



COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF HARM

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JULY 2015



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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this strategic assessment is to provide the East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (FCSP) with an understanding of the crime, anti-social behaviour, and substance misuse issues affecting the district. This will enable the partnership to take action that is driven by clear evidence.

DOCUMENT SCHEDULE

The partnership has a continuous assessment process that allows for strategic planning throughout the year. Whilst each document will provide an overview of the partnership's performance during the year, the aim of each document will be to gain a better understanding of key issues in the district. The continuous assessment consists of 4 parts:

Document	Key theme	Analysis & Writing	Presentation
1	Children & young people	June and July	July 2015
2	Cohesion & communities	July to September	October 2015
3	Vulnerability & risk	October to December	January 2016
4	End of year review	January to March	April 2016

Lead officers for integrated offender management (IOM), drugs and alcohol (DAAT) and domestic abuse (DA) will continue to provide updates to the partnership.

DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

This strategic assessment document is set out in two main chapters:

- **Key Findings and Recommendations** – this section provides an executive summary of the key analytical findings and recommendations. This section also highlights any major developments that may affect activity and possible ways of working.
- **Priority Analysis** – this section provides an assessment of the district's main problems, illustrating it in terms of where and when most problems occur, the people and communities that are most vulnerable and where possible, who is responsible.

The document can be downloaded from <http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/community-safety/CSP/east>

ADDITIONAL DATA

The interactive community safety atlas provides some of the main crime and disorder issues at ward level. The atlas allows the user to review the data directly on the map or in a chart. It can be accessed here <http://atlas.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/Crime/atlas.html>

The victim offender interactive pyramid, which presents an age and gender profile at district level can be accessed here

<http://atlas.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/Crime/Pyramid/html%20/atlas.html?select=12UB>

KEY FINDINGS

The safety of children and young people and the relative risk of harm continue to be both a local and national priority. The limited data available indicates that a large proportion of under 18s do not change their behaviour following advice, education or an intervention that would keep them safer.

Evidence suggests that young people do not turn to statutory service for support, instead often turning to family and friends. Thus it is important to ensure family members also receive the correct information and support. In East Cambridgeshire, a third of 11-15 year olds feel they have no more than two adults they can trust, and local data also indicates a large drop in the proportion of children that feel they have a trustworthy adult between primary and secondary school.

It is key to remember that East Cambridgeshire is a low crime area, and that the volume of offences against young people remains lower than the average rate for Cambridgeshire as a whole. However, evidence suggests that there is considerable under-reporting by young people¹ (those under 24 years old).

Abuse

- The majority of recorded child abuse offences in East Cambridgeshire relate to physical abuse with and without injury, followed by sexual offences.
- Half of all sexual offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire involved children under the age of 13.
- Current data sources do not indicate a large volume of cases of child sexual exploitation. The 'boyfriend' model is the most likely type of exploitation occurring in the district. It is likely to go unreported due to the nature of the grooming process.

Drugs and Alcohol

- National and local data² indicates that drug use and alcohol consumption is considerably lower amongst 11 to 15 year olds than 10 years ago³.
- 26% of pupils surveyed living in East Cambridgeshire had an alcoholic drink in the last 7 days; a slight reduction from 2012.
- 9% of pupils had taken at least one of the drugs listed in the survey and 4% had taken drugs within the previous month.
- The proportion of year10+ pupils who had gone further than they would have liked sexually after drinking alcohol/taking drugs has fallen since 2012 from 15% to 9%.

¹ Under reporting of crime for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, CRG August 2014

² The Health Related Behaviour Survey – a ten year analysis of trends, DAAT May 2015

³ Fuller and Hawkins (2014). Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2013. HSCIC

Online Safety

- Online safety continues to be a concern in East Cambridgeshire, where 96% of pupils have access to the internet outside of lessons.
- Just over half (54%) of these pupils follow guidance given to them about staying safe online; a figure that varies from 49% in Bottisham, Burwell and Soham to 57% in Ely, Littleport and Witchford.
- Just under a quarter have received a message that has scared them or made them upset and 18% have had an upsetting online experience.
- Whilst quantitative data sources are weak, feedback from professionals continues to highlight concern regarding sexting and online behaviour of children and young people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Partnership should keep in mind that a variety of interventions already in place across the County. Schools provide a range of educational interventions relating to safety to children and young people all the time. Any further work the Partnership provides should be done in partnership with the fullest range of agencies available.

Abuse

It is recommended that the Partnership increases awareness raising for the general public. This would be worthwhile for the following reasons;

- At least half of contacts to Childline are from the public (safer from harm NSPCC). Just over half of contacts that resulted in referral to statutory agencies were from the public.
- Allows for messages about safety to reach all, thereby highlighting cultural norms in the UK.
- Provides the public with information about who to contact if they are concerned.

It is recommended that engagement with schools is improved, in particular;

- With primary schools, as Year 6 pupils may be a key age-group to engage in safety messages prior to starting secondary education, whilst they are still receptive to guidance
- That the Partnership monitor the impact of Cheslea's choice within the area
- Support secondary schools, by providing speakers or coordinating support to go into schools to enhance interventions, particularly in relation to sexting and staying safe online
- Help provide awareness and information to parents to help prevent, recognise and seek help for problems.
- The Partnership should enhance use of existing online material and advice locally

It is recommended that online safety is not seen as a separate issue. Rather that the online environment is where offending of abuse, bullying and grooming can take place. Part of the

interventions aimed at children and young people should continue to involve education about how to stay safe online. This information should be shared with parents as well.

Child Sexual Exploitation

In light of this, the Community Safety Partnership should consider how it can develop the work of the LSCB, and Operation Makesafe, in particular the strands of:

- Raising public confidence and awareness (engaging with all communities and young people);
- Strengthening existing partnerships and leadership (engaging with the LSCB);
- Intelligence and performance monitoring (pathways for intelligence information);
- Learning & development (sharing intelligence and best practice).

Drugs and alcohol

Currently a countywide Joint Strategic Needs Assessment focusing on drugs and alcohol is being produced by the Public Health Team. The Partnership should consider how best to engage with this process; including what useful information it can share and what knowledge gaps the analysis might be able to fill for East Cambridgeshire.

