



BRIEFING PAPER 3

COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT SCANNING FOR
EMERGING ISSUES - EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE 2017/18

VERSION 1

FEBRUARY 2018

2017/18 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT – SCANNING

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to collate and review data and information relating to key community safety issues within East Cambridgeshire to enable the focus for future activities to be agreed. The Cambridgeshire Research Group has reviewed both local and national trends to highlight areas of emerging concern as well as taking into consideration changes in local and national priorities to make recommendations for areas that would benefit from further detailed analysis. The table summarises the key points and highlights existing work and potential future work.

The document contains information on a range of topics and crime types, where a change has occurred in the recording, or where the Partnership already has an interest. It is not envisioned that the Partnership will take on all these topics as priorities. As the Partnership has a further year on the existing 3-year rolling plan, the aim of this document is to enable the final year action plan to be refined in order to add value to existing activities that the agencies are already delivering.

Background

It is important for the Partnership to understand the context in which these key findings are reported. Two key sources are referred to throughout this document; The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime statistics. Both statistics are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), however the CSEW is an accredited statistic by the ONS where as police recorded crime statistics are not.

The CSEW measures crime experienced by individuals as well as perceptions of crime and policing. This is a fundamentally different measure to police recorded crime statistics. The CSEW is acknowledged as reflecting the true extent of crime for many crime types as CSEW participants report incidents that were not brought to police, often because the victim did not feel police could have done anything about the crime or believed the crime was too trivial to report. This often means the CSEW estimates of crime are generally higher and indicate the true extent of crime. However, it should be noted that it does not measure all notifiable crimes.

Furthermore some changes in police recorded crime rates can be partly explained by changes to National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS also known as the Home Office Counting Rules) reclassification of certain crime types. For example, stalking and harassment are now classified within “violence without injury”, which has driven a rise in the figures for this class of crime. Rises in the most serious forms of violence are however likely to be genuine as these have always tended to be well reported. In addition, inspections of police forces carry recommendations to improve crime recording practices and these also create increases in police recorded crime. The 2017 CSEW tends to be dominated by higher volume but less serious crime. Both of these key sources need to be referred to when assessing trends, mindful of the source background outlined here and the type of crime which is under consideration.

Key Findings

- Overall police recorded crime in East Cambridgeshire has increased, against a backdrop of increases in similar crime types across the force area and a more or less static trend in CSEW.
- Supporting the most vulnerable continues to be a priority for most agencies, particularly where resources are limited and where activity is therefore targeted. These include crimes against children (CSE, County Lines); domestic abuse; and vulnerable adults.
- Under-reporting to the police continues, specifically in domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime. Although initiatives continue to support and encourage awareness raising and reporting.
- Specific crime types that have increased are;
 - Violence against the person (both with and without injury): Partially accounted for by better recording
 - Dwelling burglary: There have been changes in recording but this appears to be a genuine increase in offences
 - Vehicle crime: Theft from vehicles is main component of change in vehicle crime.
 - Rural crime: It is unclear as cause of the increase. It could be greater reporting but other areas are also seeing the increase. Poaching/ hare coursing greatest proportion
- There may be an emerging issue in terms of street begging in East Cambridgeshire, particularly Ely, as has been raised anecdotally, further investigation is needed to understand the extent and nature of the problem.

AREAS REVIEWED

Topic	Volume of crimes, 2017	Change on previous year volume (%)	Trend	Context	Opportunities for the Partnership
All Crime	3,672	+907 (32.8%)	<p>The volume of total police recorded crime has been relatively constant for the past four years. However the level of crime in 2017 is markedly higher than in the past few years, above the level that was seen pre-2013.</p> <p>The rate of offending per 1000 population has been consistently close to 30.0 for several years in East Cambridgeshire after a drop (from 36.6) was seen in 2012. However total recorded crime per 1000 population has risen to 42.4 in 2017.</p> <p>Total police recorded crime has increased across Cambridgeshire, however East Cambridgeshire has seen the second largest rise in the rate of crime per 1000 population of all districts (of 32.8% with South Cambridgeshire seeing 32.9% rise).</p>	<p>Nationally, a 15% increase in police recorded crime (year ending September 2017), which is the largest annual rise in crimes recorded by police in the past decade, reflects both an increase in a few specific crime types being committed, as well as improvements to crime recording.</p> <p>The Crime Survey of England and Wales 2017 (CSEW) ¹ tends to be dominated by higher volume but less serious crime (i.e. it cannot include murder). It shows that nationally the rate of crime is decreasing in contrast with police recorded crime which has risen significantly. It should also be noted that the CSEW is an accredited statistic by the ONS where as police recorded crime is not.</p> <p>The comparison of the two data sources should be seen in the light of</p>	<p>A clear message to public that overall the risk of being a victim of crime has not significantly increased.</p> <p>The Partnership should aim to understand the impact of the improved reporting and recording of crime.</p> <p>The increase in recorded sexual violence offences provides an opportunity across the County to better understand the nature of this very serious offence group.</p>

