

# COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT: EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE 2020/21

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This strategic assessment of community safety issues for East Cambridgeshire was commissioned by the East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (ECCSP or The Partnership) in order to provide an evidence base and make recommendations to the board for next year's priorities. The Cambridgeshire Research Group has reviewed and analysed a variety of data sets, both local and national, and sought feedback from professionals to inform this document. Summaries of existing Community Safety Partnership (CSP) actions against each priority are also provided.

Trends in police recorded crime have been significantly affected by the measures introduced to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and therefore they are not useful in terms of predicting actual future levels of crime. They are useful in understanding what is currently happening in a variety of crime types and alerting the CSP to the potential for more short term changes as lockdown restrictions are eased in due course.

### Community Harm

This section of the document covers a wide range of behaviours and issues raised by agencies and residents. It includes issues most linked to the **CSP Priority 1: Understanding Risk and Vulnerability of individuals (people) and locations (places) and helping communities respond to this**. The key findings highlight potentially heightened risks around substance misuse in East Cambridgeshire, an issue which also arises often in the Problem Solving Group caseload. Analysis of victim data showed that overall rates of victimisation are low in East Cambridgeshire, however the type of crime experienced by victims varies by demographic, particularly for Young People.

### Personal Safety

This section of the document covers issues relating to **CSP Priority 2: Working to tackle local issues of high harm**.

Overall high harm crimes against the person are well monitored and the countywide groups have responded robustly during the pandemic. The CSP will need to continue to engage with countywide groups whose work is focused on tackling Domestic Abuse, Modern Slavery and County Lines. In analysis of acquisitive crime data, a disparity between national and local trends in shoplifting has been identified. Analysis of local data relating to Violence has highlighted the need for more detailed work in this area. A robust local response to a rise in Stalking and Harassment is needed as well as tackling Violence with injury and associated knife crime locally. The latter, while low in volume, has seen a marked trend of increase in East Cambridgeshire in recent years and needs to be well understood to be tackled locally.

A briefing is also being delivered to ECCSP alongside this document as a Review of the CSP as a whole. This suggests a number of ways the CSP could capitalise on the existing work of the Problem Solving Group, structure the Delivery Group and enhance flow of information within the CSP.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that the CSP;

1. Seek opportunities to work with the health sector to actively address and monitor risks and changes relating to **substance misuse** locally.
2. Undertake a short piece of work to investigate the changes in **shoplifting** locally to understand what factors may have caused an increase, contrary to national trend, when non-essential shops were closed during the first national lockdown.
3. Assess the situation regarding Violence Against the Person in East Cambridgeshire in more detail, particularly in relation to **Stalking and Harassment, Violence with injury and associated knife crime**.
4. Note and respond to the recommendations from the **ECCSP Review** briefing published at the same time as this Strategic Assessment document.

In addition, in the current circumstances of a national lockdown, and about to move out of lockdown in due course, the following activity could be timely for ECCSP:

- Enhance wider communications to residents about fire safety where take-up of safe and well visits is low.
- Increase communications about hate crime and ways to report this to pre-empt potential rises as lockdown is lifted.

## INTRODUCTION

For 2020/21 East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (ECCSP) has been working to the following priorities:

**CSP Priority 1:** Understanding risk and vulnerability of individuals (people) and locations (places) and helping communities respond to this.

**CSP Priority 2:** Working to tackle local issues of high harm.

This document will cover analysis of key indicators for community safety issues grouped under the headings 'Community Harm' and 'Personal Safety' which align with the above CSP priorities respectively. The aim of this document is to provide an evidence base for the Community Safety Partnership to understand the current situation in East Cambridgeshire and inform priorities it works to going forward. A brief summary of the activities of the CSP under each priority will also be provided.

### Changes to note since the previous strategic assessment

- Number of changes to board membership and Delivery group membership
- Meetings going online
- During the course of this year, linkage of CSP work into East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) internal work has changed, with the Community Safety lead being embedded in a different team.

### Understanding the wider context – countywide view

The East Cambridgeshire CSP is one of six within the police force area alongside county thematic groups that makes up the County Community Safety Board. This Countywide approach initially created to manage the community safety agenda within a two-tier area, now encompasses the unitary authority of Peterborough City Council and enables a much more developed joined-up approach to community safety, particularly around thematic areas such as safeguarding, domestic abuse, substance misuse and offending. The complexity of the overall community safety agenda is best tackled in a matrix management approach (see Appendix A for the countywide matrix) allowing for agencies to lead or support where appropriate. This allows the East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership to be heavily involved in delivery and strategies whilst freeing up the CSP itself to tackle local issues. This year in particular Cambridgeshire & Peterborough are adopting a countywide approach to Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR). Whilst this is still to be fully realised there have already been benefits locally.

### The impact of COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic and measures to control it have had far reaching impacts nationally and locally. The way in which key services (both public sector and voluntary sector/ community lead) operate has had to adapt at pace. Opportunities for crime to occur and the ways in which victims can access support at this time has also been impacted as some key data sets in this document show. The long term impacts of this are emerging and yet to be fully comprehended. National data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on crime up to September 2020 show how variable the impact of the measures have been (see also Figure 1, page 8). The routine data sources used for the purposes of CSPs have already started to provide insight into the short term impacts but the longer term impacts are not yet clear.

## COMMUNITY HARM

### Summary of findings

This section covers a wide range of behaviours and issues raised by agencies and residents. It covers issues most linked to the **CSP Priority 1: Understanding Risk and Vulnerability of individuals (people) and locations (places) and helping communities respond to this**. The Research Group reviewed and analysed a variety of data sets and feedback from professionals. The key findings were;

**Victim profile:** The rate of victimisation for East Cambridgeshire in 2019 was 26 victims per 1,000 population, considerably below the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough average of 43 victims per 1,000 population. Within the district there is some variation.

**ASB:** The volume of police recorded Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in East Cambridgeshire is marginally higher in 2020 compared to the previous year. While Nuisance ASB remains the main type of ASB reported locally, a greater proportion in 2020 was Environmental ASB.

**Criminal damage:** A long term trend of increase was interrupted by the first national lockdown period, however the second national lockdown did not see the same impact on this crime type.

**Substance Misuse:** Police operations during and since the first national lockdown have led to a rise in recorded drug related offences, as seen nationally. 186 adults resident in East Cambridgeshire were in treatment for substance misuse, of which a majority (46%) were in treatment relating to Opiate misuse. The wider issues influencing substance misuse in the context of pandemic control measures (i.e. the impacts of lockdowns) mean that this issue needs monitoring for changes that could influence risks locally.

**Fire:** Increases in all recorded fires have occurred in East Cambridgeshire but from a low baseline level. Changes to fire statistics expected in the national lockdowns have not materialised in 2020, both locally and nationally. The fire service safe and well visits have continued, while adapting to mitigate COVID-19 risk, however some of those identified for support are less inclined to have professionals visit their home at this time.

**Hate Crime:** The overall volume of hate crime reported in East Cambridgeshire has been following the national trend of increase, albeit from a low base. Willingness to report as well as recording practices make it difficult to draw conclusions about this issue from police data alone. Hate incidents such as graffiti have occurred in East Cambridgeshire recently.

**Public Order:** National analysis confirms a substantial overlap in trends between hate crime and public order offences and public order offences have seen an increase locally over 2019 and 2020.

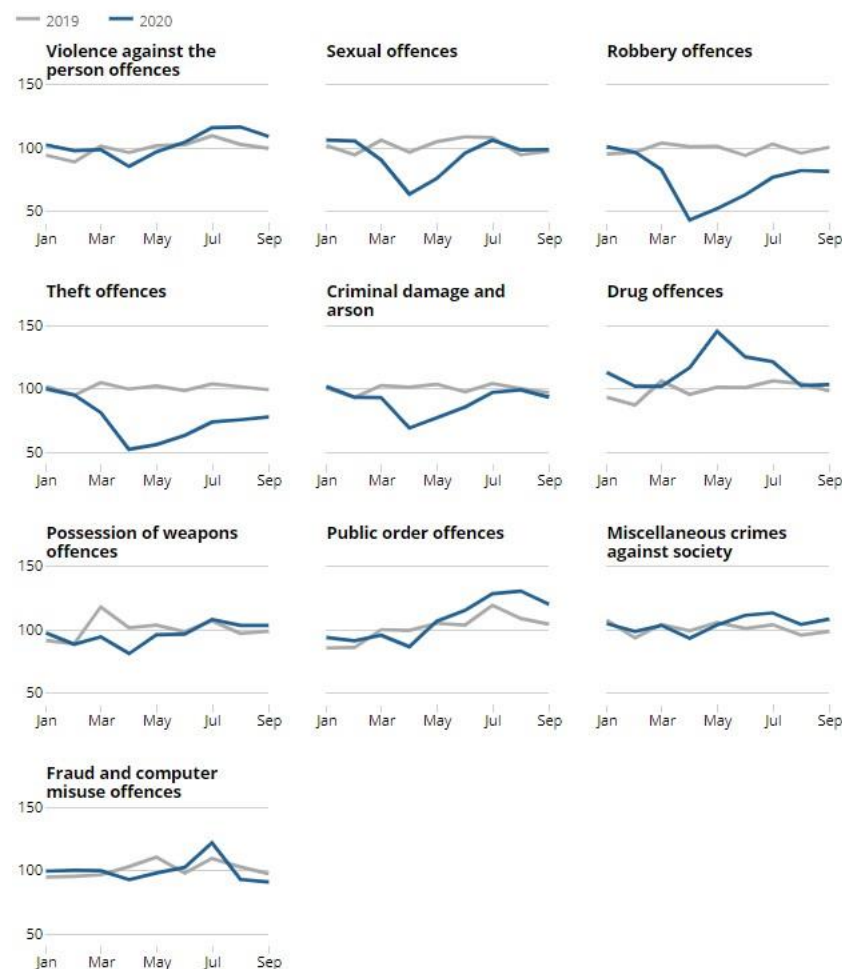
**Community Safety issues affecting Young People:** Victim data analysis for East Cambridgeshire shows violence and sexual offences accounting for a higher proportion of offences experienced by children when compared to the adult victim cohort. In the context of the coronavirus pandemic and its impacts, there is a need to further understand the community safety issues affecting young people locally.

## NATIONAL PICTURE

National data available up to September 2020 shows how certain crimes types were dramatically impacted by the first national lockdown, but have since returned to previous levels. The figure below displays national police recorded crime (indexed to the 2019 monthly average) and highlights the notable variation between crime types affected by the opportunities for crime and policing activity. Certainly with the country remaining in a variety of restrictions during this year, there will be an impact on opportunities for crime.

*Figure 1: Police recorded crime returning to levels similar to the 2019 average England and Wales after the March 2020 lockdown.*

England and Wales, January to September 2019 and January to September 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics - Police recorded crime

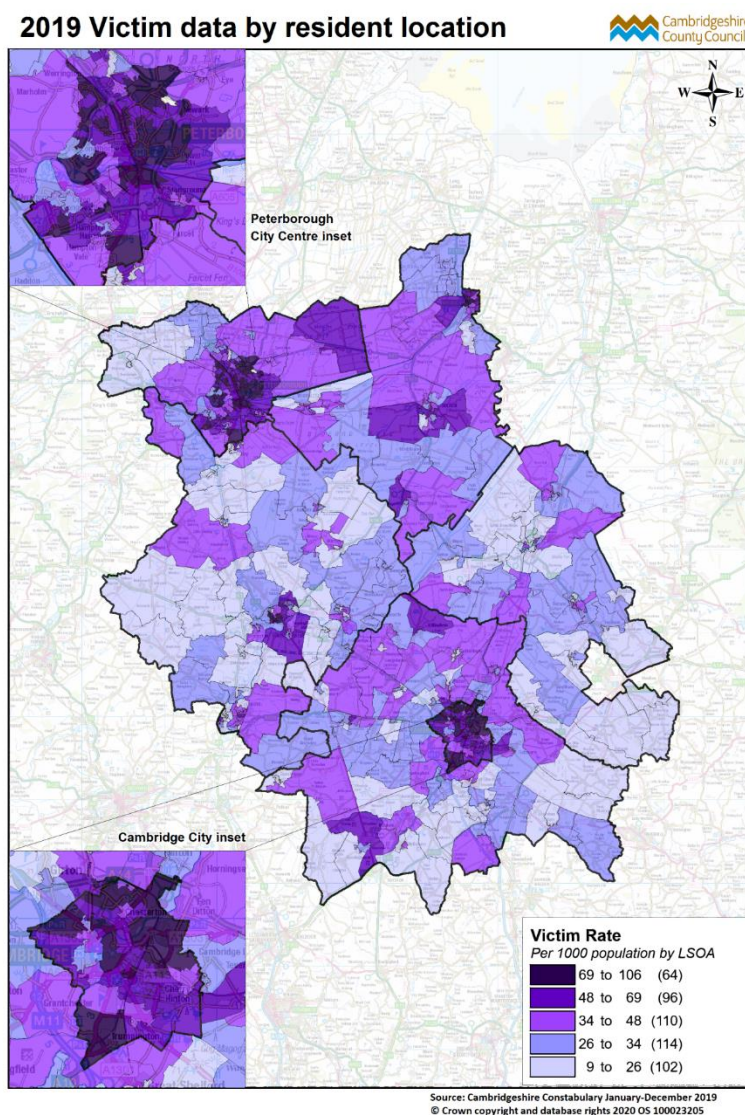


## VICTIM PROFILE

Police recorded crime data for 2019 was used to inform a victim needs assessment produced by the research group in 2020<sup>1</sup>. This data on victims who experienced an offence in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough in 2019 has been utilised for this report to provide a high level victim profile for East Cambridgeshire.