Considering all data sources the evidence suggests that substance misuse in young people is currently declining. However, as new drugs become available and patterns of drug and alcohol misuse change the Partnership can take a proactive approach to tackling these. Prevention work should be planned following the release of the Drugs and Alcohol JSNA to ensure consistent messages to be delivered.

SAFE FROM HARM

At the start of 2015/16 the East Cambridgeshire Community safety Partnership (EC CSP) reviewed its priorities and research needs. The new priorities were agreed at the March 2015 meeting, with the safety of children and young people being an area of concern for all partners. It was agreed that this topic would be the examined in the first of the four strategic assessments.

BACKGROUND

To better understand what the Partnership can do to increase the safety of children and young people in East Cambridgeshire it is useful to understand the context of being 'safe from harm'. Children and young people are exposed to a wide range of experiences that influence their safety and resilience in the short and long term. The Partnership agreed the focus of this analysis should be on the following topics; sexual abuse (particularly sexting, coercion & child sexual exploitation - CSE), online harm and drug and alcohol. These are wide ranging topics and not all can be covered in the same level of detail. Data sources are weak for some topics, and others had only national data sources available. It is recognised that there are other form of abuse and neglect experienced by children that are not covered within this report.

LOCAL DEOMOGRAPHY

Latest population estimates for East Cambridgeshire indicate around 20,400 people aged 19 or under living in in the district. This age group accounts for 24 % of the total population in the district⁴. Ely South has the highest proportion of under 19's with around 29% of their total population being under 19 year of age⁵.

East Cambridgeshire has areas of moderate deprivation when compared to the rest of the county. It is ranked 269th of the 326 Local Authorities nationally (lowest 17%) and is significantly less deprived than its geographically neighbour and the most deprived district in Cambridgeshire, Fenland (94th most deprived nationally) and slightly more deprived than South Cambridgeshire (321st most deprived nationally).⁶

Despite being significantly less deprived than the national average, there are pockets of deprivation in the district. For example, there is one Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in Littleport West ward that is ranked 47 of the 365 LSOAs in the Cambridgeshire. Similarly, two of the three LSOAs in Ely East Ward are in the top 21% most deprived LSOA's in the county.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Whilst the Partnership did not include neglect within the topic for consideration, it I important for partner to understand the context in which children and young people need to be kept safe from harm and understand the difference between neglect and abuse and what role agencies have in tackling both issues.

While news headlines have been dominated by child sexual abuse stories over the last year, particularly in regard to high profile cases, it is important not to lose sight of neglect. Neglect is one

⁴ Cambridgeshire Population and Dwelling Stock Estimates:mid-2013, Research Group, CCC

⁵ Census 2011

⁶ 2010 IMD

of the most common forms of child abuse in the UK and is usually the most common cause for being subject to a child protection plan or on the child protection register⁷. Similarly, statistics from the Department for Education for 2013/14 indicate that 47% of children in need cases had abuse or neglect noted as the primary need⁸.

Neglect can be defined as *“the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development”*⁷. Whilst abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child, which may include neglect or failing to prevent harm. Child abuse can be physical, emotional or sexual.

TRUST

Trust is an important issue for children and young people and will contribute to how safe they feel and who they feel able to talk to. Trust enables children and young people to get support to deal with problems as they occur and report incidents.

The Health related behaviours survey - HRBS (2014) found that 7% of pupils living in East Cambridgeshire said there were no adults they could really trust (Cambridgeshire 6%), while 25% said there are one or two adults (Cambridgeshire 24%) and 38% said they have at least six adults they can really trust which is slightly lower than the county level of 41%. Overall though, these proportions are in line with figures for the county. There is a slight difference at a locality level in terms of the number of children that have at least 6 adults that they can really trust. In Ely, Littleport and Witchford, 40% of pupils believe that they have at least this number of adults that they can trust however this is slightly lower in Bottisham, Burwell and Soham where 35% of pupils feel this way.

Further to this, in Cambridgeshire 64% of children who responded to the primary school⁹ HRBS said they felt the school cared whether they are happy or not, compared to 34% for secondary school pupils (30% in East Cambridgeshire). This indicates a shift in feelings/attitudes as children go from primary to secondary school.

Young people were most likely to report something worrying, nasty or offensive online to family members first for advice, followed by their friends or school teachers/lessons depending on the issue¹⁰. This is further supported by findings from the NSPCC¹¹ which indicate that only 22% of 11-16 year olds talked to someone face-to-face about problems arising from negative online experiences. Where they did share their experience, it was again most likely to be with a parent or carer and their friends as shown in Table 1. This is important to bear in mind when looking at promoting awareness and understanding within East Cambridgeshire.

⁷ Jutte et al (2015) How safe are our children? NSPCC

⁸ Department for Education (2014) *Statistical first release: Characteristics of children in need in England 2013/14*

⁹ Only a few primary schools completed the survey so caution must be taken when looking at this figure

¹⁰ HBRS 2014

¹¹ Lilley et al (2014)

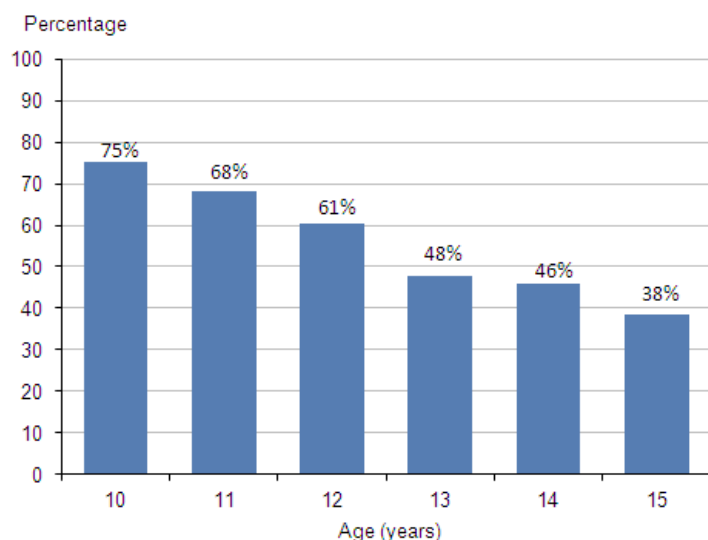
Table 1: Who children told about upsetting online experiences, NSPCC