¹ www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/june2017

				<p>national changes to policy and police recording standards. Self-reported victimisation through the CSEW is not entirely infallible, as people are not always aware of crimes committed.</p> <p>Compared to the ONS Most Similar Group areas, East Cambridgeshire was ranked 7 out of 15 areas, with a total crime rate of 40.41/1,000 Population, compared to the MSG average rate of 46.11/1,000 Population and a lower bound of 41.15. This covers the last 12 months up to September 2017.</p>	
Cybercrime	31	-7 (18.4%)	<p>Small but distinct increases have been observed since the introduction of the cybercrime marker in mid-2014. 2017 the first year to see a decrease in recorded cybercrime, down from 0.44 per 1000 population in 2016 to 0.36 per 1000 population in 2017. It should be noted that the number of cybercrimes being recorded are small, meaning that decreases may not necessarily mean that the type of crime is no longer a problem.</p> <p>All other districts have continued the upward trend with increases in the level of recorded cybercrime in 2017.</p>	<p>National data (CSEW) suggests an increase to volume, complexity and seriousness of cybercrime. Recording nationally is rising as Officer awareness increases around cybercrime and an increasing awareness of the public that they can report these crimes.</p> <p>There is still believed to be large amounts of under-reporting of cybercrime in the UK. As cybercrime does not respect district or county lines, it would be naive to think that there are not substantial volumes of cyber-crime in the district.</p>	<p>Cybercrime remains a concern across the county and a force priority. The method of offending, and grooming online are increasing and investigation and enforcement a step behind.</p> <p>Education and prevention are key areas for agencies.</p> <p>Whilst East Cambridgeshire police recorded crime has</p>

				Not all offences are reported to the police with victims often contacting banks etc. to be dealt with directly.	remained low volume, it would be naïve to consider this a crime type that is reducing at this time.
All violence against person	893	+120 (15.5%)	<p>The volume of violence against the person (VAP) has increased year on year since 2013 and is projected to do the same in 2017. The rate per 1000 population increased from 6.89 in 2015 to 10.30 in 2017.</p> <p>All districts are showing a similar trend for VAP, with recorded crimes increasing year on year, both in terms of volume and as a rate per 1000 population.</p>	<p>Nationally, the trend in recent years has seen the volume of VAP offences being dealt with by the police increasing. In the year ending September 2017; VAP was up by 20% compared with the previous year.</p> <p>Some of this recorded rise is potentially due to changes in the recording of certain crimes. For example, death or serious injury by driving is now classified as a violence against the person offence. Another new offence included is malicious communications which has been included since April 2017.</p> <p>According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the CSEW is the more accurate measure of the violent offences that it covers. The CSEW is unavailable locally but nationally has reported a statistically insignificant decrease of 11% in violent offences compared to the previous year.</p>	For East Cambridgeshire consideration should be given to the nature of what is locally recorded within VAP, the overlap with Domestic Abuse and other forms of harassment (hate crime) and abuse should be investigated.

Violence without injury	597	+102 (20.6%)	<p>The volume of violence without injury has increased year on year since 2013.</p> <p>The rate per 1000 population increased to 5.72 in 2016 and has risen to 6.89 in 2017. The rate has increased by 167% since 2012, from 2.63 per 1000 population in 2012 to 6.89 per 1000 population in 2017.</p> <p>This is a similar picture for the rest of the county, with the volume and rate of violence without injury continuing an upward trend in 2017.</p>	<p>Nationally, the “violence without injury” sub-category, which accounted for 41% of all VAP recorded by the police, showed a large increase in the year to September 2017, up 24% to 502,542 crimes.</p> <p>Violence without injury classifications have changed frequently in recent years with various offences moving from one category to another. For example ‘Harassment’ has been reclassified as its own sub category under violence against the person rather than a sub-category of violence without injury. It is also thought that recording improvements are more likely to affect relatively less serious violent offences, which explains the larger increase in violence without injury compared with violence with injury.</p>	
Violence with injury	296	+18 (6.5%)	<p>The rate of violence with injury per 1000 population decreased in 2015 to 2.58 before increasing to 3.41 in 2017. Violence with injury has seen smaller increases in volume since 2013, however the rate per 1000 population has increased by 68.3%, from 2.03 in 2013 to 3.41 in 2017.</p>	<p>Nationally, the “violence with injury” sub-category, accounted for 38% of all VAP recorded by the police and has seen a 10% rise in the last year to September 2017.</p> <p>Police recorded Violence with injury has been observed nationally as increasingly involving weapons, with a majority of police forces recording a</p>	<p>Concern has been raised in some parts of the country about increases in weapon use and carrying evident in police recorded crime. It is unclear at this time how much of an</p>

