

COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2017/18 – QUARTER 1

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR



VERSION 1.0
JUNE 2017

'Cambridgeshire Research Group' (CRG) is the brand name for Cambridgeshire County Council's Research & Performance Function. As well as supporting the County Council we take on a range of work commissioned by other public sector bodies both within Cambridgeshire and beyond.

All the output of the team and that of our partners is published on our dedicated website www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk

For more information about the team phone 01223 715300

Document Details	
Title:	Community Safety Strategic Assessment – ASB
Date Created:	June 2017
Description:	The purpose of this document is to provide the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership with an understanding of key community safety issues affecting the district. This is the first document that will be produced for 2017/18. The focus of this document will be on Domestic Abuse.
Produced by:	Jamie Leeman, Research Analyst Jamie.leeman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Additional Contributions:	Claudia Deeth, Huntingdonshire District Council Claudia.deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
On behalf of:	The document has been produced by the CRG, on behalf of Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership and is available to download from http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/community-safety/CSP/hunts Huntingdonshire Community Safety Team: 01480 388388 Claudia Deeth - Community Safety Team Leader
Geographic Coverage:	Huntingdonshire
Time Period:	To March 2017, including historic data
Format:	Word / pdf
Status:	version 1.0
Usage Statement:	This product is the property of the Research Group, Cambridgeshire County Council. If you wish to reproduce this document either in whole, or in part, please acknowledge the source and the author(s).
Disclaimer:	Cambridgeshire County Council, while believing the information in this publication to be correct, does not guarantee its accuracy nor does the County Council accept any liability for any direct or indirect loss or damage or other consequences, however arising from the use of such information supplied.

CONTENTS

Contents	3
Executive summary.....	5
Introduction.....	7
Background.....	7
Context	7
Vulnerability and Risk	10
Vulnerable Locations	10
Weapons.....	15
National Context.....	15
Reporting	15
Local Concern	16
Working with schools	16
Tackling ASB.....	17
New Approach	17
Oxmoor	18
Further Opportunities.....	19
ASB Legislation.....	20
Appendix A.....	22
Appendix B.....	23
Appendix C.....	24

DOCUMENT OUTLINE

The purpose of the strategic assessment is to provide the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (the Partnership) with an understanding of the crime and anti-social behaviour affecting the district. This will enable the Partnership to take action that is driven by clear evidence.

This document and previous strategic assessments can be accessed on the Cambridgeshire Insight pages here <http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/community-safety/CSP/hunts>

DOCUMENT SCHEDULE

The Partnership has a continuous assessment process that allows for strategic planning throughout the year. The aim of each document is to gain a better understanding of an agreed key issue in the district. The continuous assessment consists of 4 parts agreed by the Partnership:

Document	Key theme	Analysis & Writing	Presentation
1	Anti-Social Behaviour	June and July	July 2017
2	Offending	Tbc	October 2017
3	End of Year Review	Tbc	January 2018
4	Violence	Tbc	April 2018

Please note, the order for the remaining three documents has not been confirmed by the Partnership.

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 Pyramid of Crime: victim offender interactive profile, is presented at district level and can be accessed here

<http://atlas.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/Crime/Pyramid/html%205/atlas.html?select=12UB> . It will be updated shortly.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KEY FINDINGS

The long term trend for total anti-social behaviour (ASB) police incidents continues to decline across the district; however a small increase was recorded last year. The volume of this increase should not change the priority for the Partnership. The overwhelming evidence is that there is now less ASB than there was six years ago but that some people and locations continue to be disproportionately affected.

The District Council Community Service has recently undergone a restructure, changing their approach to tackling ASB. Some partners may be aware of these changes but it is important that the whole Partnership is aware of this new model.

Huntingdon West ward* had the highest count of ASB incidents across the District between June 2016 and May 2017 which was also the same compared to the previous twelve months. Between June 2016 and May 2017, there were 388 police recorded incidents in this ward which was a slight increase on 2015/16.

There were overall decreases in police recorded incidents ASB incidents in Huntingdon Town and Yaxley over the last twelve months. There has been targeted work in both of these areas, notably through the Yaxley Working Group and the prioritisation of Oxmoor as a vulnerable area. This work has helped to contribute towards a 12.8% reduction in Huntingdon North* ward over the last 12 months.

There have been overall increases in police recorded ASB incidents in St Ives, Ramsey and St Neots over the last twelve months. In St Ives¹, overall increases were particularly driven by a 50.5% increase in St Ives South Ward from 184 incidents between June and May 2015/16 to 277 incidents during the same period of 2016/17. There was also a 45.2% increase (62 to 90) in the Hemingfords over the same period.

Overall increases in St Neots² have been driven by an increase in the Eynesbury and Priory Park wards. The 11.9% increase in Priory Park took the ward from being the ward with the 4th highest volume of ASB incidents in the District to the second. This was in part due to decreases in Huntingdon North and Huntingdon East.

Mental health, learning disabilities and substance misuse continue to feature within the current caseload of high and medium risk ASB cases. These issues require a multi-agency approach if they are to be resolved or managed sensitively. Health providers have a key role to play here.

¹ This area covers Earith Ward, Fenstanton Ward, St Ives East, St Ives South, St Ives West, The Hemingfords- A map of this area has been included within the appendix

² This area covers Buckden Ward, Eaton Ford, Eaton Socon, Eynesbury, Gransden and the Offords, Kimbolton and Staughton, Little Paxton and Priory Park. A map of this area has been included within the appendix

*Map in Appendix

Concern has been raised amongst local agencies around the possession of weapons in schools. The number of weapons seized in schools has been increasing nationally and the quarter 4 2016/17 strategic assessment on violence highlighted concern in the District about gang activity and exploitation. The extent of the problem in relation to the possession of weapons, including within schools is not clear.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Whilst the partnership has worked hard to reduce anti-social behaviour in Huntingdon and Yaxley, it should consider focusing on other areas, particularly those that have seen large increases. The Partnership may wish to focus on St Neots for example and establish a working group like Yaxley. It is important that the Partnership not only acknowledges increases in certain areas and identifies the most vulnerable hotspots but continues to work to understand the reasons for this and works with communities to develop suitable solutions.

Decreases in Huntingdon North and Huntingdon East wards have shown the impact of the targeted work in the town and the Oxmoor. The Task and Finish Group should continue to work towards positive outcomes in terms of reducing ASB in Huntingdon North.

The Partnership should ensure that the local problem solving group has effective processes in place to link in with local secondary schools. Problem Solving Teams have a responsibility to link to schools and this would be one way of understanding specific problems, such as the carrying of weapons in schools and would also help to understand and tackle any wider ASB related issues amongst young people.

