

COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – DRUGS IMPACT ON CAMBRIDGE CITY

VERSION 1.0

SEPTEMBER 2017



This Report is produced by Cambridgeshire County Council’s Research Team, part of the Council’s Business Intelligence Service. ‘Cambridgeshire Research Group’ (CRG) is the brand name for Cambridgeshire County Council’s Research Function. As well as supporting the County Council we take on a range of work commissioned by other sector bodies both within Cambridgeshire and beyond.

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the quarterly strategic assessment process is to provide the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership (CC CSP) with an understanding of the crime, anti-social behaviour, and substance misuse issues affecting the City. 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	Violence within vulnerable groups	June and July	July 2017
2	ASB within vulnerable groups	July to September	October 2017
3	End of Year Review/Horizon Scanning	October to December	February 2018
4	Domestic Abuse	January to March	April 2018

DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

This strategic assessment document is set out in three 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.
- **Performance Monitoring** – this section provides an overview of available data relating to the three current priorities.

This document and previous assessments can be downloaded from:

<http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/community-safety/CSP/cambscity>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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.

The victim and offender pyramid is an interactive profile that presents data by age group, gender and district.

Both the above can be accessed here:

<http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/interactive-maps/crime>

KEY FINDINGS

Nationally the long term trend appears to indicate a reduction in drug use, however local data indicates that associated ASB such as needle finds is on the increase in Cambridge City. There has been an increase within Cambridge City of crime (including violence) associated with the County Lines issue.

However the data available does not provide a complete picture, there are still gaps in knowledge and understanding the cause of some of the more recent changes and peaks. Further work is needed to gain a greater understanding.

Drugs are related to a number of crime and anti-social behaviour problems. Not only the crimes relating to trafficking and possession of the drugs themselves. But also the associated violence with County Lines (the cross boarder drugs networks), acquisitive crime in order to obtain drugs, there is the exploitation of both adults and children in a variety of ways. It is important to note that this breadth of issues inevitably means that a variety of tactics will be needed to tackle the different aspects of the problem. Feedback is starting to show that there is an area that appears to be falling within ASB but is not quite wholly crime or ASB. A number of cases have emerged where adults have been exploited or scammed, often by individuals that have or are using drugs.

Drugs use is a key issue across several organisations and partnerships. The Partnership should be mindful of the existing strategies and action plans in place to tackle drug misuse and associated crime and ASB issues.

The new national strategy is built on four areas for action; reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery and global action. The Countywide action plan builds on these four areas.

There are several strands to the current activity tackling drug misuse, including;

- The countywide Substance Misuse Delivery Group – The draft action plan is with the delivery board for consultation and agreement.
- Locally the City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council are agreeing actions that will tackle the immediate concern relating to the increasing needle finds.
- County Lines – Police lead activity to tackle the drug trafficking into Cambridgeshire and safeguard vulnerable victims.
- Reducing Reoffending Delivery Group – Action plan is being agreed following the Strategic Needs Assessment Managing Offenders, Preventing Offending 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that a multiagency task and finish group is established to examine the emerging trend of adult exploitation that currently does not appear to fit any of the existing modalities or pathways. The aim is to establish the nature of the emerging trend and identify appropriate interventions for victims and offenders and any prevention work.

It is recommended that the CSP continues to support the County Lines work as appropriate, this includes sharing of relevant intelligence and appropriate safeguarding plans.

It is recommended that the CSP supports the ongoing development and delivery of actions plans at both a county and City level. In particular looking at needle finds and public drug use. At the time of writing the CCTV data was not available, it is further recommended that more frequent sharing of CCTV data takes place to support public nuisance in relation to drug use.

PRIORITY ANALYSIS: IMPACT OF DRUG USE IN CAMBRIDGE CITY

The Partnership has received several reports over the years exploring anti-social behaviour (ASB), the scale of the issue, the nature of the different problems and the possible interventions that could be applied. This body of knowledge has been used to drive activity and create innovation where no known best practice could be found.

Overall anti-social behaviour, which is not a single type of behaviour or problem, is on the whole reducing, both locally and nationally. However there are certain subsets that are still causing concern. There are two main reasons for this. They are where a large number of people are affected, such as in a city centre, or where vulnerable people are involved and exploited.

As the volume nuisance ASB has been well documented, this report will focus on aspects of vulnerability that are currently causing the greatest concern to professionals. This in itself is still a broad range of issues and three in particular have been highlighted to the research team; the issue of County Lines, the current picture of drug use and the exploitation of adults (often vulnerable but not fitting a statutory definition of such) by other adults.

Scope of this document

The issue of County lines has previously been discussed and therefore will not form a substantial part of this analysis. The Constabulary are currently leading this area of work.

OVERVIEW OF DRUGS MISUSE

Ascertaining the level of drug use is complicated and even using a variety of data sources it is hard to truly gain a picture. This report has secured three main data sources, each provides insight into a particular aspect of drug use or the impact of use.

1. Police recorded crime allows some insight into the demand placed upon the criminal justice system and is available at a very local level. However, police recorded crime often follows police strategies rather than actual levels of crime. This is in part due to the hidden nature of the use and part to with disrupting drugs trafficking.
2. Self-reported use will give an insight into prevalence, and the nature of the use, however this is not available locally therefore the data relies on national estimates.
3. Needle finds data from the Cambridge City Council provides indications of locations local use and potential impact on residence.

TRENDS OVER TIME

Long term trend

Overall it is believed that there has been a reduction in the volume of drug crime (see figure 1) and number of people misusing drugs. However, this is a much hidden crime that often goes underreported, so caution is needed when interpreting the data. Further the more recent changes following The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 that came into effect on 26th May 2016, has changed the landscape again with an expansion of those substances now illegal.

The Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Needs assessment found that;

- A 'substantial number of people in Cambridgeshire who are starting to or continuing to use these substance'¹.
- The 2014 Health Related Behaviour Survey showed a significantly higher rate of year 10 pupils reported ever having used drugs than the rest of the County (Cambridge City 22% compared with Cambridgeshire 17%).
- A new pattern of drug misuse has been emerging in recent years, in particular Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and misuse of prescription drugs.

It is worth noting the extreme variability within the monthly crime data, particularly in the earlier year. Other findings:

- 748 drug offences were recorded in Cambridge in 2013, at an average of 62 per month
- This fell to 469 drug offences recorded in 2016, averaging 39 per month
- This decline has been driven mainly by a significant fall in the number of 'Possession' offences being recorded

¹ Drugs and alcohol – Drugs & Alcohol JSNA 2016

Figure 1: Long term trend in monthly police recorded drug offences in Cambridge City