			<p>This is a similar picture across the county.</p>	<p>recent rise in offences involving knives and sharp instruments.</p> <p>However, the latest CSEW (year ending September 2017) showed a continued decrease in violence with injury.</p> <p>A problem with police recorded crime figures is that an increase may reflect better reporting of crimes, rather than an actual increase in the number of crimes being committed.</p>	<p>increase has been seen locally.</p>
Sexual Offences	98	3 (3%)	<p>The number of police recorded sexual offences in East Cambridgeshire has been following an upward trend, apart from a small decrease in 2015.</p> <p>The long-term trend for all sub-groups of sexual offences has been upward. The offence rates per 1,000 population in 2017 highlight a 216% increase from 2012. This is likely to be due to the increased willingness of victims to report offences.</p> <p>The other districts have all seen a rise in both volume and rate of sexual offences for 2017, but there has been the least change in East Cambridgeshire.</p>	<p>Nationally, there was an increase of 23% in the number of sexual offences recorded by the police in the latest year ending September 2017 compared with the previous year. The number of sexual offences recorded by police is also rising across the constabulary highlighting that recent increases are not isolated to East Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>Two potential reasons that could have led to an increase in recorded police crimes include an increase in the number of crimes being committed, as well as better reporting of offences/greater willingness of victims to come forward and report them.</p>	<p>The fact the East Cambridgeshire is not seeing such a marked rise compared to other areas could be due to an overall low level of recording.</p> <p>Increased awareness raising could bring East Cambridgeshire into line with the national trend and enable a greater understanding of local sexual offences.</p>

			32% of sexual offences reported in 2017 have been 'historic' offences (committed more than 1 year before being reported). This is a rise from 25% in 2016. This could be due to a larger number of victims being willing to come forward and report historic offences.		
Child sexual abuse / exploitation (CSA/CSE)	30 / 7	+18 (1.5%) /-12 (-63.1%)	<p>The number of crimes that have a Child Sexual Exploitation marker applied is low in East Cambridgeshire, and has been low since the introduction of the marker in mid-2014.</p> <p>Child Sexual Abuse / Exploitation does not tend to have clear national definitions, so both can be looked at together.</p> <p>This is similar across the county, with the number of recorded offences seeing increases over the past few years.</p>	<p>National police recorded sexual offence data has showed a rise in both recent and historic crimes being reported. Therefore, it is hard to know the true picture of whether child sexual offences being committed in the past 12 months has actually increased. However nationally it has been acknowledged that sexual offences against children contributes more than a third of the most recent increases in police recorded sexual offences.</p> <p>Child protection data shows that only a small proportion of children experiencing CSA are recorded under this category². The issue of whether police recorded crime is capturing the true picture of child sexual offences in the district is uncertain. Also, organised crime, including CSA/E, does not recognise county boundaries.</p>	<p>This remains a focus for the constabulary and Local Safeguarding Board.</p> <p>The Partnership should continue to work with partners within the existing framework for safeguarding children and young people.</p>

² http://cwasu.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/18871_CSA_Scoping_paper_web_FA.pdf