In line with the Partnership's proposal to have a more commissioning focus, it is recommended that the Partnership look for further projects to try to prevent young people, particularly those most vulnerable and living in vulnerable locations, from becoming perpetrators of ASB and crime. Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue's Fire Break service could be used to prevent youth related ASB and also youth related violence and the vulnerability that may lead to gang related activity and exploitation. The extent to which the possession and carrying of weapons, including within schools, is a problem in the district is not clear but it is recommended that the partnership take a preventative stance and look to understand the problem through engagement.

Whilst there have been long term declines in the volume of incidents of ASB across the District, the complexity of a percentage of cases remain. It is recommended that the Partnership review the role of health providers, particularly around mental health in the Problem Solving Group process.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) has long been an area of focus for the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Partnership has previously focused on high volume incidents, geographic hotspots and vulnerable victims and locations. The way in which the Partnership works to tackle anti-social behaviour moving forward will be improved by changes that have been made in the way that the Huntingdonshire District Council Community Team operates. The purpose of this report is to provide an overall picture of ASB across the District and offer recommendations on how the Partnership may wish to work.

Incidents of anti-social behaviour have decreased over the long term across the district but complex cases involving vulnerable victims and offenders continue to be an issue for local stakeholders. Over the last year, there has been a slight increase on the previous 12 months so this report will provide a full overview of Anti-Social Behaviour in Huntingdonshire. The CSP has maintained their commitment to tackle vulnerability within the new three year plan that commenced on 1st April 2017 and this report will review previous work on vulnerability related to ASB in the district.

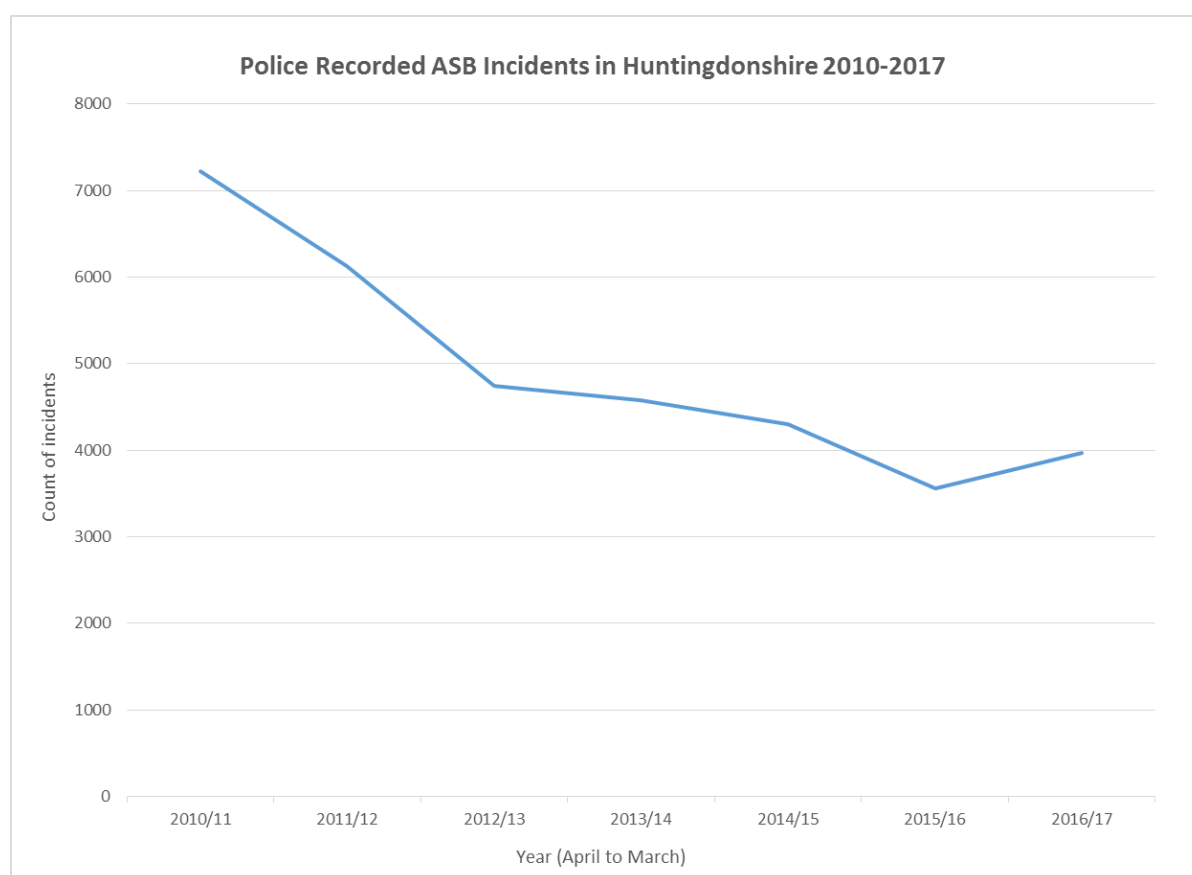
It is important that, particularly in light of changes to processes, the partnership not only understands what ASB related problems there are in the District, but where the key issues lie. The partnership has focused on vulnerable areas over the last 12 months and the aim of this report will be to highlight other areas that the partnership may wish to focus. Specific work has been implemented in areas such as Yaxley and Oxmoor and this report will look at whether or not the partnership should carry out further work in other areas.

Gang related violence, particularly the carrying of weapons, has been highlighted as a possible area of concern for the partnership. Within the quarter 4 2016/17 strategic assessment, the partnership were alerted to an increased concern relating to gang involvement and the recruitment and exploitation of vulnerable young people. Locally, Operation Cerberus looked to tackle the ongoing incidents of violence and disorder on the Oxmoor estate in Huntingdon. Huntingdon town is particularly vulnerable to gang related activity due to the ease of access from London. Whilst the carrying of weapons should not generally be treated as an ASB related issue, it is believed that it is an area that the partnership is fairly unsighted on and should be included within this report

CONTEXT

There have been long term decreases in police recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour across Huntingdonshire and this mirrors national trends. Figure 1, highlights the long term decreases in ASB incidents across Huntingdonshire over the last 5 years. In 2010/11, there were 7,220 recorded ASB incidents across the district but this had reduced by 45% in 2016/17. Despite the longer term decreases, there were a total of 3,967 police recorded incidents across the district between April 2016 and March 2017 which was an 11.7% increase on the previous twelve months.