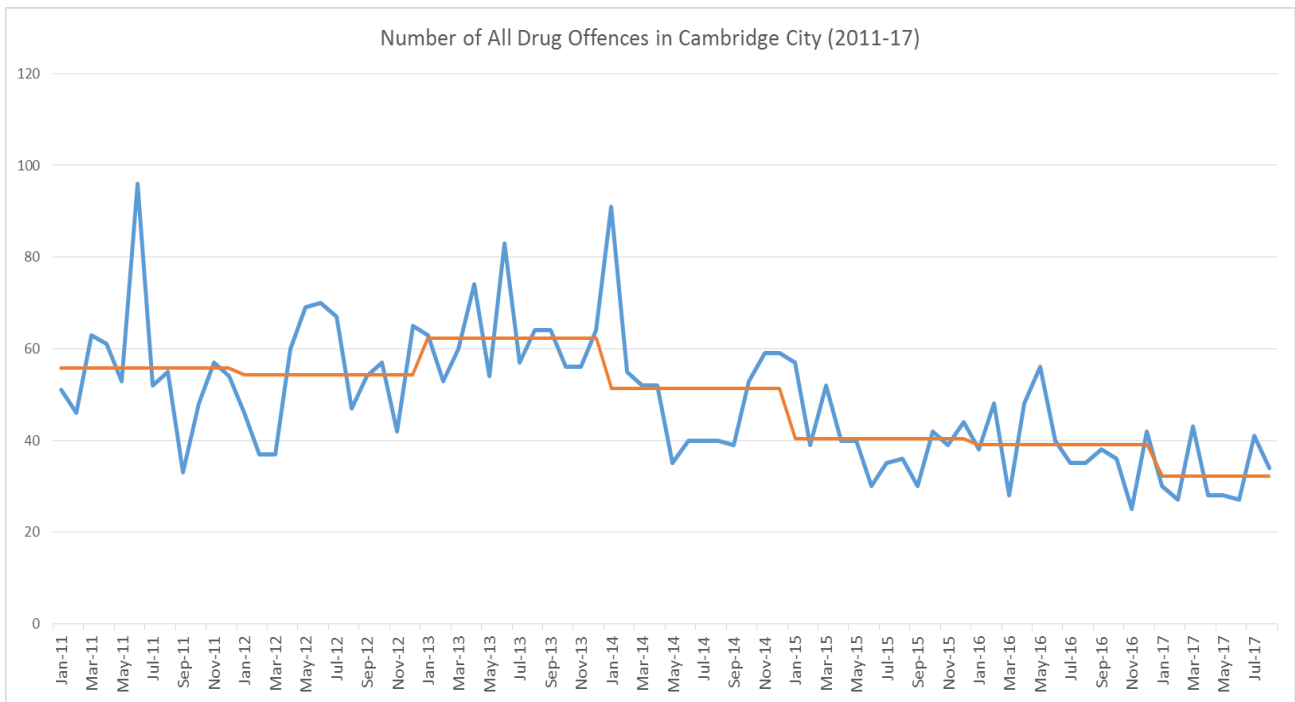
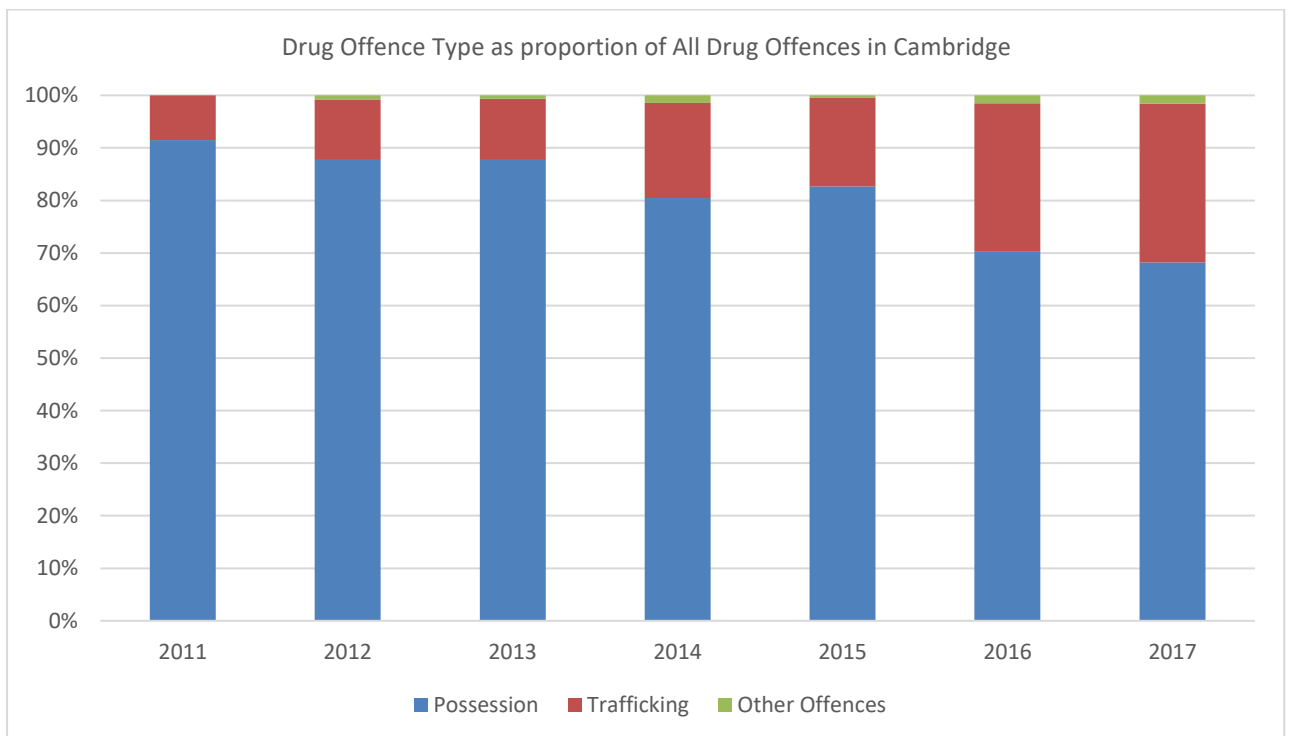


Figure 2: Breakdown of the main types of drug offences by year



Drug offences fall into three different categories; 'Possession', 'Trafficking', & 'Other Offences'. We can see from Figure 2 that in 2011, over 90% of drug offences in Cambridge were for possession of illegal drugs. However, that figure is now at 68%, so far in 2017 (January – August).

It is not immediately clear from the data what has caused this decline, however as drug offence recorded is often tied to police activity, some of the variation may be associated with policing priorities and activities as well as true changes in drug misuse.

The number of drug trafficking offences remains low compared to the volume of recorded crime. There were only 57 recorded in the whole of 2011, with the figure nearly doubling in 2014 at 111. To date for 2017, almost one-third of all drug offences recorded are trafficking.