Dwelling Burglary	253	+ 116 (84.7%)	<p>2015 & 2016 had seen notably lower rates of dwelling burglary per 100 dwellings than in previous years. There has been an increase in the volume of dwelling burglary in 2017, reaching similar levels to pre-2015.</p> <p>The increase for 2017 is shared by all other districts in Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>Compared to the ONS Most Similar Group areas, East Cambridgeshire was ranked 10 out of 15 areas, with a burglary crime rate of 6.14/1,000 Households, compared to the MSG average rate of 5.50/1,000 Households and a lower bound of 4.55. This covers the last 12 months up to September 2017.</p>	<p>Nationally, domestic burglary is up 4% in the year to September 2017 compared with the previous year. While general recording process improvements may have spilled over into a number of these theft offence categories, it is likely that for domestic burglary these increases reflect a genuine rise in these types of crime.</p> <p>However, the CSEW reflects a long term reduction in burglary incidents with a record low in the year ending September 2017. It is widely accepted that improvements to home security have been an important factor in the reduction seen in domestic burglary offences.</p> <p>The CSEW has found that some demographic groups have been consistently more likely to be victims, particularly households of a younger age group (16 to 24), single parent households, and households in urban areas. For East Cambridgeshire the 2011 Census indicated these demographic groups are most concentrated in Littleport and Soham (younger households) and Bottisham, Ely (North), Soham (North and South), Littleport (East) and Burwell wards (single parent households). The police</p>	
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				<p>recorded crime figures show that similar geographic areas have seen an increase in the volume of dwelling burglaries through 2017, including Ely South (+13/ 650%), Bottisham (+11/275%) and Soham North (+14/ 233%).</p> <p>Going forward, monitoring of long term trends in this crime type will not be possible as the recording guidelines have changed substantially - new categorisation of domestic and non-domestic burglary in the Home Office Counting Rules³ for police recorded crime were introduced in March 2017. New sub-categories of residential and non-residential burglary have replaced domestic and non-domestic burglary respectively, but with the important distinction that the classification of residential burglary now includes all buildings or parts of buildings that are within the boundary of, or form a part of, a dwelling. Any building not directly connected to a dwelling was previously counted as non-domestic burglary.</p>	
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³ www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/602803/count-burglary-apr-2017.pdf

Theft from person	29	-8 (21.6%)	Theft from person in East Cambridgeshire as a rate per 1000 population has increased in each of the past four years. However, in 2017 this rate has fallen to 0.33 which is below rates reported in the past two years. Although it should be noted that with the number of thefts from person so low, a decrease in one single year does not necessarily mean this trend will continue.	Nationally, there has been a 6% increase in the volume of police recorded theft from the person offences, from the previous year. Compared to the ONS MSG areas, East Cambridgeshire was ranked 11 out of 15 areas, with a crime rate of 0.36/1,000 population, compared to the MSG average rate of 0.31/1,000 population. This covers the last 12 months up to September 2017.	Not a priority for the Partnership.
Vehicle Crime	378	+153 (68%)	Vehicle crime had been following a downward trend for more than five years in East Cambridgeshire, after a large spike in late 2011. However, the volume of vehicle crime has increased by 68% in 2017, compared to 2016, taking it back to levels seen in 2012.	Nationally there have been a 6% increase in vehicle-related theft to the year ending September 2017. This type of crime tends to be consistently reported by victims and recorded by police, so recorded crime figures are likely to reflect genuine changes. In support of this trend, the latest CSEW reports some increases in estimated vehicle-related theft nationally, but a continuation of the trend in a smaller proportion of repeat victims for this crime category (24%, down 6% since 2012). Vehicle theft offences have been noted nationally as rising in relation to vehicles without immobilisers and are implicated in wider criminal activity i.e. stolen motorbikes and scooters being	Awareness raising of vehicle crime is a potential action for the CSP.
Vehicle Taking	53	+8 (17.8%)			
Theft from a Vehicle	287	+117 (68.8%)	The rate per 1000 population has increased from 2.60 in 2016 to 4.36 in 2017. The majority of this increase appears to be driven by an increase in the rate of theft from a vehicle from 1.96 in 2016 to 3.31 in 2017. This is the highest rate of theft from a vehicle in East Cambridgeshire since 2011.		
Vehicle Interference	38	+28 (280.0%)	This increase in vehicle crime is being seen across the county, but increase in		

			<p>theft from a vehicle greatest in East Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>Sutton, Ely West, Downham Villages, Bottisham and The Swaffhams are areas that experienced some of the sharpest increase in the volume of theft from a vehicle in East Cambridgeshire in 2017.</p>	<p>increasingly used for snatch thefts and robberies in London.</p> <p>Compared to the ONS MSG areas, East Cambridgeshire was ranked 7 out of 15 areas, with a crime rate of 3.69/1,000 population, compared to the MSG average rate of 4.20/1,000 population. This covers the last 12 months up to September 2017.</p>	
Rural Crime	MMI Database – 624	+277 (79.8%)	<p>Poaching/Coursing incidents make up 78% of all rural crimes for East Cambridgeshire on the MMI Database in 2017, in a continued upward trend that also applies across Cambridgeshire. There are very few rural property crimes committed, making up less than 2% of all rural crimes in 2017.</p> <p>The rate of rural crimes per 1000 population has increased from 4.01 in 2016 to 7.20 in 2017.</p>	<p>Rural Crime covers a number of crime types including Church Crime, Metal Theft and Machinery and Equipment Theft.</p> <p>Rural crime as measured by the MMI dataset relates to “A crime or incident type which occurs in any geographical area ordinarily described as 'rural', and where the criminal activity is more prevalent, or unique to, rural areas”</p> <p>Rural crime according to the NFU Mutual is a large problem, especially in Cambridgeshire which features as the third worst affected counties by the cost of the rural crimes alone⁴. This could be explained by the type of farming that occurs (arable) and the</p>	

