

FENLAND COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT:

OFFENDING-SHOPLIFTING
VERSION 1.0
JULY 2017



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DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

The purpose of this strategic assessment is to provide the Fenland 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.

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

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	<i>Shoplifting</i>	June and July	July 2017
2	Scams	July to September	October 2017
3	Road Safety	October to December	January 2018
4	End of Year Review	January to March	April 2018

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.

ADDITIONAL DATA

The interactive community safety atlas provides some of the main crime and disorder issues at ward level up to 2015/16. 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%20/atlas.html?select=12UD>. It will be updated shortly.

KEY FINDINGS

Overall, both the number of unique offenders and the number of police recorded crimes are reducing locally and nationally. These reductions have been evidenced by the Crimes Survey for England & Wales, previously strategic assessments and more recently The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Strategic Needs Assessment: Managing Offenders; Preventing Offending – 2017. This found that Fenland had 7.8 unique offenders per 1,000 population which was lower than the rate of 2012 (13.2). In 2016, there was a total of 767 unique offenders recorded by the police in Fenland and there have been decreases in the total number of offenders recorded across the district over the past five years.

That said, there have been increases in some crime types more recently, including violence and shoplifting. Increases in police recorded crime is usually because of a range of factors including changes in recording and 'real' increases in actual offending. This paper explores the increases in Fenland in Shoplifting and possible actions the partnership could take to tackle them.

Fenland has seen recent increases in volumes of police recorded shoplifting offences. Between June 2016 and May 2017, there was a total of 648 police recorded shoplifting offences in Fenland which was a 23% increase on the same period of 2015/16 and a 25.3% increase on the same period of 2012-13.

It should be noted that offenders are not a homogenous group and that triggers for offending vary, as do needs of offenders in order to support them to desistance. Of note though is that there is a significant relationship between substance misuse and the criminal justice system. Drug users are estimated to be responsible for between a third of all offences and a half of acquisitive crime.

Analysis of subsets of offenders revealed that female offenders show a marked difference in certain offending types. Theft and handling is significantly more prevalent within the female subset of offenders than the overall pool of offenders. 40 per cent of offences committed by female offenders across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are theft and handling offences.

Housing issues, inequalities and education/employment are also recognised as significant factors. This report was unable to examine all of these in detail and reference should be taken of the wider findings of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Strategic Needs Assessment.

Locally there have been increases in the theft of toiletries. The constabulary identified increases in the number of children and teenagers from deprived families shoplifting the items due to poverty. Whilst increases in shoplifting cannot be completely attributed to destitution, it may be linked to some thefts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The partnership should focus on the need of individuals who offend as a result of destitution or inequalities; through the following recommended work areas;

- The partnership should review the current capacity of food banks and other relevant services in Fenland and where needed look to provide additional support. Further, where possible promote access to these services through existing partnership social media and communication networks to those in need.
- The partnership should consider the specific needs of offender subsets of females and young people. In particular where there is additional need the Partnership could look to develop a project directly tackling those issues (e.g. one option would be to support the Sue's Essentials project).

The partnership should support the use of restorative justice practices and community resolution in relation to shoplifting. One option would be to develop a business information package for local retailers. The partnership should review the processes and evaluate the impact of the current ShopWatch model; in particular whether the activity of sharing information is tackling reducing re-offending or providing enforcement opportunities. The Partnership should then consider if the project requires change to support reducing theft. The partnership could consider amalgamating the schemes to allow focussed partnership investment district wide.

It is recommended that the partnership review the impact and lessons learnt from new interventions in Wisbech (as a local Alcohol Action Area) towards shoplifting around alcohol and look to implement positive interventions across other parts of the district.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

Within the 2016/17 End of Year Review presented to the Fenland Community Safety Partnership, it was highlighted that shoplifting has increased over time across the district despite an intervention aimed at reducing it. It was recommended within the End of Year review that the partnership should receive further analysis to understand the cause of these increases and understand the impact of existing interventions. The purpose of this report is to try and help the partnership to understand shoplifting, both generally and within a local context, and how partnership working can help to tackle this.

The CSP has three overarching priorities: Victims, Offenders and Communities. Whilst the focus of this report is on shoplifting, this is primarily within the context of offending. The research function of Cambridgeshire County Council are currently finalising the 2017 joint offender needs assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This offender needs assessment has three key aims:

- To assess current and future needs of offending prevention and management across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, focusing on the wider system impact and demand.
- Mapping, accessibility and gap analysis of offending prevention and management services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- To carry out an evidence-based options appraisal improving current and future systems approaches to offending and re-offending

The offender needs assessment will offer an overarching picture of offending and offending service provision across the force-wide area but this quarterly assessment will look to focus on what

offending looks like in Fenland specifically with the particular focus on shoplifting. There are already interventions to tackle Shoplifting in Fenland and the aim of this report is to not only identify current interventions but look for opportunities for the partnership to tackle this further.

