilities Panel (DVP) – adults

Community Safety Unit

- Anti-social behaviour
- Public Spaces Protection Order
- Environmental crime/environmental health
- Town centres
- Licensing
- Events
- Hotspot locations
- Substance misuse
- Diversionary activities
- Housing
- Homeless
- High risk adults and young people
- Community triggers
- Prison releases
- Community protection warnings and community penalty notices
- Unauthorised encampments

Delivery of some of the activities that the CSP is responsible for occurs through a range of multi-agency meetings and task and finish groups.

Working on issues that matter to residents

During 2019-20 local engagement meetings were held to enable the community to raise issues with agencies and councillors. Potential resolutions to local problems, such as anti-social behaviour and criminal damage, were addressed as well as the need for patrolling hot spot areas.

Joint patrols were carried out in areas where anti-social behaviour was a problem. Work was also undertaken with those who were homeless and with vulnerable people to ensure they could be housed safely through the pandemic. The patrolling enabled engagement with the community to support education and adherence to COVID-19 regulations to minimise spread of the virus.

Prior to the pandemic multi-agency patrols (Op Ariel) were a way of engaging with communities and listening to their issues.

The operation enabled a very localised and immediate response to particular issues including taking direct enforcement action if a breach of legislation was witnessed during the operation. These, as well as other multi agency operations, will be continued as resources allow.



Community Safety Unit

The multi-agency weekly meeting of the Community Safety Unit (CSU) provides an essential operational delivery arm for the CSP. Attended by over 40 partners including Kent Police, Kent County Council Social Services, the National Probation Service, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Folkestone & Hythe District Council and the voluntary sector including Porchlight and the Rainbow Centre. The CSU addresses issues ranging from anti-social behaviour to serious mental health issues in vulnerable people impacting the community and street homelessness. It acts as a sub group of the CSP and details of its activity are shown later in the plan.

Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) funding

Each year the CSP receives PCC funding.

This funding enables projects to be delivered that help meet the priorities of the PCC as well as the priorities of the CSP.

For 2021 examples of projects to be funded include:

- Urban Pastors – to address hot spot anti-social areas and engage with people during the night time economy to keep people safe as well as engagement and intervention with vulnerable groups.
- Kent Community Domestic Abuse (DA) Programme – a support programme to change behaviours (for perpetrators of DA) and the One Stop Shop Clinic to support victims of abuse.
- Youth Safeguarding Conference – interactive programme with schools on a range of safeguarding issues to tackle abuse, exploitation, violence and organised crime and gangs.

Delivery of priorities

Safeguarding and domestic abuse subgroup

Led by Kent County Council • Meets every six weeks

Example activities to tackle the issues

- A Safeguarding Adult Awareness week is carried out each October and plans for October 2021 are underway to raise awareness within the wider community on all aspects of adult abuse.
- A 'Toxic Trio' conference, delayed due to COVID-19, will be carried out to raise awareness and develop strategies to work with families where there are issues of domestic abuse, mental health and alcohol and substance misuse. This will look at the impact of living with these issues and how those with adverse childhood experiences can move into their adult lives.
- Raising awareness about staying safe online.
- Continuing to provide training and raise awareness around all aspects of safeguarding and supporting vulnerable people. This will include work towards a safeguarding conference for young people
- Addressing the implications of the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- Ensuring efficiency of One Stop Shop clinics and weekly attendance by partner agencies.
- The group will be a key contributor to the community safety meetings and District Vulnerabilities Panel meetings.

Crime and Community Resilience

Led by Kent Police • Monthly sub-group

Example activities to tackle the issues

- The Crime and Community Resilience Sub-Group will focus on the delivery of a partnership approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Focus areas will be in line with the Kent Police Control Strategy.
- The Serious and Organised Crime Panel will continue to meet regularly to agree priorities and actions for dealing with most serious crimes (such as burglary and robbery), Organised Crime Groups, recidivist offenders, and crime series/clusters.
- Joint work and operations with specialist Kent Police teams will focus on county lines drug dealing, gangs/young criminal groups and criminal exploitation of the vulnerable.
- The Violence Reduction Unit will support local delivery of education and awareness training on knife crime and gang culture, providing opportunities for diversion and intervention. Work with partners to identify the most vulnerable and prosecute those that exploit them will continue. Implications of the new Violence Reduction Bill and requirements on CSPs including funded projects will be led by this group. Op Finnish, is the local response to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The “Ask Angela” initiative is to be explored together with focused work with taxis and the more problem night time locations.
- The group will support the production of an updated Prevent action plan.
- The Kent and Medway Gangs strategy aims will be a key document to help drive activity.

- Hate crime will remain a focus for enforcement and investigative activity. Working with our hate crime investigation team to support victims and target offenders and those that display intolerant or bigoted attitudes and behaviours.
- A positive and proactive approach to domestic violence, providing support, protection and guidance to victims while pursuing all opportunities to put offenders before the courts will be taken.