Person spoken to	Total	11-12	13-14	15-16
Parent or carer	66%	81%	71%	50%
Friend(s)	51%	25%	53%	70%
Brother or sister	15%	13%	18%	15%
Teacher	13%	13%	12%	15%
Another adult I trust	11%	6%	18%	10%
Someone whose job it is to help children	8%	0%	6%	15%
Boyfriend or girlfriend (or ex boy or girl friend)	6%	0%	6%	10%
Person responsible for behaviour	2%	0%	0%	5%
Someone else	2%	6%	0%	0%

Source: Lilley et al (2014)

Figure 1 below shows how children’s positive perceptions of local police decrease with age mirroring the drop in the proportion of children who feel their school cares about them¹². 10 years olds are almost twice as likely to have a positive opinion of their local police compared to 15 year olds. Age and gender influence opinions of the police (see Table 2), with boys aged 13-15 least likely to have a positive opinion of the police. Further many children & young people have little confidence that the criminal justice system will deliver justice and protect the victims¹³.

Figure 1: Percentage of 10 to 15 year olds who were positive about local police, by age, 2012/13 CSEW



Source: ONS (2014)

Table 2: Percentage of 10 to 15 year olds who were positive about local police, by gender, 2012/13 CSEW

% saying they are positive about local police	All Children aged 10-15	Male		Female	
		10-12 year olds	13-15 year olds	10-12 year olds	13-15 year olds
	55	65	40	72	47

¹² ONS (2014) Chapter 2: 10 to 15 year olds’ perceptions of the police

¹³ Beckett and Warrington (2014) Suffering in Silence: Children and unreported crime, Victim Support and University of Bedfordshire

There are also differences by ethnic group, with the proportion saying they have a positive opinion of the police varying from 61% of Asian or Asian British 10-15 year olds, 55% of White, 49% of Black or Black British and 42% of Mixed. Data was not reported for Chinese or other ethnic groups. Table 3 below provides more detail. What stands out quite clearly is the proportion of children and young people who feel they are not treated in the same way as adults. There are also noticeable variations in the proportion who feel police treat everyone the same regardless of skin colour or religion.

Table 3: 10-15 year olds perceptions of the local police by ethnic group, 2012/13 CSEW

	Police will help you if you need them	Police are helpful and friendly towards young people in your area	Police treat young people the same as they treat adults	Police treat everyone fairly whatever their skin colour or religion	Police understand the problems faced by young people in the area	Police are dealing with the things that matter to young people who live in the area	Police would treat you fairly if they stopped and searched you
	<i>Percentage saying they 'agree'</i>						
ALL CHILDREN AGED 10-15	90	75	45	87	71	67	90
Ethnic group							
White	90	77	46	90	71	67	90
Non-White	89	71	40	77	70	67	88
<i>Mixed</i>	85	62	26	73	72	56	82
<i>Asian or Asian British</i>	88	71	50	78	69	70	90
<i>Black or Black British</i>	90	73	30	74	70	64	84
<i>Chinese or other</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

This provides useful insight into how young people perceive agencies and the potential impact on interventions and awareness raising. It raises the question ***'How does the Partnership deliver interventions that young people can trust and respond to?'***

NATIONAL CONTEXT

The number of recorded sexual offences against children (under 18's) increased by 39% in England between 2012/13 and 2013/14 and mirrors figures from the NSPCC helpline and ChildLine¹¹. This could, in part, reflect an increased willingness in children to report abuse following the media focus on the area (sometimes referred to as the Saville Enquiry effect). With increasing numbers of children speaking out it is important to ensure that there is sufficient support for these children, especially as there can be a delay in disclosing abuse.

Between 2009/10 and 2014/15, the same research by the NSPCC found that contacts about neglect to the NSPCC helpline increased by 228% from 5,636 to 17,602. Nationally, the evidence indicates that children and young people reported experiences are often not perceived as a crime (78% of

those surveyed). However, they are often perceived as either ongoing bullying or ‘wrong but not a crime’. The majority of these incidents took place during daylight hours and at or near school. Whilst only 13% reported the incident to the police, 71% reported that they sustained an injury (from minor bruising to serious injury).¹⁴

ABUSE IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Local research produced recently by Cambridgeshire Constabulary found that:

- In 2013/14 1,819 recorded child abuse offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; an increase of 71.6% from 2012/13;
- Offences including robbery, homicide, public order and miscellaneous crimes against society;
- Just over two thirds of offences were violence with or without injury;
- 8.3% of offences were sexual offences excluding rape and 8.4% were sexual offences including rape.

Table 4¹⁵ shows the distribution of recorded child abuse offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Of the 1,716 offences, East Cambridgeshire accounted for 6% of recorded child abuse offences in 2013/14 and accounts for 12% of the total population. This highlights that when compared to the other districts in the county East Cambridgeshire has a proportionately lower rate of child abuse offences when compared to the overall population.

Table 4: Recorded child abuse offences by District, 2013/14

District	Proportion of all recorded child abuse offences	Proportion of total population
Cambridge City	14%	16%
East Cambridgeshire	6%	10%
Fenland	15%	12%
Huntingdonshire	20%	21%
South Cambridgeshire	11%	18%
Peterborough	34%	23%

Source: Problem Profile: Child Abuse in Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, 2015

Table 5 breaks down the offences by type and district, and expresses the rate per 1,000 population. East Cambridgeshire recorded lower rates of sexual offences compared to the Force rate across all crime types.

¹⁴ The Crime Survey for England and Wales 2013/14 10-15 year olds

¹⁵ Data excludes “other” offences, such as robbery and homicide but includes any violent crime

Table 5: Child Abuse Offences by District and rate per 1,000 population, 2013/14

	Cambridge City	Per 1,000 population	East Cambridgeshire	Per 1,000 population	Fenland	Per 1,000 population	Huntingdonshire	Per 1,000 population	South Cambridgeshire	Per 1,000 population	Peterborough	Per 1,000 population	No specific location	Offence Total	Per 1,000 population
Violence without injury	85	0.69	46	0.55	115	1.21	141	0.83	78	0.52	216	1.18	0	681	0.85
Violence with injury	77	0.62	34	0.41	87	0.91	104	0.61	43	0.29	183	1.00	3	531	0.66
Sexual offences (except rape)	44	0.36	22	0.26	36	0.38	58	0.34	54	0.36	116	0.63	2	332	0.41
Sexual offences rape	21	0.17	12	0.14	16	0.17	36	0.21	12	0.08	56	0.30	0	153	0.19
Sexual offences – obscene publications	3	0.02	1	0.01	2	0.02	4	0.02	1	0.01	8	0.04	0	19	0.02

Source: Problem Profile: Child Abuse in Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, 2015

PHYSICAL ABUSE

In 2013/14, of the total 681 violence without injury offences in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, only 46 occurred in East Cambridgeshire (lowest in the County). Of the 46 offences, the majority (35 crimes) were common assault and battery and 6 were cruelty to and neglect of children.