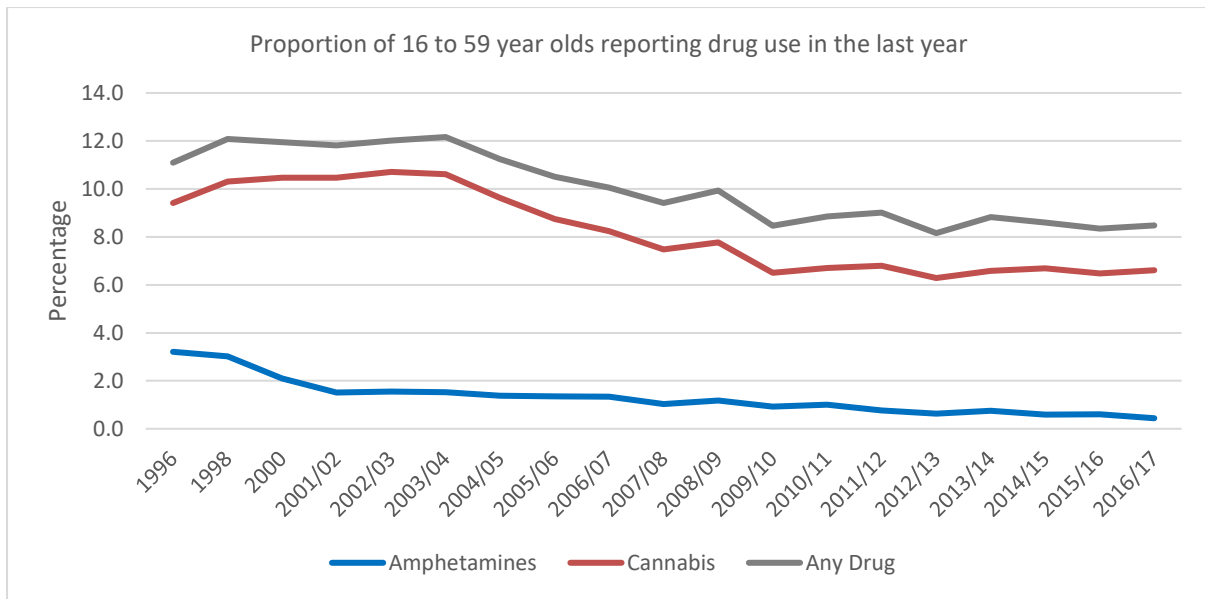
These figures are believed to be a representation of police activity, such as policy targeting drug crime reduction in certain months/years, rather than actual changes in volumes. The Office for National Statistics notes that *"Police recorded crime is, generally, not a reliable measure of trends in crime, since it is prone to changes in recording practices and police activity As a result, trends will not always reflect true levels of criminal activity"*.

In order to judge the trend in drug use, self-reported survey data has been used alongside police recorded crime data. Nationally, there has been relatively little fluctuation in the number of 16 to 59 year olds self-reporting having taken illegal drugs 'in the past 12 months', over recent years. Cannabis use amongst young adults (16 to 24 year olds) has actually seen a steady increase since 2011. However, the proportion of the population under 30 are reporting having taken illegal drugs, has fallen from 23.3% in 2010/11 to 16.5% in 2016/17. This may be a potential explanation for the reduction in drug offences in Cambridge.

Whilst self-reported drug use has declined slightly in the long term, in recent years there has been little change. The Crime Survey for England and Wales provides a long term trend in both prevalence and type of use. Key findings include;

- The percentage of people (16 to 59 year olds) self-reporting having taken illegal drugs 'in the last year' in England & Wales has remained relatively stable in 2016/17, compared to figures for the past 7 years (at between 8-9%)
- This follows a significant downward trend in drug use from 2003/04, driven by a fall in the use of Cannabis (down from 10.6% to 6.6%) and Amphetamines (down from 3.2% in 1996 to 0.4%)
- The most commonly used drug, of any class, is still Cannabis, with use decreasing from 1998 to 2010, before levelling off in recent years (around 6.6%)

Figure 3: Proportion of 16-59 year olds reporting drug use in the last year



Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/drug-misuse-findings-from-the-2016-to-2017-csew>

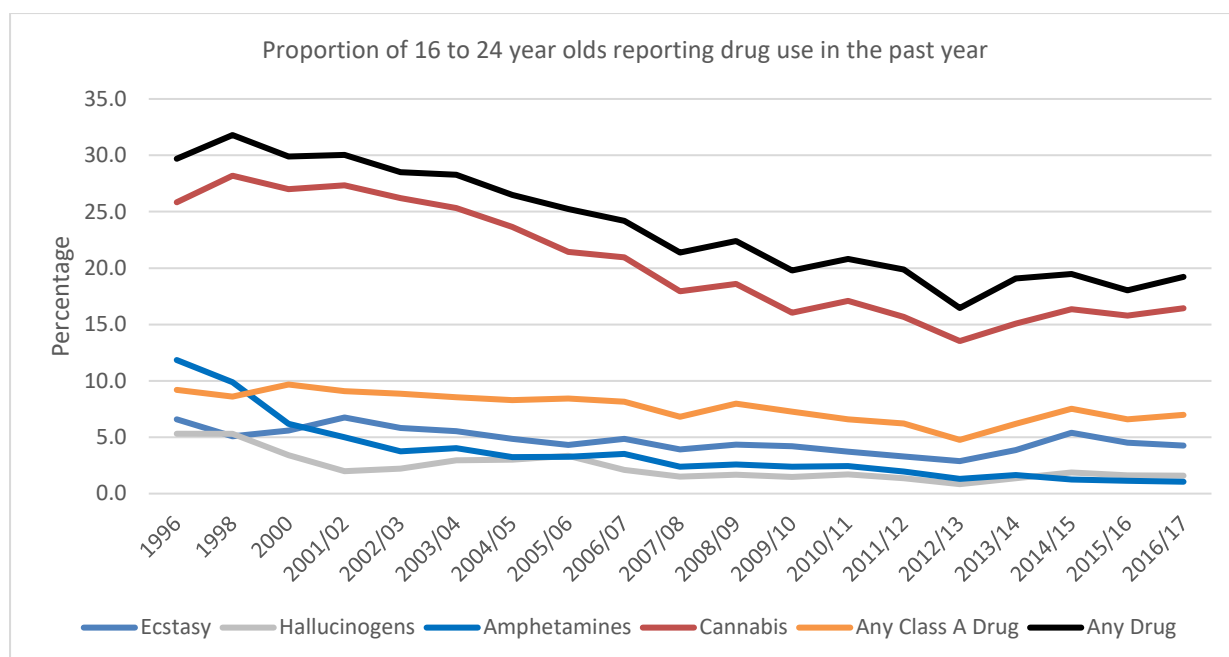
For young adults - 16 to 24 year olds;

- As in previous years, taking any drug in the past year (19.2%) was more than double the proportion in the 16 to 59 age group (8.5%)
- The long term trend of drug use is downward, which is being driven by decreasing use of cannabis, amphetamines and hallucinogens
- The use of Class A drugs had been falling, however there has been an increase in use since 2012/13, with use, as a proportion, higher than the level in 2007/08
- This is similar to the trend of ecstasy use which increased in 2013 to 2015, before dropping back down to a similar level of ten years ago
- The prevalence of last year drug use among school children aged 11 to 15 in England has shown a decline from 15 per cent in 2009 to 10 per cent in 2014 (Fuller, 2015)².

²

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/628100/Drug_Strategy_Evaluation.PDF

Figure 4: Proportion of 16-24 year olds reporting drug use in the last year



IMPACT OF DRUG USE

Aside from the impact on the person directly there are wider direct and indirect impacts on the community. There can be associated anti-social behaviour (perceptions that areas are less safe and associated behaviour or those under the influence), crime (particularly acquisitive crime) and environmental issues (including needle finds).

Needle Finds data for the last five years has been analysed for patterns and trends. It is noted from the data that in terms of the number of incidents that came to the attention of the City Council for the first eight months of 2017 there were more than double compared to the whole of 2013. It should be noted that these do also include house clearances as well as overflowing needle bins and on street detritus.

Table 1: Number of instances of needle finds

Year	Number of finds
2013	102
2014	66
2015	84
2016	134
2017	214

GEOGRAPHIC PATTERNS

Over the last five years the City Council has seen an overall increase in the number of needle find incidents. The table below describes the pattern by ward and for the whole of the City. Between 2013 and 2015 reductions were recorded. However, since then the number has increase. 2016

recorded 134, 32 more than 2013. And for January to August 2017 there have already been 214 needle find incidents.