The rate of victimisation for East Cambridgeshire in 2019 was 26 victims per 1,000 population, considerably below the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough average of 43 victims per 1,000 population. The map below shows the rate of victimisation by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA), and illustrates that whilst generally rates were low, there is some variation across the district at a small area level.

Figure 2: Map showing victim rate (police recorded crime) per 1,000 population in 2019 by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)

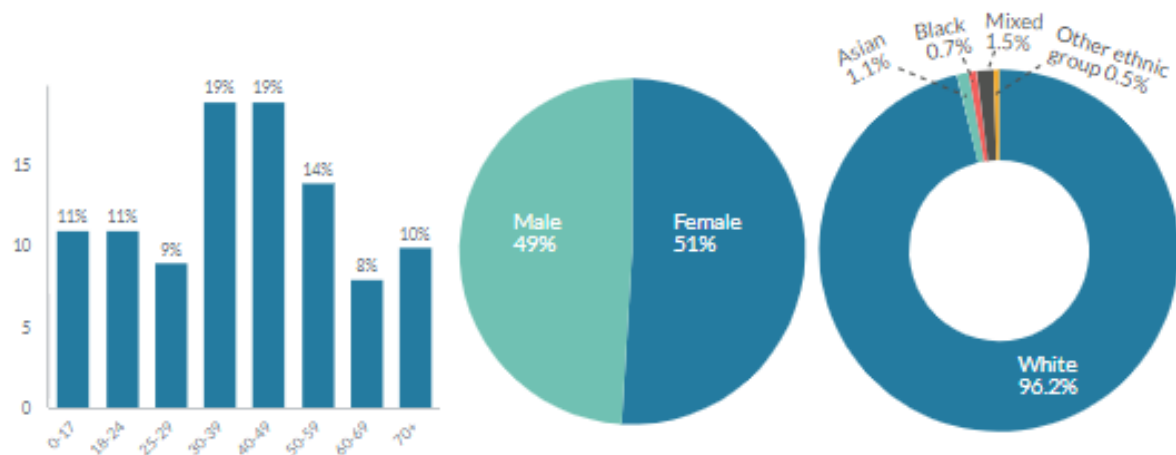


This figure below shows the demographic profile of East Cambridgeshire victims. It should be noted that there were gaps in the demographic data particularly for ethnicity which was either not stated

<sup>1</sup> [https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/VOSNA-2020-Report\\_Final.pdf](https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/VOSNA-2020-Report_Final.pdf)

or unknown for 32% of victims. Lesser data gaps were also present for age (3%) and sex (3%). The age profile is similar to that for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole with just a slightly higher proportion of older victims in East Cambridgeshire. The ethnicity breakdown of victims reflects the general East Cambridgeshire population with the vast majority of victims being white.

Figure 3: East Cambridgeshire Victim Profile (where demographic data available), 2019

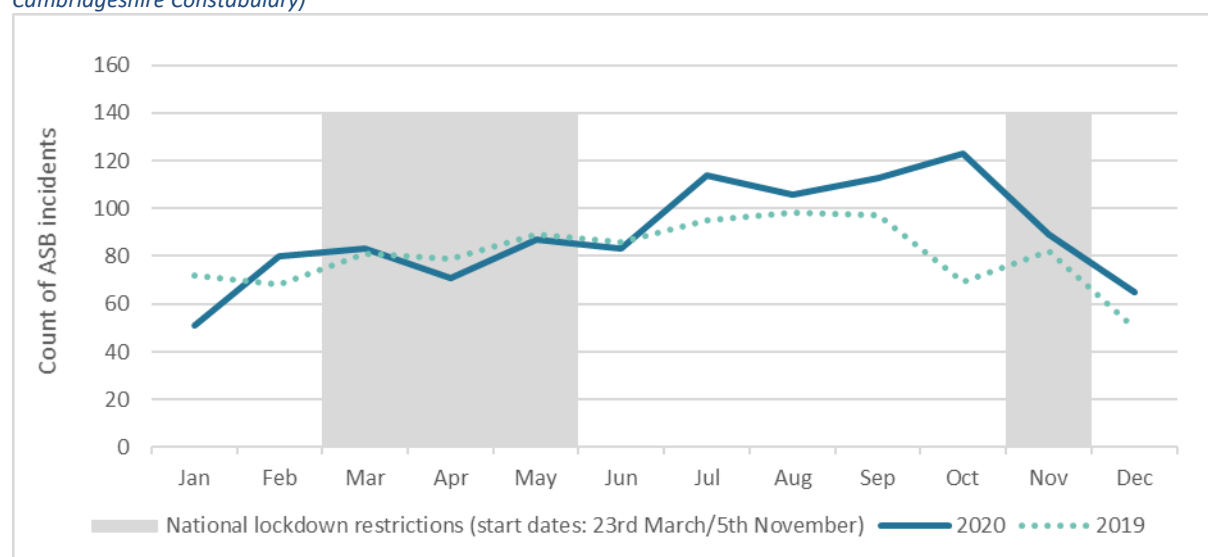


## ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

In 2020 an average of 88.8 ASB incidents per month were recorded by police in East Cambridgeshire, the same indicator for 2019 is somewhat lower at 80.5 recorded incidents per month.

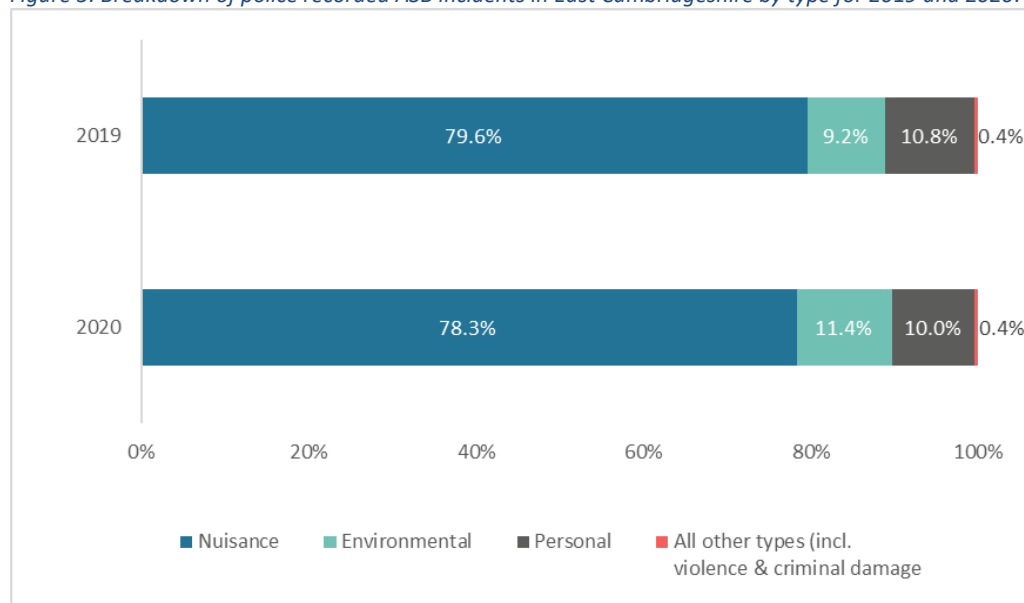
The effect of national lockdowns appears to have suppressed recorded ASB as shown in the figure below.

Figure 4: Monthly count of Police Recorded ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire for 2019 and 2020 (Source: Cambridgeshire Constabulary)



Nuisance ASB forms the majority of the incidents recorded, with a marginal increase in the proportion of incidents being Environmental type ASB in 2020 as shown below.

Figure 5: Breakdown of police recorded ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire by type for 2019 and 2020.



Ward level analysis, outlined in the tables below, shows a third of all ASB recorded was attributed to wards in Ely. The next highest volume of incidents were recorded in Littleport and Soham North. However, when these wards are ranked by the rate of ASB incidents per 1000 population, different areas are also highlighted, particularly Sutton and Haddenham Wards. These areas may be candidates for additional support going forward.

Table 1: East Cambridgeshire Wards ranked by volume of police recorded ASB in 2020.

Ward	Count of Police recorded ASB incidents (2020)	% of all incidents in East Cambridgeshire
Ely East	166	15.6%
Ely West	154	14.5%
Littleport	152	14.3%
Soham North	92	8.6%
Sutton	88	8.3%
Soham South	80	7.5%
Bottisham	58	5.4%
Stretham	53	5.0%
Fordham & Isleham	49	4.6%
Burwell	46	4.3%
Woodditton	38	3.6%
Ely North	37	3.5%
Haddenham	35	3.3%
Downham Villages	17	1.6%
Total	1065	

Table 2: East Cambridgeshire Wards ranked by rate of police recorded ASB incidents per 1000 population in 2020.

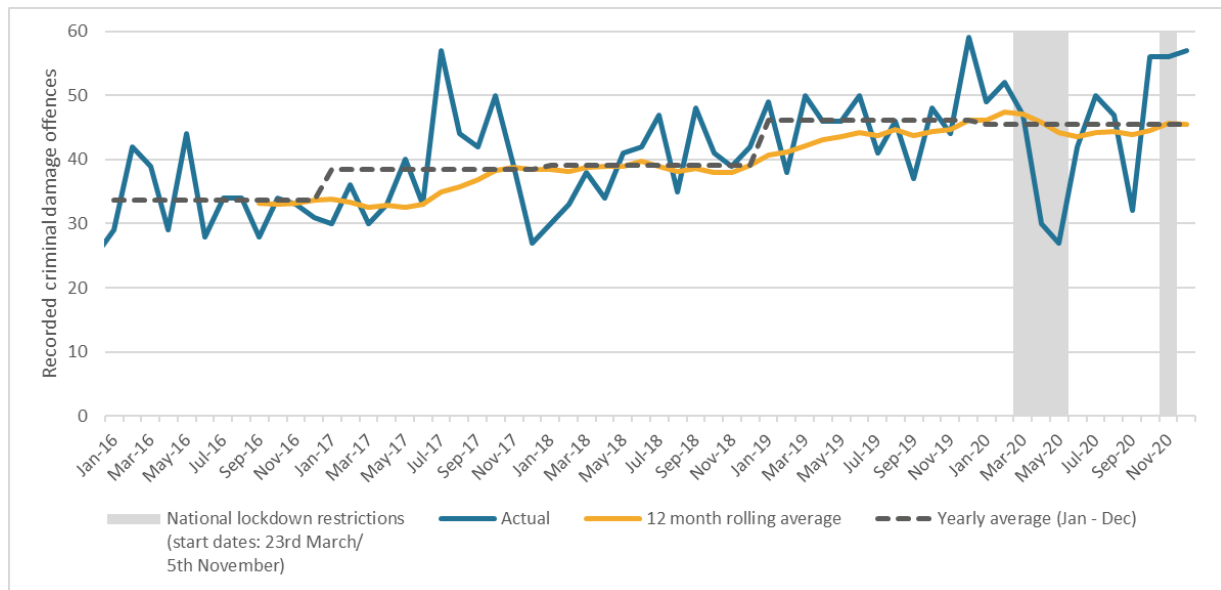
Ward	ASB incident rate per 1000 population* (2020)
Ely East	26.3
Sutton	15.8
Littleport	15.4
Ely West	14.6
Soham South	13.2
Soham North	11.7
Haddenham	10.3
Bottisham	9.8
Stretham	8.0
Fordham & Isleham	7.8
Ely North	7.7
Burwell	7.2
Woodditton	5.4
Downham Villages	5.4

\*based on ONS Mid-year population estimates 2019

## CRIMINAL DAMAGE

The total count of criminal damage offences in 2019 was 35% higher than that recorded in 2016 due to year-on-year increases. This pattern altered in 2020 with a very slight decrease in the annual total count driven by a drop off in offences during the lockdown period, in line with patterns seen nationally in 2020 (see Figure 1). The second lockdown did not have the same impact with offences in November above the annual average.