Figure 1: Total police recorded ASB incidents in Huntingdonshire by year



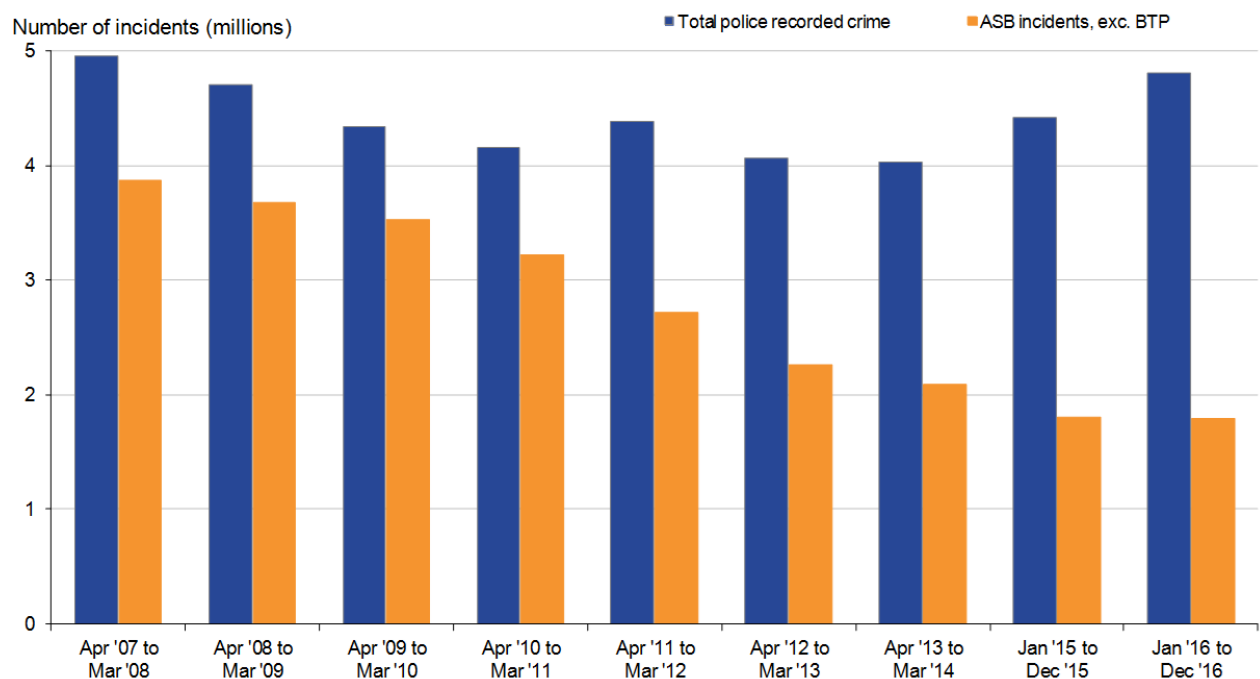
In 2016/17, there were around 22.7 ASB incidents recorded across the district per 1,000 population which is significantly lower than the rate of incidents in 2010/11 (42.5). The partnership should take note of recent increases but it was always possible that slight increases could be expected after long term decreases. What is more important for the partnership to note is those vulnerable areas to ASB, particularly those that have seen the largest increases. It is recommended that the partnership continues to monitor overall levels of ASB in the long term with the aim of reducing the total number of incidents to the 2015/16 low.

Table 1: Police recorded ASB incidents across Huntingdonshire, rate per 1,000 population

Year (April-March)	Rate per 1,000 population
2010/11	42.5
2011/12	35.8
2012/13	27.6
2013/14	26.4
2014/15	24.6
2015/16	20.3
2016/17	22.7

The figure below visualises the national trend and whilst there was not an increase since last year, the chart clearly shows a slowing in the rate of decline in police recorded ASB incidents. Around 1.8 million incidents of ASB were recorded by the police (including the British Transport Police) in the last year, a decrease of 1% compared with the previous year.

Figure 3: National police recorded crime and ASB incidents



Source: ONS

A report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC)³ in 2012 focused on the handling of anti-social behaviour (ASB) by the Force and found that Cambridgeshire Constabulary did not sufficiently identify those victims that were repeat or vulnerable victims of ASB. The Crime Inspection Report 2014 acknowledged improvements in the constabulary's response to ASB, but highlighted 'the constabulary's role is pivotal in uniting public services to support the most vulnerable.'

Despite overall decreases in police recorded incidents, 'complex' ASB cases continue to impact on the resource of local agencies. Previous research⁴ presented to the Partnership highlighted that a significant number of examples of ASB incidents across the District included reference to health related issues, such as mental health or learning disabilities. Disclosure of these vulnerabilities could either relate to the health of the informant or the alleged perpetrator. It should be noted that the lines between victim and perpetrator are often blurred in more complex ASB cases.

³ <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/media/cambridgeshire-anti-social-behaviour-2012.pdf>

⁴ <http://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/community-safety/CSP/hunts>

VULNERABILITY AND RISK

Analysis of Huntingdonshire ASB data identified around 18.7% categorised as 'Personal' and around 3% of all ASB records as 'Personal-High risk' or 'Personal-Medium risk'. This is lower than two years previous. A large proportion of police recorded ASB cases in Huntingdonshire are categorised as 'nuisance ASB', defined as an individual or group causing trouble, annoyance or suffering to the community at large rather than an individual or group.

Whilst medium/high risk ASB cases make up the lowest proportion of all ASB incidents across the district, these cases are often complex, on-going cases which require extensive resource. Previous analysis⁵ of the ECins caseload showed that mental health issues were prevalent and featured in the current cohort of high-risk ASB offenders in the district. There continues to be a need for greater engagement from health providers, particularly in regards to mental health. The ASB Problem Solving Groups work well to jointly tackle problem people and problem families. The groups are well attended by a number of professionals but it has been recognised that it can often be difficult to engage representatives from mental health providers. The partnership may wish to consider how best to engage these services in their multi-agency approach to tackling cases where there is a mental health need.

Of those individuals that are currently classified as high risk ASB perpetrators on ECins, around 50% are engaged in drug related activity. Similarly, violence and verbal abuse appear as common triggers of high risk perpetrators. The new Community Resilience Team at the district council features a Protection and Enforcement strand. It will be these five officers who will investigate reports of low, medium and high risk cases of ASB as well as other environmental issues such as fly tipping and dog fouling, all of which will be managed via ECins.