Of the 531 violence with injury offences recorded in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, only 28 occurred in East Cambridgeshire. The district sees the second lowest rate per 1,000 population (0.41 compared to 0.66 Force wide).

Analysis of the offenders revealed that almost 90% of offences were committed by a known offender, most often a family member or a peer. 48% of offenders were repeat offenders, often linked to other violence against the person offences, followed by theft and handling offences. 6% of offences were committed by a sibling (usually boys), 4% by a boyfriend/ex-boyfriend and 3% by a legal carer. Peer offences often occurred between school pupils in the 13 to 17 age group and in 28% of cases involved two or more offenders.

Analysis of victims showed that almost two thirds of victims are males. Victims are often 11 to 17 year olds, with girls tending to be slightly older than boys. Many victims have vulnerable backgrounds often relating to their own personal circumstances or issues affecting the household they live in, supporting previous national and local research. Such vulnerabilities include being known to social services; suffering mental or physical health problems; having experienced of

witness domestic abuse; behaviour issues at school; and parents who are known to abuse drugs and/or alcohol.

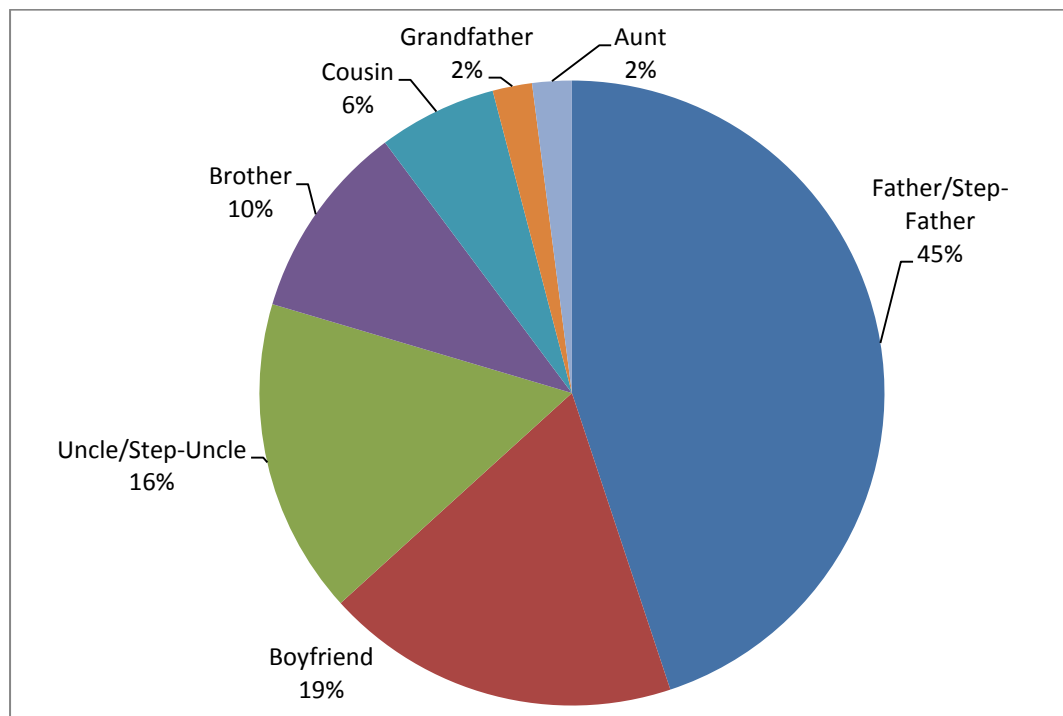
Understanding what circumstances make an individual more vulnerable will enable agencies to find an effective route to reducing the risk of stopping the suffering as early as possible. Understanding how to engage with communities where situational vulnerabilities are apparent, such as deprivation, could help to target prevention work.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Females suffered more sexual assaults, excluding rape, than males (55% and 21% respectively). 47% of all such sexual offences excluding rape were committed on children under 13 years old. East Cambridgeshire recorded 22 sexual offences excluding rape in 2013/14 and was ranked lowest for rate per 1,000 population (0.26 offences compared to the Force wide average of 0.41). Half of all sexual offences, excluding rape, in East Cambridgeshire involved children under the age of 13. Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 153 rape offences were recorded in 2013/14; 12 of these occurred in East Cambridgeshire (0.14 per 1000 population).

Almost half of offenders were repeat offenders who had been convicted/suspected of committing other offences, often another sexual offence or violence against the person. As with violent offences, the majority (almost 80%) of the sexual offences recorded in the force area were committed by a known offender, such as a family member, a peer, non-related adult, or someone known to them through a CSE relationship. Almost a third of child sexual abuse was familial. Within familial sexual abuse the majority was committed by a father or step-father (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Alleged perpetrator of familial sexual offences (includes rape, other and obscene publications) in Cambridgeshire, 2013/14



Source: Problem Profile: Child Abuse in Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, 2015

Peer related offences were more likely to involve assault than rape and occur in a school or other locations such as parks, recreation areas and dwellings. Where rape did occur, it usually involved a female victim aged 13 or over and often took place in a residential property, while a small number took place in parks/recreation areas.

Situational offences accounted for 14% of child sexual abuse cases, with almost two thirds of these involving exposure offences by a stranger. Often sexual assaults occurred in public locations and tended to be relatively low-level.

Figures indicate that the majority of victims are female, who in turn are particularly vulnerable to offences from peers (96.7% of victims) or to becoming a victim of CSE (87.5%). The age range at which children are most vulnerable varies by gender; females are most vulnerable aged 12 to 16 years, while males are most vulnerable between 12 and 14 years old.