Table 2: Needle find incidents by ward and year – Cambridge City

Row Labels	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*	Grand Total
Market Ward	19	5	23	44	63	154
Petersfield Ward	12	10	15	24	25	86
Abbey Ward	15	5	7	15	13	55
Castle Ward	5	9	5	4	26	49
East Chesterton Ward	15	8	6	6	13	48
Romsey Ward	8	3	7	11	16	45
Trumpington Ward	2	4	5	10	11	32
Arbury Ward	6	5	6	2	11	30
West Chesterton Ward	8	5	2	4	10	29
King's Hedges Ward	9	6	3	4	5	27
Cherry Hinton Ward		2	2	3	5	12
Coleridge Ward	1	1		2	7	11
Queen Edith's Ward	2	1	1	2	4	10
Histon and Impington Ward		1	2		4	7
Newnham Ward		1		3	1	5
Grand Total	102	66	84	134	214	600

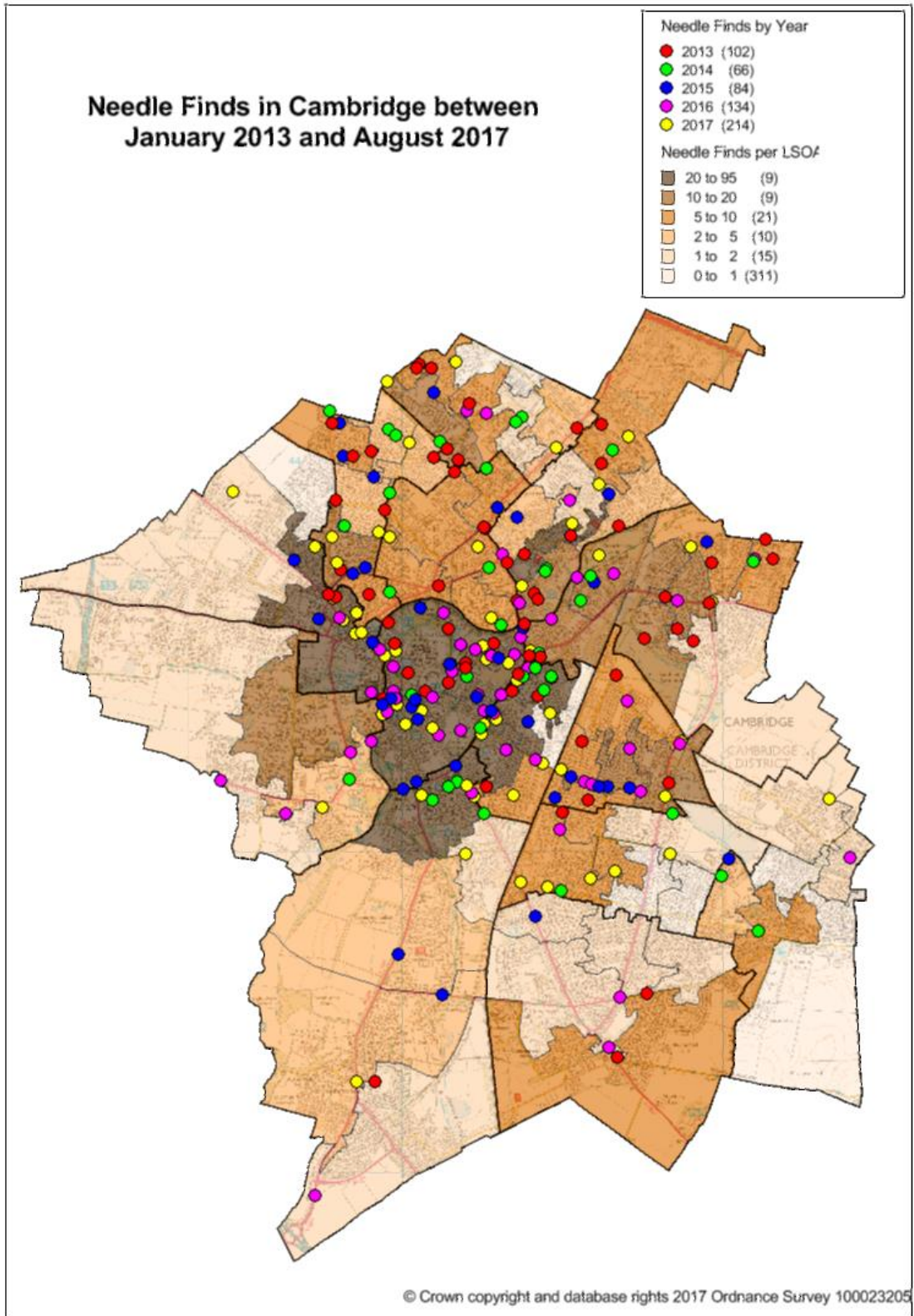
*January - August

The top three wards were Market, Petersfield and Abbey wards. Given what is already known about drug use in the City this is not surprising. Market ward recorded twice as much as the next highest ward over the whole period (January 2013- August 2017). 2014 was the only year the market ward was not the top ward.

The map in figure 5 shows same data by LSOA and point location by year to highlight the areas of highest use/ inappropriate disposal for needles. The City Centre and north and north east of the City are common to most years for needle finds. The pattern for the finds in 2017 appear to be the most disperse. It is unclear at this time what might have caused this change in pattern, it may reflect a new pattern to needles being abandoned, or a change in who is using. It would be worth further investigation.

Feedback from Cambridgeshire County Council indicates that whilst the increase in finds has been noticed further work is already underway to explore the cause. Inclusion are talking to pharmacies and street outreach to gather more information and to get the message out to encourage clients to return needles.

Figure 5: Needle find locations since January 2013 – Cambridge City



COUNTY LINES

A “County Line” is the method of extending a gangs drug dealing into a new location. It refers to the utilisation of a single telephone number to ‘market’ their drugs and to sell them at the street level, with the number often operated from outside the county boundary, (predominantly London). Gangs typically establish a base in the new location, by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults, (often users) either by force or coercion, often referred to as ‘cuckooing’. County lines are a national issue affecting the majority of policing areas. This is due to the availability of an established drug market that they are able to exploit and control through the significant threat of violence, exploitation of vulnerable adults/children³, and the associated criminality linked to drug use.

County lines in Cambridgeshire, and Cambridge City in particular, appears to be increasing. This brings a number of potential impacts. There are issues surrounding safeguarding, with gangs exploiting vulnerable adults and children to deal drugs for the gangs. The use of threats, violence and debt-bondage can force these people into committing crimes for the drug gangs. The vulnerability of Class A drug users can be exploited by drug gangs and lead the users to commit acquisitive crimes such as dwelling burglaries and other offences. There has also been an increase in the number of violent assaults being recorded between Class A drug users and dealers, including the use of weapons, as these drug gangs seek to assert their power. Cambridge City has seen crimes involving acid being thrown or sprayed at the victims’ face. It is very difficult for the Constabulary to know the precise threat that these gangs may pose to the area, in terms of levels of violence or potential use of firearms and other weapons because of the fact that many originate from other parts of the country. So far the levels of violence seen in London and elsewhere has not been replicated in Cambridge City.