⁴ <https://www.nfumutual.co.uk/news-and-stories/rural-crime-report-2017/>

				<p>expensive equipment needed for it.</p> <p>According to the National Rural Crime Network survey of over 17,000 people more than 1 in 4 have not reported a rural crime out of a lack of belief that the Police could or would do anything about it⁵. Therefore there could be many more rural offences that go undetected.</p>	
Road safety	<p>168 Road Traffic Collisions</p> <p>126 Slight Road Traffic Collisions</p> <p>38 Serious Collisions</p>	<p>-4 (17%)</p> <p>-2 (-1.6%)</p> <p>+1 (2.7%)</p> <p>-5</p>	<p>The rate of road traffic accidents had been falling between 2012-13 and 2015-16, before seeing an increase in 2016-17. The 2016-17 projected figure (based on data released to date) is indicative of a 2% decrease on the three-year average for full years of data available (2014-2016). Cambridgeshire as a whole has seen an increase in the number of road traffic accidents over the past 12 months. However the figure is just 4% above the 3-year average.</p> <p>The increase for East Cambridgeshire is seen within both slight road traffic collisions and serious road traffic collisions</p>	<p>Nationally, the number of road traffic collisions has been following a long term downward trend, despite the number of miles being travelled on UK roads continuing to increase year-on-year. A statistically significant 5% decrease in all road traffic accident casualties has been observed nationally to year ending September 2017⁶.</p> <p>Locally road safety is analysed and tackled through the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership (CPRSP). So it should not be a priority for the East Cambridgeshire CSP. However there are aspects of road safety that the CSP may be interested in keeping a</p>	<p>The east Cambridgeshire CSP should support the County CPRSP as appropriate.</p>

⁵ <http://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/research/internal/national-rural-crimes-survey-2015/>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-provisional-estimates-july-to-september-2017>

	<p>5 Fatal Road Traffic Collisions</p> <p>(including projected figures covering Sep-Dec 2017 for annual total due to data availability)</p>	(-50%)	<p>The number of casualties and those killed or seriously injured (KSI) in East Cambridgeshire has risen compared to the 5-year average. However the number of these incidents is often small, so these increases may not be statistically significant.</p>	<p>watching brief on which relate more to driver behaviour than infrastructure.</p> <p>Note that wider factors, such as bad periods of weather, can impact upon road traffic collision statistics.</p>	
<p>Crimes with domestic abuse marker / Domestic Abuse incidents</p>	<p>456 crimes (with DA marker)</p> <p>860 Domestic Violence incidents</p>	<p>+47 / (11.5%)</p> <p>-46 / (-5%)</p>	<p>Police recorded crimes with a domestic abuse marker have risen sharply since 2013 with changes in recording practise, and public confidence to report following high profile cases and awareness raising nationally. The rate of crimes per 1000 population with a marker of domestic abuse has risen from 2.35 in 2013 to 5.26 in 2017. This picture is seen across the county.</p>	<p>Nationally, the police recorded 535,359 offences that were domestic abuse-related in the year ending September 2017, a 20% increase from the previous year.</p> <p>However, changes in recording practices recently and public confidence to report following high profile cases and awareness raising nationally are most likely responsible for the significant increases seen in police recorded offences. This is seen as a positive step as victims evidently feel more able to come forward, confident that the police will take it seriously and support them.</p> <p>Domestic abuse and Violence Against</p>	<p>Domestic abuse remains a priority for the County, with a new Violence Against Women & Girls action plan being developed.</p>