As with violent child abuse, many victims have vulnerable backgrounds. Analysis on non-familial offending found that in the vast majority of cases the victim placed a certain level of trust in the offender and thus unknowingly put themselves in a vulnerable position e.g. doctors (Dr Bradbury case), teachers, neighbours. The nature of CSE offending is similar.

When looking at child abuse figures, it is important to take into consideration the media coverage of several major historic cases as this can have a subsequent impact on recorded offences. For example, The Savile Inquiry has promoted other victims to come forward. In Cambridgeshire, prior to this case, approximately 24.3% of sexual offences were historic cases. However, in 2013/14 34.3% were historic cases. It is important to bear in mind that other factors can also contribute to victims coming forward, such as a realisation that the suspect has access to children, encouragement from someone else and feelings of safety following moving home. The length of time between the offence and reporting it in no way reduces the need for the victim to be offered the right level of support.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a newly acknowledged form of child abuse. Any child or young person, from any social or ethnic background, can be exploited. There are a number of factors that can increase the vulnerability of a young person to sexual exploitation. These can include disrupted family life and domestic violence, a history of physical or sexual abuse, disadvantage, poor mental health, problematic parenting, parental drug or alcohol misuse and parental mental health problems. Further to this, some young people are more vulnerable to targeting by perpetrators, and include those children with disabilities, those living in care, particularly residential care, those who are excluded from mainstream school and those who misuse drugs and alcohol¹⁶.

Definition of child sexual exploitation (CSE)

Within official guidance Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is defined as:

“involving exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

¹⁶ LSCB CSE strategy http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lscb/info/3/child_sexual_exploitation

Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability"¹⁷

In addition to the statutory definition, Barnardo's recognises that there are different types of CSE based on the nature of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator(s). Table 6 below shows the definitions of the different types of CSE.

Table 6: Barnardo's definition of child sexual exploitation

Type of CSE	Description
Inappropriate relationships	Usually involving one perpetrator who has inappropriate power or control over a young person (physical, emotional or financial). One indicator may be a significant age gap. The young person may believe they are in a loving relationship.
'Boyfriend' model of exploitation	The perpetrator befriends and grooms a young person into a 'relationship' and then coerces or forces them to have sex with friends or associates.
Peer exploitation	Peer exploitation is where young people are forced or coerced into sexual activity by peers and associate's. Sometimes this can be associated with gang activity but not always
Organised/networked sexual exploitation or trafficking	Young people (often connected) are passed through networks, possibly over geographical distances, between towns and cities where they may be forced/ coerced into sexual activity with multiple men. Often this occurs at 'sex parties', and young people who are involved may be used as agents to recruit others into the network. Some of this activity is described as serious organised crime and can involve the organised 'buying and selling' of young people by perpetrators.

Source: Adapted from Cambridgeshire LCSB CSE Strategy quoting Barnardo's

It is the last of these (organised/networked sexual exploitation or trafficking), in particular a pattern of abuse involving predominantly White British girls as victims and gangs of predominantly Asian heritage men as perpetrators, that has had such a high profile nationally. But to solely focus on this would limit the impact of the Partnership and fails to recognise other victims and potential victims. Work and intelligence gathering continue through the Force Serious and Organised Crime Profile and the Force Operation Makesafe. Prevention work and raising awareness is being co-ordinated through Operation Makesafe.

Recorded CSE offences usually involve an adult who had gained the trust of a child and taken advantage of this relationship. Within Cambridgeshire in 2013/14, the vast majority of victims were

¹⁷ Department for Education 2012 Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation: National Action Plan Progress Report.

females aged 12 to 16 years¹⁸. At least 10.5% of child sexual abuse offences that were reviewed fell into CSE.

It is important to bear in mind that a large number of crimes against children and young people are not reported to the police, and often children and young people do not know what they have experienced is a crime. This is particularly true if the type of criminal behaviour has been normalised within a peer group or community. Children at risk of CSE aren't always able to recognise signs of CSE and grooming, particularly due to the nature of the grooming process, and instead often believe they are in genuine relationship with the individual who exploits them^{19 20}.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS

The statutory guidance²¹ clearly identifies **the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) as having the lead role** in coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the work of their members in tackling child sexual exploitation. This function is discharged by *'participation in planning & commissioning'* of services to meet the needs of children, young people and their families as well as *'developing policies and procedures'*. As a minimum, the LSCB procedures should support professionals in identifying signs of exploitation, providing the framework within which information is shared and action taken and identify how victims are supported (see section 4.10 of the guidance²²).

The Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children's Board child sexual exploitation strategy¹⁶ is available on the internet http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lscb/info/3/child_sexual_exploitation and should be considered in conjunction with this report.

The guidance does identify that beyond the LSCB other local partnerships have a role to play, including Community Safety Partnerships. and that links between the two *"can be used to ensure a common understanding of the nature of the problem, local priorities and how different agencies will cooperate to address it"* (Section 4.18 of the guidance)²³.

A more recent thematic inspection of measures to tackle CSE by Ofsted of eight local authorities²⁴ identified that LCSB progress against CSE action plans should be shared regularly with Community Safety Partnerships (page 8, recommendations, paragraph five) and Partnerships should ensure that information and intelligence is also shared. Ofsted also considered strong governance arrangements between the respective boards of the LSCB, CSP and H&WB²⁵ as being indicative of a holistic approach to CSE being taken; with links to related strategies such as those covering gangs, domestic abuse, licencing and PSHE in Schools.

¹⁸ Problem Profile: Child Abuse in Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

¹⁹ Beckett and Warrington. (2014) *Suffering in Silence: Children and unreported crime*, Victim Support and University of Bedfordshire,

²⁰ CEOP Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

²¹ Safeguarding Children and Young People for Sexual Exploitation, Supplementary Guidance, 2009

²² Ibid

²³ Safeguarding Children and Young People for Sexual Exploitation, Supplementary Guidance, 2009

²⁴ *The Sexual Exploitation of Children: It Couldn't Happen Here, Could IT?*, Ofsted 2014

²⁵ Health & Well Being Board

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL MISUSE

Nationally, drug use and alcohol consumption is considerably lower amongst 11 to 15 year olds than 10 years ago²⁶. Some key findings from the HRBS in regards to children's health and drugs and alcohol use are highlighted below. On the whole the data does not suggest that there are concerns specific to East Cambridgeshire in relation to drug and alcohol misuse and there was some significant reductions in areas of drug and alcohol misuse between 2012 and 2014.

