



# COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT:

### EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT

2021/22

VERSION 1.0 (MARCH 2021 BOARD)

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# 1. Introduction

# 1.1. Understanding the wider context – Countywide View

The East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is one of six within the Cambridgeshire police force area alongside county thematic groups that makes up the County Community Safety Board. This Countywide approach encompasses the two-tier area of Cambridgeshire and the unitary authority of Peterborough City Council. It 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 B for the countywide matrix) allowing for agencies to lead or support where appropriate. This allows the CSP to be heavily involved in developing strategies whilst freeing up the CSP itself to tackle local issues.

In May 2021 a new Police and Crime Commissioner was elected. Daryl Preston came into post on 13th May 2021 and began consultation for his Police and Crime Plan in July 2021. The consultation report was published in November 2021 (OPCC for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, 2021). The Police and Crime Plan 2021 to 2024 has subsequently been published (OPCC for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 2021). Included in this plan an offer of three-year funding to CSP areas with a focus on co-ordination of local problem solving activity. East Cambridgeshire has accepted this offer and is currently in the process of recruiting to a Problem Solving Coordinator post created with this funding. The OPCC also has a 'Communities Fund' available for the CSP to bid for specific projects addressing problems identified via the local problem solving group and problem solving coordinator post.

### 1.2. Current Context – COVID-19

The COVID-19 lockdown periods are defined throughout this report as shown in the table below. Summary time periods for lockdowns are shown on charts where possible. This provides important context to the figures shown as the impact of lockdown periods on crime and community safety indicators have been wide-ranging and varied.

Whilst COVID-19 restrictions in England have since been removed, there are changes in patterns of behaviour which may be sustained in the medium to long term. For example, working from home more often. These behaviour changes may also influence crime and community safety issues; however any lasting changes may take some time to fully evidence.

Table 1: Lockdown periods represented in this report

Label	Summary Time Period	Actual Dates	Phase
Lockdown period	Apr – Jun 2020 November 2020 January – March 2021	23rd March 2020 – 15 <sup>th</sup> June/ 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 5th Nov 2020 - 2nd December 2020 6th January 2021 – 29th March 2021	Stay at home advice
Lockdown easing period	December 2020 April – Jul 2021	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2020- 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 2nd December 2020 - 6th January 2021 29th March 2021 - 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Relaxation of restrictions, gradual reopening of businesses and partial behavioural changes/restrictions

### 1.3. National trends and the effects of COVID-19

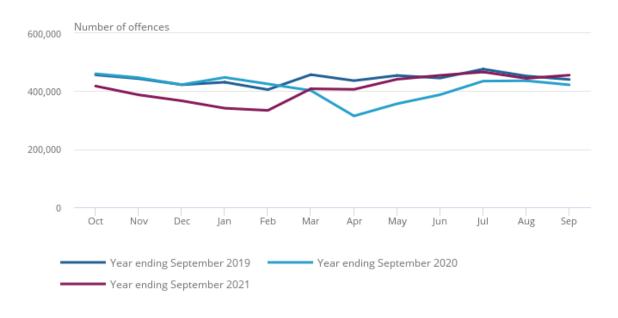
The latest published national statistics for England and Wales includes data to the year ending September 2021 (ONS, 2022).

This publication highlighted that there has been a 14% increase in total crime (as estimated by the Crime Survey for England and Wales), driven by a 47% increase in fraud and computer misuse. A separate section on fraud and computer misuse has been added to this year's strategic assessment in response to this.

When crime figures are viewed without fraud and computer misuse there is a 14% decrease, attributed to an 18% decrease in theft offences.

National lockdowns lead to a decrease in a number of crime types, however overall figures are now returning to (or sometimes surpassing) pre-pandemic levels as shown in the chart below.

Figure 1: Police recorded crime (excluding fraud and compute misuse) year ending September. England and Wales. Source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime.



Source: Home Office - Police recorded crime

COVID-19 has given rise to the development of new crime types and trends. A series of papers published by UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science Research highlight the rise of new crime issues. For example, contactless card payments crimes, frauds and the use of face masks as crime facilitators (COVID-19 Special Papers 2022) (UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science, 2022).

# 1.4. Executive summary

The following describes the key findings for each section of this strategic assessment report, outlined in turn by topic.

# 1.5. Personal Safety

Fluctuations in acquisitive crime, domestic abuse and violence around national lockdown periods and influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic are described in this section of the report. Differences between the trend in East Cambridgeshire and nationally (namely in regards knife crime) could be explored via the assessment process required as part of the Serious Violence Duty.

Modern slavery appears to be underrepresented in East Cambridgeshire crime figures, despite being a setting that is conducive to this activity. It is likely this high harm activity is being overlooked locally.

There is some overlap between Modern slavery and county lines activity, as highlighted by National Referral Mechanism statistics. County lines activity does continue to pose a threat to East Cambridgeshire, not least to young people.

Police recorded Child Sexual Exploitation offences have seen an increase across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough since 2018, including East Cambridgeshire. Nationally the increased time spent online through the pandemic has been highlighted as generating increased risk to young people around this issue.

# 1.6. Community Harm

Police recorded anti-social behaviour in East Cambridgeshire has generally returned to pre-pandemic levels with a lower proportion of ASB incidents that are youth-related in 2021 compared to the previous two years. The proportion of ASB incidents of the environmental category has slightly increased between 2019 and 2021. The issue of e-scooters is outlined in this report, however police recorded anti-social behaviour incident data is low in volume.

In terms of substance misuse, the overall volume of police recorded drug offences remains relatively low in East Cambridgeshire. There remains potential to improve understanding of patterns of substance misuse affecting East Cambridgeshire, both from healthcare data and upcoming Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis.

Deliberate fires continue a trend of decrease in East Cambridgeshire, with a small proportion of deliberate fires in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough attributed to the district.

East Cambridgeshire has experienced a long-term increase in police recorded Hate Crime, following national trend, albeit from a low base. There has been a shift towards more Arson and criminal damage crimes in East Cambridgeshire recently. However criminal damage as whole has declined in volume since 2019. Public order offences have increased since 2019, albeit from a low base.

Nationally there has been a 14% increase in total crime (as estimated by the Crime Survey for England and Wales), driven by a 47% increase in fraud and computer misuse to the year ending September 2021. This has likely been influenced by changes in behaviour due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Cyber and tech-enabled crime has been raised as a concern beyond the issues of Fraud, scams and cyber crime. This is particularly in relation to Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation. The consideration of online and tech-enabled abuse and exploitation is important to highlight.

### 1.7. Recommendations

The current priorities for the CSP are:

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

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

A great deal of activity across various issues has been carried out by the CSP in the last year. Changes to the CSP structure (namely delivery groups, task and finish groups and problem solving groups) are also becoming embedded. However the full impact of the work completed under the current priorities is not clearly defined. It is therefore difficult to confidently assess the CSP actions in relation to the indicators and trends described in this strategic assessment. It is recommended that the CSP explores and establishes a way to routinely assess and record the impacts of CSP activity in more detail going forward.

The following should be highlighted in this year's assessment:

- East Cambridgeshire CSP is likely unsighted on Modern Slavery in the district, even though it is a setting conducive to this crime type.
- County lines activity remains a threat in East Cambridgeshire, with young people most likely to be exploited
- Child Sexual Exploitation is showing an increase, though is (like modern slavery), likely underreported.