Work to tackle county lines is ongoing, predominately lead by the constabulary but also within the remit of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB). There are a number of key areas of work that fall into two broad categories;

Safeguarding and Identification

- Identify possible vulnerable people to prevent dealers from involving them in their gangs, making appropriate referrals
- Liaise with British Transport Police to try to intercept anyone attempting to cross into Cambridgeshire

Data and Information

- Recording accurately those crimes linked to county lines to enable good intelligence and analysis
- Intelligence gathering to enable linking people of interest together
- Sharing information with other forces, particularly when an out of force nominal is arrested, to help build up a picture of where these gangs are operating.
- Develop networks to look into the key hotspots for drug dealing and drug-related crime

3

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/626770/6_3505_HO_Child_exploitation_FINAL_web_2_.pdf

EXPLOITATION OF ADULTS

Over time there have been a number of changes to the type of case the Safer Communities Team at Cambridge City Council. As new initiatives and partnership working tackle one problem, others come to light. More recently the team have started to notice a pattern emerge where adults that do not fit the statutory definition of vulnerable⁴ are exploited. Often these individuals do not recognise that they have been scammed or taken advantage of. Some however do start to become distressed or uncomfortable with the developing 'relationship' with the other person. Whilst the numbers are low at this time there is a current need to examine what is essentially a case of exploitation. Some but not all spill into wider community ASB issues, such as noise complaints.

Upon investigation it remains unclear whether these cases would fit the national definition of a scam. Clearly these individuals have been taken advantage of, but under which services they would be most appropriately managed is unclear. The County Council's Community Protection Team have offered to work with the City Council and provide support once people have been identified as being a 'exploited' with the aim of reducing the risk of re-victimisation. There is clearly a need to improve our collective understanding of these types of cases.

CASE STUDIES: VULNERABLE ADULTS

Case Study A:

Female A has come to the attention of a number of professionals because she has befriended vulnerable men across the city. She stays with and visits them and also takes money from them, often in large quantities. Female A has a chaotic lifestyle, is a substance user, doesn't have a tenancy, nor will she engage with support services that have been offered to her.

There is an ongoing situation where she had befriended an elderly gentleman who wanted to "help" her. She told him that she had nowhere to go, that she had been beaten and that people were threatening her: after a short while she moved in with him. Complaints were made because neighbours could hear arguments between the two and they were concerned about the man. He disclosed that he had given her close to £8,000 over a two year period. The man would describe Female A as a friend although it seems that she is a friend that takes money from and threatens him, and makes serious allegations about him to the police when he tries to stand up to her.

Professionals have tried to work with him to support him to make a statement against Female A so that injunctions could be pursued to prevent her from going to his property. However he does not feel able to do this or want to do this because of a sense of either loyalty to her or fear of her.

Professionals were made aware of another vulnerable man who Female A was staying with. He said that whilst he didn't really know her that she said she would do his washing and cleaning for him. He was persuaded to give her a key for his property after a very short while and he gave her money

⁴ <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/754-vulnerable-person-reporting-routes-nov-2016/file>

because she needed it. Whilst this man didn't seem to be too bothered about her, he is vulnerable, and appears to be being taken advantage of.

The concern for professionals is that Female A will continue to go around the City befriending vulnerable people and taking money from them and there seems to be little, in terms of enforcement action that professionals are able to do to stop it from continuing.

Case Study B:







Male B is well known to services and is a repeat offender who has short prison sentences for breaching his probation order is taking over vulnerable clients tenancies.

When Male B is released he appears to give different (unsuitable) tenancy addresses as his care of address and is often released from prison quickly after short sentences and he does not engage with any services. This has been an ongoing problem for a number of years and takes up a lot of time for all services.

On a recent release he gave his address as a tenancy of a current client of a support service. This was not a suitable address and the client made several phone calls to their support worker expressing that they weren't happy with this. A professionals meeting was held and in that meeting we spoke with his probation worker to try and see if there was any scope to put an injunction on him to use or go near this address. However due to the convoluted set up of his order professionals were unable to do so. This is likely to be the same problem for others who try the same thing.

Professionals have gone down the route of trying to get individuals to make statements to support legal action to prevent Male B from going to the properties. However due to the menacing nature that Male B presents and the obvious fear of repercussions these individuals won't give statements instead they insist he is a friend and they want him there. Ultimately however, they abandon their property and choose to rough sleep. The team is aware of three tenancies where Male B has bullied and extorted the individuals for money recently.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Target	Current performance	% difference to the three year average (Count difference)
Tackling violence among vulnerable groups		
Violence against the person		Not Available
Presentations for assault at A&E		Not Available
Ambulance call-outs for assault		Not Available
Tackling anti-social behaviour among vulnerable groups		
ASB police recorded incidents		Not Available
Tackling domestic abuse		
Domestic Abuse Incidents ⁵		Not Available
Domestic Abuse Crimes		Not Available

Key:



Below the previous year and below the three year average



Above the previous year but below the three year average



Above the three year average

⁵ Due to substantial under-reporting of domestic abuse, increases in reporting and recording by the police are the current objective, therefore these recent increases are marked as a positive change

PRIORITY 1: VIOLENCE

TREND

1.1 Police recorded crime against the person (VAP)

Data was not available for September of Q2 of 2017/18 so comparisons were made against the same months in the previous year 2016/17:

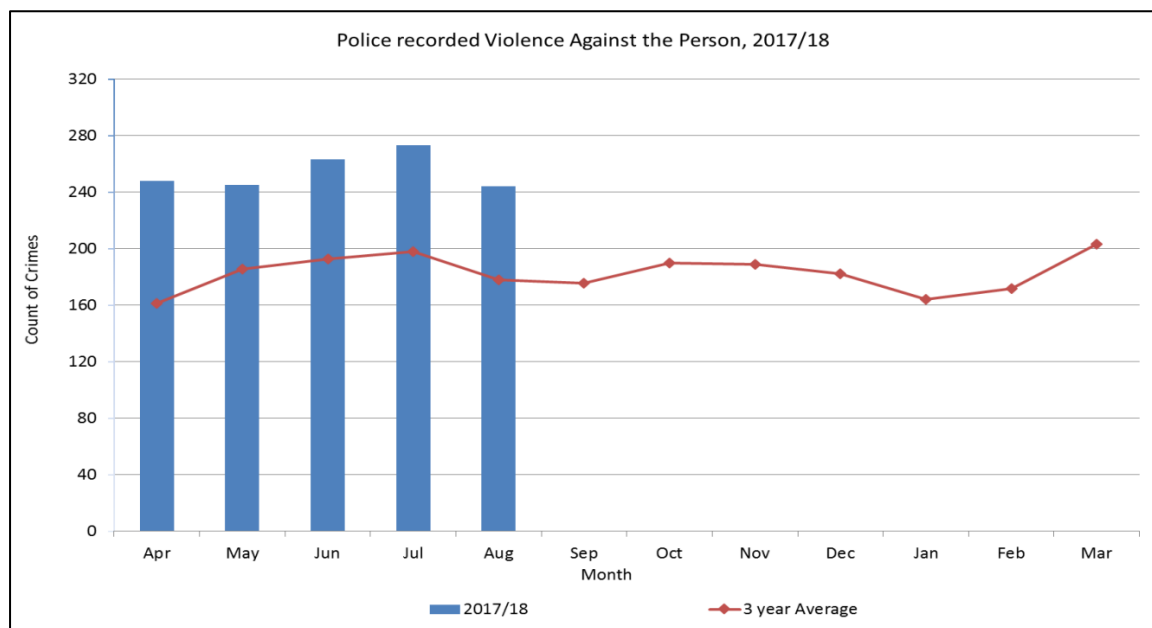
- Once the full data for 2017/18 for quarter 1, it revealed a decrease for violence with injury comparing Q1 with the same quarter the previous year.
- Both violence with and without injury for July and August compared to the same period in the previous year recorded an increase.
- Table 5 displays the change compared with the same period in the quarter the previous year, red indicates an increase.