OFFENDING

There has been a lot of work nationally focussing on vulnerabilities to crime and vulnerabilities towards victimisation. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Strategic Needs Assessment: Managing Offenders; Preventing Offending – 2017 placed a focus on offending behaviour across the county in order to not only understand those that are causing most harm to communities but also to review what provision are in place to tackle offending. The findings of the report has shown that:

- Females account for approximately 20% of offenders known to the police and YOS
- Young adults and children & young people show higher levels of offending. 27% of Young offenders have a need for Education, Training and Employment compared to 24% on average
- Taking into account population by using rate per 1000 resident population highlights parts of Peterborough, Cambridge City, Wisbech and Huntingdon as being higher risk. These tend to be the most urban areas within the County.
- There is a significant relationship between substance misuse and the criminal justice system. Drug users are estimated to be responsible for between a third and a half of acquisitive crime.
- A large percentage of individuals in touch with the criminal justice system have mental health issues with some estimates as high as 70% of individuals (Together)¹. Mental health issues can contribute to offending but conversely the criminal justice system can lead to or exacerbate mental health issues.

The key points from a profile of Youth Offenders across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are as follows;

- 80 per cent (292) of young offenders were male and 20 per cent (73) female;
- Almost 60 per cent (213) of youth offenders were aged between 16 and 17 years old
- 61.5 per cent (224) of the young offenders were white, 18 per cent were white other (66) and 14.5 per cent were of another ethnic group (53).
- The most common crime type committed by young people were acquisitive crimes (including theft and robbery) and violent crimes. These made up over 60 per cent (226) of all offences committed by young people.

OFFENDING IN FENLAND

In 2016, there was a total of 767 unique offenders recorded by the police in Fenland and there have been decreases in the total number of offenders recorded across the district over the past five years. As table 1, below highlights, there was around 7.8 recorded offenders in Fenland per 1,000 population in 2016. This was the highest rate of all the districts within Cambridgeshire (excluding Peterborough) despite recent decreases. In 2012, there was around 13.2 offenders in Fenland and the year on year decreases in the rate of mirrors county-wide trends.

¹ <http://www.together-uk.org/our-mental-health-services/criminal-justice-mental-health/>

Table 1: Rate of offenders per 1000 population by district of residence

Year	Constabulary	Cambridge City	East Cambs	Fenland	Huntingdon -shire	Peterborough	South Cambridgeshire
2012	10.8	11.5	7.3	13.2	8.3	16.7	6.1
2013	9.9	11.6	6.2	11.2	7.3	15.4	5.7
2014	8.8	10.0	5.6	11.2	6.3	13.7	5.1
2015	6.9	7.1	4.2	8.8	5.8	10.6	4.0
2016	7.1	7.1	5.1	7.8	5.2	11.4	4.4

Of the 767 unique offenders in the district, shoplifting was the first offence of the year for 19.2% of the offenders, as shown in table 2 below. This was the highest rate for each of the districts in Cambridgeshire and higher than the county level where 12.7% of offender's first crime of 2016 was shoplifting. Of the unique offenders, the most frequent first offence was violence without injury, followed by violence without injury. Overall violence made up around 35% of first offences by unique offenders across the district in 2016. This is a trend mirrored across the county.

Table 2: Unique offenders in 2016 by district, by first crime committed within the year

Offence Type	Cambridge (% of total)	East Cambridgeshire (% of total)	Fenland (% of total)	Huntingdonshire (% of total)	South Cambridgeshire (% of total)	Cambridgeshire (% of total)
Arson	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.3
Bicycle Theft	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6
Burglary Dwelling	1.2	0.4	1.0	0.9	1.5	1.1
Burglary Non Dwelling	1.5	1.1	1.3	0.7	0.7	1.1
Criminal Damage	9.4	7.8	10.7	10.6	9.8	9.9
Homicide	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Misc Crimes Against Society	2.2	3.8	2.5	3.5	2.2	2.8
Non-Crimes	1.7	2.2	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.4
Other Sexual Offences	1.2	1.3	1.0	2.7	1.9	1.7
Other Theft	3.1	4.0	5.1	4.7	3.6	4.1
Possession of Drugs	14.6	10.9	9.6	13.4	9.2	11.9
Possession of Weapons	1.5	1.1	1.7	2.7	1.8	1.9
Public Order	7.3	10.5	7.2	5.6	9.7	7.7
Rape	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.3
Robbery	0.7	0.0	0.7	1.7	0.1	0.8
Shoplifting	14.5	7.4	19.2	10.9	9.1	12.7
Theft from Person	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Trafficking of Drugs	2.7	2.2	2.0	2.1	0.4	1.9
Vehicle Offences	1.4	2.2	1.2	0.5	1.2	1.2
Violence with Injury	13.4	20.1	13.6	16.7	17.4	15.8
Violence without Injury	21.5	24.1	20.7	21.1	28.6	22.8
Grand Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

OFFENDERS IN FENLAND

This section highlights key aspects of the profile of offenders resident in Fenland, in order to ensure appropriate interventions can be put in place.

AGE OF OFFENDERS

Table 3 below highlights that over 50% of police known offenders in Fenland in 2016 were under the age of 30 with the highest percentage being under 18 and then between the age of 26 and 30. This backs up previous national and local research around the onset and peak age of offending.