Figure 6: Police Recorded Criminal Damage offences in East Cambridgeshire Jan 2016- Dec 2020



## SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Community Safety Partnerships are advised to assess information relating to substance misuse in the partnership area when setting priorities. Detailed data regarding drug and alcohol related hospital admissions is not currently available or routinely shared with the partnership, though this kind of information sharing is supported by the relevant regulations<sup>2</sup>. The national statistics that are the closest match to the data advised in the regulations are available to county level only. These show that since 2018/19 Cambridgeshire had a higher rate of hospital admissions where drug misuse is a factor compared to the regional and national rate (see Figure 7 below). A long term trend of increase in the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-specific conditions is also shown in national statistics as per

Figure 8, albeit the rate remains below that seen nationally.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2007/1831/made> These Regulations relate to the duty to share depersonalised information amongst relevant authorities in a local government area under section 17A of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Figure 7: Rate of hospital admissions where drug related mental and behavioural disorders were a factor, 2013/14 - 2019/20 (Source: NHS Digital)

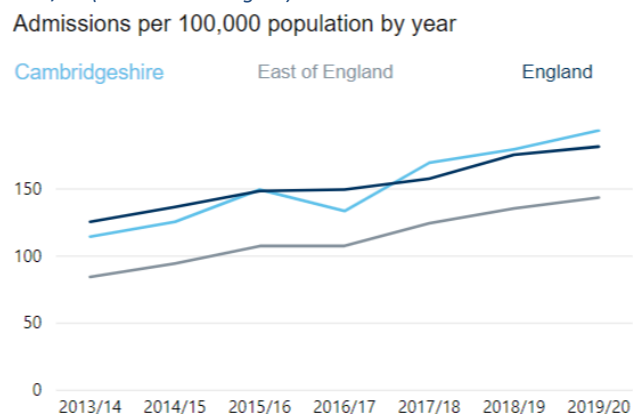
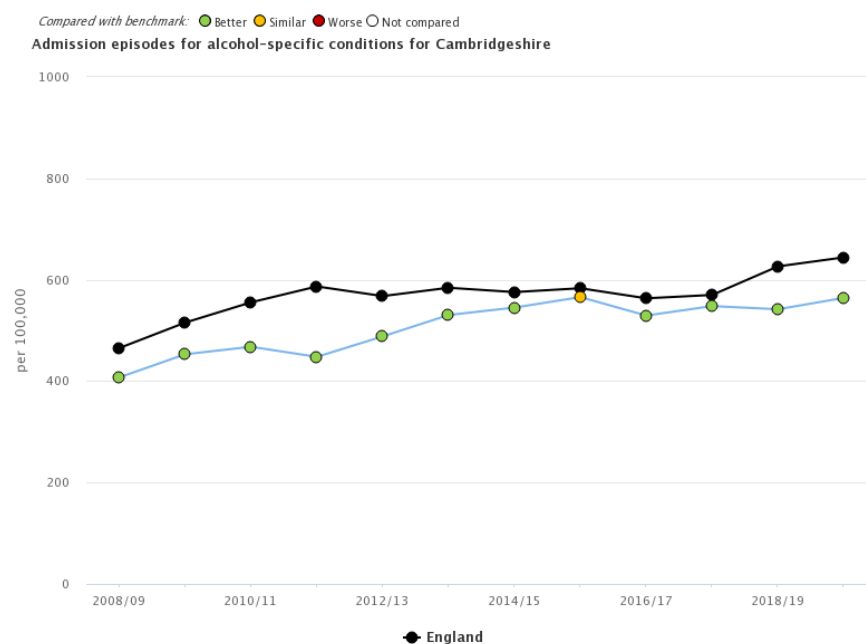
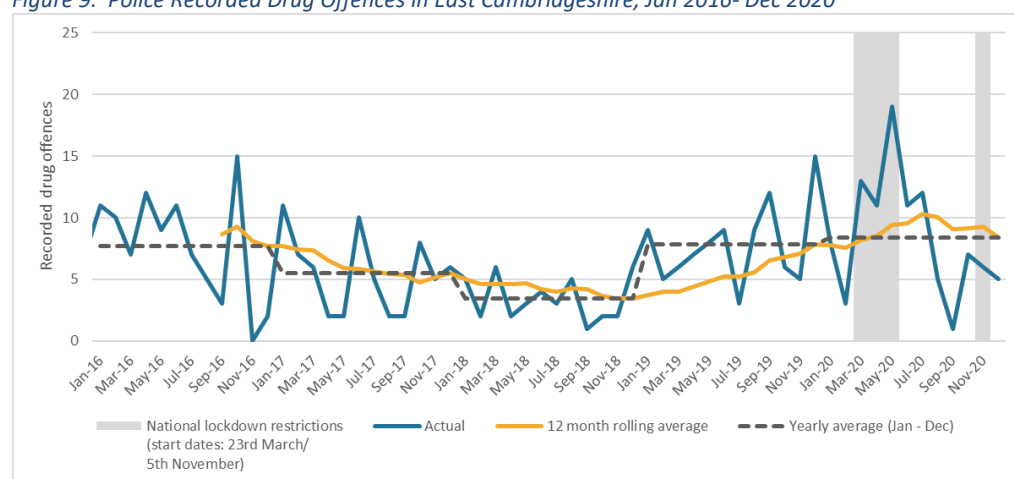


Figure 8: Rate of admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions in Cambridgeshire compared to England 2008/09 - 2019/20, (Source: Public Health England)



National Statistics highlight a 16% increase in police recorded drug offences in the year to September 2020, attributed to proactive police activity. This increase has been reflected locally in East Cambridgeshire, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 9: Police Recorded Drug Offences in East Cambridgeshire, Jan 2016- Dec 2020



Figures from the drug and alcohol services provider covering East Cambridgeshire (Change Grow Live (CGL)) show in the year ending Dec 2020 186 adults were in treatment, of which 46% were in treatment relating to Opiate misuse.

Table 3: Clients resident in East Cambridgeshire and in treatment or successfully completed treatment in the year ending December 2020. This does not reflect the location of treatment service necessarily. (Source: CGL)

		East Cambridgeshire
Total number in treatment		186
Number in treatment by substance	Opiate	86
	Non-opiate only	14
	Alcohol only	71
	Non-opiate and alcohol	15
Successful completions		32

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are likely to influence short and long term changes in these issues and as such the partnership needs to monitor them<sup>3</sup>.

**Recommendation 1: The CSP is advised to seek opportunities to work with the health sector to actively address and monitor risks and changes relating to substance misuse locally.**

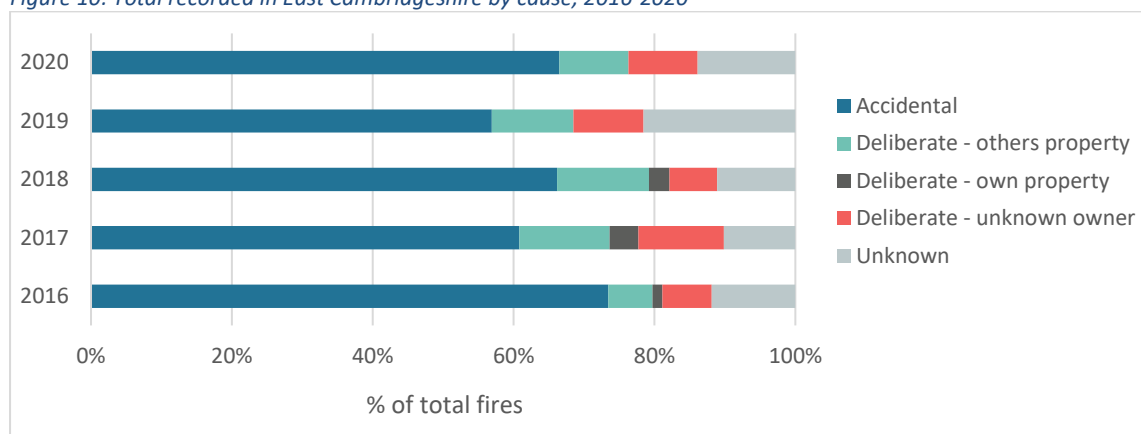
## FIRE

173 fires were recorded in East Cambridgeshire between the start of January 2020 and the end of November 2020. Based on this figure, it has been projected that the total number of fires for the whole of 2020 was 189. This represents a 32% increase from the total number of fires in 2016. **It should be noted that increases here are from a low base**, with East Cambridgeshire having the second lowest total fire count in 2020 out of all the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough districts.

In East Cambridgeshire in 2020, 68% of fires were recorded by the fire services as being 'Accidental', whilst 20% were recorded as 'Deliberate' and 12% as 'Unknown'. The figure below shows the breakdown in cause for fires recorded in East Cambridgeshire over the past five years. The proportion of fires which were recorded as deliberate has increased from 15% in 2016 to 20% in 2020. For Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole, this proportion is higher with 30% of all 2020 fires recorded as deliberate.

<sup>3</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/06/1066992>

Figure 10: Total recorded in East Cambridgeshire by cause, 2016-2020



The most recent national statistics about incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England run to the year ending June 2020<sup>4</sup>. The published analysis noted that there was not any marked change in the overall volume of fires attended during the first national lockdown and that dwelling fires, expected to increase as people stayed at home, in fact remained similar to the 2015-2019 baseline in the first national lockdown. At the time of reporting (January 2020) no remarkable change has been seen in the level of dwelling fires in East Cambridgeshire.

Safe and well visits from the Fire Service have continued with additional procedures in place to mitigate COVID-19 risk. However overall uptake has decreased as residents are thought to be less willing to have visitors from outside their households while lockdown rules are in place.

**With residents spending more time at home due to ongoing restrictions, this remains an opportune time to highlight fire prevention measures in dwellings locally and the CSP could play a role in this, perhaps working with the fire service in locations where safe and well visits have recently been declined.**

## HATE CRIME

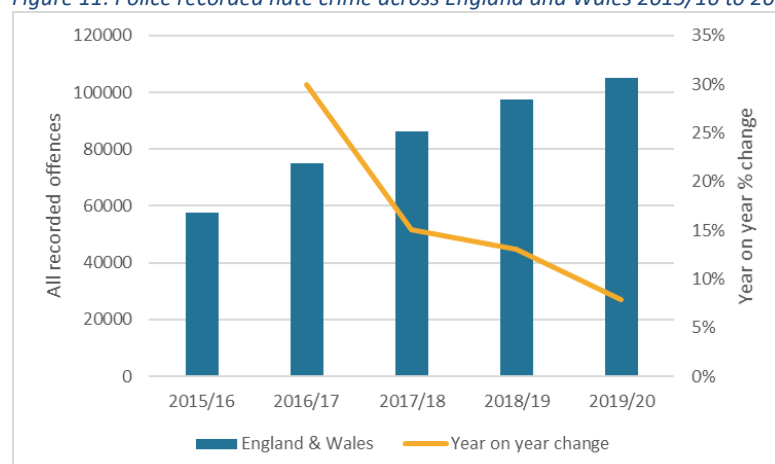
Police recorded hate crime has been rising nationally since 2015, but with a year on year change that is falling as shown in the figure below. This is thought to be due to improvements in crime recording and identification of hate crimes.