The overarching theme here is exploitation. It is therefore recommended to refine priority 2 to specifically focus on exploitation in the coming year. The CSP needs to ask how exploitation can be better identified in the area and how can

the opportunities of multiagency working be maximised to prevent exploitation. Beginning with Modern Slavery, expanding to the overlapping issue of exploitation in county lines is a suggested starting point.

Specific to Modern Slavery; it is recommended that the CSP revisit and refresh awareness raising of the signs of Modern Slavery and how to report those signs. Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis in 2021 also recommended that the CSP and partners (including police, as appropriate) undertake intelligence-led visits to agricultural firms, farms, construction sites and factories to gather intelligence and identify any exploitation of the workforce.

County Lines activity is also characterised by exploitative activity with young people often targeted. While County Lines may be less prevalent in East Cambridgeshire than in other parts of Cambridgeshire, its impacts (such as serious violence incidents) are severe. As a starting point it is recommended that the CSP seek to access resources developed by Cambridge City CSP to build awareness of county lines amongst young people. This could be done in light of learning from the existing CSP actions to understand what is affecting young people in East Cambridgeshire.

CSE is a high harm crime that is showing an increase according to police recorded crime data. Again the existing CSP actions to understand what is affecting young people in East Cambridgeshire could be reflected upon to support any CSE prevention work or awareness raising.

The evidence points in the direction of changes that are not yet fully understood around the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore it is recommended that priority 1 is also refined to focus on understanding risk and vulnerability of communities, taking into account recovery from the pandemic period.

Cyber and tech-enabled crime has been raised as a concern beyond the issues of Fraud, scams and cyber crime (which are increasing nationally). This is particularly relevant in relation to Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation. A broader recommendation is that for each of the activities in the action plan developed, the CSP is assess how online/ tech-enabled elements can be addressed.

Changes in national policy, namely the Serious Violence Duty and the National Drugs Strategy are expected to influence the work of the CSP in the coming year and the CSP should be kept up to date with their progression. It is recommended that East Cambridgeshire should be put forward for further analysis as part of the Serious Violence duty needs assessment process as a result of its contrast with national knife crime trend in 2020-2021. Allowing space in the CSP action plan to respond to upcoming constabulary analysis of the local drug market in due course is also recommended. In addition, the establishment of an Integrated Care System for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will introduce new structures that the CSP may be able to engage with moving forward.

# 2. Personal Safety

Acquisitive crime: There have been substantial reductions in acquisitive crime nationally and locally, linked to reduced opportunities for offending because of the pandemic and associated government restrictions. The trend in East Cambridgeshire is mostly in line with national acquisitive crime trends. For East Cambridgeshire specifically, there was a fall of 18% between 2019 and 2021, with burglary falling by over a third (35%), theft falling by 12% and vehicle offences falling by 10%. The theft of catalytic converters from vehicles has been identified as a national issue in recent years, with offending often linked to organised crime. In East Cambridgeshire there was an increase from 11 offences in 2019 to 63 in 2021, representing just over a quarter (26%) of all theft from motor vehicle/vehicle interference offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2021.

**Domestic Abuse:** Fluctuations in Domestic abuse incidents, crime and demand on support services in 2020-2021 have been driven by the effects of the pandemic and associated government restrictions, some of the reasons for which are outlined in this section of the document. The overall volume of police recorded DA incidents in East Cambridgeshire has been relatively stable since 2019. There has been a small increase in police recorded DA crimes (both volume and rate per 1000 population). It is unclear from the data whether this is a result of improved recording or an actual increase in crimes occurring.

**Modern Slavery:** Police recorded Modern Slavery offences in East Cambridgeshire have continued to be low in comparison to records in other districts in recent years. This is contrary to the national growth in Modern slavery investigations and referrals of potential victims via the National Referral Mechanism for potential victims of Modern Slavery (NRM). East Cambridgeshire has characteristics that make Modern Slavery offences more feasible and as such it is likely such this high harm activity is being overlooked locally.

**County Lines:** Whilst thought to be at a lesser extent than in other parts of Cambridgeshire, County Lines does continue to pose a threat in East Cambridgeshire. The associated serious violence and risks to young people are important to acknowledge.

**Violence:** There continues to be a long term decrease in violence nationally with some further reductions attributed to less violence in public spaces during national lockdowns. The variations around lockdowns periods in East Cambridgeshire did not follow the national pattern. It is likely that stalking and harassment offences, particularly those that are tech-enabled and unaffected by lockdowns, underpin this difference. But further investigation into the data is needed to confirm this theory.

In the year ending September 2021 there has been a national increase in Violence Against the Person offences, driven by increased stalking and harassment subcategory offences. The trend in East Cambridgeshire in police recorded violence against the person has been an overall increase compared to 2019, however it is unclear at this stage whether this trend will continue in the long term. Comparing 2021 with 2019 East Cambridgeshire recorded the highest percentage increase in the force area of 31%, albeit this is from a comparatively low base level.

Unprecedented restrictions imposed on free movement of citizens and businesses to limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic saw a major decrease in serious violence with injury nationally. This is reflected in local healthcare data sources. However, COVID-19 did not alter the distribution of risk in sustaining injury in violence by gender or age group. Males and those aged 18-30 remain at highest risk of violence-related injury.

**Knife crime:** Decreases in knife crime have occurred nationally during the national lockdown periods. However, in East Cambridgeshire there were increases during lockdowns, albeit from a very low base. This apparent contrast between the national and local trends would require further analysis to understand. Potentially this could be covered by the assessment process for the new Serious Violence Duty. The most recent 3 quarters of 2021 do indicate a return to pre-pandemic period levels of knife crime recorded in East Cambridgeshire.

**Child Sexual Exploitation:** Constabulary-wide Child Sexual Exploitation crimes have seen a year-on-year increase since 2018. East Cambridgeshire has followed the national pattern of increase. Nationally the increased time spent online through the pandemic has been highlighted as generating increased risk to young people around this issue.

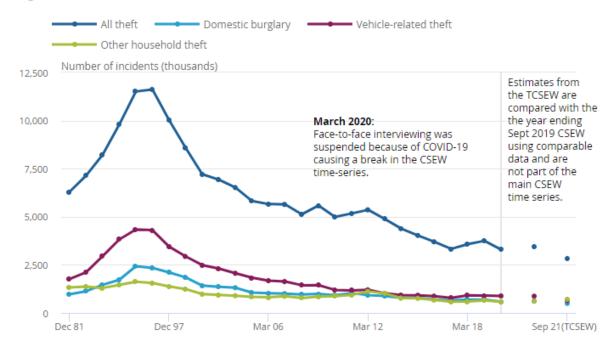
# 2.1. Acquisitive crime

Acquisitive crime is a broad crime category, encompassing a wide range of offences which vary considerably in the level of associated personal harm, for example, from shoplifting to personal robbery. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides the best estimates of long-term trends in high volume crime such as theft and shows long-term reductions in these crime types as illustrated in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: National statistics Theft (Source: ONS)

Figure 9: The CSEW shows long-term reductions in theft offences





National data has shown substantial reductions in acquisitive crime during the past two years, linked to reduced opportunities for offending because of the pandemic and associated government restrictions. The TCSEW (Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales) showed an 18% fall in theft offences in the year ending September 2021 compared to the pre-pandemic year ending September 2019. Reductions were seen in most sub-categories with the greatest falls recorded for theft from the person (53%), vehicle-related offences (26%) and bicycle theft (23%). The reduction in theft offences was the primary driver for the overall reduction in crime (when excluding fraud and computer misuse) seen in the TCSEW for this time period.