Table 3: A breakdown of unique offenders in Fenland by age in 2016, those whose first offence of 2016 was shoplifting

Age Group	Unique Offenders in Fenland (2016)	% of total	Unique Offenders in Fenland (2016, Shoplifting first offence)	% of Total
Under 18	128	16.7	26	17.1
18-21	98	12.8	13	8.6
22-25	86	11.2	11	7.2
26-30	109	14.2	22	14.5
31-35	97	12.6	25	16.4
36-40	72	9.4	17	11.2
41-50	91	11.9	24	15.8
51-60	55	7.2	11	7.2
61 or older	23	3.0	2	1.3
Not known	8	1.0	1	0.7
Total	767	100	152	100

The partnership should look to strengthen their preventative interventions to tackle the causes of young people shoplifting in the district. The rate of shoplifting offenders under 18 is consistent with the overall rate of offenders. Table 3 shows that the proportion of shoplifting offenders drops between the ages of 18 and 25 when compared with to overall offenders.

OFFENDER PATHWAYS IN FENLAND

The data in this section is from the Offender Assessment System (OASys) that identifies and classifies offending related needs (i.e. issues that are assessed as directly related to offending behaviour), such as accommodation and poor literacy. Tackling these specific needs can reduce the probability of re-offending. There are ten 'pathways' assessed within OASys which help to identify these specific offending related factors. The description of each of these pathways are shown in Appendix A.

Table 4 below offers a breakdown of all completed assessments with OASy and the pathway to offending by district. Of those assessed in Fenland, the most common pathway to offending was Thinking and Behaviour which assesses the offender's application of reasoning, especially to social problems. Research indicates that offenders tend not to think things through, plan or consider consequences of their behaviour and do not see things from other people's perspectives. Those with a number of such 'cognitive deficits' will be more likely to re-offend.

Table 4: Breakdown of completed assessments OASY and the pathway of individuals to offending by district

*A full definition of each pathway can be found in the appendix of this document

		Cambridge	East Cambs	Fenland	Hunts	South Cambs	Peterborough	No Geographic Data
	Total OASYs assessments completed	204	78	188	198	122	503	289
Pathways	Accommodation	40	7	25	31	20	92	108
	Education Training and Employment	42	15	47	31	24	138	94
	Relationships	88	33	72	82	53	220	175
	Lifestyles	76	25	52	60	36	181	172
	Drugs	59	13	30	41	26	117	136
	Alcohol	58	22	55	58	34	148	120
	Thinking and Behaviour	171	72	172	173	104	451	262
	Attitudes to offending	126	49	132	107	75	335	182
	Finance	60	13	31	43	26	129	134
	Emotional	71	21	50	52	37	130	108

Fenland also saw a high proportion of assessed offenders assessed having negative attitudes towards offending. This pathway considers the offender’s attitude towards their offending and towards supervision. A growing body of research demonstrates that pro-criminal attitudes are predictive of reconviction. Addressing attitudes can reduce the likelihood of reconviction.

At a force-wide level, the pathways of offending were also studied across different demographic sub-groups within the offender needs assessment. Table 5 shows the need level linked to behaviour amongst specific sub groups. Each of the pathways require a multi-agency approach.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary are looking to tackle underlying reasons of offending through the use of Conditional Cautioning via the Offender Hub. With a Conditional Caution, the offender’s issues are identified and appropriate conditions are set as well as the timeframe in which it needs to be completed by. Once the condition or conditions are met, the case is finalised and there is no prosecution.

There are a range of agencies involved in the Conditional Cautioning partnership including Drug and Alcohol teams and Outside Links which offer a range of support including housing, finance, benefit and debt support, employment training and education. They can also assist individuals with accessing support agencies such as food banks and help with form filling. The work here is reactionary to offender needs and there is a role within the CSP to be take a preventative stance of offending through promotion of relevant services.

Table 5 – OASYS Need Level linked to behaviour among sub-groups

	Women	Under 25s	BME	White Other	White British
Pathways					
Total OASYS assessments completed	185	294	150	190	800
Accommodation	16%	12%	16%	11%	19%
Education Training and Employment	26%	24%	24%	24%	22%
Relationships	43%	34%	37%	28%	48%
Lifestyles	32%	30%	34%	22%	36%
Drugs	19%	21%	23%	7%	27%
Alcohol	28%	20%	21%	30%	32%
Thinking and Behaviour	94%	86%	87%	93%	87%
Attitudes to offending	61%	65%	67%	75%	61%
Finance	34%	20%	25%	13%	26%
Emotional	42%	20%	20%	8%	35%

The main findings of the OASY offender needs analysis were;