4

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/934387/fire-and-rescue-incident-jun20-hosb3420.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/934387/fire-and-rescue-incident-jun20-hosb3420.pdf)

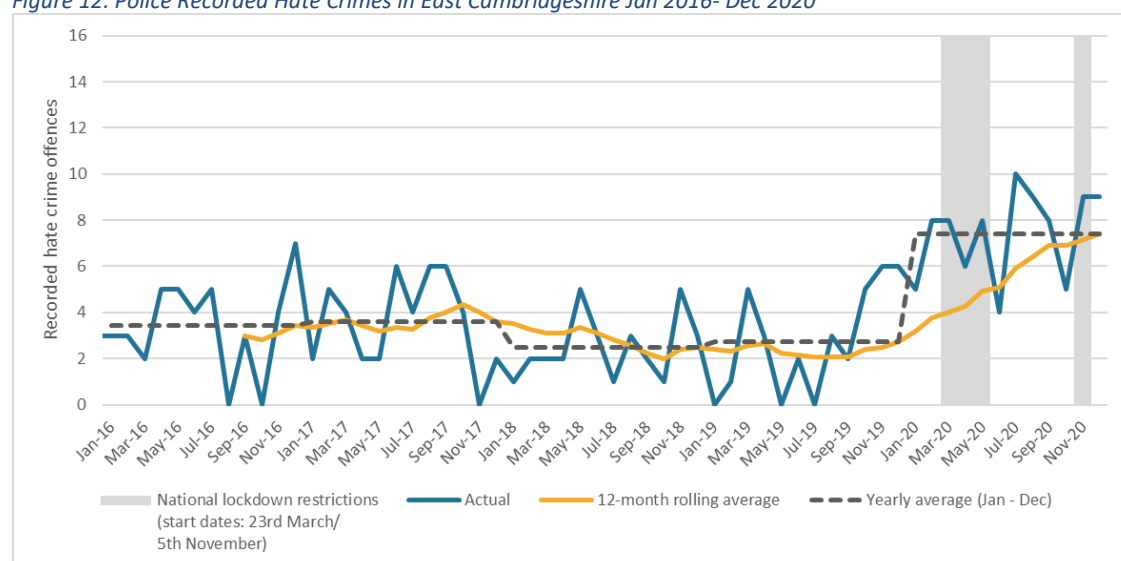


Figure 11: Police recorded hate crime across England and Wales 2015/16 to 2019/20 (Source: Home Office)



While the overall volume of hate crime reported in East Cambridgeshire may be following the national trend of increase from a low base, this is a crime type that is often poorly reported and as such could be considered the ‘tip of the iceberg’. Varying levels of detail in the crimes recorded locally and a low volume of crimes reported mean that comment on the trends (i.e. demographics) within hate crimes in East Cambridgeshire would not be appropriate at this time. The recorded crime figures are shown below for information.

Figure 12: Police Recorded Hate Crimes in East Cambridgeshire Jan 2016- Dec 2020



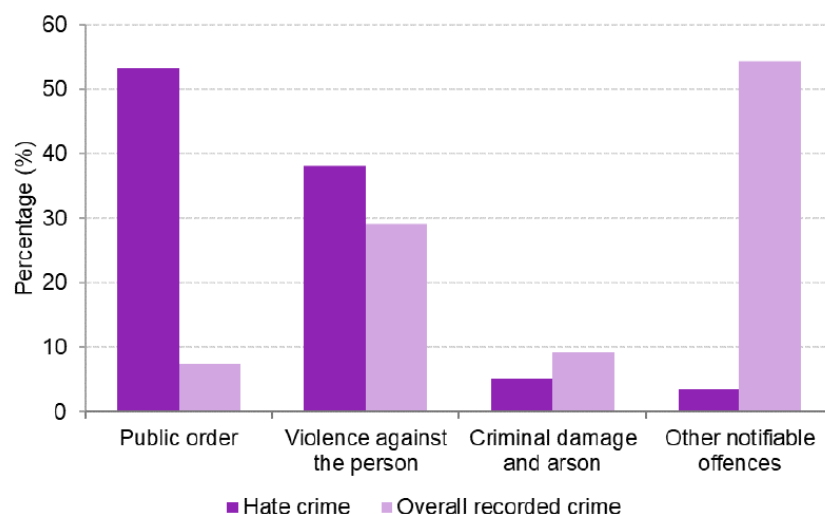
Hate related incidents have occurred recently in East Cambridgeshire, for example anti-Semitic graffiti which was reported and removed in Ely. The CSP communications efforts to promote reporting appear to have led to multiple reports on the same incidents of graffiti in November 2020.

## PUBLIC ORDER

It should be noted that nationally public order offences accounted for just seven percent of all notifiable offences compared with 53 percent of hate crime offences. Meaning a substantial overlap in trends between hate crime and public order offences is likely.



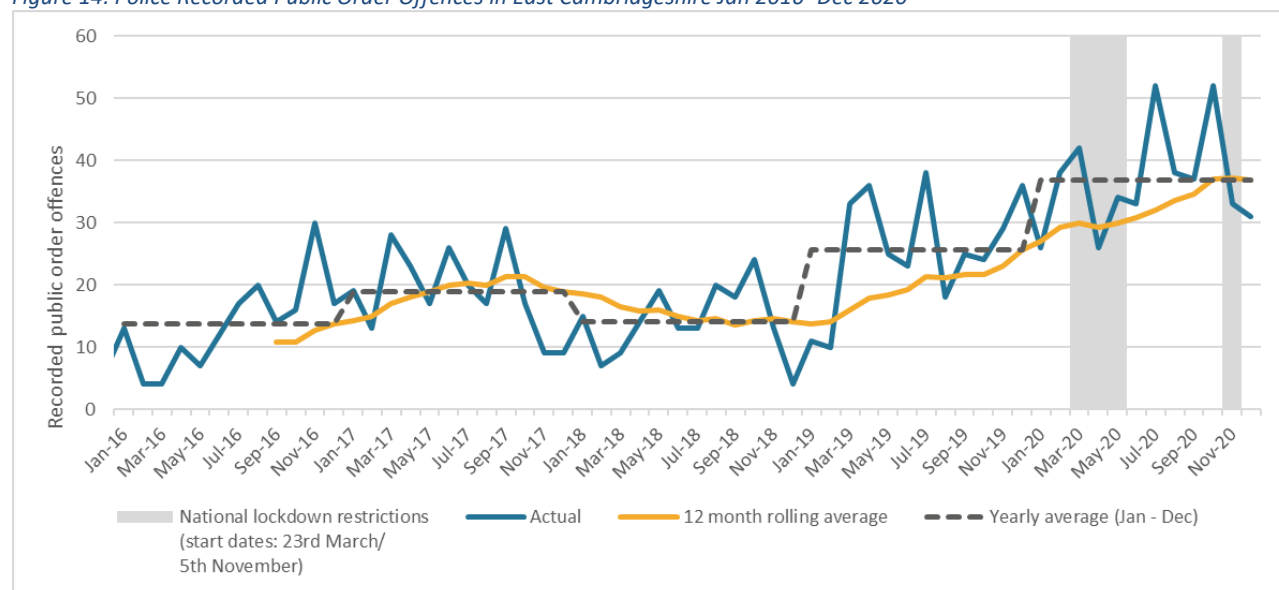
Figure 13: Breakdown of hate crimes and overall recorded crime by selected offence types, 2019/20 (Source - Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2019/20<sup>7</sup>)



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office. Figures exclude GMP.

Public order offences have seen a trend of increase with 43% increase when comparing 2020 to the previous year. This is even though national pandemic control measures (i.e. national lockdowns) have led to lower figures for several months in 2020.

Figure 14: Police Recorded Public Order Offences in East Cambridgeshire Jan 2016- Dec 2020



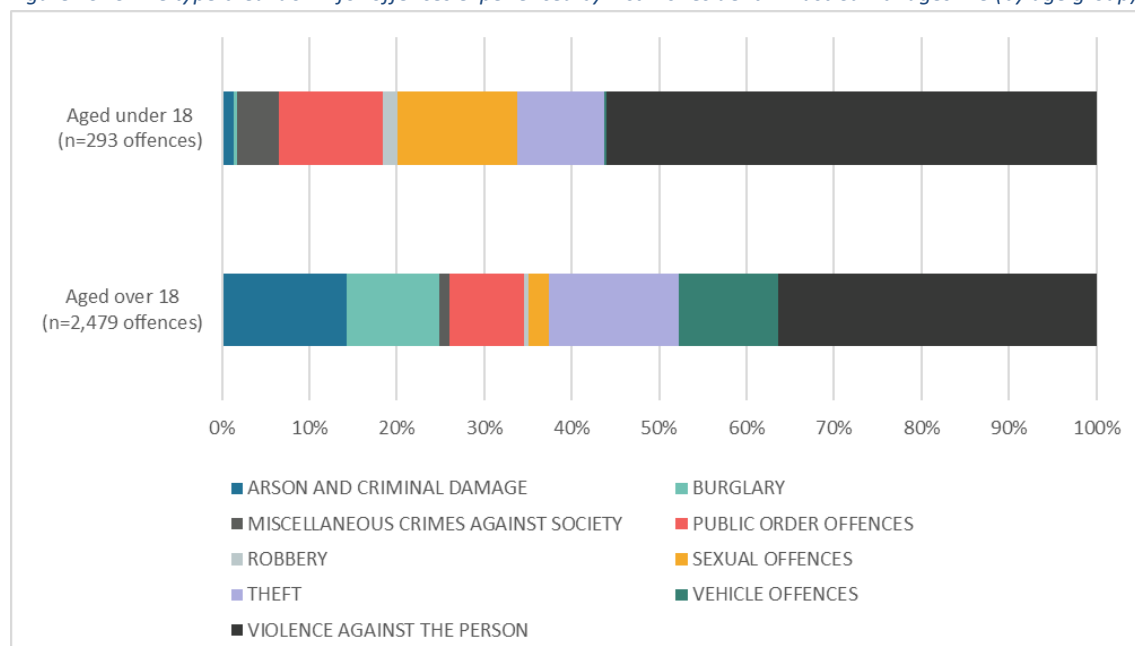
**The CSP could take the opportunity to pre-empt potential increases in hate crime and public order offences (which often overlap) as and when lockdown is lifted by increasing communications about this in a timely way.**

## COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES AFFECTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Local data provides evidence that young people are experiencing different crime types in East Cambridgeshire compared to adult residents of East Cambridgeshire. The figure below displays the crime type breakdown of offences experienced in 2019 by East Cambridgeshire resident victims of different age groups. There is some notable variation by age, with violence and sexual offences

accounting for a higher proportion of offences experienced by children when compared to the adult victim cohort.

Figure 15: Crime type breakdown for offences experienced by victims resident in East Cambridgeshire (by age group), 2019.



The wider impacts of COVID-19 are of great concern for Young People, for example children and Young People at risk of abuse at home who are less likely to be identified by authorities<sup>5</sup> due to lockdown restrictions or changes in opportunities for children and young people due to the impacts on educational and other positive activities during lockdown.

East Cambridgeshire has developed a Youth Strategy, to be discussed at the upcoming CSP board. A local Youth Board has been established and the way in which this operates will also be introduced to the CSP board.

The CSP should seek to be informed and guided by the Youth Board going forward and there is opportunity for the Youth Board, once fully running, to directly inform and influence the CSPs work going forward.

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.vamhn.co.uk/uploads/1/2/2/7/122741688/off\\_radar\\_c\\_yp\\_at\\_risk\\_report\\_part\\_1\\_.pdf](http://www.vamhn.co.uk/uploads/1/2/2/7/122741688/off_radar_c_yp_at_risk_report_part_1_.pdf)

## **PRIORITY 1: Understanding risk and vulnerability of individuals (people) and locations (places) and helping communities respond to this.**

A summary update on ECCSP activities aimed at this priority and grouped by topic is shown below.