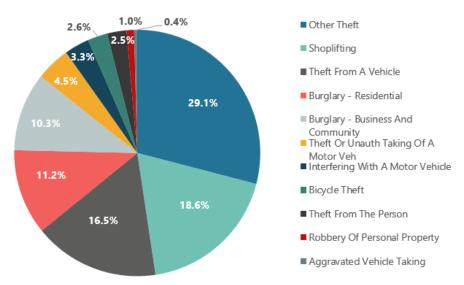
National police recorded crime data also reflects this pattern with a 14% reduction in theft offences in the year ending September 2021 compared to the previous year. The greatest decreases were seen in burglary (21%), theft from the person (20%), vehicle offences (14%) and shoplifting (13%). A 9% increase in metal theft was

recorded nationally which has been linked to improvements in the recording of catalytic converter thefts by the Metropolitan Police.

Local police recorded crime data shows a similar pattern in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with an overall decrease of 32% in the number of acquisitive crimes recorded in 2021 compared to 2019. For East Cambridgeshire specifically, there was a fall of 18% between 2019 and 2021, with burglary falling by over a third (35%), theft falling by 12% and vehicle offences falling by 10%.

Figure 2 (below) shows the proportion of all acquisitive crimes accounted for by the range of offence sub-groups. 'Other theft' accounted for the highest proportion of acquisitive crime in East Cambridgeshire in 2021 at 29%. The next most prevalent acquisitive crime types were 'shoplifting' (19%), 'theft from a vehicle' (17%), 'burglary - residential' (11%) and 'burglary business and community' (10%). The primary change in this breakdown over the past two years is a reduction in the proportion of residential burglary from 18% in 2019 to 11% in 2021, likely linked to lockdown restrictions and the shift to home working increasing the presence of 'suitable guardians' at residential dwellings and consequently reducing the opportunities for offending.

Figure 3: Police recorded acquisitive crime in East Cambridgeshire, 2021, crime subtype breakdown

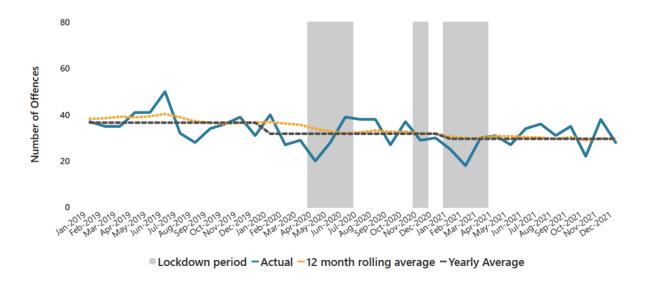


The following section outlines the three-year trend for the most prevalent acquisitive crime types in East Cambridgeshire.

### 2.1.1. Other Theft

The predominant offence type under the 'Other Theft' crime category in East Cambridgeshire between 2019-2021 were 'theft if not classified elsewhere', 'making off without payment' and 'theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter'. The total annual counts for 'Other theft' show year-on-year reductions in 2020 and 2021, driven primarily by dips during lockdown restrictions in April 2020 and February 2021.

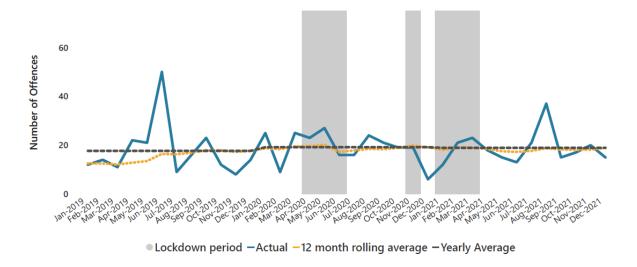
Figure 4: Police recorded Other Theft in East Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



# 2.1.2. Shoplifting

The overall level of shoplifting offences in East Cambridgeshire has remained fairly consistent between 2019 and 2021, albeit with monthly fluctuations as displayed in Figure 5. In contrast to other acquisitive crime types, shoplifting offences did not dip during the national lockdown periods with above average offence counts recorded in some months. This also contrasts with the national picture which saw reductions in shoplifting offences as opportunities for shoplifting were reduced by the closure of all non-essential retailers. Whilst it is not possible to know the driving force behind this pattern of offending in East Cambridgeshire, some potential influencing factors may have led to increased shoplifting in those retail settings which remained open are; increased financial need as a motivating factor, displacement from other offence types, reductions in security staff and finally increased anonymity due to compulsory face masks as a facilitating factor for offenders (Sheard & Farrell, 2020).

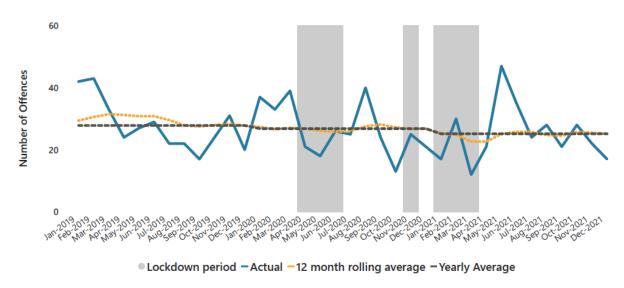
Figure 5: Police recorded Shoplifting in East Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



#### 2.1.3. Vehicle Crime

The main category of vehicle offences includes the theft of vehicles, theft from vehicles and interference with a vehicle. Theft from vehicles accounted for the majority of vehicle crime in East Cambridgeshire between 2019-2021 (65%). The monthly trend data for vehicle offences (Figure 6) show reductions during lockdown periods followed by a spike in offences after restrictions were eased (primarily driven by theft from vehicles).

Figure 6: Vehicle crime in in East Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



The theft of catalytic converters from vehicles has been identified as a national issue in recent years. The National Crime Agency's National Strategic Assessment of Serious Organised Crime highlights catalytic converter theft under organised acquisitive crime and notes a growth in thefts in 2020, driven by increases in the value of the precious metals they contain (National Crime Agency, 2021). The ONS reports a 9% increase in metal theft in the year ending September 2021, in part attributed to improved recording of catalytic converter thefts by the Metropolitan Police (ONS, 2022). The National Police Chief's Council reports that catalytic converter thefts peaked nationally in February-March 2021, in line with a surge of the price of precious metals, followed by steady declines then seen in the summer. A multi-agency operation was led by the British Transport Police in April 2021 which involved enforcement activity, the creation of a national asset database and SmartWater vehicle marking (National Police Chiefs' Council, 2021). Future levels of catalytic converter thefts are likely to continue to be linked to the value of precious metals.