VULNERABLE LOCATIONS

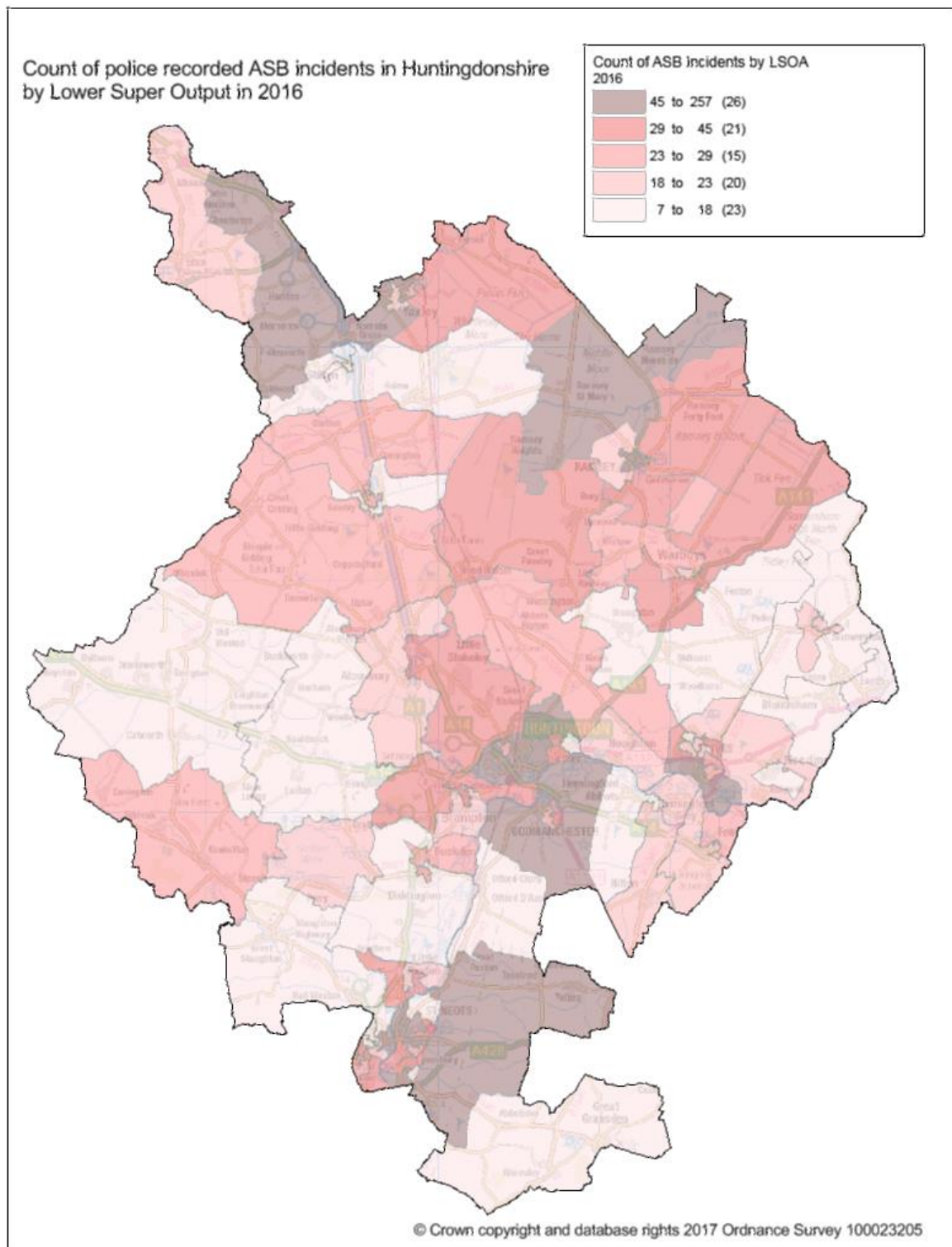
The partnership has worked hard to place a focus on those locations that have been identified as vulnerable, particularly Oxmoor. Whilst the focus on vulnerability should continue, as agreed following the 2016/17 end of year review, it is also important to highlight other vulnerable locations that are susceptible to high volumes of anti-social behaviour. Figure 4 below, breaks down all police recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour across Huntingdonshire in 2016 by Lower Super Output Area⁶ to show those parts of the District that have the highest level of recorded ASB.

As expected, the highest counts of ASB are recorded in urban areas within the district, especially those with a vibrant night-time economy.

⁵ <http://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/community-safety/CSP/hunts>

⁶ Lower Layer Super Output Areas are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales, The Minimum population is 1000 and the mean is 1500.

Figure 4: Thematic map of police recorded ASB incidents in Huntingdonshire by Lower Super Output Area



Whilst Huntingdon North and Huntingdon West Wards continue to have the highest counts of ASB incidents across the district as a whole, table 2 below highlights that there were overall reductions in ASB across the town between June 2016 and May 2017 when compared to the 12 months previous to this. There are particular reductions in Huntingdon North ward where the partnership has targeted this area as a vulnerable location, particularly Oxmoor. The partnership should continue to monitor levels of anti-social behaviour in this vulnerable area.

Whilst Oxmoor should continue to be prioritised as a vulnerable location, the partnership should also consider other areas where a specific focus may be required. For example, a Yaxley Working Group has been established to try and tackle a number of local issues and there has been overall reductions in the area over the last 12 months. There have been notable increases in St Ives, Ramsey and St Neots over the last 12 months.

Whilst the % increases at ward level in table 2 should be noted, some of the increases are misleadingly high due to low base numbers within the specific wards. The partnership should note the increases in the wider areas, especially the large increases in St Ives and Ramsey but also the increases in those wards with high volumes of incidents such as Priory Park, Eynesbury, St Ives South and Huntingdon West.

Table 2: A breakdown of police recorded ASB incidents by ward June 2015-May 2017

Ward	2015/16 (June-May)	2016/17 (June-May)	% Change
Earith	78	76	- 2.6%
Fenstanton	41	42	+ 2.4%
St Ives East	116	112	- 3.4%
St Ives South	184	277	+ 50.5%
St Ives West	60	52	- 13.3%
The Hemingfords	62	90	+ 45.2%
Total St Ives	541	649	+ 20.0%
Ramsey	176	201	+ 14.2%
Somersham	63	69	+ 9.5%
Upwood and the Raveleys	44	76	+ 72.7%
Warboys and Bury	136	138	+ 1.5%
Total Ramsey	419	484	+ 15.5%
Alconbury and the Stukeleys	38	60	+ 57.9%
Brampton	82	106	+ 29.3%
Ellington	31	30	- 3.2%
Godmanchester	141	155	+ 9.9%
Huntingdon East	320	286	- 10.6%
Huntingdon North	345	301	- 12.8%
Huntingdon West	377	388	+ 2.9%
Total Huntingdon	1334	1326	- 0.6%
Elton and Folksworth	60	72	+ 20.0%
Sawtry	101	99	- 2.0%
Stilton	22	36	+ 63.6%
Yaxley and Farcet	256	213	- 16.8%
Total Yaxley	439	420	- 4.3%
Buckden	42	45	+ 7.1%
Eaton Ford	105	97	- 7.6%
Eaton Socon	131	128	- 2.3%
Eynesbury	206	254	+ 23.3%
Gransden and the Offords	60	38	- 36.7%
Kimbolton and Staughton	47	45	- 4.3%
Little Paxton	55	50	- 9.1%
Priory Park	311	348	+ 11.9%
Total St Neots	957	1005	+ 5.0%

Similarly, table 3 below offers a breakdown of ASB incidents by type in 2016. Again, the ward with the highest volume of police recorded incidents of ASB was Huntingdon West with 72% of ASB in this ward classified as nuisance ASB. Nuisance ASB is described as behaviour that causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to the community as a whole. Despite overall decreases in Huntingdon

North ward, it was still the ward with the highest count of High or Medium Risk personal ASB incidents in 2016.