<b>Victims</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identification of Victims via the Problem Solving Group (PSG) and the direct community input i.e. Neighbourhood Watch and direct communication with key partners</li> <li>2. Through delivery of Eyes and Ears raising awareness of support options across the County, for Scams and Fraud, Domestic Abuse (DA), Hate Crime, Safeguarding matters.</li> <li>3. Work with partners and Community groups to promote support to their service users e.g. to BAME, Gypsy Roma Travellers, people with a disability etc. either face to face or online.</li> </ol>
<b>Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)</b> <b>(also Anti-social Driving (ASD))</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to manage ASB case load at PSG. The PSG have previously received training in the use of ASB Powers</li> <li>2. Use OSARA plans to identify areas of high harm</li> <li>3. Better use of Civil Powers under the ASB act 2014 which bestows powers to Local Authority (LAs) Housing Association as well as the Const. e.g.: Community Protection Warnings and Dispersal Orders for Anti-Social Driving</li> <li>4. Reengage with managers of Leisure Village to identify ASB and ASD any areas of concerns: standard agenda items include ASD – ASB.</li> <li>5. Look to adopt Op Luscombe in East Cambs. Op Luscombe will use a traffic light enforcement system for homeless individuals who are found begging, suspected of begging or associated ASB.</li> <li>6. Utilise Op Romero which is aimed at early intervention in relation to Young People at risk of ASB low level criminality.</li> </ol>
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where repeat criminal damage takes place, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• offensive Graffiti</li> <li>• damage to play areas</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. To work in partnership and use available Partnership technology and a common combined media appeal to involve the public to help identify offenders.</li> </ol>
<b>Substance Misuse</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working in Partnership with CGL (Drug and alcohol service) and Primary Care Network – Ensure Membership at PSG – Delivery Group and Board</li> <li>2. CGL have offered Training in Naloxone kit – and are offering support in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needle exchange – needle disposal</li> <li>• Goal setting</li> <li>• Signposting</li> <li>• Support groups</li> <li>• Careers advice – Links with local job centre</li> <li>• Hep C+ testing (blood spot, Hep B C and HIV) – support and arrange treatment</li> <li>• High risk situation goal setting</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Ensure people who are not engaging with support service and continue to criminally fund their addictions are identified and brought to the attention of the police for enforcement action.</li> </ol>

<b>Fire</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue working in partnership with Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue (CFR) carrying out home visits to conduct welfare checks following reports of hoarding concern.</li> <li>2. Check fire alarms, carry out risk assessments, and refer to MASH team where necessary. Work with Police in cases of non-entry or no reply.</li> <li>3. To alert members of PSG so that they can be aware of potential risk</li> <li>4. Continue work to deliver Little Eyes and Ears through "Safety Zone" sessions.</li> </ol>
<b>Hate crime</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Through regular Communications updates promote – All Hate Crime must be reported to the Police for investigation</li> <li>2. Where identified pattern of behaviour become apparent Partnership working is considered e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hate Crime at secondary school</li> <li>• Graffiti aimed at ethnic groups</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <i>Share SAFE (Security advice for everyone) Training and information with Partners so we are better placed to support faith and minority communities.</i> Any community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime is eligible to receive advice from SAFE. SAFE offer a Webinar Programme: a series of 9 free one-hour security webinars delivered by CST.</li> <li>4. Deliver training through Eyes and Ears programme to schools and Community</li> <li>5. Promote the setting up of 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Reporting Centres</li> <li>6. Work with partners and Community groups to promote support to their service users e.g. to BAME, Gypsy Roma Travellers, people with a disability etc. either face to face or online.</li> </ol>
<b>Public Order</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. East Cambridgeshire does not have a particularly large night time economy and suffers very little significant public order offences within this. <i>See also ASB section.</i></li> </ol>
<b>Community safety Issues affecting Young People</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To ensure that specific information received in relation to young people's safety is documented and acted on by the relevant agency</li> <li>2. To ensure that general youth concerns are taken into consideration by the CSP and subsequent Tasking to the Delivery Group</li> <li>3. Engagement with the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and information gained/ concerns highlighted is passed onto Partnership groups</li> <li>4. The development of the Youth Strategy within East Cambridgeshire.</li> </ol>

### Summary of findings

The section covers issues relating to **CSP Priority 2: Working to tackle local issues of high harm.**

The Research Group reviewed and analysed a variety of data sets, and feedback from professionals. The key findings were;

**Acquisitive crime:** While the profile of acquisitive crime has remained relatively unchanged over time, there have been changes in volume through lockdown periods. A local increase in shoplifting during the first national lockdown when only essential shops remained open (contrary to the national trend), is something that the CSP needs to understand the causes of.

**Domestic Abuse (DA):** National lockdown was seen to impact on Domestic Abuse indicators nationally and locally, but the overall volume for 2020 reflected in East Cambridgeshire remains similar to the previous year. Analysis of local victim data confirms the fact that DA is not exclusively associated with Violence Against the Person crime types in East Cambridgeshire. Upcoming legislative changes will place a statutory duty on local authorities regarding the provision of safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse.

**Modern Slavery:** Only 1.4% of modern slavery offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were attributed to East Cambridgeshire in 2020 (Jan-Dec). This is in the context of an overall increase in recorded offences, which are often driven by police activity. National concern regarding County Lines exploitation of young people and Modern Slavery have been highlighted here.

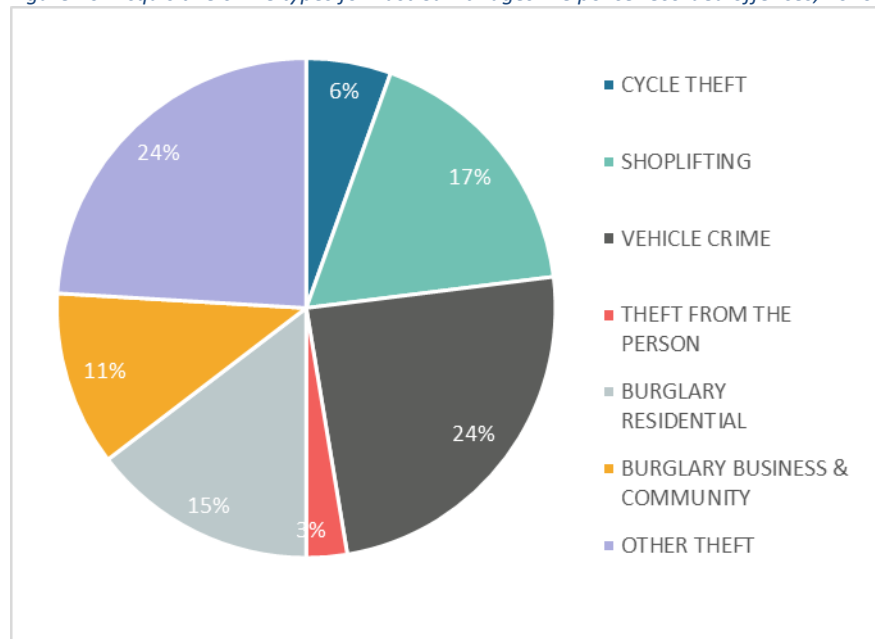
**Violence:** Violence against the person category crimes continue to rise, driven by increased recorded Stalking and Harassment offences. This may be influenced by changes in recording practice. Violence with injury can be monitored through additional health related data sources locally and shows a decline in volume during periods of national lockdown. However, knife related crime is of concern and whilst the volume of such crimes with this marker is a low proportion of total crime in East Cambridgeshire, there is a clear upward trend in these crimes locally.

## ACQUISITIVE CRIME

Acquisitive crime is a broad category but does include high harm crimes such as burglary and robbery.

The figure below shows the break down in offence types for acquisitive crime in East Cambridgeshire in 2020. Vehicle crime and 'other theft' were the most common offence types, each accounting for almost a quarter (24%) of all acquisitive crimes. Shoplifting offences and residential burglaries accounted for 17% and 15% respectively. Analysis showed little change in these percentages over the last five years, although the proportion of acquisitive crime accounted for by burglary (both residential and business) has decreased slightly since 2016.

Figure 16: Acquisitive crime types for East Cambridgeshire police recorded offences, 2020



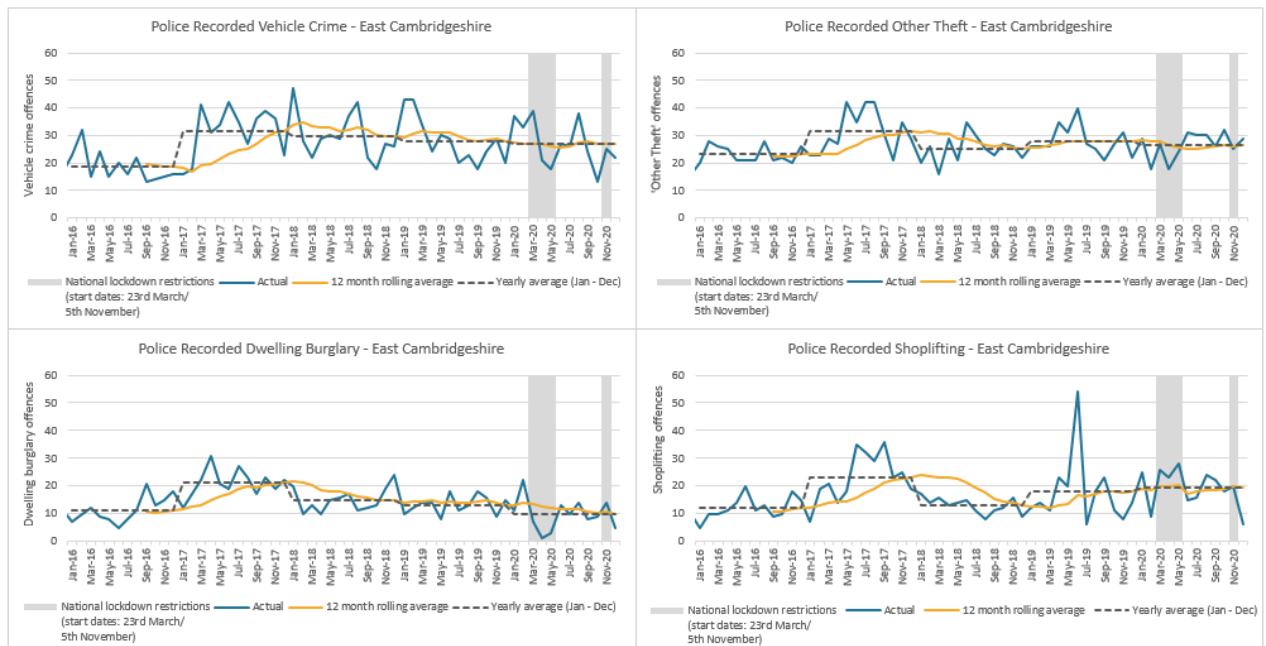
The figure below shows the monthly offence counts (2016-2020) for four of the key acquisitive crime types in East Cambridgeshire<sup>6</sup>. Unsurprisingly, dwelling burglaries dropped markedly in April and May 2020 during the national lockdown. It is likely that the 'stay at home' order and shift to home working for a large proportion of the working age population provided a 'suitable guardian' for dwellings, thus reducing the opportunity for offences. After the lifting of restrictions, offences returned to close to the pre-pandemic levels, indicating that the impact appears to be short-term whilst restrictions are in place. Long-term impacts of potential changes to lifestyles and working patterns will need to be monitored into the future.

Vehicle crime and 'other theft' also saw drops during the first lockdown. Shoplifting offences actually increased slightly during the time period despite the closure of shops selling non-essential goods and the limitation of shopping to only basic necessities. It is possible that an increase in shoplifting at this time may be driven by higher financial need in the community; shoplifting has been linked to food

<sup>6</sup> Burglary recording categories were changed from April 2017. The classification was changed from 'Dwelling Burglary' and 'Non-Dwelling Burglary' to 'Burglary Residential' and 'Burglary Business & Community'. The new 'Burglary Residential' category includes all buildings within the property boundary e.g. sheds, garages etc.

poverty in the UK. Further investigation would be needed to establish if this or other causes are at play in East Cambridgeshire.