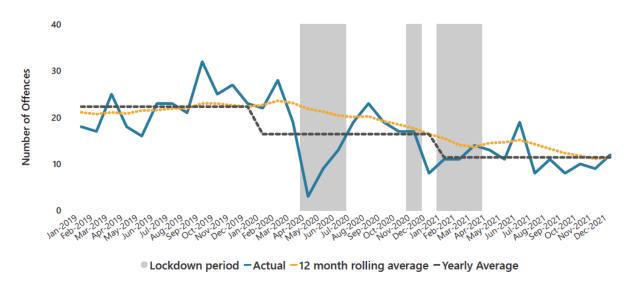
Local data has been examined to explore the issue in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A keyword search for "catalytic" and "converter" within theft from vehicle/vehicle interference offence descriptions showed an increase of 154% in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between 2019 (271 offences) and 2021 (687 offences). In East Cambridgeshire there was an increase from 11 offences in 2019 to 63 in 2021, representing just over a quarter (26%) of all theft from motor vehicle/vehicle interference offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2021. Theft of catalytic converters in East Cambridgeshire spiked particularly in February 2021 and over the summer months (May-August 2021). Cambridgeshire Constabulary conducted a week-long operation tackling the issue in April 2021, including enforcement through increased road network patrols, visits to scrap metal dealers and crime prevention advice for residents.

Geographical analysis showed that offences were spread fairly evenly across the district. Large car parks such as Park and Ride sites have typically been a target for catalytic converter thefts in Cambridgeshire, however, the pandemic has led to shifts in commuting behaviour, potentially making residential streets a more likely target.

# 2.1.4. Residential Burglary

Levels of residential burglaries fell dramatically at the start of the first national lockdown as the stay-at-home order was in place. The impact appeared to lessen as the first lockdown went on and similar drops were not seen in lockdown two and three, however, residential burglary levels remain well below pre-pandemic levels. The longer-term reductions may be linked to a sustained shift towards home working providing continued increase guardianship for homes.

Figure 7: Police Recorded Residential Burglaries in in East Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



#### 2.2. Domestic Abuse

2021 has seen changes in legislation relating to Domestic Abuse via the <u>Domestic Abuse Act 2021</u>. It should be noted that the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines domestic abuse beyond physical violence and includes emotional, controlling and coercive behaviour, and economic abuse between two people aged 16 or over who are personally connected. New requirements mean that a County Domestic Abuse Strategic Board will be established with the CSP represented on this. A Countywide Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment was also carried out locally to meet the new legislative change. There is a Domestic Abuse Partnership for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which has recently agreed and published a Safe Accommodation Strategy (available at cambsdasv.org.uk).

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) completed the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment in summer 2021. This considered the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area as a whole. The key findings from this are provided as an infographic in the appendix for information.

The key recommendations from this needs assessment were to increase accommodation support for the following groups:

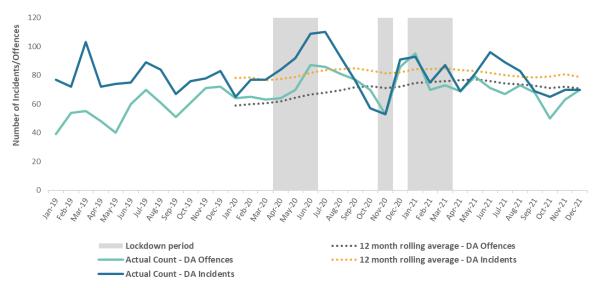
- Lithuanian and Polish women
- Gypsy/ traveller communities
- Older people
- Women
- People with uncertain immigration status
- Residents with disabilities (especially women with mental health issues and those misusing substances).

Upcoming outputs from the 2021 census will help evidence where these groups are located across the local area.

National statistics outline an incomplete picture of changes in the trend for domestic abuse. In the year ending September 2021 police recorded crimes with a domestic abuse marker increased by 5% compared to the previous year. The Crime Survey for England and Wales had to change its mode of operation since the start of the pandemic to a telephone survey. This meant that questions on domestic abuse could not be included. This key source of information for long term trend is therefore missing from the most recent national statistics. Support services have however highlighted an increase in demand nationally around national lockdown periods. However, this may not reflect a higher volume of victims but increased severity of abuse.

Police recorded Domestic Abuse incidents and Crimes in East Cambridgeshire are shown in the figure below. There are increases seen towards the end of or shortly after national lockdown periods. This does align with patterns identified in rapid research conducted across several UK police force areas (Hohl, 2021). Separation is a known known trigger for escalation in domestic abuse. Fewer victims separated in the early stages of each lockdown and separations were likely delayed until lockdown eased, driving the increases in incidents and crimes recorded.





In terms of the volume of police recorded DA incidents there is little difference between the 2019 pre-pandemic period and the 2021 calendar year. However, there was a small increase in the volume and rate of crimes over that same period (shown in the table below). It is unclear from the data whether this is a result of improved recording or an actual increase in crimes occurring.

Table 2: Police recorded DA incidents and DA crimes in East Cambridgeshire, with rate per 1000 population for each year 2018/19 to 2020/21

Year	Total number of DA incidents	Rate of incidents per 1,000 population	Total number of crimes	Total number of crimes per 1,000 population	
2019	950	10.57	682	7.59	
2020	984	10.91	866	9.60	
2021	947	10.50	848	9.40	

The figure below shows a breakdown of DA related offences in East Cambridgeshire in 2021. Violence Against the Person (VAP) is the most frequent crime type for DA related offences in East Cambridgeshire (as in previous years). A key component of those DA related VAP offences (46%) were violence without injury. A further 32% were Stalking and harassment crimes the remaining 22% were violence with injury.

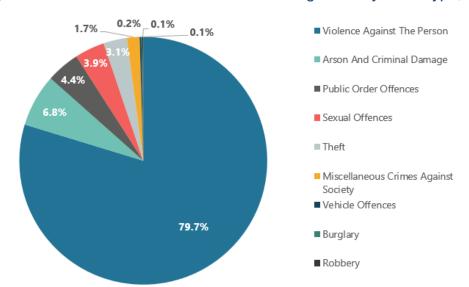


Figure 9: DA related offences in East Cambridgeshire by crime type, 2021

Coercive control is a relatively new offence which is of specific relevance to domestic abuse. Since its introduction in 2015, both awareness of the issue and police recording is likely to have improved. From 2019 to 2021 there have been 85 coercive control offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire. The figure below shows the rate per 1000 population for these offences, to give context and allow comparison between local areas.

Table 3: Police recorded coercive control offences counts and rates (based on ONS population estimates) 2019-2021

District	Count (2019)	Rate (per 1000 people, mid- 2019 estimat es)	Count (2020)	Rate (per 1000 people, mid- 2020 estimat es)	Count (2021)	Rate (per 1000 people, mid- 2020 estimat es)	Total Count (2019- 2021)
Cambridge City	46	0.37	76	0.61	75	0.60	197
Peterborough	104	0.51	138	0.68	172	0.85	414
East Cambridgeshire	18	0.20	36	0.40	31	0.34	85
Fenland	23	0.23	56	0.55	67	0.66	146
Huntingdonshire	62	0.35	96	0.54	73	0.41	231
South Cambridgeshire	49	0.31	49	0.30	71	0.44	169
Cambridgeshire	198	0.30	313	0.48	317	0.48	828
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	302	0.35	451	0.52	489	0.57	1242

In terms of local support services, the overall number of IDVA referrals (for all risk levels) in East Cambridgeshire has gone up since 2019, as shown in the figure

below. There was an average of 27.3 referrals per quarter in 2021 compared to 21.3 in 2019, a 28% increase. A proportion of these are repeat referrals. Repeat referral rates are reported on a financial year basis. For the full financial year 2020-21 this represented 41% of all IDVA referrals in East Cambridgeshire.