Table 3: Violence with and without injury offences as recorded by Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Crime type	2017/18				2016/17 Q2 (Jul-Sep) Total
	Apr-June	Jul-Aug*	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	
Violence without injury	532	385			461
Violence with injury	223	131			188

*Data only covers July and August due to data availability. Comparison made against same period for 16/17.

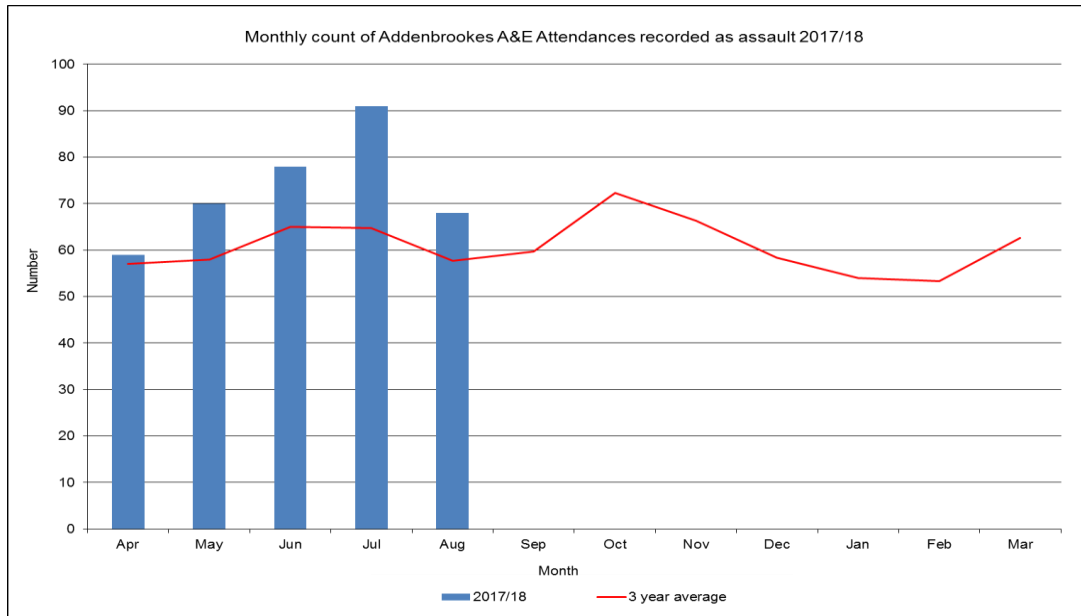
Figure 6: Police recorded violence against the person in Cambridge City, 2017/18



Addenbrooke's data on attendances to A&E for assault related injuries can only be summarised based on the total number of cases recorded by the hospital, irrespective of the location where assaults took place and therefore represent assaults occurring in a wider area than just Cambridge City.

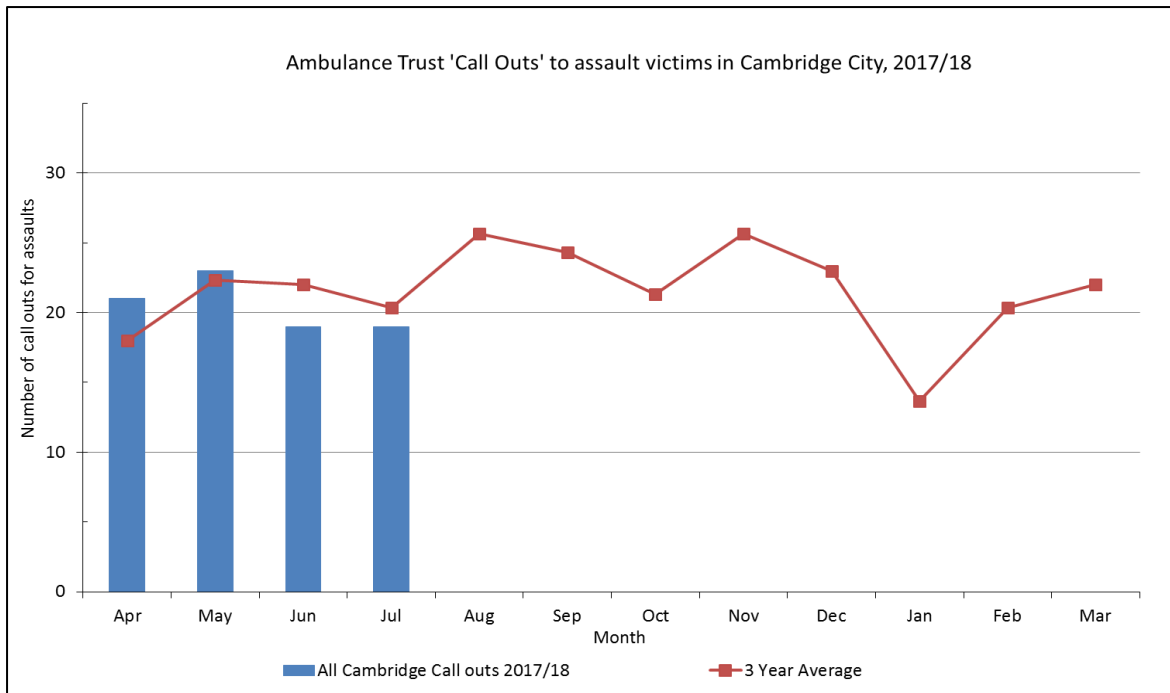
Since May of this year the monthly figures for Addenbrooke's have remained higher than the three year average, with a particular peak in July 2017.

Figure 7: Count of Addenbrooke's A&E attendances recorded as assault 2017/18



The data from the ambulance trust for Ambulance Call outs for assaults in Cambridge City was only available up to July 2017. The data shows a small decline for June and July in the number of call outs for assault.

Figure 8: Ambulance call outs to assaults in Cambridge City, 2017/18



EMERGING ISSUES/ CONCERNS

None at this time

PRIORITY 2: DOMESTIC ABUSE

TREND

April and August recorded a higher volume of incidents compared to the three year average, whilst the other months to date are more or less in line with the average (see figure 9 below).

The current aim continues to focus on increasing reporting as domestic abuse continues to be substantially under-reported, so more victims can access support.