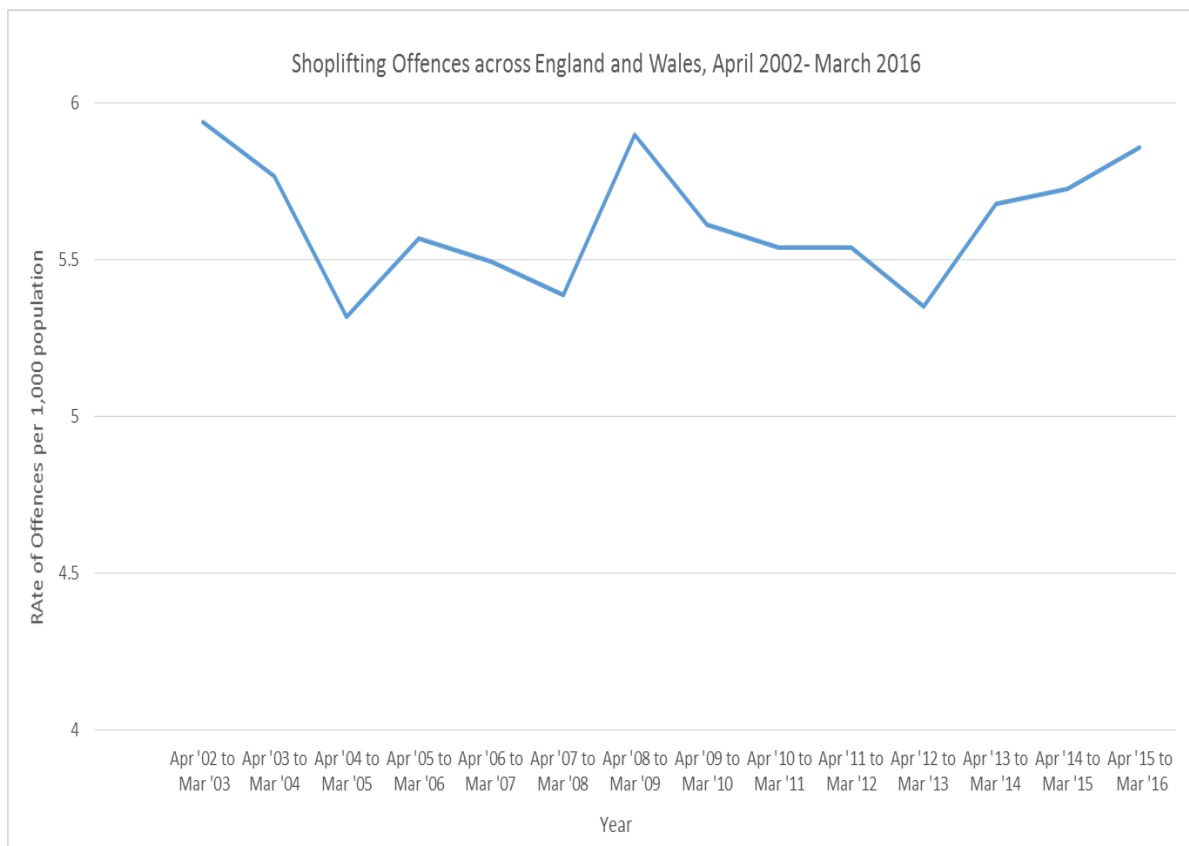
- Women generally have a high level of need linked to offending - in particular 1 in 3 women have a financial issue that is linked to their offending (higher than any other sub group), 42 per cent of women have an emotional pathway and 42 per cent have a relationship pathway.
- The youngest cohort of offenders, 18-21 had a lower level of need than most sub groups, particularly in relation to accommodation, this could be because many still live in the parental home. This may also be a reflection of the life stage e.g. they are at in terms of still being in education. It should also be noted that adult and juvenile offenders are assessed using different tools so caution is needed when trying to compare the different data sets.
- Analysis of individual ethnicities proved inconclusive.
- Out of County offenders generally have a higher need than most other subgroups of offenders, particularly accommodation needs (37 per cent), finance (46 per cent), drugs (47 per cent) and alcohol (41 per cent)

SHOPLIFTING

NATIONAL CONTEXT

The national rate of shoplifting offences has remained relatively stable over the last 10 years, with very slight increases over the last couple of years. Nationally, there was on average 5.6 police recorded offences per year for Shoplifting between April 2002 and March 2016. The last three years has seen this rate go over this average and between April 2015 and March 2016, there was around 5.9 recorded shoplifting crimes per 1,000 population.

Figure 1: National rate of shoplifting in England and Wales, April 2002-March 2017