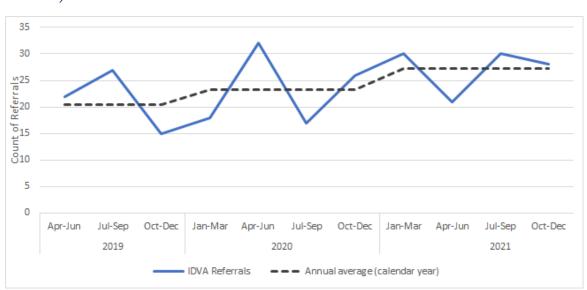


Figure 10: Quarterly IDVA referrals in East Cambridgeshire, 2019-2021 (Source: DASVP)

The above data does not reveal the detailed nature of incidents or referrals, however familial violence (e.g., child to parent violence) has been acknowledged as an issue across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This has prompted the DASVP to now offer specific support for those experiencing child to parent violence, which the CSP should note.

Technology-facilitated abuse ('Tech abuse') is acknowledged as a growing problem in the UK (Refuge, 2021). It is understood that technologies ranging from online accounts to internet enabled home devices are frequently utilised during abuse, more so since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (UK Parliament, 2020) (Tanczer, et al., 2021). An exploration of current available data and more in-depth analysis would be required to understand tech abuse at a county or district level. **The partnership should consider tech abuse in its activities addressing domestic abuse.** 

#### 2.2.1. Domestic Homicide Reviews

A countywide approach to completing Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), which are a statutory requirement for CSPs, has now been adopted across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. At the time of writing there are no ongoing Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) in East Cambridgeshire. The last DHR report was completed in East Cambridgeshire in 2019. This is available at <a href="Domestic Homicide Review:">Domestic Homicide Review:</a> Executive Summary: Concerning the Death of Helen - Jan 2019 (eastcambs.gov.uk))

Common themes to note from DHRs across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are outlined below:

- Victims are generally not well known to services, but with some level of contact via health services.
- DHRs relating to suicides have been required in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in recent years. Partner organisations need to ensure links with suicide prevention efforts locally.

# 2.3. Modern Slavery

Nationally, the number of police investigations relating to Modern Slavery slightly decreased at the beginning of 2020/21, at the start of the COVID pandemic. However, numbers quickly increased again and continued to grow throughout the year (Policing Slavery, 2021) continuing the increasing trend seen since 2015. The National Referral Mechanism for potential victims of Modern Slavery (NRM) received 10,613 referrals in 2020, this number is 225% higher than in 2015 (3,264 referrals) (Home Office, 2021)Nationally, the number of police investigations relating to Modern Slavery slightly decreased at the beginning of 2020/21, at the start of the COVID pandemic. However, numbers quickly increased again and continued to grow throughout the year (Policing Slavery, 2021) continuing the increasing trend seen since 2015. The National Referral Mechanism for potential victims of Modern Slavery (NRM) received 10,613 referrals in 2020, this number is 225% higher than in 2015 (3,264 referrals) (Home Office, 2021).

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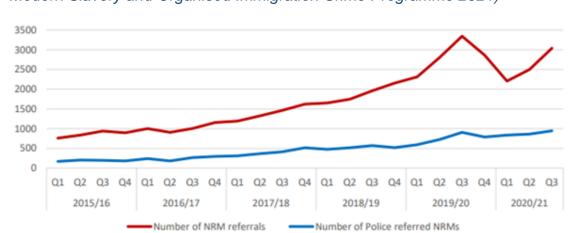
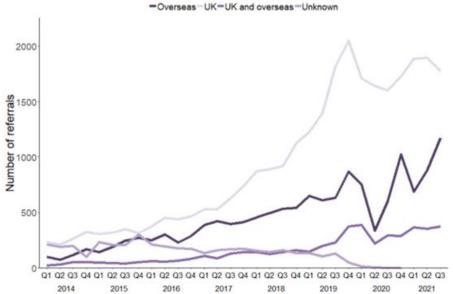


Figure 11: National Referral Mechanism Referrals 2015/16-2020/21) (Source: Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme 2021)

The National Referral Mechanism received 25% more NRM referrals in 2020/21. In the third quarter of 2021, referrals increased by 6% in comparison to the previous quarter (3127 victims). This is the second highest quarterly number of referrals since 2009 (Home Office, 2021). In addition, the number of Live Police Investigations into Modern Slavery increased by 27% and the number of modern slavery referrals to the Crown Prosecution Service increased by 20% in comparison to the previous year (Policing Slavery, 2021).

In March 2020, the start of the first national COVID-19 lockdown impacted modern slavery criminal activity and the related policing response. The number of victims entering the UK decreased due to restrictions on international movement. Reduction of referrals in Q1 and Q2 of 2020 has been linked to the closure of borders and reduction of potential victims to be identified by Immigration Enforcement, UK Visas and Immigration and Border Force. Initial closure of courts also caused delays in cases coming to trial (Policing Slavery, 2021). After the second quarter, numbers of referrals returned to usual levels as lockdown and travel restrictions eased. This is demonstrated by a sharp increase of overseas victims in Quarter 2 2020 as shown in the figure below (Home Office, 2021).

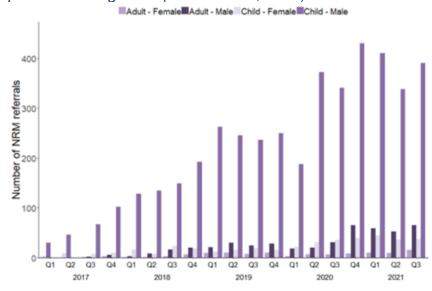




Border closures also meant increasing risk of exploitation for victims already inside the UK. This is because those exploiting them would have had a greater reliance on those already in the UK while unable to source potential victims from outside of the UK at this time. This was reflected by an intensification of investigations in the food and agricultural sector (450 visits, 27 new investigations, 16 arrests, 13 NRM referrals and 38 Duty to Notify referrals submitted) (Home Office, 2021).

The volume of referrals involving County Lines exploitation fluctuates across quarters, with no consistent pattern. This might relate to activity to tackle slavery, the data does not provide a clear enough picture. The most recent quarter (quarter 3 Oct-Dec 2021) was higher than the previous quarter and the third highest level since the beginning of 2017 (Home Office, 2021).

Figure 13: Number of NRM referrals flagged as county lines, by age group at exploitation and gender (Home Office, 2021)



The most recent quarterly report (Quarter 3 of 2021) showed that most potential victims of modern slavery referred to the NRM were male (78%). The majority also claimed to have experienced exploitation in the UK only (53%) rather than overseas (35%) or in the UK and overseas. A high proportion of potential victims were children (41%) who are mostly referred for criminal exploitation (47%). Most recurrent nationalities in this period were Albanian and Vietnamese (Home Office, 2021).