Figure 17: Monthly breakdown of four acquisitive crime types in East Cambridgeshire, Jan 2016-Dec 2020



**Recommendation 2: The CSP should investigate the changes in shoplifting locally to understand what factors may have caused an increase, contrary to national trend, when non-essential shops were closed during the first national lockdown.**

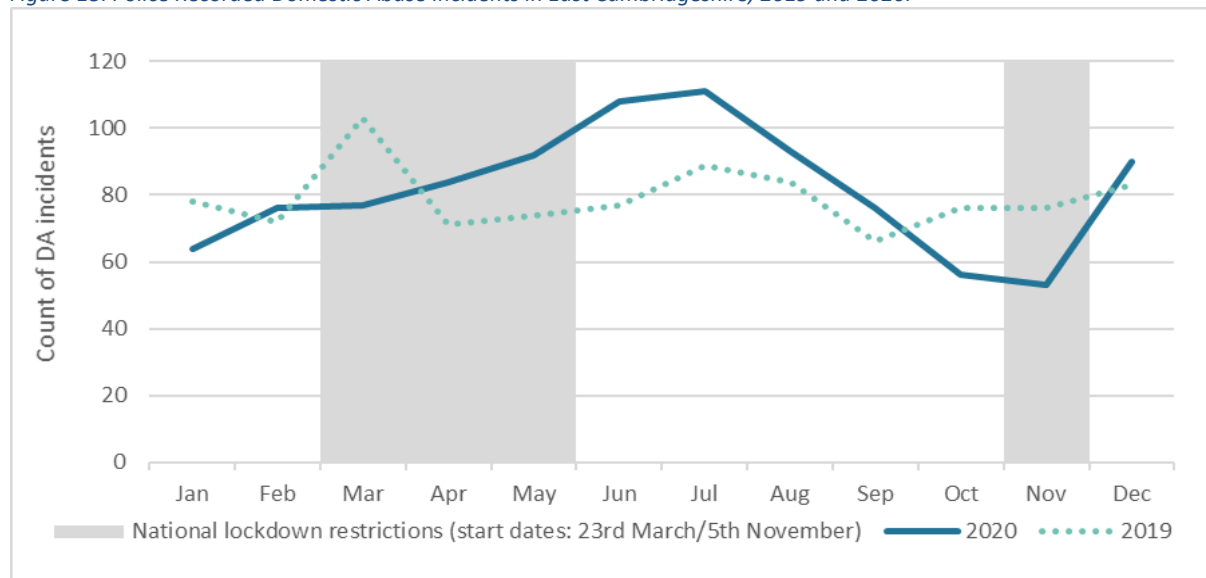
## DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) found that in the year ending March 2020 there was a slight decrease in the number of adults who had experienced domestic abuse compared to the previous year, whilst conversely the number of police-recorded domestic abuse offences had increased<sup>7</sup>. This pattern is consistent with recent years and is likely linked to increases in reporting of offences and improved recording.

National data for the time period around the first national lockdown shows that police recorded offences which were linked to domestic abuse increased by 7% between March and June 2020<sup>8</sup>. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) cautions, however, that due to ongoing steady increases in recent years it is not possible to directly link this increase to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local police recorded incident data for Domestic Abuse, shown in the figure below, indicates that while the peaks and troughs of incidents occurred at different times in the year, the overall volume of DA incidents were similar across 2019 (949 incidents) and 2020 (980 incidents).

Figure 18: Police Recorded Domestic Abuse Incidents in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 and 2020.



The Cambridgeshire Research group has recently carried out analysis of local data relating to Victims, Suspects and Offenders<sup>9</sup>. The 2019 data set for victims in East Cambridgeshire confirms that a majority (81%) of domestic abuse-related offences were within the Violence Against the Person crime group. Within the Violence Against the Person offences, analysis of the sub-categories showed that over half (53%) were Violence Without Injury, with Violence With Injury accounting for 24% and Stalking and Harassment accounting for 23%. Other crime types were also seen including arson and criminal damage (6.3%) as shown in the figure below.

7

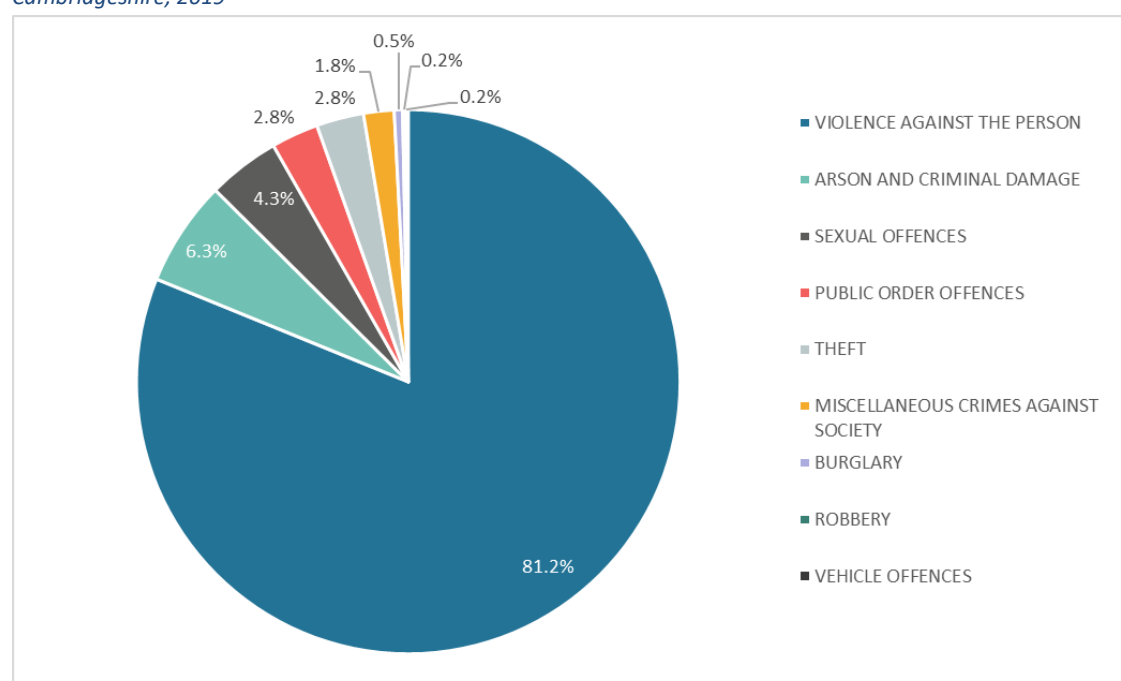
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2020>

<sup>8</sup> Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic the CSEW methodology for 2020 changed and these questions were not included.

<sup>9</sup> [https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/VOSNA-2020-Report\\_Final.pdf](https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/VOSNA-2020-Report_Final.pdf)



Figure 19: Breakdown in crime type for domestic abuse-related offences experienced by victims resident in East Cambridgeshire, 2019



Nationally, an increase in demand has been observed for domestic abuse support services. The National Domestic Abuse Helpline saw a 65% increase in calls/contacts and a 700% increase in website visits in April-June 2020, compared to January-March 2020<sup>10</sup>. It is not yet clear whether these increases represent simply a higher number of victims or whether they are attributed to lockdown impacting on the severity of abuse experienced and/or the coping mechanisms available to victims.

### Changes since April 2020

Understandable concern has been voiced in the media about the impact of lockdowns, as used as a measure to tackle the spread of COVID-19, and the scale and seriousness of domestic abuse. Locally the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership (DASV) have monitored levels of reporting and access to services throughout this year. Through this monitoring it has been found that whilst there was a small initial decrease during the first lockdown and subsequent rise as those measures were relaxed, the overall level of high-risk referrals to the Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) which support high risk cases, has now returned to a stable level for Cambridgeshire. This pattern is also seen in East Cambridgeshire as shown in the table below.

Table 4: East Cambridgeshire IDVA referrals, 2019 and 2020

Total IDVA Referrals	2019	2020
Jan-Mar	21	18
Apr-Jun	22	32
Jul-Sep	27	17
Oct-Dec	15	26

<sup>10</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2020>

Services have adapted to the current requirements and there is now a blended approach to delivery allowing for online support where possible.

### **New Domestic Abuse Bill 2020**

The Domestic Abuse Bill has now passed from the House of Commons and is under consideration in the House of Lords. If successful, it is expected to become law in April 2021. The Bill places a statutory duty on local authorities regarding the provision of safe accommodation for victims of Domestic Abuse.

Four duties are proposed:

1. Tier 1 local authorities will be required to convene a multi-agency Local Partnership Board (LPB) to support them in performing certain specified functions.
2. A duty on Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to produce the Statutory Guidance;
3. A duty for Local Authorities to have regard to Statutory Guidance in exercising the above functions; and,
4. A duty on Tier 2 district, borough and city councils and London Boroughs to co-operate with Tier 1 authorities.

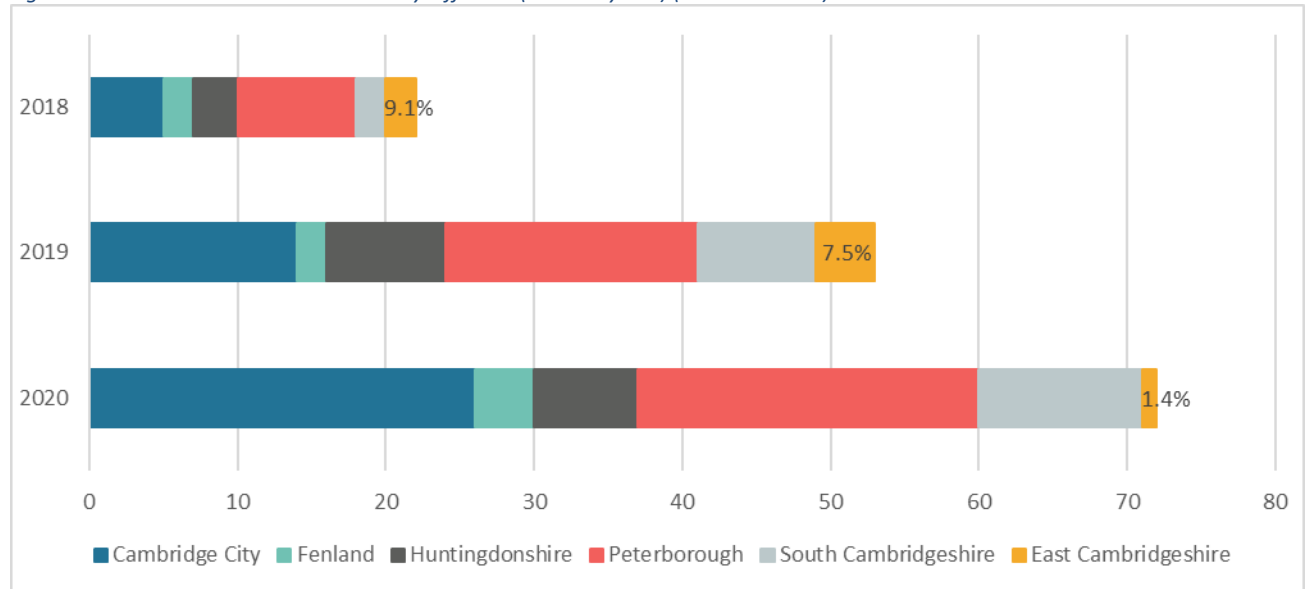
A domestic homicide review (DHR) is ongoing in East Cambridgeshire, with finalised recommendations due to be published imminently. The outcomes from this review as well as the impacts of the upcoming legislative change in this area should be taken into account as ECCSP develops its action plan in 2020/21.

As of January 2021, a centralised Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) process has been agreed across the County and will be managed through the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership in order to resource a DHR when the need arises.

## MODERN SLAVERY

Confirmed cases of Modern Slavery can be quantified by police recorded crime at a local level. Only 1.4% of modern slavery offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were attributed to East Cambridgeshire in 2020 (Jan-Dec). This is in the context of an overall increase in recorded offences, which are often driven by police activity, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 20: Police Recorded Modern Slavery Offences (Jan-Dec years) (Source: CADET)



Referrals of potential victims to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), are also a valuable indicator<sup>11</sup>. While local level statistics for this are not currently available, key demographics are provided in national analysis of NRM referrals. Referrals involving County Lines exploitation are increasingly involving males under 18 as shown in the figure below.