Community Safety Unit

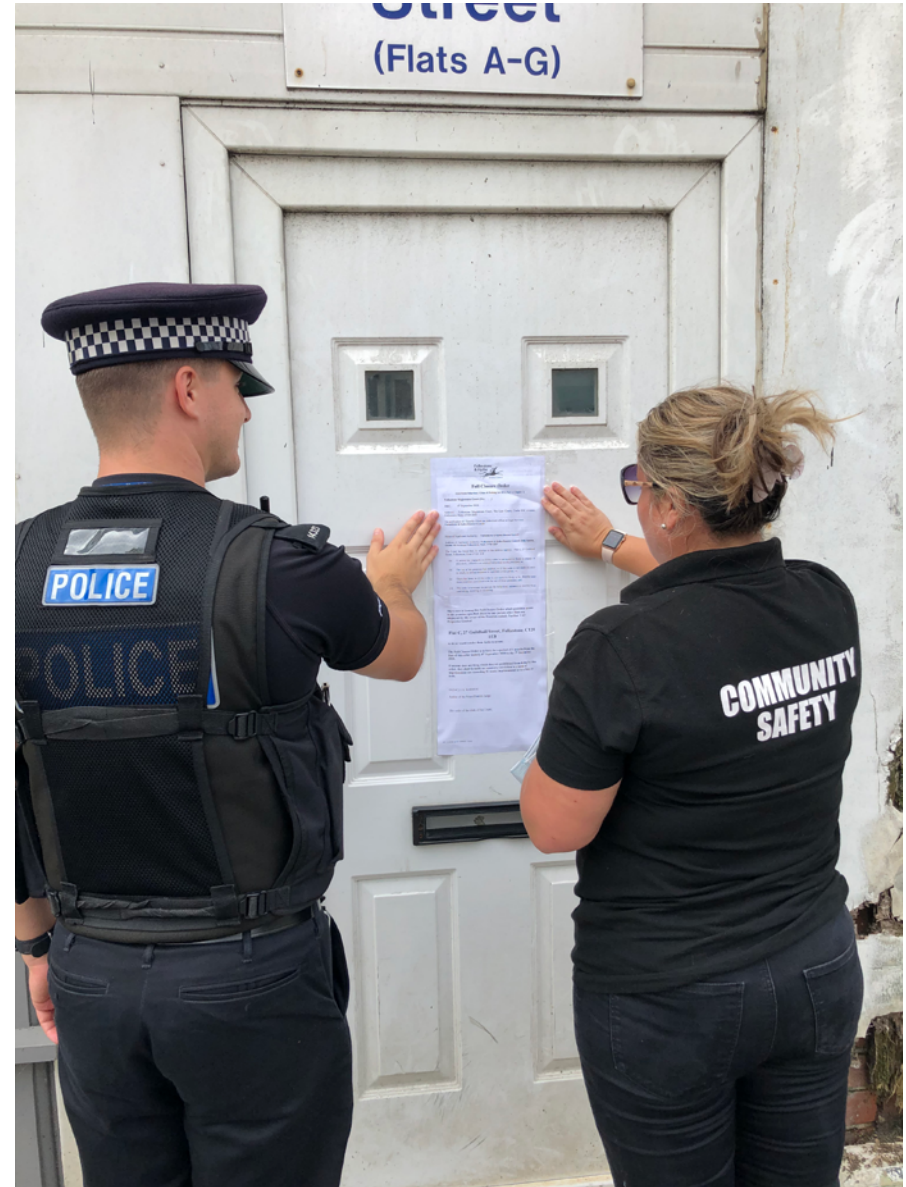
Led by Folkestone & Hythe District Council • Weekly sub-group

Example activities to tackle the issues

The multi-agency weekly meeting of the CSU (Community Safety Unit) provides an essential operational delivery arm for the CSP.

- The CSU is well established and seeks to support higher risk victims of anti- social behaviour (ASB) and to tackle ASB in hotspot locations. Enforcement action is led by the CSU. The CSU also focuses on tackling youth related ASB and seeks to engage young people in services and diversionary activities.
- The CSU will continue to support a number of vulnerable individuals who may be exploited through cuckooing or other means.
- The CSU will concentrate work on areas where there is a high level of crime and ASB. We will seek to increase engagement and reporting from residents so that all issues can be understood and tackled.
- There will be the continuation of multi-agency operations as resources allow.
- The Community Trigger process will be managed for the CSP through the CSU. This process allows victims of ASB to raise concerns about the way in which their reports of ASB have been handled by partner agencies.
- One of the main aims of this community safety sub group is for the district to not only be a safe place but an environmentally friendly one where people want to live, work and visit.

- This sub group will develop preventative and diversionary activities to reduce incidents. Tackling ASB by focussing on its prevention, taking positive action and protecting victims and witnesses.
- The weekly multi-agency CSU meetings will continue to take place every Tuesday, hosted by Folkestone & Hythe District Council, to deal with issues of ASB and other crime eg criminal damage. When required ‘task and finish’ groups will be set up from these meetings to deal with a specific issue that requires a multi-agency targeted approach.
- The CSU sub group will set up a task and finish group for emerging town issues and Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) enforcement and where necessary will address wider issues.
- The CSU will collate data around the PSPO.