- 26% of pupils surveyed had an alcoholic drink in the last 7 days which is a slight reduction from 27% in the previous survey. This reflects the continued reduction seen across Cambridgeshire over the last 10 years, where the proportion of pupils not having had a drink in the last 7 days increasing from 60% to 77% between 2004 and 2014²⁷.
- The proportion of pupils in East Cambridgeshire who had drunk alcohol on at least three days in the past week was 3%, in line with Cambridgeshire (3%).
- The percentage of pupils drinking over the advised weekly limit of alcohol for adult females of 14 units is also falling. In East Cambridgeshire, 2% of boys and 1% of girls drank over the weekly limit, in line with figures for the county as a whole. This is a significant decrease on the previous survey where 10% of boys and 6% of girls drank over the recommended weekly limit for females. Across Cambridgeshire the long term data indicates that slightly more boys and older pupils are drinking over this limit (2.7% and 6.8% respectively).
- 42% (42% in Cambridgeshire) of pupils were "fairly sure" or "certain" that at least one person they know took drugs, often another young person (29%) and friend (25%). These proportions are lower than for Cambridgeshire as whole (29% and 23% respectively).
- 9% of pupils in East Cambridgeshire had taken at least one of the drugs listed in the survey. 4% of pupils had taken drugs within the last month. These proportions are in line with Cambridgeshire as a whole where figures are 9% and 5% respectively.
- Within the localities, 5% had taken drugs within the last month in Bottisham, Burwell and Soham and 3% in Ely, Littleport and Witchford.
- In East Cambridgeshire the percentage of pupils who have taken drugs within the previous month has decreased from 6% in 2012 to 4% in 2014 (Cambridgeshire figures were 6% and 5% respectively).

Between 2008 and 2014, the percentage of year 10+ pupils who had said they had taken risks with sex (of infection or pregnancy) after drinking or taking drugs halved by 7% from 14% to 5%. In East Cambridgeshire in 2014 it was also 5%. Within the district more girls are admitting to taking risks than boys (31% compared to 19%). Further to this, the proportion of Year 10+ pupils in 9% of Year 10+ pupils in East Cambridgeshire who said they had gone further than they would like (sexually) after drinking alcohol or drug use has fallen from 15% in 2012 to 9% in 2014.

²⁶ Fuller and Hawkins (2014). Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2013. HSCIC

²⁷ Cambridgeshire DAAT

ONLINE SAFETY

While the internet is a valuable tool for children to learn, communicate, develop and explore the world around them, it often leaves them vulnerable to risks and experiences they may find upsetting. The internet provides children with the opportunity for a separate identity in which they can be who they want and take risks that perhaps they wouldn't offline. Children are particularly vulnerable as they may not be fully equipped to deal with the emotional and social impact of negative experiences online. For many children there is no distinction between their online and offline lives, and the nature of the online world means that boundaries are blurred between friends and strangers.

With over 90% of children in the UK having access to the internet, it makes them more accessible to online offenders. Online child sexual abuse is defined by the NSPCC as *"the use of technology to manipulate, coerce or intimidate a child, to engage in sexual activity that is abusive and/or degrading in nature"*. It often involves an imbalance of power and lack of choice due to vulnerabilities, and can be misunderstood by children or others as consensual due to lack of immediate recognition or understanding by the child of abusive or exploitive conduct²⁸. It can include the grooming of children, and production, distribution or possession of indecent images of children. It can also lead to or be preceded by contact abuse, and online CSE can lead to offline CSE²⁹.

The 2014 HRBS found that in East Cambridgeshire:

- 96% of pupils have access to the internet outside of lessons (95% in Cambridgeshire);
- 62% of pupils spent at least three hours the previous day on the internet, matching the Cambridgeshire figure;
- Over a third of pupils surveyed (36%) spent the majority of their time online the previous day posting messages on sites like Facebook (32% in Cambridgeshire). 27% of pupils spent their time chatting live (25% in Cambridgeshire);
- 79% of pupils had an online profile, and 50% had set their profiles so that they could be seen by friends only (76% and 48% respectively in Cambridgeshire).

The survey also indicates that only just over half (54%) of pupils living in East Cambridgeshire followed advice given in lessons about how to stay safe online (52% in Cambridgeshire). In the localities, this was 57% in Ely, Littleport & Witchford and 49% in Bottisham, Burwell & Soham. CEOP carried out a threat risk assessment of CSE and Abuse in June 2013²⁹. Findings from their report indicated that 13 and 14 year olds were found to be the largest victim group for online CSE, and girls rather boys as well. Social networking was the most common offending environment, followed by instant messaging and chat.

²⁸ Jutte et al. (2015) How safe are our children? NSPCC

²⁹ CEOP: Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, June 2013

There is some evidence nationally that children are becoming more aware of the truthfulness of online content and understanding how accurately people might present themselves online³⁰. National research from Ofcom³⁰ indicates that 24% of 12-15 year olds were aware that strangers could find information out about them from social networking sites. Interestingly, the proportion of 12-15 year olds who disliked the fact that someone might pretend to be their age and get to know/deceive them has also fallen from 26% in 2011, to 18% in 2013 and 15% in 2014.

Findings by the NSPCC³¹ found that 28% of 11-16 year olds have had one or more upsetting encounters on social networking sites, which they remembered up to a year later, with girls more likely to experience these than boys. There is a question as to whether this is down to differences in emotional response or an increased volume of upsetting incidents in girls' use of sites. "Trolling", which the NSPCC defined as "*any unkind, sarcastic or negative comments or rumours circulated online*", was the most common upsetting experience, with 40% of children who felt upset giving this as the reason. Other upsetting experiences related to aggressive and violent language (18%), social pressure (14%), cyber stalking (12%), receiving unwanted sexual messages (12%), and requests to send or respond to a sexual message (8%). Over a tenth of children reported such experiences happening almost every day, while 55% experienced it at least one a month. Over half of the 11-16 year olds surveyed (58%) believed that at least one of those responsible for their upsetting experience was unknown to them.