It should be noted that St Neots Priory Park ward had the second highest count of all wards for total ASB incidents in the 2016 calendar year. The Partnership may wish to consider whether specific targeted work in this area is required. There was a total of 351 police incidents recorded in this ward and this was largely driven by Nuisance ASB.

Table 3: A breakdown of ASB incidents by ward, by type, 2016

Ward Name	ASB Type					Grand Total
	Environmental	Nuisance	Personal-High/Medium	PERSONAL - Standard & No Risk	Other	
Huntingdon West Ward	45	316	9	68	0	438
St. Neots Priory Park Ward	65	233	10	42	1	351
Huntingdon North Ward	48	208	16	60	2	334
Huntingdon East Ward	70	192	13	47	3	325
St. Ives South Ward	43	169	2	24	1	239
Ramsey Ward	26	156	7	46	2	237
Yaxley and Farcet Ward	32	132	11	59	1	235
St. Neots Eynesbury Ward	46	136	9	33	0	224
Godmanchester Ward	14	111	9	27	1	162
St. Neots Eaton Socon Ward	23	72	5	20	1	121
Warboys and Bury Ward	19	82	4	12	0	117
Brampton Ward	18	61	6	22	1	108
St. Ives East Ward	19	51	3	29	2	104
Sawtry Ward	12	64	1	18	3	98
St. Neots Eaton Ford Ward	16	71	1	6	0	94
The Hemingfords Ward	22	42	0	10	0	74
Elton and Folksworth Ward	8	55	1	7	0	71
Somersham Ward	13	38	1	12	0	64
Upwood and The Raveleys Ward	14	35	0	6	0	55
Earith Ward	8	35	0	9	2	54
Alconbury and The Stukeleys Ward	6	35	1	11	0	53
St. Ives West Ward	12	36	0	5	0	53
Little Paxton Ward	14	29	3	6	0	52
Fenstanton Ward	11	25	3	6	1	46
Buckden Ward	9	26	1	7	0	43
Gransden and The Offords Ward	7	27	1	6	0	41
Kimbolton and Staughton Ward	13	20	1	6	0	40
Stilton Ward	3	22	1	2	0	28
Ellington Ward	4	19	1	2	0	26
Total	640	2498	120	608	21	3887

WEAPONS

The quarter 4 assessment of 2016/17 highlighted local concern about gang related activity amongst young people in Huntingdonshire. Whilst the focus of this report is anti-social behaviour, it was recognised that on the back of the report on gang-related violence, a focus should be placed on the possession of weapons, particularly within schools. Whilst the use of weapons is not strictly ASB, local problem solving teams have a responsibility to link into schools. It is recommended that the partnership review the current effectiveness of the problem solving groups in doing this.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Some police recorded offences (violence against the person, robbery and sexual offences) can be broken down to identify whether a weapon was used or not.

Across England and Wales in the year ending December 2016 police recorded a 14% increase in violent offences such as assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm, robbery, threats to kill, rape and sexual assault that involved the use of a knife or sharp instrument, compared with the previous year. In the latest year 32,448 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument were used compared with the previous year (28,427). This recent increase counters the general downward trend with a decline seen between 2011 and 2014.

Most of the offences for which data is collected on the use of weapons has seen an increase. In terms of volume “assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm” has seen the largest increase rising from 14,783 to 16,747, an increase of 1,964 (13%). The largest percentage increase was seen in “threats to kill” rising from 2,039 to 2,606, an increase of 567 (28%).

The rise in the use of weapons has been seen nationally with the majority of police forces (33 of the 44) recording a rise in offences using knives or other sharp instruments in comparison to the previous year. However it must be noted that a large percentage (28%) of the increase has come from the London Metropolitan Police force.

It is difficult to ascertain why this might be and could be the result of a wide range of factors. However, the available evidence analysed by the Office of National Statistics suggests that improvements made to recording practices as well as a genuine rise of knife crime, are likely to be the most influential factors.⁷

REPORTING

The Home Office have recently changed their guidance to show that in all cases where possession of a knife or offensive weapon occurs within a school, a crime will be recorded by the police rather than purely being dealt under school policies and procedures which was previously the case. The

⁷ ONS. (2017). *Crime in England and Wales: year ending Dec 2016*. Available: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingdec2016#police-recorded-offences-involving-weapons-rise>.

historic method of dealing with incidents of weapons in schools made it difficult to know the true extent of the problem as the police may not always have been made aware.

Schools should report to the police all cases where pupils are found to have knives in their possession, ideally to a Safer Schools Officer, if available, to ensure that any offences are investigated fully. The Partnership could look to raise awareness in schools and make sure that there is a clear link between problem solving groups and schools.

LOCAL CONCERN

There has been concern amongst local agencies of rivalry between local secondary schools, particularly Sawtry and Hampton and that the on-going battle may lead to the possession or use of weapons. There is an opportunity for the partnership to work with the Youth Offending Service to try and see the bigger picture of youth related violence. The Youth Offending Service has attended Problem Solving Group meetings and this has been useful for other agencies.

Within the 2016 Children's Health Related Behaviour Survey, 6% of respondents in Huntingdonshire admitted to having been threatened with a weapon at least 'once a month or so' in the last year. This was slightly higher than the Cambridgeshire rate of 5%.⁸ Of those surveyed, 19% responded to say that they had been threatened for no reason which was again slightly higher than the Cambridgeshire average (18%).

It was recommended within the quarter 4 2016/17 assessment that the partnership should maintain a focus on vulnerability as this will help to tackle children and young people becoming involved in gang related violence. Work here would fall into the wider preventative agenda. A focus on gang vulnerability will help to tackle the wider vulnerability to increases in crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and would act as a reporting stream into the Partnership and other strategic groups. Huntingdon is also vulnerable to gang related violence due its ease of access from London and drug dealing across county lines.