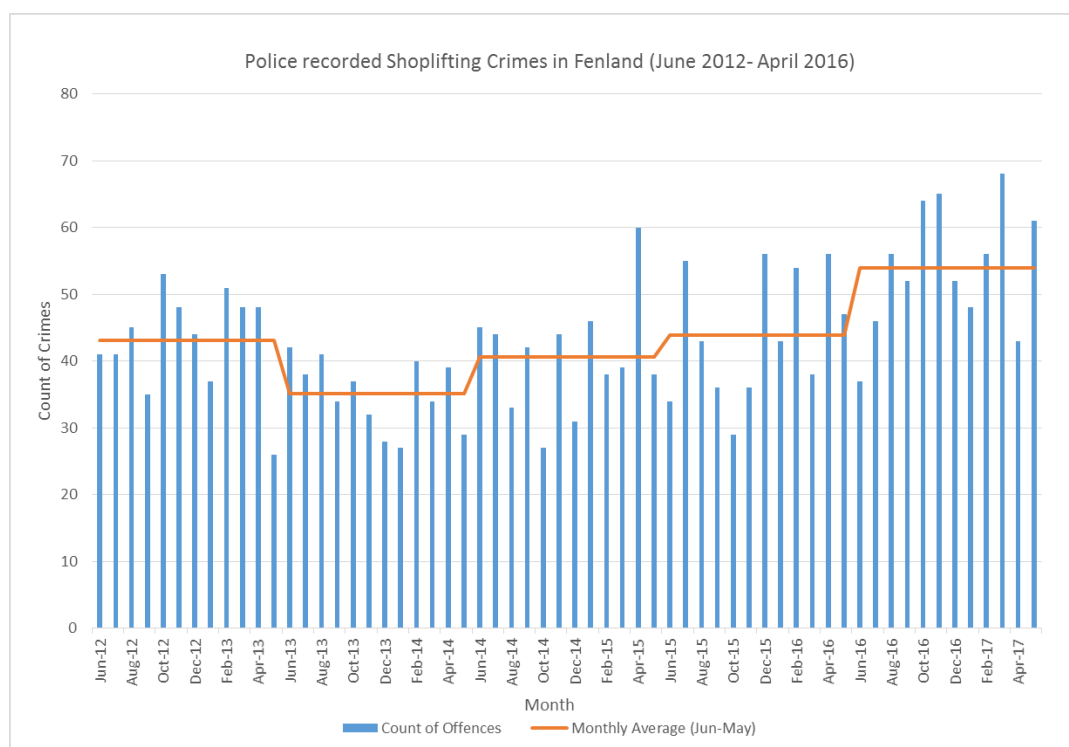


Source: ONS

SHOPLIFTING OFFENCES IN FENLAND

Between June 2016 and May 2017, there was a total of 648 police recorded shoplifting offences in Fenland which was a 23% increase on the same period of 2015/16 and a 25.3% increase on the same period of 2012-13. The increase in overall police recorded Shoplifting offences is also reflected in the number of shoplifting offences per 1,000 population. In 2012-13, there was around 5.4 shoplifting offences per 1,000 population and this increased to around 6.6 in 2016/17. Figure 2, below shows the year on year increases in recorded offences between June 2013 and May 2017.

Figure 2: Police recorded Shoplifting offences in Fenland, June 2012- April 2016



The recent year on year increases were behind the partnerships decision to focus on Shoplifting within this year. In terms of the monthly average count of shoplifting offences, there have been year on year increases in the district. Appendix B compares Fenland’s rate of Shoplifting against its most similar areas. Between June 2016 and May 2017, Fenland was ranked 12th out of 15 most similar areas (where 1st has the lowest rate of Shoplifting offences per 1,000 population). Fenland’s rate of shoplifting offences per 1,000 population for this period (6.5) was slightly higher than the MSG average (5.2).

TYPE OF OFFENCES

In order to better understand offending need an analysis of the items stolen has been included below. Table 6 offers a breakdown of keyword analysis of some of the most common goods within recorded police data.

The most common keyword or phrase to appear within the police recorded data was “Food and/or Drink”. There have been increases in the number of police recorded offences that included “Food and/or Drink”. In 2016, there was 170 police recorded that included Food and/or Drink as a stolen item which was an increase from 117 in 2014. The increase in in the theft of food and/or drink mirror overall increases and would indicate that offenders are having to steal basic items rather than non-essential items. This is also mirrored in increases in toiletries.

Table 6: Keyword analysis of Theft and Handing Offences in Fenland

Keyword	2014	2015	2016
Alcohol	119	118	106
Food & Drink	117	155	170
Electrical	13	22	27
Toiletries	46	45	73
Clothing	48	43	66
Toys	8	6	22
Jewellery	5	1	3
Household	23	37	46

The partnership should note that there have been slight decreases in the total number of theft offences that include ‘alcohol’ within the item descriptor. Despite these decreases, alcohol is still a common stolen item within the district and this is often linked to alcohol addiction. Wisbech has been identified as an alcohol action area with the hope that intervention will tackle alcohol related issues, such as street drinking, which may affect the rate of shoplifting in the town but also the wider district.

As mentioned, the theft of toiletries has also been increasing and the theft of these basically essentials have been highlighted by the constabulary. The constabulary identified increases in the number of children and teenagers from deprived families shoplifting the items due to poverty. Research from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that 1.25 million people experienced destitution in the UK in the last year, of which 312,000 were children.² Destitution is defined as being unable to afford two of the following six things considered essential to live a dignified life. These are:

- Shelter
- Food
- Heating
- Lighting
- Clothing
- Basic Toiletries

Whilst not all toiletry thefts will be linked to destitution and a need for basic essentials, the partnership should consider this as one possible factor in explaining recent increases in shoplifting offences across the district.