In East Cambridgeshire, 20% of pupils have met someone in real life whom they first met online, compared to 18% in Cambridgeshire. Year 10 girls are more likely to meet up with someone than boys; 27% compared to 22%. For Year 8 pupils, the gender difference was much smaller and in fact 18% of boys compared to 15% of girls were likely to meet up with someone they first met online. It is important to bear in mind that only a few of these offline meetings could lead to harm³².

19 offences relating to obscene publications of children were recorded force wide in 2014, of which just one was in East Cambridgeshire. This number is low and is likely to not reflect actual numbers, instead there is likely to be a significant "hidden" volume. Further to this, 5.9% of child sexual offences in Cambridgeshire involved non-physical engagement (internet or communications-based offences). Often these offences come to light through intelligence reports, for example from CEOP, rather than from direct reporting by the victim or their parent/guardian. Around half of obscene publication offences arise where an offender knows the victim, and some of these cases involve sexting. The other half involves the offender downloading/making images of an unknown victim³³.

Cybercrime can be split into cyber dependent crime (such as hacking, spamming and phishing) and cyber enabled crime (such as those crimes that occur in the physical world but aided by digital devices such as purchasing illegal commodities). Currently no organised crime groups have been

³⁰ Ofcom: Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes, 2014 [available online at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/other/research-publications/childrens/children-parents-oct-14/>]

³¹ Lilley et al. 2014. The experiences of 11-16 year olds on social networking sites. NSPCC

³² McGuire and Dowling. (2013) Cyber-crime: A review of the evidence. Home Office.

³³ Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Problem Profile: Child Abuse in Cambridgeshire

identified in Cambridgeshire. The true extent of the problem in terms of volume and complexity is still unknown³⁴.

SEXTING & CYBER BULLYING

Sexting can be defined as “*sharing inappropriate or explicit images or messages online or through mobile phones*”³⁷. Sexting is also referred to as a self-generated indecent image.³⁵ National research carried out by the NSPCC³⁶ reveals that young people believe this to be a ‘normal part of growing up’ and part of flirting. Whilst adults might find this startling, young people want to express themselves and not feel excluded from the behaviour their peers are engaged in. There may be a need to review the way in which adults engage in this issue and talk to young people about this type of risky behaviour, so that consequences and risks are highlighted whilst not alienating young people.

The NSPCC found that sexting was mentioned in 1,213 counselling sessions in 2014/15³⁷, compared to 4,011 sessions mentioning cyberbullying; highlighting that this is not an issue for all children, but is of concern for some. Key findings from research indicate several areas for consideration;

- Gender differences: There is a gender imbalance, where girls report feeling pressured into providing self-generated indecent images by boys and men.
- The potential for extended distribution: The consequences of sharing a single image with a single person are vast; the individual has no control over how widely the image(s) are distributed.

However, sexting is not a gender-neutral practice. Safety initiatives need to provide support to girls without treating it as a girl-only problem³⁸. Survey research indicates that children find sex education at school ‘too little, too late’.

Feedback from secondary schools in the district also highlighted concerns regarding sexting and online grooming. In particular, girls who despite education through school interventions, and in some cases one to one youth work, remain at risk and have not altered their behaviour.

The Ofcom annual survey of children’s media use and attitudes³⁹ found that when 12-15 year olds were asked about their dislikes about the internet 11% of 12-15 year olds surveyed (548 children surveyed) said “bad things people/friends have written about me or photos of me on their profile/web page” compared to 6% of 8-11 year olds, and 9% mentioned friends being nasty, mean or unkind to them (down from 21% in 2013) compared to 5% of 8-11 year olds (down from 12% in 2013). When looking specifically at social networking/media sites and apps, 29% of 12-15 year olds surveyed by Ofcom said they get bullied on these sites in 2014 (33% in 2013).

Findings from the HRBS (2014) indicate that just under a quarter (23%) of pupils living in East Cambridgeshire have received a message that has scared them or made them upset, compared to

³⁴ Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Serious Organised Crime Local Profile

³⁵ <http://www.swgfl.org.uk/sextinghelp>

³⁶ <http://www.channel4.com/news/generation-sex-explicit-pics-the-norm-for-teens> summary and youtube footage

³⁷ Jutte et al. (2015) How safe are our children? NSPCC

³⁸ Ringrose et al. (2012): Qualitative study of children, young people and “sexting”. NSPCC

³⁹ Ofcom: Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes, 2014

22% in Cambridgeshire. In addition 18% of pupils living in East Cambridgeshire have experienced someone posting something online in order to upset them; again this is higher than for Cambridgeshire (17%).

NEGATIVE ONLINE EXPERIENCES

In 2014, Ofcom³⁹ found that children aged 12-15 were twice as likely to have seen something worrying, nasty or offensive online than 8-11 year olds. When children come across this content, the survey found that they were most likely to report it to a family member; 93% of 8-11 year olds and 80% of 12-15 year olds. 18% of 8-11 year olds and 17% of 12-15 year olds would report to a teacher, while 12-15 year olds were more likely to report to a friend (25%) than those aged 8-11 (13%) and this has increased since 2011. Only 1% and 2% respectively would report to the police.

The HRBS (2014) indicates that 42% of pupils in East Cambridgeshire have seen pictures/videos/games online that were for adults only; this is higher than the figure of 38% for Cambridgeshire as whole. 18% of pupils living in East Cambridgeshire had seen pictures/videos/games online that upset them, compared to 16% for Cambridgeshire as a whole. Further to this, it seems that boys are more likely to find content for adults while girls are more likely to be upset by such content.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

CHILDREN IN CARE

The total number of children in care in Cambridgeshire in 2014/15 was 299. Of these 9.6% or 29 were in East Cambridgeshire Looking at a 'locality team' level the Ely, Littleport and Witchford Locality had more children in care (22) than the Bottisham, Burwell and Soham which had just 7. Children are taken into care for a variety of reasons; include neglect, abuse, parental substance misuse, domestic abuse, homelessness, and parent ill health (including mental health). Therefore these children have already experienced/witnessed potentially traumatic incidents and are often moved away from any support network they previously had.

CHILDREN LIVING WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Children living in households where domestic violence occurs face increased vulnerability and it is considered a key indicator for child abuse and neglect⁴⁰. Analysis of vulnerabilities and repeat offenders' wider criminal behaviour suggests that one of the biggest single indicators of child abuse is Domestic Abuse⁴¹. Research by Brandon et al⁴² found that in two thirds of serious case reviews where a child has died, domestic violence was a factor.