				Women & Girls are national priorities that continue to have a high focus for police forces across the country.	
Hate crime	43	+2 (4.9%)	<p>Hate crime totals have been recorded since April 2011, with a trend of 207% increase in East Cambridgeshire over the past 4 years. The rate of hate crime per 1000 population is has increased from 0.13 in 2013 to 0.50 in 2017.</p> <p>East Cambridgeshire does have the lowest rate per 1000 population of hate crime of all districts in the county.</p> <p>Anecdotal evidence suggesting that there continues to be tension between some 'settled' and traveller communities.</p>	<p>Nationally, there was a sustained spike in police recorded hate crime after the 2017 terrorist attacks. The peak was larger than after the EU referendum in June 2016.</p> <p>Recent increases are thought to reflect both a genuine rise in hate crime and also due to ongoing improvements in crime recording by police.</p> <p>Hate crime is an offence that could yet escalate with increased reporting as victims are encouraged to come forward.</p> <p>Race-related hate crimes still make up the largest proportion of all reported hate crime, at around 70-80%, followed by sexual orientation-related hate crime.</p>	Awareness raising to support communities
ASB	1331	-264 (-16.6%)	Recorded ASB is 20% lower than it was in 2012. Police recorded ASB incidents had fallen for three successive years before rising in 2016. 2017 has seen a decline back to similar levels seen in 2015.	<p>Nationally, police recorded ASB incidents have been decreasing year on year (to Sept 2017), for more than 5 years.</p> <p>Around 1.7 million incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) were recorded by the police (including the British</p>	There are a range of existing embedded tools to tackle and reduce ASB.

			<p>Largest decreases over the past year have been seen in the Soham and South area, with an overall decrease of 26.5%.</p> <p>The rate of ASB incidents per 1000 population fell from 18.42 in 2016 to 15.35 in 2017. East Cambridgeshire has the second lowest rate of ASB incidents in Cambridgeshire (behind South Cambridgeshire).</p>	<p>Transport Police) in the latest year, a decrease of 6% compared with the previous year.</p> <p>ASB, as recorded by the CSEW, asks respondents whether they have experienced ASB in the past year. Since the question has been asked the percentage of respondents having experienced ASB has never moved out of the range of 27-31%.</p>	
Drugs (including county lines)	66	-26 (28.3%)	<p>Police recorded drug offences have been decreasing steadily for over five years. 2017 sees a 28.3% decrease in drug offences, which is being driven by decreases in both possession & trafficking. East Cambridgeshire has seen a 76.9% decrease in drug offences since 2012.</p> <p>The rate of drug offences per 1000 population decreased from 1.06 in 2016 to 0.76 in 2017.</p>	<p>Nationally, police recorded drug offences have decreased by 5% in the 12 months to September 2017. Drug seizures by police forces and UK Border Forces saw a decrease of 6% from 2016/17⁷. This continues the downward trend of drug offences nationally that has been seen from 2009.</p> <p>County Lines issues including carrying weapons, increased violence and drugs has increased in Cambridgeshire. Whilst at this time the impact in East Cambridgeshire is not thought to be significant, the use of train lines and the general national trend of gangs moving into more rural areas should be noted.</p>	The Partnership should be mindful of the county level work to tackle County Lines and support as appropriate.

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seizures-of-drugs-in-england-and-wales-financial-year-ending-2017>

Emerging Issues

Street begging as referred to in the Vagrancy Act 1824 has been raised as an issue in East Cambridgeshire, particularly Ely. Data is not currently available to confirm overall trends both locally and nationally. However In response to a Freedom of Information request, the Crown Prosecution Service in July 2016 released national figures showing the number of prosecutions under section 3 of the Vagrancy Act 1824 increased from 1510 in 2006-07 to 2365 in 2015-16.⁸ A keyword search for police recorded incidents across East Cambridgeshire (keywords: “begging” and “homeless”) revealed 29 incidents for the year 2017.

CSP Priorities, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police and Crime Plan and existing briefings 2017/18

CSP Priorities	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Police and Crime Plan			
	Victims- <i>Protecting the vulnerable</i>	Offenders- <i>Attacking Criminality</i>	Communities- <i>Preventing Crime and Reassuring the public</i>	Transformation- <i>Achieving best use of resource</i>
VULNERABILITY AND RISK				
DIVERSION AND INTERVENTION			Briefing 1: Anti Social Driving http://cambridgeshire.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Briefing_1_Final.pdf	
COMMUNITY COHESION AND ENGAGEMENT	Briefing 2: Hate Crime http://cambridgeshire.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Hate-Crime-in-East-Cambridgeshire-V1.1_derestricted.pdf			

*Projects that are being carried forward

⁸ <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7836>