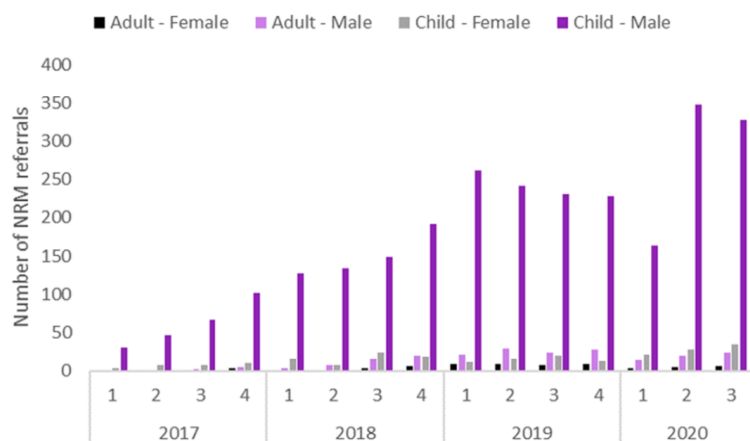


Figure 21: Number of NRM referrals flagged as county lines, by age group at exploitation and gender, 2017-2020 (Source: Home Office)

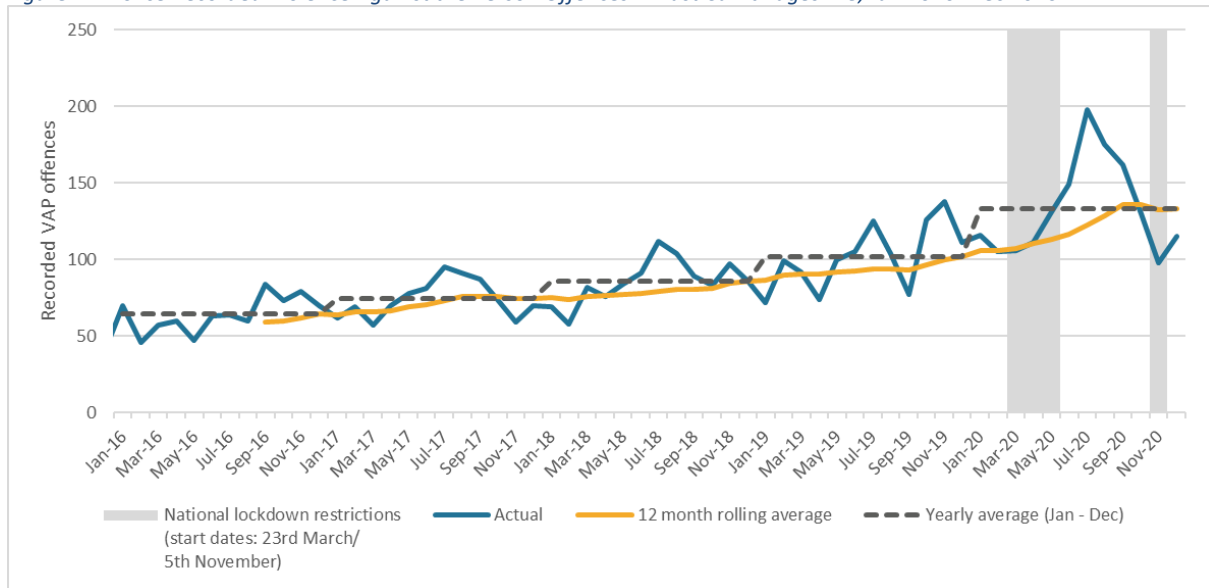
A countywide action plan is being developed on the issues of Exploitation and County Lines and is due to be presented at the ECCSP board at the next meeting. The CSP will need to consider how their actions on these issues can connect with this plan.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-quarter-3-2020-july-to-september/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-quarter-3-2020-july-to-september>

## VIOLENCE

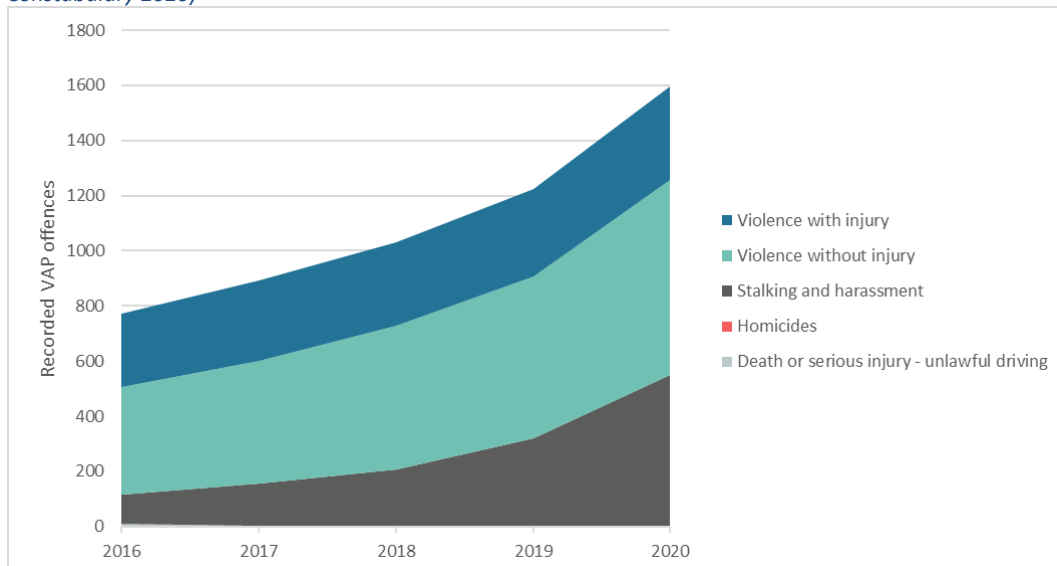
In the most recent national statistical release (year ending September 2020), the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated total violence to be similar to recent years with police recorded Violence Against the Person increasing 4% compared to the previous year<sup>12</sup>. A long term trend of increase in VAP for East Cambridgeshire is shown in the figure below, with a doubling in average monthly volume since 2016. While both national lockdowns saw a drop in VAP offences, a peak (totalling 198 offences) between lockdowns in July 2020 is evident in East Cambridgeshire.

Figure 22: Police Recorded Violence Against the Person Offences in East Cambridgeshire, Jan 2016- Dec 2020



A breakdown of annual police recorded VAP crime counts is shown in the figure below.

Figure 23: Police Recorded Violence Against the Person in East Cambridgeshire by type (Source: CADET/ Cambridgeshire Constabulary 2020)



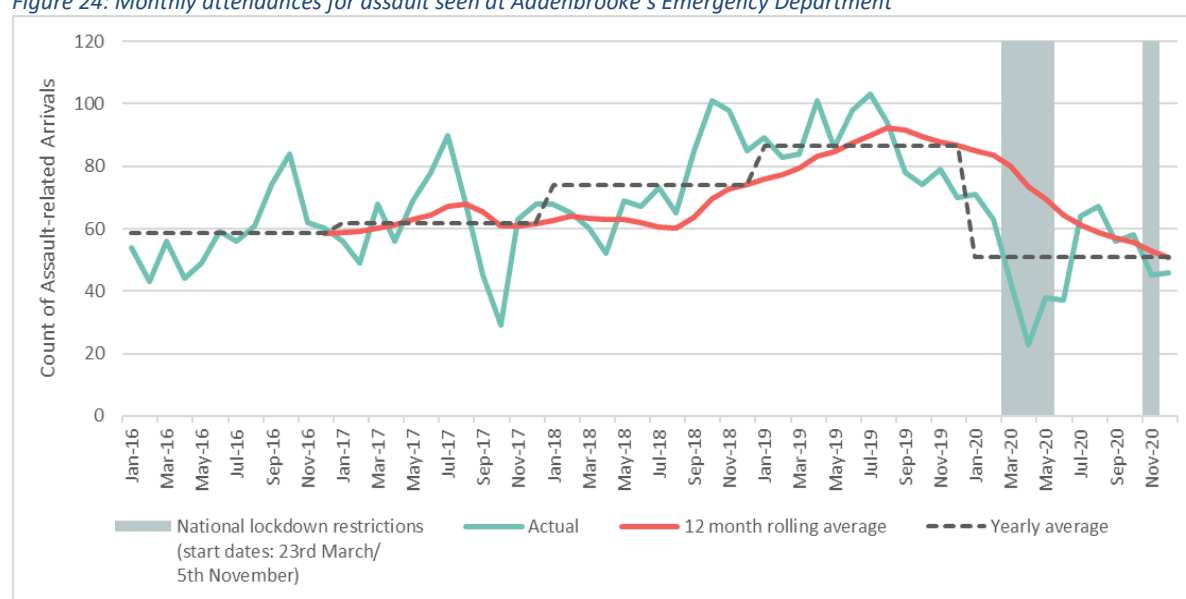
<sup>12</sup>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingseptember2020#trends-in-police-recorded-crime>

In 2020 stalking and harassment offences formed 34% of VAP crime in East Cambridgeshire, compared to 26% of VAP in 2019. Stalking and harassment has been a driver of the overall increase in this crime group. This may be linked to changing recording practices<sup>13</sup>, however support services have highlighted increased cyberstalking since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the experiences of victims being impacted by lockdown<sup>14</sup>. However, Violence without injury forms a major proportion (44%) of VAP crime for 2020, equating to a rate of 7.84 crimes per 1000 population in East Cambridgeshire<sup>15</sup>.

Violence with injury recorded by police occurred at a rate of 3.8 crimes per 1000 population in 2020. Heath service data is important in understanding patterns of violence with injury as not all violent incidents are reported to police. Addenbrooke's Emergency Department has been collecting and sharing data about the number and location of assaults for a number of years. Below the trend is outlined, showing a marked drop in assault related arrivals through March-June 2020 as the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions are seen. The yearly average is also lower than previous levels recorded in this data set.

Figure 24: Monthly attendances for assault seen at Addenbrooke's Emergency Department



<sup>13</sup> The ONS explains the changes to recording as follows: "Since April 2018 there has been a change to the Home Office Counting Rules whereby in a course of conduct amounting to either stalking, harassment or controlling and coercive behaviour, this offence will be recorded in addition to the most serious additional offence involving the same victim or offender. This is expected to cause an increase in offences recorded against harassment and stalking."

<sup>14</sup> <https://paladinservice.co.uk/nsaw-paladin-bulletin/>

<sup>15</sup> Calculated using ONS Mid-2019 population estimate, which is the latest published.

*Table 5: Assault related ambulance callouts  
by East Cambridgeshire Ward (2020)*

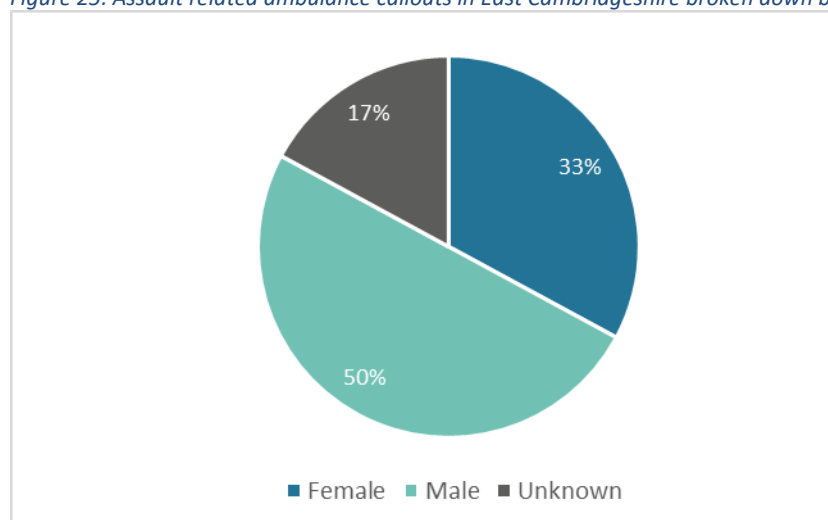
Ward	Count of Assault related ambulance callouts (2020)
Soham South	16
Ely East	12
Ely West	12
Littleport	8
Fordham & Isleham	7
Haddenham	5
Soham North	<5
Sutton	<5
Burwell	<5
Ely North	<5
Bottisham	<5
Downham Villages	<5
Stretham	<5
Woodditton	<5
Total	76

Source: East of England Ambulance Trust

The East of England Ambulance Trust is now working with Cambridgeshire Research Group to provide anonymised ambulance callout data relating to assaults at a more local level. Geographical analysis has been conducted on this data. There were 15.6% fewer assault related ambulance callouts in East Cambridgeshire in 2020 (total of 76) compared to 2019 (90). The breakdown of total callouts by ward is shown here in Table 5.