Figure 9: Police recorded domestic abuse incidents in Cambridge City, 2017/18*

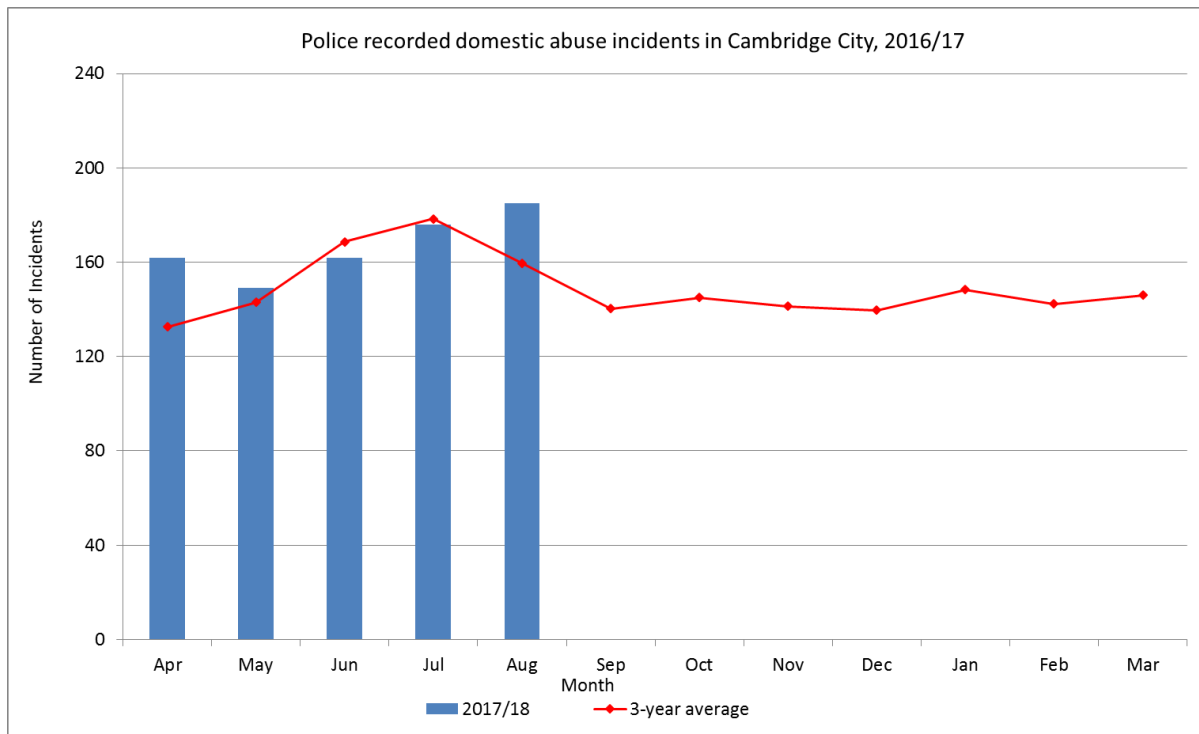


Table 4: Crimes with a Domestic Abuse marker applied as recorded by Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Year	Apr-June	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Total
2016/17	351	271	267	265	1059
2017/18	282	208*			

*July-August 2017 available at time of writing

EMERGING ISSUES/ CONCERNS

Seasonality for domestic abuse suggests that an increase in demand may be seen over the Christmas period.

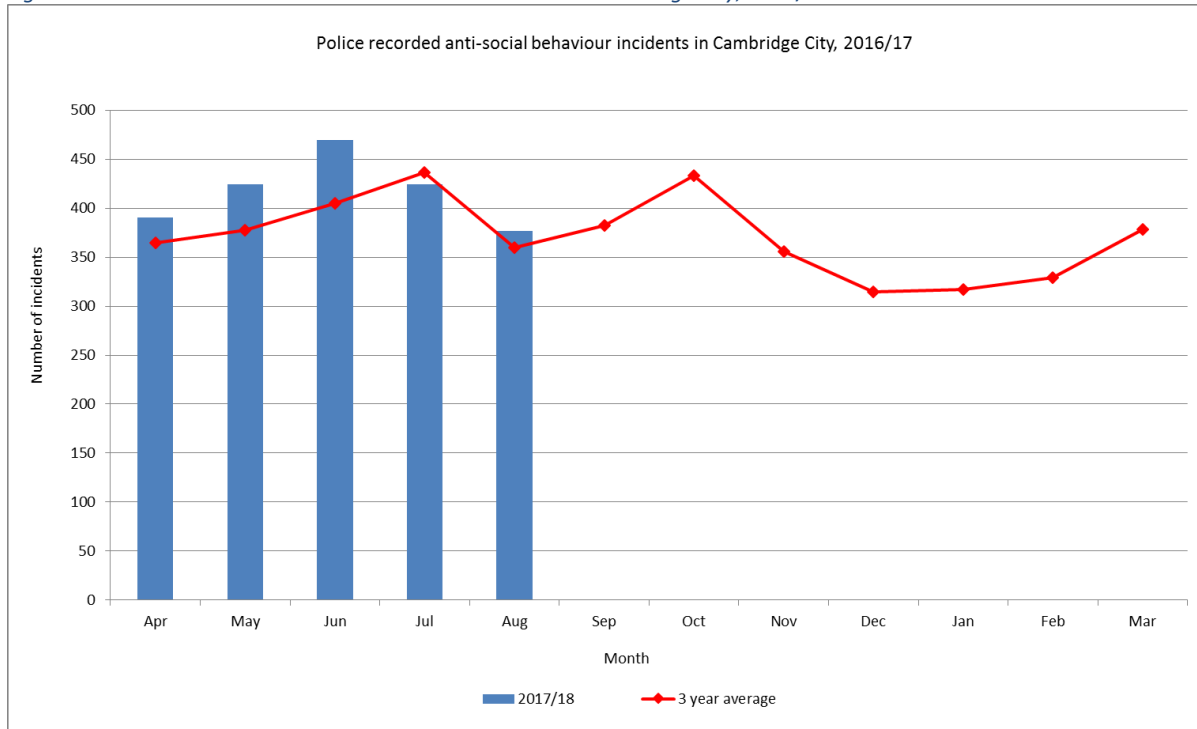
PRIORITY 3: REDUCING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR WITHIN VULNERABLE GROUPS

TREND

Trend in police recorded ASB as follows:

- Whilst the months in quarter 1 recorded slightly higher than average incidents, July and August figures are more or less in line with the average

Figure 10: Police recorded anti-social behaviour incidents in Cambridge City, 2017/18 *



Street life

The table below shows the year to date figures for the extended city centre area. For July and August Begging and Homeless continue to be present in just over a quarter of the incidents.

Table 5; Quarterly breakdown of ASB in 'Extended City Centre Area' for 2017/18

2017/18	All ASB	Begging and homeless		All keywords	
		begging homeless	proportion of total	All keywords	proportion of total
q1	404	108	27%	195	48%
q2*	256	68	27%	121	47%
q3					
q4					
Total YTD					

¹ The keywords include homeless, abusive language, drunk, begging, and alcohol

* Data available for July and August only

Figure 11: Monthly recorded ASB containing the keywords "homeless", "abusive language", "drunk", "begging" or "alcohol" within the 'extended city centre area':