The Partnership has shown a commitment to supporting the work of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board by focussing on early intervention and awareness raising around alternatives to gang association. The partnership should look to raise the profile of the vulnerabilities associated with gang related violence and the possession of weapons amongst local agencies as well as highlight alternatives to this amongst those on the cusp of this type of activity.

The partnership should review their relationship with schools in order to contribute to the prevention of the possession of weapons in schools and to try and put in place suitable intervention.

WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

Developing the relationship between the partnership and schools could provide a number of benefits including; tackling weapon-related incidents, anti-social behaviour & wider safety issues and understanding emerging issues coming through the community.⁹ In working together, schools will

⁸ 2016 Cambridgeshire Health Related Behaviour Survey

⁹ <https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/Schools/CMSPage.aspx?mid=3424>

be helped to identify, challenge and support pupils most at risk of causing harm and offending through benefiting from the professional expertise that partners can bring.

Similarly, this greater working with schools will mean that partners will be better able to identify and support children and young people who feel threatened by crime and anti-social behaviour through prevention and early intervention. This will also provide the opportunity to develop relationships with young people and talk about local crime issues, including if there are problems around gang culture, youth offending, weapon carrying or risks from violent extremism.

Within the partnership's three year plan, a commitment has been made to invest in the prevention and diversion of children and young people away from offending behaviour.

TACKLING ASB

NEW APPROACH

Following a restructure within the Community Service at Huntingdonshire District Council, the Community Resilience Team has been created. There are two strands to the new team, the first being Community Development which works with new communities, areas of higher need or where a community may need additional support. The second strand is Protection and Enforcement which has resulted in the creation of multi-skilled officers who now have responsibility for responding to calls for service relating to anti-social behaviour, stray and dangerous dogs, dog fouling, fly-tipping, littering and abandoned vehicles. This approach has moved officers away from having one area of expertise and covering the whole District to having a 'patch' within the district where they are responsible for responding to a number of issues.

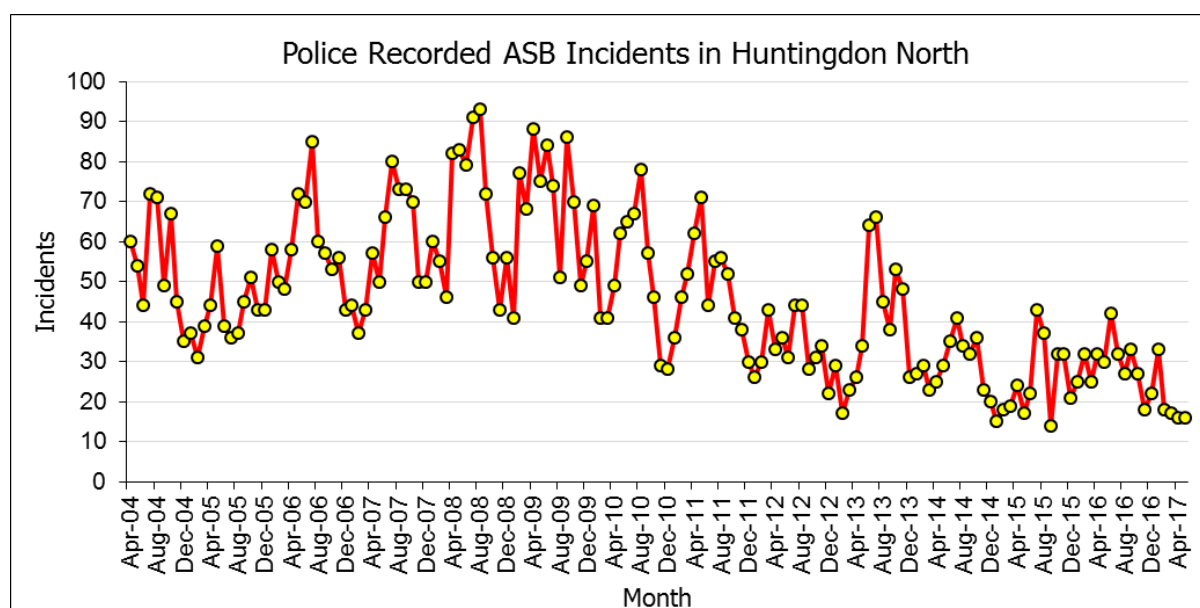
Although the team has only been in operation since 1st March 2017, a number of benefits are already being realised. For example - one of the team was working with a resident who continually experienced their neighbour's dogs entering their garden despite a Community Protection Notice being in place. Following the upskilling of the officers', the officer working this case was able to identify a number of other concerns which included the perpetrator having links to hare coursing and the supply of drugs and his son being involved with ASB within the locality. It was also established that this individual was in three years arrears with their council tax and financially was at risk of losing their home. Pulling all of this information together, the officer created a plan around the perpetrator which included him putting in place a repayment plan with the district council which reduced the large amounts that he was paying to the bailiffs and freed up the money needed to replace the fence in his garden which stopped the dogs escaping.

It was agreed at the partnership meeting held in April that a gap analysis would be conducted to indicate where value for money could be achieved in terms of commissioning the funding awarded by the Police and Crime Commissioner. This piece of work looked at what the priorities are across Huntingdonshire and where resources are targeted. The analysis suggested that the funding would be best spent on prevention and intervention in identified locations in the form of further developing the Transforming Lives project. This analysis is consistent with what this document is telling us and it is recommended that this scheme is considered for the areas that have seen increases such as St Ives and St Neots.

OXMOOR

The targeted work on Oxmoor has seen reductions in incidents of ASB in the area. Work has particularly been focussed on housing interventions, youth work, universal support and community engagement. From an ASB perspective, Luminus, the main Housing Provider in the area, has been working with local agencies to tackle many of the issues facing Oxmoor, an area they consider to be a priority. Problems that predominate include fly tipping, parking and gang and drug related issues. Luminus staff have adopted a number of approaches in order to tackle these problems including running Street Surgeries, attending police meetings and walkabouts, joint property visits with a member of the police, the application of ASB cards, and, in one case, the eviction of a tenant.

- Luminus Anti-Social Behaviour Officer has undertaken numerous joint visits with PC Bacon to Luminus properties, supporting victims and taking action against perpetrators of Anti-social Behaviour. This joined up approach is well received.
- When issues are reported it is standard practice for Luminus Officers to use the 'Anti-Social Behaviour Cards' to seek feedback from residents to allow action to be taken.
- Luminus staff attend regular police meetings and undertake walkabouts in the area to provide that important presence with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team. This offers further reassurance to the community, confident that a strong partnership approach is in operation.



Whilst there have been further reductions in ASB incidents in Huntingdon North these follow long term trends and the Partnership should continue to monitor the impact of on-going work.