Since 2018 Police recorded Modern Slavery offences in East Cambridgeshire have continued to be low in comparison to records in other districts, as shown in the figure below.

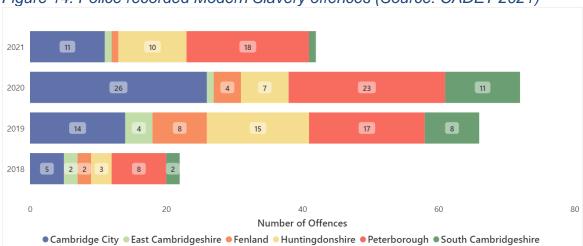


Figure 14: Police recorded Modern Slavery offences (Source: CADET 2021)

Assessment by Cambridgeshire Constabulary highlighted that the low level of Modern slavery offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire is likely reflecting an intelligence gap rather than a true lower level of offences. East Cambridgeshire remains an area with characteristics that would make Modern Slavery crimes more feasible such as rural farms and agricultural firms, remote car washes and industrial units that may be used for cannabis production.

It is recommended that the CSP revisit and refresh awareness raising of the signs of Modern Slavery and how to report those signs.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis in 2021 also gave a specific recommendation that the CSP and partners (including police, as appropriate) undertake intelligence-led visits to agricultural firms, farms, construction sites and factories to gather intelligence and identify any exploitation of the workforce.

# 2.4. County Lines

Cambridgeshire constabulary analysis acknowledges County Lines activity appears to be less prevalent in East Cambridgeshire compared to other districts. However, it does feature in East Cambridgeshire. It should be acknowledged that incidents of serious violence linked to county lines have occurred in recent years within the district. The travel disruption during the pandemic will have reduced visibility further. However, with restrictions gone and with Ely on a direct rail connection with London, Birmingham and Cambridge it should be noted that County Lines continues to pose a threat.

County lines activity links across several topics covered in this report. It has already been identified as an increasing feature in national NRM figures for Modern Slavery as outlined above. Indeed, exploitation is a key characteristic of county lines.

Substance misuse more generally, including drug misuse, is covered in the latter half of this report.

Serious violence is also associated with county lines. As such county lines drug dealing is one of the specific crime types targeted by the Serious Violence Duty and advised to be covered by the strategic needs assessment process for this (Home Office, 2021). The following section will provide an overview of violence as well as a brief update on the Serious Violence duty.

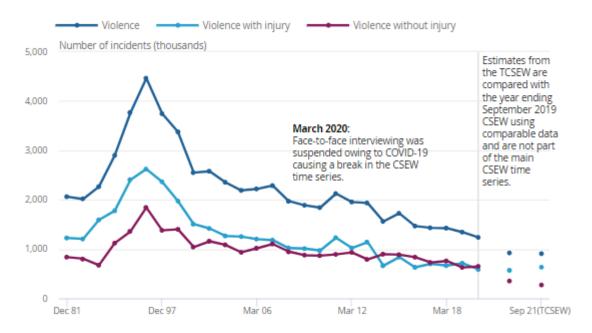
Finally, national research supports the fact that young people are targeted in county lines activity. While young people with certain vulnerabilities (i.e., poverty, school exclusion) may be at risk, those without such vulnerabilities are also targeted (Black, 2020).

Recent prevention work has been completed by Cambridge City CSP, generating a video and workshop resource aimed at Key Stage 3 pupils. Linking with this work would be recommended as a starting point for the East Cambs CSP to ensure there is good awareness of county lines exploitation amongst local young people.

### 2.5. Violence

Nationally the long-term decrease in violence as recorded by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has continued. The decrease of 28% (comparing year ending March 2021 with March 2019) is most likely a reflection of a decrease in violence taking place in public spaces during national lockdown restrictions. This is evidenced by the falls in violence where the offender was a stranger. However, the same report did note that there has been a "large but non-significant increase in acquaintance violence" (ONS, 2022)

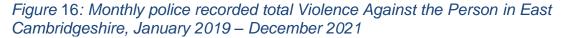
Figure 15: Crime Survey for England and Wales – annual estimates of Violent crime; long term reductions in violent crime (ONS, 2022)

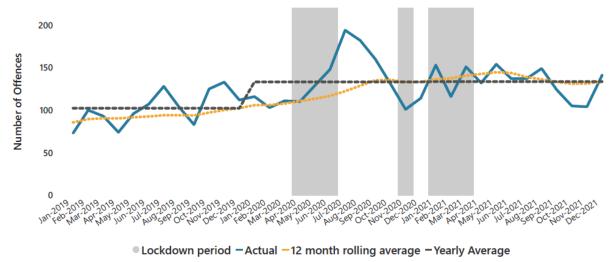


# 2.5.1. Violence Against the Person (VAP)

The category of violence or violent crimes is actually a broad group of many offences. They are most commonly broken down into subcategories. Violence Against the Person is a broad category of police recorded crime. It includes homicide, violence with injury, violence without injury and stalking & harassment.

The trend in East Cambridgeshire in police recorded violence against the person has been an overall increase compared to 2019, however it is unclear at this stage whether this trend will continue in the long term. Although there was a peak after the first national lockdown period the lockdowns do not explain the variations seen in police recorded VAP in East Cambridgeshire.



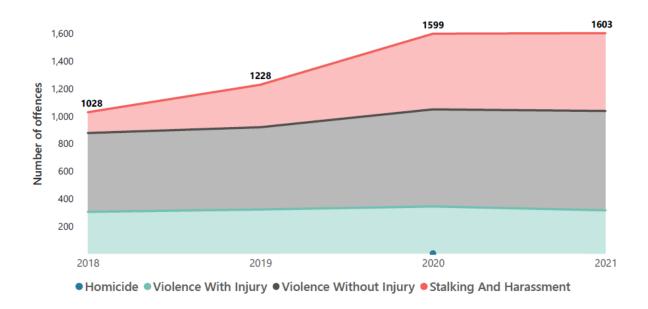


Nationally, police recorded violence increased by 8% for the period ending September 2021 compared with the previous year. Locally we are considering the 12 months ending December 2021 as the most recently available data. Whilst not an exact match, this is still a useful comparison. East Cambridgeshire had a similar volume of VAP offences compared to the previous year. The average monthly number of offences was higher in 2020 and 2021 than in 2019. Comparing 2021 with 2019 East Cambridgeshire recorded the highest percentage increase in the force area of 31%. It should be noted the East Cambridgeshire records the lowest volume of offences compared to the other districts.

Table 4 Police recorded Violence Against the Person offences 2019-2021

	Cou	nt of offen	ces	Change in number of	Percentage change	
	2019	2020	2021	offences between 2019-2021	between 2019 - 2021	
Cambridge	3631	3972	4108	+477	13.1%	
East Cambridgeshire	1228	1599	1603	+375	30.5%	
Fenland	2490	2962	3229	+739	29.7%	
Huntingdonshire	3146	3721	3894	+748	23.8%	
Peterborough	6994	7860	8695	+1701	24.3%	
South Cambridgeshire	2044	2392	2601	+557	27.3%	
Total	19533	22506	24130	+4597	23.5%	





The national increase in VAP was driven by a rise in the number of stalking and harassment offences, which increased by 21% (excluding controlling and coercive behaviour) in the year ending September 2021 (ONS, 2022). Locally Cambridgeshire recorded a rise of 10% from 2020 to 2021 and East Cambridgeshire recorded a rise of 2.6%. Whilst it is not clear what has caused this rise it may be because of improvements made by police forces in identifying and recording stalking and harassment offences together with an increased confidence in victims coming forward to report these offences.