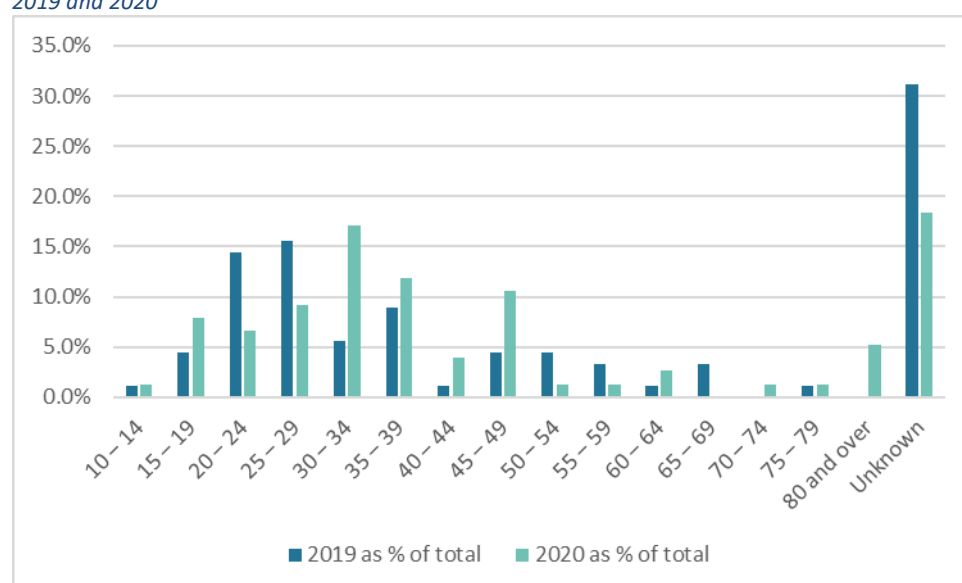
In 2020 50% of callouts were for Males and 33% for Females (a similar proportion to 2019).

*Figure 25: Assault related ambulance callouts in East Cambridgeshire broken down by recorded gender, 2020*



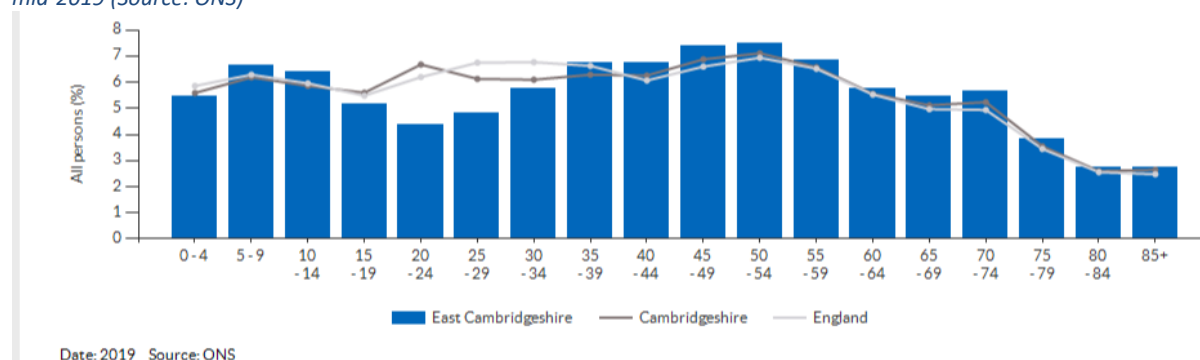
In terms of the demographic breakdown of the recent ambulance callout data, the largest 5 year age group represented in 2019 was age 25-29 years (15.6% of callouts for East Cambridgeshire). In 2020 17.1% of callouts were for patients age 30-34, which is a higher proportion than in 2019 as shown in the figure below.

Figure 26: Assault related ambulance callouts in East Cambridgeshire for 2019 and 2020, broken down by 5 year age group, 2019 and 2020



Ambulance data here broadly reflects key demographic points from national analysis of assault related demands on health services, with the exception of an older age group featuring more frequently in the local 2020 data<sup>16</sup>. For example, national figures highlighted that in the year ending December 2019 males accounted for nearly 7 in 10 violence-related ED attendances and the age group 18-30 years as having the highest injury rate, followed by 11-17 years. However patients aged 30-34 featured more frequently in the local ambulance callout data, even though the local population estimates show East Cambridgeshire has a lower proportion of people in this age group compared to England as a whole (see the figure below). The various data sources regarding violence with injury would need further interrogation to understand if the older age ranges featuring in local assault related ambulance callouts needs attention from the CSP at this time.

Figure 27: Estimated population by 5 year age group in East Cambridgeshire compared to England and Cambridgeshire, mid-2019 (Source: ONS)

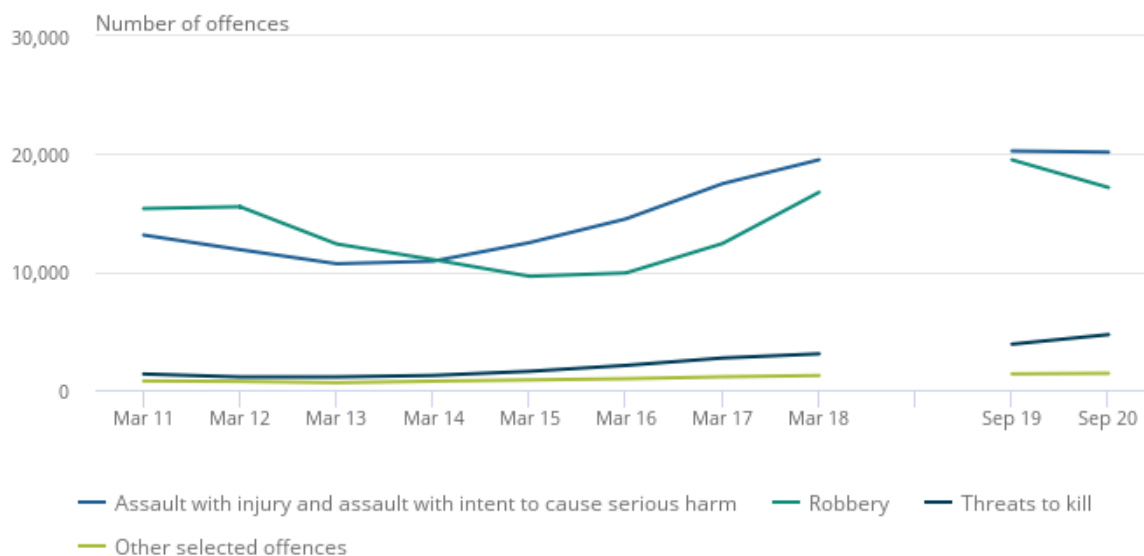


**Knife crime** has been largely reported as increasing nationally for several years, with variations in the extent of this across the country. However, ONS has reported a national 3% decrease in offences involving knives or sharp instruments recorded by the police in the year ending September 2020,

<sup>16</sup> services (sample of 111 NHS , EDs, MIUs and Walk-in Centres in England and Wales data from EDs and walk in centres across England and Wales)

compared to the previous year. This has been attributed to the impact of the first national lockdown in 2020 on robbery offences in particular, as illustrated by the figure below.

*Figure 28: In England and Wales, Crimes involving knives or sharp instruments decreased in the latest year, driven by a decrease in robbery offences involving knives (ONS/ Home Office).*



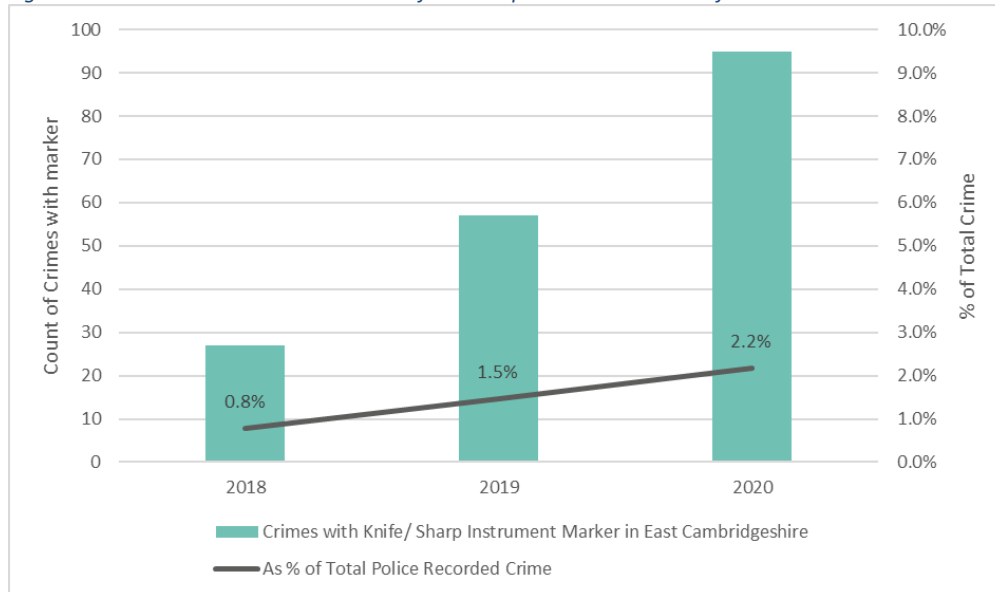
Annual national analysis of health data reflects a shift in the demographics of those needing treatment following assault with a knife or sharp object. From 2015/16 to 2018/19 there has been an increase in volume and severity of injury but also a decrease in average age. A shift towards more girls being injured was also observed through this data<sup>17</sup>. Local data across various sources would be needed to understand the demographics of those requiring treatment following assault with a knife and meaningful comparisons.

Locally we can refer to police recorded crime with a 'Knife or sharp instrument' marker, indicating that systems have identified a so-called 'sharp instrument keyword' in the record, which are shown in the figure below. Whilst the volume of such crimes with this marker is a low proportion of total crime in East Cambridgeshire there is a clear upward trend. The count of these crimes has more than doubled since 2018 (27 crimes) to 2020 (95 crimes).

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/2288520/Violence-in-England-and-Wales-2019\\_NVSN-Annual-Report.pdf](https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/2288520/Violence-in-England-and-Wales-2019_NVSN-Annual-Report.pdf)



Figure 29: Police recorded crime with a knife or sharp instrument marker from 2018 to 2020 in East Cambridgeshire.



**Recommendation 3: To assess the situation regarding VAP in East Cambridgeshire in more detail, particularly in relation to Stalking and Harassment, Violence with injury and associated knife crime.**

To this end the CSP could:

- Explore and clarify its response to the increase in reported Stalking and Harassment crimes.
- Understand the demographics of violence with injury in East Cambridgeshire, as seen across health and police data sources, in more detail and configure an appropriate response. Particularly (but not exclusively) in relation to knife crime in East Cambridgeshire which has seen an increase according to police markers.

## PRIORITY 2: Update - Working to tackle local issues of high harm.

A summary update on ECCSP activities aimed at this priority and grouped by topic is shown below.

<b>Acquisitive crime</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Currently developing a Safer Business Safer Streets Pack Helping businesses to prevent crime and respond to community safety issues in local town centres and business premises. The pack has been designed specifically for local businesses to help with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventing an Incident</li> <li>• Responding to an Incident</li> <li>• Recovering from an Incident</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Offer Crime Reduction Events to all Parish Councils and Community Groups Conference</li> <li>3. Regular contact with Parish Councils re. Eyes and Ears Training, Scams and Fraud, Safeguarding for Volunteers.</li> <li>4. Encourage Parish Councils to sign up as CAPASP Supporters</li> </ol>
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to raise awareness through Eyes and Ears training</li> <li>2. Renew White Ribbon Accreditation for ECDC</li> <li>3. DA to be included in the CSP quarterly newsletters</li> <li>4. Training for all ECDC staff to be rolled out beginning 2021</li> <li>5. Regular Communications through Social Media and CSP News Letter</li> </ol>
<b>Modern Slavery</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue membership of the Eastern Regional Anti-Slavery Partnership</li> <li>2. Maintain good links to partner agencies to identify Modern slavery investigations linked to County Lines cases</li> <li>3. Links to Safer Business Safer Streets Pack to ensure organisations are aware of the slavery and human trafficking statement. Training through Unseen and Eyes and Ears include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know what modern slavery is and how to spot the signs?</li> <li>• Know how and when to report any concerns?</li> <li>• Understand your legal responsibilities under the Modern Slavery Act?</li> <li>• where to turn for advice, guidance and support</li> <li>• Understand the National Referral Mechanism and how you can support victims in accessing Government-funded services.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Violence</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Partnership can play a part in tackling violent crime by encouraging increased reporting. For example, Eyes and Ears awareness raising to encourage the reporting of crimes.</li> <li>2. Working in Partnership through PSG to ensure information is captured and passed to relevant authorities.</li> </ol>

## APPENDIX A: CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH THEMATIC MATRIX

### PARTNERSHIP MATRIX