TRANSFORMING LIVES PILOT PROJECT

The 12.8% reduction in police recorded ASB incidents in Huntingdon North ward between June and May 2016/17 can be attributed, in part, to the Transforming Lives pilot project which took place in the area between April and August 2016. The project was funded by the partnership. The focus of

the pilot project was to work with young people living in Huntingdon North ward area that were involved in or at risk of anti-social, criminal or gang related activities and lasted for twelve weeks. The main outcomes identified from the project were:

- Improved relationships with adults and local services
- Reduction in anti-social and risk taking behaviours
- Increased engagement in learning and positive activities
- Increased confidence and self-esteem to enable individuals to make informed decisions

The project delivery team is in the process of commencing the next round of Transforming Lives with a continued focus on diverting young people away from gang activity or the risk of exploitation. The pilot demonstrated that even though the cohort were thought to be 'difficult' young boys, they demonstrated that they were able to remain engaged in a programme for a sustained period of time. The group also had the opportunity to visit a scheme out of the district where they came into contact with other young people from other areas of the Country who too, were involved in gangs. This was a really powerful exercise for the group and a realisation that there is a very big world outside of Oxmoor. This is a project that can be duplicated anywhere and the recommendation is that schemes are run in both St Ives and St Neots following the identification of increases in ASB across these areas.

FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Fire Break

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service are looking to replicate the Fire Break scheme, which has been implemented in Peterborough and across other parts of Cambridgeshire. The aim of the scheme is to work with young people vulnerable to offending and to use fire service drills and culture to develop team working skills and increase self-esteem and confidence through workshops and drill yard activities.

The programme aims to promote a culture of safety and team work and citizenship by teaching a range of vital life skills whilst undertaking the various disciplines of the fire service. The partnership may wish to explore the opportunity of using this scheme as a means of working with those children that may be on the brink of anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and carrying weapons.

Feedback from the scheme in Essex, who started the initiative, is that it has been seen as a successful confidence building tool for those with a history of youth offending, school exclusion or associated disruptive behaviour or backgrounds. There has been positive feedback on the short term impact of the scheme but should further activity continue, including work in Huntingdonshire, additional funding would be required. No formal evaluation has been made available at the time of writing and therefore the long term impact or value for money of this scheme is unknown.

Volunteers

Over the last 12 months, the police have successfully recruited volunteers who have been able to carry out certain functions. This may be something that the partnership wishes to investigate further as an option.

Further geographic focus

As outlined within the partnership's three year plan, it has been recognised that some areas within the district are more likely to experience higher levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour because of a number of different factors. Whilst there have been long decreases across the district as a whole, the rate of these decreases are not the same across the whole district and there have been increases in some wards. The partnership have shown a commitment to continue the focussed work of the Oxmoor Task and Finish Group. This has shown an initial positive impact in tackling Anti-Social behaviour in the area and the partnership have also shown a commitment to gaining a further understanding as to why crimes are higher in some wards than others and put a response in place to the causal factors whilst engaging with communities in vulnerable locations to enable them to be part of the problem solving process and to ensure sustainability.

This report has highlighted possible vulnerable locations in regard to ASB and the partnership should look at ways to greater understand the reasons for increases in ASB, particularly areas such as St Neots. A model similar to the Yaxley Working Group could be applied here.

ASB LEGISLATION

PSPO

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) have been implemented in Huntingdon Town centre to try and tackle anti-social behaviour.

There have also been two PSPOs go live in St Neots with the aim of tackling issues surrounding anti-social driving, for a period of three years. The first order covers Riverside Car Park, the Market Square and adjacent areas and the second covers Little End and Howard Road Industrial Estates and Colmworth Business Park. The prohibitions for both orders are the same and prohibit the use of vehicles that may result in causing alarm, harassment or distress.

The issues surrounding anti-social driving on these sites have been ongoing for some 10 years. The partnership previously problem solved the situation which resulted in the installation of a rising bollard at the entrance to the car park. This did have a positive effect and addressed the 'boy racer' activity and we did not experience displacement but did experience extensive damage to the bollard as well as the car park fencing which people drove through to exit the car park. The intercom system and bollard regularly needing repairing and there were periods of time when it was not in use due to damage. CCTV was already in place in the car park but this had not and did not discourage the activity. Approximately 3 years after the installation, flood alleviation works were necessary in the car park which resulted in the need to permanently remove the bollard. We did not experience the return of the issues until 12 months after the removal and then once again, reports were made to the council and police about boy racer activity.

Following consultation, a PSPO was thought most appropriate response to this activity. The district council have also installed a gate at the entrance to the car park which is locked shut at 12am and re-opened at 5am on a daily basis.

OTHER ASB POWERS

Over the past twelve months, the partnership have refreshed officer skills and knowledge. Officers from HDC, Cambridgeshire Police, Luminus and BHPA attended an event working together on case studies and discussion groups to test their knowledge and application of powers. Some of the key pieces of legislation explored were:

Injunctions - Civil Orders which can be applied initially as an interim then to a full order to prevent named persons from undertaking almost any kind of action or behaviour. The interim orders can be applied for at a small cost and implemented in a very short time scale.

Unnamed injunctions - these have been considered for our anti-social driving issues. Effectively these orders allow officers to injunct people at the point at which they are found causing or participating in a pre-identified activity or behaviour.

Closure orders - a power allowing Police to close premises immediately with an initial notice pending full court hearing when a premise is believed to be the centre of ASB. This was used the following weekend to shut down the site of a planned rave.

Parental Control Orders - these orders place a legal responsibility to control children, specifically around set locations and times.

As the District Council Community Resilience Team moves towards a new way of working, it is really important that the powers available to local officers are clear and understood across the Partnership.

APPENDIX A

Cambridgeshire Police Neighbourhood Overview

[Print This Page](#)
[Return to Selection Screen](#)
[Click for Help](#)