When examining the monthly trend, the peaks and increases seen in total VAP are also apparent for stalking and Harassment in East Cambridgeshire. Given that this type of offence can occur online as easily as in person the peaks in the lockdown period may be in part attributable to tech-enabled offences.

The rates per 1000 population of VAP crimes in East Cambridgeshire for 2021, and that of the category sub-types, are shown below for context.

Table 5: Rate of Violence Against the Person category offences and subtype offences 2021

	Count of	Rate per
	offences	1000
		population*
Violence Against the Person Offences	1603	17.8
Violence without injury	722	8.0
Violence with injury	315	3.5
Stalking and harassment	566	6.3
Homicide	0	0.0

<sup>\*</sup>With reference to ONS mid-2020 population estimate, the latest available at time of writing.

# 2.5.2. Violence with Injury - healthcare indicators

National analysis of healthcare data to understand serious violence in England and Wales indicated that serious violence was 32% lower in 2020 compared to the previous year (Sivarajasingam, et al., 2021). The unprecedented reduction in serious violence seen here is likely to reflect the unprecedented restrictions imposed on free movement of citizens and businesses to limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The initial significant fall in violence in April 2020 (down 50% compared to violence in March 2020) coincided with UK government mandatory closure of pubs, clubs, restaurants, and other social venues in March 2020. Indeed, trends in violence in 2020 correlated closely with the imposition, easing and lifting of restrictions; significant falls in violence immediately followed lockdown whilst violence increased as soon as restrictions were eased or lifted (Sivarajasingam, et al., 2021).

Halford et al. (2020) analysed the effect of lockdowns on crime in the UK and argued that crime levels and mobility are strongly interlinked. They measured that after one week of lockdown, on 23 March, all crime nationally declined by 41%; shoplifting (-62%), domestic abuse (-45%), assault (-36%), burglary dwelling (-25%) and burglary non-dwelling (-25%), theft (-52%), theft from vehicle (-43%). It is important to note that these figures do not represent crime trends throughout the whole pandemic, but they show the effect of a sudden mobility reduction (Halford, et al., 2020).

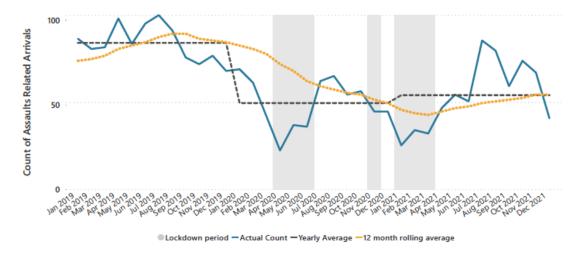
But COVID-19 did not alter the distribution of risk in sustaining injury in violence by gender or age group. As in previous years, males and young adults aged 18-30 years were most likely to be injured. Those at highest risk of violence-related injury in 2020 were males (2.7 per 1,000 population: more than twice the risk for females)

and those aged 18-30 (4.7 per 1,000 population). For both genders, those aged 18-30 years had the highest injury rates (males 6.5; females 2.93 per1,000 population) and children aged 0-10 years had the lowest injury rates (males 0.19; females 0.08 per 1,000 population) (Sivarajasingam, et al., 2021).

# 2.5.3. Local healthcare indicators - violence with injury

At a local level, Addenbrooke's Emergency Department has been collecting and sharing data about assault related attendances at the department, the trend for which is shown below. It is important to note that Addenbrookes patients do not exclusively reside in East Cambridgeshire or were necessarily assaulted in East Cambridgeshire.

Figure 18: Monthly attendances for assault seen at Addenbrooke's Emergency Department (Addenbrooke's Hospital).

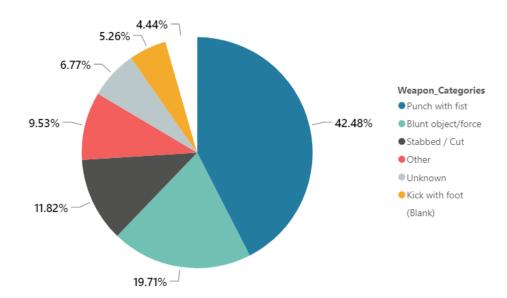


Attendance for assault has remained lower on average since the 2020 lockdown period. This has only recently returned to pre-pandemic levels (July 2021). However, the number of new patients declined again towards the end of 2021.

The main age group represented in these patients were age 20-29 (35.9%) and 78.6% of those attending ED due to assault were male (Jan 2019 - Dec 2021).

As shown in the figure below, of the weapons recorded as involved in assault, a majority were 'punch with fist' (42.4%) and stabbing or cut with a knife represented 5.95% of all attendances in the year ending September 2021, however weapon used is not consistently disclosed by victims.

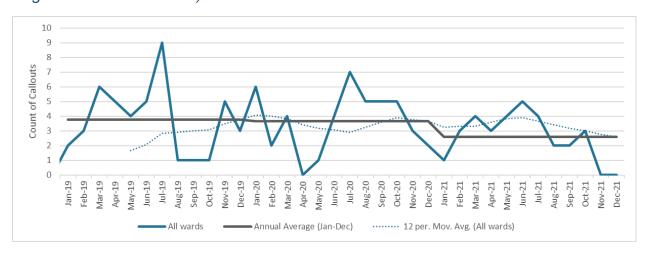
Figure 19: Categorisations of weapons as reported in assault related arrivals at Emergency Department, Addenbrookes Hospital, Jan 2019 - Dec 2021



Please note that 'Other' includes asphyxia, burn, crushing injury, drowning, fall, gunshot wound, hit with head (head butt), inhaled foreign body, injury due to projectile, injury from mammal, physical exertion, poisoning/overdose, slipping and tripping.

The chart below shows the variability of the volume of callouts in East Cambridgeshire and the overall low number of calls.

Figure 20: Assault related ambulance callouts, East Cambridgeshire (Source: East of England Ambulance Trust)



### 2.5.4. Knife crime

In the year ending September 2021, national police recorded crime data saw a 10% decrease in offences with a knife or sharp instrument compared to the previous year (ONS, 2022). This is attributed to a 20% decrease in robbery offences during this period. Decreased levels of knife crime were particularly noticeable in national lockdown periods when social contact was most restricted, namely October-December 2020 (-16%) and January- March 2021 (-22%). While knife crime increased since lockdown eased, this did not mean a return to pre-pandemic levels.

Local police recorded crime with a 'knife/ sharp instrument' marker are provided below for information

Table 6: Police recorded Knife/Sharp Instrument marker crimes in East Cambridgeshire by quarter (Source: CADET Dec 2021)

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
2019	12	15	15	15
2020	16	24	33	22
2021	28	14	16	17

There was considerable disruption during 2020 with high crime counts particularly in July – September as restrictions eased. It should be noted that East Cambridgeshire did see increases contrary to the national trend of decrease in October-December 2020 and January- March 2021. However, this is from a low baseline figure in 2019, so needs to be interpreted with caution. The most recent 3 quarters of 2021 do indicate a return to pre-pandemic period levels of knife crime recorded in East Cambridgeshire.