Shoplifting Offenders

Of the unique shoplifting offenders in Fenland;

² 1.25 millions people are destitute in the UK, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, <https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/destitute-uk>

- Between 2012 and 2016, 64.4% were male. This is lower than the rate for all offences which indicates a higher rate of female offenders within this specific crime type.
- Around 15.6% were aged 16 or under.
- Most theft and handling offences in Fenland are concentrated in Wisbech town centre (See appendix C)

FEMALE OFFENDERS

Within the 2017 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Offender Needs assessment, females show a marked difference in certain offending types. Theft and Handling is significantly more prevalent within the female subset of offenders than the overall pool of offenders. 40 per cent of offences committed by female offenders across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are theft and handling offences. This is followed by violence against the person (31 per cent) and drug offences (10 per cent).

The trend over 5 years displays how the 4 most common offences among female offenders have largely remained consistent. Theft and Handling however, has seen a change with a sizeable reduction in the amount of offences committed. As a proportion of total offences among women Theft and Handling has reduced from 45 per cent in 2012 to 31 per cent in 2016.

This is significant because theft and handling no longer is the most common offence type among female offenders. Violence against the person is now more frequent among females than theft and handling. This counters the long standing trend that most offences committed by females are acquisitive. Research conducted by Fawcett that suggested the reason for a high count of theft offences among women could be because of the need to provide for children. This theory could have been supported by the national statistic that two thirds of women were mothers living with their children before they came into prison with one third having a child under the age of five³.

TACKLING SHOPLIFTING

SHOPWATCH

Within Fenland there are three ShopWatch groups covering March, Whittlesey and Wisbech. Each of these groups works independently from each other and are locally driven and managed by members of the business community within the locality.

It has been recognised that over the last 5 years the activity levels of the local ShopWatch groups has reduced and this can be evidenced through the reduced meetings amongst its members.

Each of the established ShopWatch groups have access to a local business radio network, again locally operated and managed, but which is linked to the Councils 24/7 CCTV control room and local Policing teams where they have an active working radio. The 24/7 services provided by the Council to each of the ShopWatch groups includes reporting incidents and communicating between businesses and Cambridgeshire Police as well as providing local key updates to support information sharing to local businesses. As the radios are charged by each of the local established ShopWatch

³ The Corston Report, Home Office, March 2007

groups it should be noted that not all businesses linked to these group will have access to a business radio due to financial restraints.

CCTV

The Councils CCTV network covers each of the four market towns within Fenland with good town centre CCTV coverage for Chatteris, March, Whittlesey and Wisbech. However, the growth of retail parks have caused areas of no linked CCTV coverage to the Councils CCTV control room.

The CCTV control room with the use of both CCTV cameras and the local business radio network supports local businesses in responding to incidents and to help prevent incidents of shoplifting and other business related crime by enhancing awareness to the business community through proactive updates of known nominals that may be in the area.

Local businesses with access to radio's will login with the CCTV control room each day but the CCTV officers have observed a decline during the last few years an inconsistency by members to do this. Where in some cases business members only making use of the radio as a reporting channel and not to actively monitor the airwaves for real time updates on business crime related matters in their area.

SIRCS

The Community Safety Partnership introduced the SIRCS (Secure Incidents Reporting and Community Engagement System) in 2010 to enable the business community to effectively and efficiently share information on offending on a cloud based database. The SIRCS system has been continually funded by FDC community safety and is offered to local businesses across Fenland linked to ShopWatch, PubWatch and OffWatch for free to help improve uptake.

Membership for SIRCS currently stands at over 220 members from retail and licensed sectors covering the four market towns.

Information sharing on the system relates, mainly for the retail sector, for where an offence has taken place and details exist on the offender. Members will add a profile of the offender on the system and attach a report to this detailing the offence and main details to help warn other businesses of this.

Even though the introduction of SIRCS has helped enabled a more efficient and secure means of information sharing on offending amongst the business community this has been hindered by a number of factors. This includes the following;

- Staff turnover within the retail sector is exceptionally high so ensuring each business has an identified SIRCS user is difficult which can lead to low uptake in membership and members proactively utilising SIRCS. This has also led to pressures on training and recruitment of new members as well.
- As the SIRCS system is cloud based a number of independent small businesses have not been able to make full use due to internet access difficulties or not having a device to view the platform on.

Further analysis is needed to explain what information is shared and how the reports are impacting the level of offending.

OTHER INTERVENTIONS

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 shoplifting.

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.

Wisbech Alcohol Action Area

Wisbech has been identified, along with 30 other locations across the country as a Local Alcohol Action Area by the home office. As an alcohol action area, the Home Office will offer a support manager to lead the scheme, supported by specialist mentors.

Work in the local alcohol action areas will be focused on the key aims of reducing alcohol-related crime and disorder, and reducing the negative health impacts caused by alcohol. The initiative plans to establish a new forum for off-licence operators, similar to the Pubwatch scheme for bar bosses.

Keyword analysis of Shoplifting data in Fenland has shown alcohol to be the most common keyword for thefts despite slight reductions over the district in the last couple of years. It is recommended that the partnership review the impact and lessons learnt from new interventions in Wisbech towards shoplifting around alcohol and look to implement this work across other parts of the district.