Huntingdonshire

Select Crime Type

Anti social behaviour

If inaccurate dates are entered (e.g. if the end date precedes the start date) all cells will display "Error".	Single Month		% Change	Earlier Period		Later Period		% Change
	Earlier	Later		Start	End	Start	End	
	May-16	May-17		Jun-15	May-16	Jun-16	May-17	
Earith	6	9	+ 50.0%	78	76	- 2.6%		
Fenstanton	3	2	- 33.3%	41	42	+ 2.4%		
St Ives East	15	10	- 33.3%	116	112	- 3.4%		
St Ives South	25	23	- 8.0%	184	277	+ 50.5%		
St Ives West	4	2	- 50.0%	60	52	- 13.3%		
The Hemingfords	3	7	+ 133.3%	62	90	+ 45.2%		
Total St Ives	56	53	- 5.4%	541	649	+ 20.0%		
Ramsey	12	18	+ 50.0%	176	201	+ 14.2%		
Somersham	2	11	+ 450.0%	63	69	+ 9.5%		
Upwood and the Raveleys	7	2	- 71.4%	44	76	+ 72.7%		
Warboys and Bury	15	13	- 13.3%	136	138	+ 1.5%		
Total Ramsey	36	44	+ 22.2%	419	484	+ 15.5%		
Alconbury and the Stukeleys	3	5	+ 66.7%	38	60	+ 57.9%		
Brampton	13	10	- 23.1%	82	106	+ 29.3%		
Ellington	0	4	No Calc	31	30	- 3.2%		
Godmanchester	14	11	- 21.4%	141	155	+ 9.9%		
Huntingdon East	43	21	- 51.2%	320	286	- 10.6%		
Huntingdon North	30	16	- 46.7%	345	301	- 12.8%		
Huntingdon West	29	30	+ 3.4%	377	388	+ 2.9%		
Total Huntingdon	132	97	- 26.5%	1,334	1,326	- 0.6%		
Elton and Folksworth	10	8	- 20.0%	60	72	+ 20.0%		
Sawtry	8	12	+ 50.0%	101	99	- 2.0%		
Stilton	4	3	- 25.0%	22	36	+ 63.6%		
Yaxley and Farcet	33	20	- 39.4%	256	213	- 16.8%		
Total Yaxley	55	43	- 21.8%	439	420	- 4.3%		
Buckden	5	6	+ 20.0%	42	45	+ 7.1%		
Eaton Ford	19	10	- 47.4%	105	97	- 7.6%		
Eaton Socon	12	15	+ 25.0%	131	128	- 2.3%		
Eynesbury	17	21	+ 23.5%	206	254	+ 23.3%		
Gransden and the Offords	0	2	No Calc	60	38	- 36.7%		
Kimbolton and Staughton	1	5	+ 400.0%	47	45	- 4.3%		
Little Paxton	8	3	- 62.5%	55	50	- 9.1%		
Priory Park	42	31	- 26.2%	311	348	+ 11.9%		
Total St Neots	104	93	- 10.6%	957	1,005	+ 5.0%		

APPENDIX B

Bradford Schools Online, Guidelines on Offensive Weapons,
<https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/Schools/CMSPage.aspx?mid=3424>

Cambridgeshire Research Group, ASB in Huntingdonshire 2015/16,
<http://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/community-safety/CSP/hunts>

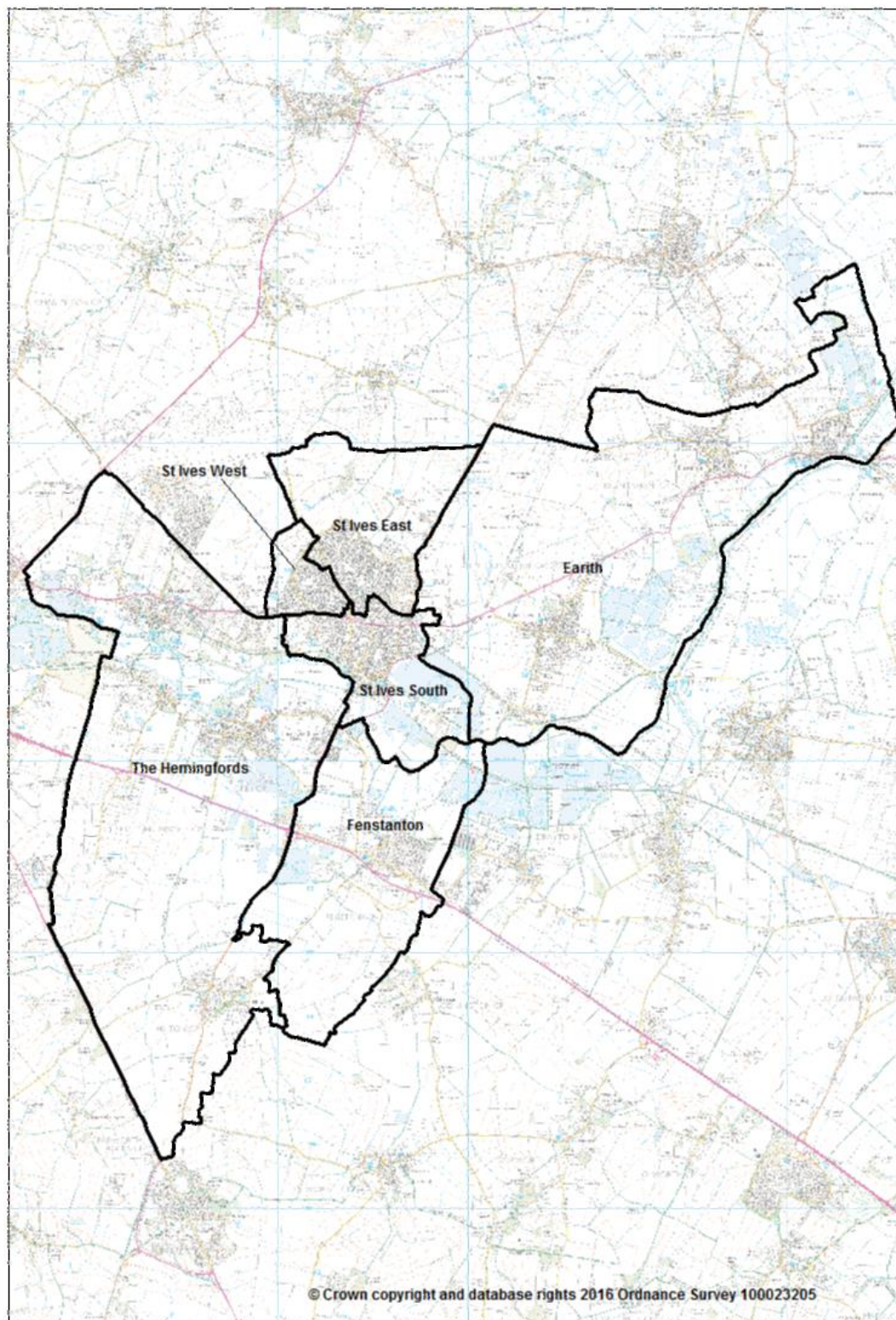
Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Police Recorded Data

ONS. (2017). *Crime in England and Wales: year ending Dec 2016*,
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingdec2016#police-recorded-offences-involving-weapons-rise>.

Justice Inspectorates, ASB in
Cambridgeshire <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/media/cambridgeshire-anti-social-behaviour-2012.pdf>

APPENDIX C

Map of Wards within St Ives



Map of St Neots Wards