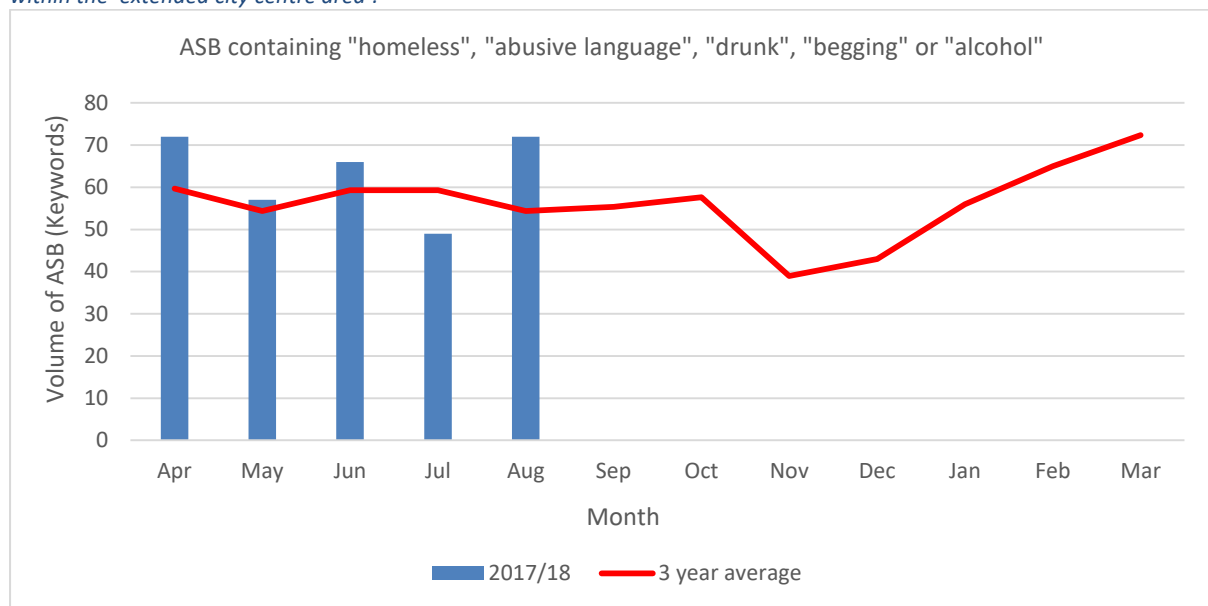
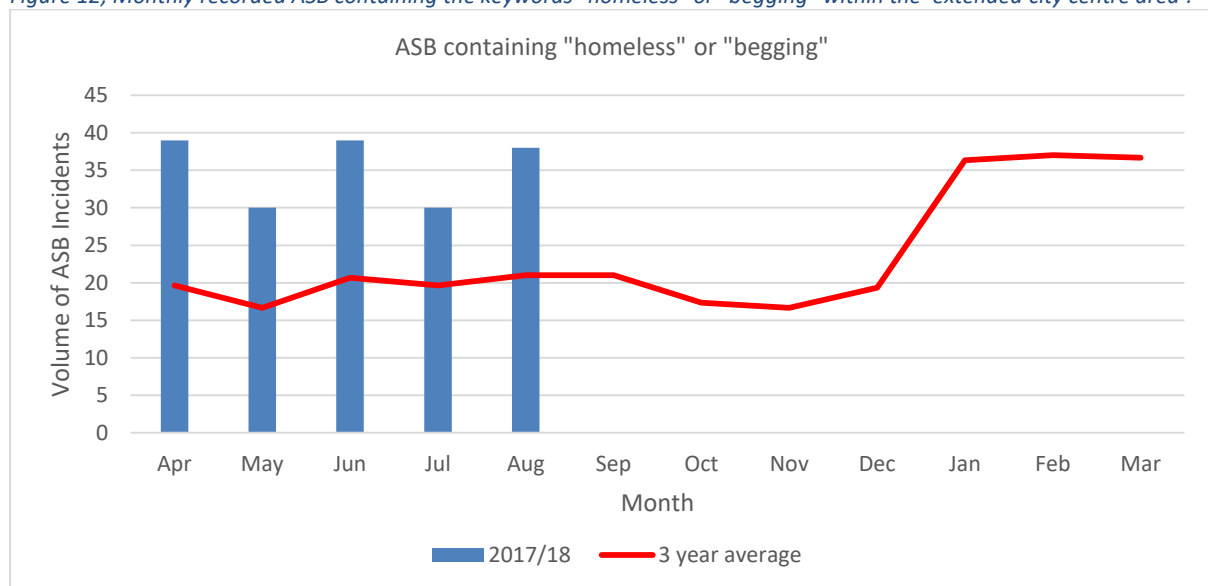


Figure 12 highlights the consistently higher than average monthly volume of incidents associated with perceived begging and homelessness.

Figure 12: Monthly recorded ASB containing the keywords "homeless" or "begging" within the 'extended city centre area':



Emerging Issues/ Concerns

Whilst there are current concerns about the subset of ASB within vulnerable groups, that partnership has new initiatives being delivered to tackle it. In particular the Streetlife Working Group (SWG). An update on progress is provided below.

The group is currently working well. Changes were made to the membership to enable decisions to be made immediately, rather than delay action to the following month. It frees up officer time from

the meetings. The majority that attend are at a decision making level and up to speed with regard to what is happening with the clients. This ensures that there is a clear picture of what is working and whether there needs to be some flexibility around their action plan to allow a bit more time for something to work.

The combination of Support /Accommodation and Enforcement working together in a very joined up way ensures there is a really good picture around what is happening on the street – where a situation is dragging on for too long or where there is an element of disguised compliance by the clients.

The way that the SWG works, means that if something isn't working there is flexibility to try another approach with a client. However if there is no impact on the behaviour out on the street a stepped enforcement approach is used. This is always in parallel with ensuring the support is available should the client chose to engage. If the group decides that enforcement would jeopardise the support plan there is flexibility with regard to level and type of enforcement considered appropriate.

There are a number of case studies where positive outcomes have been achieved through this approach. The agencies attending SWG recognise and support the need for enforcement in some cases and where there is an agreed plan for ensuring the best outcome for an individual.

Case Study C: Fisher Square Encampment

Two entrenched rough sleepers/ drug users were identified in Fisher Square, who were refusing all available support options. An action plan which included a combination of low level enforcement in conjunction with working with a support and accommodation provider resolved the situation. In this case each agency had a role to play to ensure the action plan worked without the need to take formal legal action. All agencies were in support of the plan. Whilst it took time to get full engagement, the case was resolved more quickly than if it had been pursued through Court action. There was also scope to promote engagement and confidence with concerned residents.

APPENDIX A: STRUCTURE STREETLIFE WORKING GROUP AS PROVIDED BY CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL SAFER COMMUNITIES

STREETLIFE WORKING GROUP (SWG)

Chair: CGL (Change Grow Live)
Cambridge Street & Mental Health Outreach Team (CSMHOT)

ACCOMMODATION

JIMMY'S CAMBRIDGE

- Provides emergency accommodation

RIVERSIDE HOUSING

- The Victoria Project (222 Victoria Road) - low support
- Willow Walk - high support
- Hostel accommodation dedicated to those who have experienced rough sleeping and long term homelessness

CAMBRIDGE CYRENIANS

- Jubilee Project (offenders)
- 451 (wet house)
- Shared Houses

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

ENFORCEMENT

POLICE

Criminal / Patrols / Priorities

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL SAFER COMMUNITIES

Lead on civil enforcement / Evidence / Community Engagement and liaison work

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL CIVIL ENFORCEMENT

Community Engagement / Evidence gathering / Disruption / Engagement

CAMBRIDGE BUSINESS AGAINST CRIME (CAMBAC)

Representing business community

SUPPORT

STREET OUTREACH TEAM

Outreach Engagement and Support / Signposting / Referring

CHRONICALLY EXCLUDED ADULTS Streetlife Support Worker

Action plans around the 10 most problematic referred through the SWG

DUAL DIAGNOSIS*

Mental Health & Alcohol Street Outreach Team

*currently no presence at SWG