Care Packages

Cambridgeshire Constabulary have looked to tackle Shoplifting by handing out care packages of toiletries and underwear to young people in need. Within the scheme, Schools, GP surgeries, foodbanks and other easy to access community organisations offer the packages as a discreet service. This is one possible response in tackling Shoplifting linked to destitution.

The aim of this scheme, which was rolled out in 2016 in East Cambridgeshire was to support those in need to avoid them from turning to crime, including shoplifting, in order to gain basic necessities.

Analysis of shoplifting offenders in Fenland has shown that there is a higher rate of offenders under the age of 18 and there has also been an increase in the number of shoplifting crimes in the district that include the theft of toiletries. The aim of the scheme is also to support young people around safeguarding.

The role out of the scheme in East Cambridgeshire was to bring access to the most basic items for young people as without this it can cause embarrassment and bullying, again resulting in young people turning to Shoplifting in order to get hold of these items. The partnership may wish to place a focus on this type of prevention in order to tackle shoplifting, specifically amongst young people.

The aim is now for this scheme to be rolled out across the rest of Cambridgeshire and it is recommended that the partnership support this, not only to tackle shoplifting but to support young people most in need and to develop local safeguarding interventions.

Preventing those most in need from shoplifting

The partnership should be proactive in tackling shoplifting linked to deprivation and look for ways to promote and support local support to those most in need. A short term solution would be to support local food banks or promote awareness raising and support about support services such as money and welfare advice through local agencies such as Rural Cambridgeshire Citizens Advice Bureau. These types of services can help to tackling the underlying reasons behind some offenders need to shoplift.

APPENDIX A:

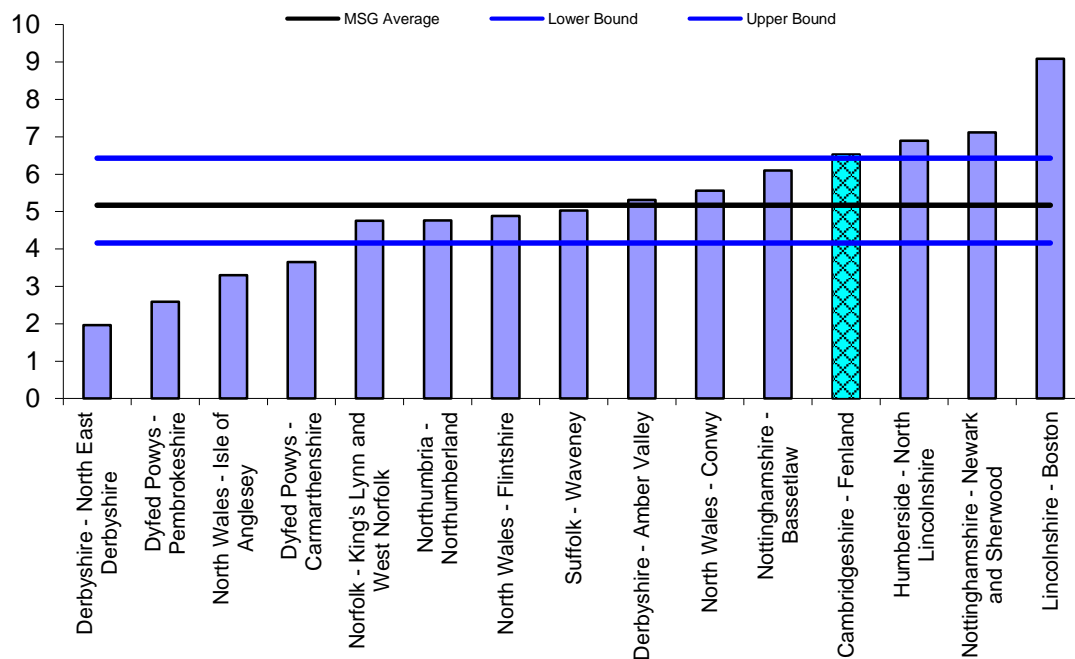
The pathways are listed below from most common to least common among the CRC caseload that we have geographical data for in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole:

- Thinking and Behaviour (88 per cent):** this section assesses the offender's application of reasoning, especially to social problems. Research indicates that offenders tend not to think things through, plan or consider consequences of their behaviour and do not see things from other people's perspectives. Those with a number of such 'cognitive deficits' will be more likely to re-offend.
- **Attitudes (64 per cent):** this section considers the offender's attitude towards their offending and towards supervision. A growing body of research demonstrates that pro-criminal attitudes are predictive of reconviction. Addressing attitudes can reduce the likelihood of reconviction.
 - **Relationships (42 per cent):** - this section assesses whether the offender's satisfaction with their relationships and their stability relate to their offending behaviour.
 - **Lifestyle and Associates (33 per cent):** - this section examines aspects of the offender's current lifestyle. A clear link exists between how offenders spend their time, with whom they mix and likelihood of reconviction.
 - **Alcohol Misuse (29 per cent):** this section considers whether alcohol misuse is a significant factor in previous or current offending. This is often linked with risk of harm.
 - **Emotional Wellbeing (28 per cent):** this section examines the extent to which emotional problems interfere with the offender's functioning or create risk of harm to themselves or others. Mental health problems such as anxiety and depression relate to offending for certain groups.
 - **Financial Management and Income (23 per cent):** this section deals with income, which directly relates to reoffending. It looks at how income is managed and the general ability to cope.
 - **Education, Training and Employability (23 per cent):** research demonstrates that offenders are generally less well educated and trained than other groups in society. They are more likely to be unemployed, have a poor history of employment and express a dislike to the work ethic.
 - **Drug Misuse (22 per cent):** this section identifies the extent and type of drug misuse and its effects on an offender's life. Research consistently links misuse of drugs with re-offending.
 - **Accommodation (16.5 per cent):** this section looks at whether accommodation is available, the quality of accommodation and whether the location encourages reoffending or creates a risk of harm.