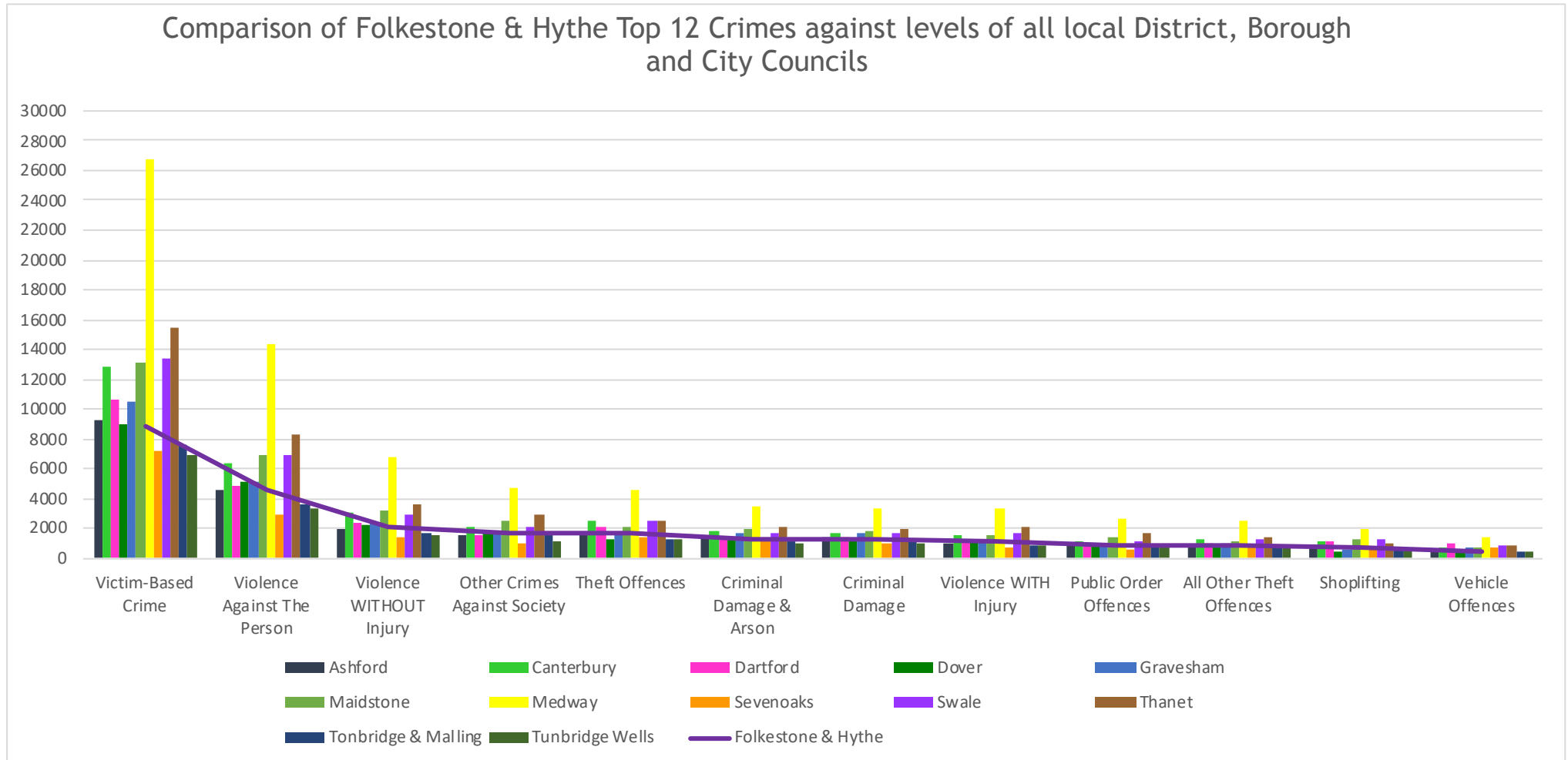


Appendix 1

Table 1 Table showing how the Folkestone & Hythe Community Safety Partnership compares with Kent as a whole on different crime types

Crime Type	Folkestone & Hythe		Kent	
	Nov 19 - Oct 20	Rank	Nov 19 - Oct 20	Rank
Victim-Based Crime	8826	1st	151743	1st
Violence Against The Person	4629	2nd	77293	2nd
Violence WITHOUT Injury	2062	3rd	34714	3rd
Other Crimes Against Society	1691	4th	26207	5th
Theft Offences	1650	5th	26823	4th
Criminal Damage & Arson	1251	6th	21266	6th
Criminal Damage	1214	7th	20563	7th
Violence WITH Injury	1125	8th	18088	8th
Public Order Offences	860	9th	14639	9th
All Other Theft Offences	801	10th	14174	10th
Shoplifting	756	11th	11354	11th
Vehicle Offences	398	12th	8954	12th

Table 2 Table showing how the Folkestone & Hythe Community Safety Partnership compares with Kent as a whole on different crime types



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Contributing Statutory Partners