There were 307 crimes (July 2014 and June 2015) and 249 crimes (July 2013 and June 2014) recorded in East Cambridgeshire with a domestic abuse marker.

⁴⁰ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): Vulnerable Children and Families, 2015

⁴¹ Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Problem Profile: Child Abuse in Cambridgeshire

⁴² Brandon et al. (2011) New learning from serious case reviews: a two year report for 2009–11. DfE

Past research indicates a clear relationship between domestic abuse, substance misuse and parental mental ill health. Exposure of children to domestic abuse can result in multiple physical and mental health consequences such as behavioural issues, feelings of responsibility/blame⁴³. Further to this, children showing abusive behaviour are more likely to be victims of neglect, physical abuse and emotional abuse. In 2012, it was estimated that around 130,000 children in the UK lived in households with high-risk domestic abuse, and many thousands more lived with lower level domestic abuse⁴⁴.

The health related behaviours survey found that 24% of secondary school pupils surveyed living in East Cambridgeshire experienced shouting and arguing between adults at home at least once or twice in the last month that frightened them; this is slightly higher than the county figure. Across the localities, this proportion was highest in Ely, Littleport and Witchford at 25%, compared to 22% in Bottisham, Burwell and Soham. 3% of pupils surveyed stated that shouting and arguing between adults at home occurred every/almost every day and 6% said there had been physical aggression at home at least one or twice in the last month that frightened them, with none saying this occurred every/almost every day. At a locality level, 3% of pupils living in Ely, Littleport and Witchford stated that shouting and arguing occurred every/almost every day between parents at home compared to 4% in Bottisham, Burwell and Soham.

Looking at the totality of the Cambridgeshire open 'cases' to Children's Social Care during the previous financial year 356 cases out of 3003 (11.8%) included domestic abuse/violence within the need codes. Within East Cambridgeshire, there were a total of 26 cases out of 298 (9.73%) which had domestic abuse/violence within the need codes; which is lower than the county level. Looking at a 'locality team' level over the previous financial year, the Ely, Littleport and Witchford locality had a significantly higher number of cases 20 than Bottisham, Burwell and Soham where there was only 4 cases.

CHILDREN OF SUBSTANCE MISUSING PARENTS

Looking at the totality of the Cambridgeshire open 'cases' to Children's Social Care over the previous financial year, 202 cases out of 3003 (6.72%) included parental substance misuse (either alcohol, drugs or both) within the need codes. Substance misuse was rarely the primary need for a case; only two such cases within East Cambridgeshire over the last 12 months, one in each of the localities. Rather parental substance misuse is more often identified as a secondary factor to neglect or other forms of child abuse.

Within East Cambridgeshire there were a total of 13 cases out of 298 (4.4%) which had parental substance misuse (alcohol, drugs or both) within the need codes; again little difference from the County picture. Looking at a 'locality team' level the Bottisham, Burwell and Soham Locality had more cases (8) in the last 12 months compared to Ely, Littleport and Witchford (5) locality.

⁴³ In Plain Sight: The evidence from children exposed to domestic abuse, CAADA, 2014

⁴⁴ In Plain Sight: The evidence from children exposed to domestic abuse, CAADA, 2014

BULLYING

Bullying has been identified as an underlying vulnerability in children who are victims of crime and CSE. Some key points from the HRBS (2014) with (figures in () for Cambridgeshire) are:

- 25% (21%) boys and 39% (36%) of girls are afraid to be in school because of bullying at least sometimes, 6% (6%) of pupils are afraid often/very often because of bullying;
- 25% (22%) had been bullied at or near school in the last 12 months and 10% (9%) had been bullied away from school, 4% (4%) at or near home;
- 66% (63%) of pupils had experienced at least one of a list of negative behaviours at least once a month or so in the last year and 36% (34%) had experienced one most weeks or most days.

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

The health related survey also asked pupils about personal relationships. Table 7 below shows East Cambridgeshire's results in comparison to Cambridgeshire and by locality, with differences evident within the district and in comparison to the county. In 5 of the 6 areas, more pupils in East Cambridgeshire had proportionately experience each of the below actions in a relationship than other pupils in the county as a whole. Of note is the difference in experiences relating to threatening behaviours and jealousy. 19% of pupils said that their boyfriend or girlfriend had got angry at them for spending time with their friends, compared to 17% in Cambridgeshire

27% of boys and 28% of girls had experienced at least one negative behaviour in a relationship, and 3% of pupils had been hit by their boyfriend/girlfriend. 60% of students said that if any of these things were to happen then they would know what to do and would be able to get some help; 12% of pupils living in East Cambridgeshire said they would not be able to get help. This is an area where improvement should be sought. Chelsea's Choice may help raise awareness and prompt individuals to seek help. But it is clear that a key message to put out is how to get help when incidents occur.

Table 7: Percentage of pupils responding that the following things have happened to them in a relationship with a previous or current boyfriend/girlfriend

	Localities		East Cambridgeshire	Cambridgeshire
	Ely, Littleport and Witchford	Bottisham, Burwell and Soham		
Used hurtful or threatening language to me	10	9	9	8
Was angry or jealous when I wanted to spend time with friends	20	19	19	17
Kept checking my phone	13	14	14	11
Put pressure on me to have sex or do other sexual things	6	5	6	5
Threatened to tell people things about me	8	7	8	6
Threatened to hit me	4	2	3	2
Hit me	3	2	3	3

Source: HRBS 2014

Further to this, 34% of boys and 33% of girls surveyed who live in East Cambridgeshire said that they worry about relationships with boyfriends/girlfriends quite a lot or a lot.

In regards to other relationships, 42% of pupils living in East Cambridgeshire said they worry about relationships between parents/carers in their family quite a lot or a lot which is in line with the county. 30% of pupils in East Cambridgeshire said they worry about relationships between children and parents in their family, which is again at a similar level to the rest of Cambridgeshire (31%). Whilst it is not entirely clear why this might be, it provides further indications that there are a number of children and young people who live with a level of uncertainty and worry about the people around them, and that those that might usually be someone to trust and rely on aren't for these children.