APPENDIX B

Rate of Shoplifting Offences in Fenland when compared to Most Similar Statistical Area

**iQuanta Bar Chart MSG (12 months) - Crimes per 1000 Residents
Cambridgeshire - Fenland
Shoplifting
01 Jun 2016 - 31 May 2017**

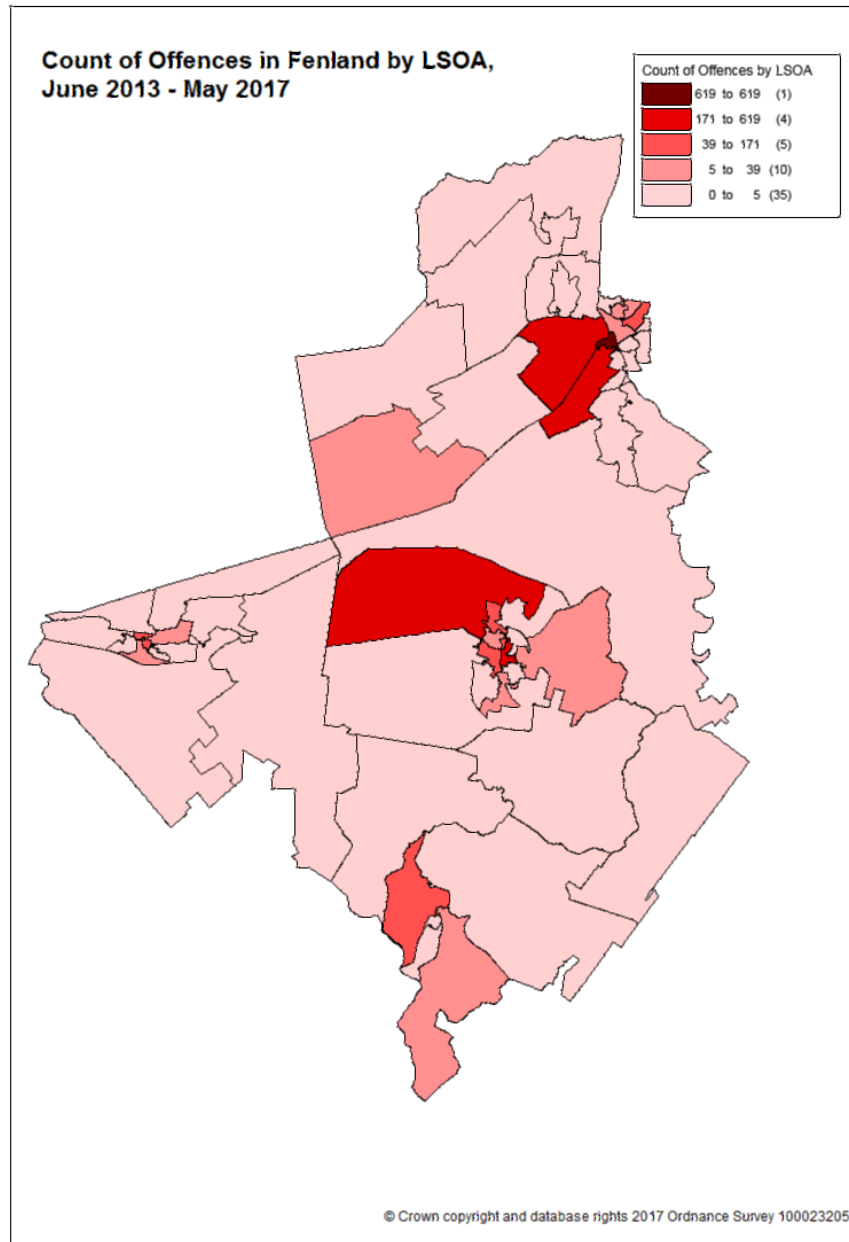


OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Provisional data before it is finalised and published by the Office for National Statistics

APPENDIX C

Below is a map of all Theft from a Shop crimes in Fenland by Lower Super Output Area.⁴ The LSOA with the highest county of Theft and Handling offences is within Wisbech town.

Figure 4: Theft and Handling Offences by Lower Super Output Area



⁴ 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.