Provisional hospital admissions data from the NHS shows there was a 12% decrease in hospital admissions for 'assault with sharp objects' in the year ending September 2021 (ONS, 2022). Admissions maintained a younger demographic with 41% of those admitted aged 24 and under and 59% aged 25 and over (ONS, 2022).

Changes in the volume of crimes with a knife marker can be driven by targeted police activity relating to knife crime. Other data sources are needed to build a comprehensive picture of knife crime. For example, further localised healthcare data could help identify patterns of knife assaults in the local area. It is recommended that East Cambridgeshire's knife crime trend (going contrary to national trend) f in 2020-2021 should be put forward for further analysis as part of the Serious Violence duty needs assessment process.

# 2.5.5. Serious Violence Duty

The Home Office on behalf of the UK Government published the draft of the Serious Violence Duty in May 2021. Pending stages of legislation in parliament, this duty is expected to come into effect in 2022/2023.

The Duty presents the basis for collaboration between different services and the implementation of a multi-agency approach. The following specified authorities within a local government area are required to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence:

- Police
- Justice
- Fire and Rescue
- Health
- Local Authorities
- Consultation with educational, prison and youth custody authorities is also encouraged.

As per the current <u>Serious Violence Duty strategic needs assessment guidance</u>, responsible authorities will be required to collaborate to generate the following at an agreed geography:

- evidence-based analysis of the causes of serious violence in their area
- strategic needs assessment based on the above analysis
- a strategy with solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area, to be reviewed annually

Broadly speaking, the draft Duty promotes the following actions for Community Safety Partnerships:

Using an evidence-based approach for identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area and the causes of that violence.

Sharing data and knowledge for targeting interventions to prevent serious violence.

Preparing, implementing and reviewing a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.

The CSP is advised to take note of the likely future collaborative work required by introduction of the Serious Violence Duty.

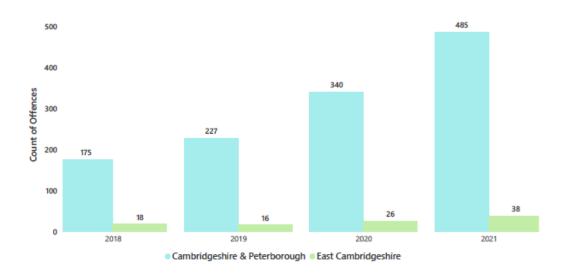
# 2.6. Child Sexual Exploitation

In the year ending March 2019 11,554 police recorded offences in England and Wales were flagged as CSE. This is the most recent national figure on CSE specifically (ONS, 2020).

Constabulary-wide Child Sexual Exploitation crimes have seen a year-on-year increase since 2018. East Cambridgeshire has followed this pattern with a higher number of Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes recorded in 2021 (38) compared to the previous year (26). This means 2021 saw a 46.1 % increase in offences. Whilst CSE crimes are low in total volume, CSE is an underreported and high harm crime type. The true extent of this issue is therefore likely much higher.

The local data available to the Research Group does not provide detail as to whether those offences occurred online or were facilitated by technology. However the National Crime Agency assessment has highlighted that Child Sexual Abuse (of which CSE is a type) risk has increased due to greater reliance upon time online during the pandemic (National Crime Agency, 2021).

Figure 21: Police recorded child sexual exploitation crimes, Jan-Dec data (Source: CADET Dec 2021)



#### 3. Community harm

Anti-social Behaviour: Following the easing of restrictions in Spring 2021, monthly ASB counts were close to pre-pandemic levels before they dropped in the later part of the year (September-December 2021). There has been a decrease in the proportion of ASB incidents that are youth-related in 2021 compared to the previous two years, now at 18% down from 26% of incidents in 2019 and 2020. In the past two years there has been a slight increase in the proportion of environmental ASB, up from 9.2% in 2019 to 13% in 2021. A dip sample of environmental ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire in 2021 showed the dominant incident types were noise complaints and vehicle-related issues. Greater levels of time spent at home during lockdowns may have increased recorded incidents of environmental ASB both through higher reporting by those working from home/ on furlough and potentially by increasing levels of 'noisy neighbour' incidents whilst the night-time economy was closed and residents had to stay at home.

**Electronic scooters (e-scooters) and ASB:** Whilst an e-scooter trial continues in other parts of Cambridgeshire, e-scooters remain illegal in public spaces in East Cambridgeshire. A scan of police recorded anti-social behaviour incidents in East Cambridgeshire in 2021 showed a very small number of incidents relating to e-scooters, indicating that this is not currently an issue of concern emerging through reported incidents in the district.

**Substance Misuse:** The overall volume of police recorded drug offences remains relatively low in East Cambridgeshire, with some fluctuations likely driven by police activity. Available healthcare service statistics regarding substance misuse are outlined, albeit there is a lag in the availability of these annual figures (usually published by financial year ending March). More local and contemporary figures from Change Grow Live show that majority of clients from East Cambridgeshire are in treatment for Opiates (43%) or Alcohol only (38%). The number of clients in treatment has also seen an increase. There remains potential to improve understanding of patterns of substance misuse affecting East Cambridgeshire.

**Deliberate Fires:** Deliberate fires continue a trend of decrease in East Cambridgeshire. In 2021 East Cambridgeshire accounts for approximately 7% of the total fires in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and only 5% of deliberate fires.

Hate crime: A National trend of increase in hate crime has continued over the long term. Police recorded hate crime in East Cambridgeshire has increased over the last 3 years but from a low base. There has been a shift in the crime types marked as hate crime in East Cambridgeshire. Arson and criminal damage hate crimes went from 9% of recorded hate crime in 2019 to 23% in 2021. A recent series of anti-Semitic graffiti incidents have clearly contributed to this

**Criminal Damage**: Whilst there have been short term increases in criminal damage associated with the hate crimes outlined above, the average monthly count of criminal damage offences in East Cambridgeshire has decreased since 2019.

**Public Order:** Public order offences have increased overall since 2019 in East Cambridgeshire, albeit from a low base.

**Fraud, scams and Cyber crime:** The latest available data from the TCSEW showed that while many offence types decreased, fraud offences did increase markedly during the pandemic period. Indeed, there has been a 14% increase in total crime (as estimated by the Crime Survey for England and Wales), driven by a 47% increase in fraud and computer misuse to the year ending September 2021.

It is proposed that increases in fraud observed during the pandemic period may be linked to offenders exploiting changes in behaviour relating to COVID-19, such as an increase in online shopping and higher levels of savings. Local police recorded crime data for East Cambridgeshire shows increasing levels of cybercrime (offences with an online crime marker or cyber-enabled keyword), albeit from a low base. It should be acknowledged that underreporting is a significant issue for cyber crime and fraud, therefore the true figures are likely to be much higher.

#### 3.1. Anti-social Behaviour

National statistics show that the number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents recorded by the police decreased by 9% in the year ending September 2021 compared to the previous year. Increases in ASB observed in the previous year were linked to the reporting of COVID-19 restriction breaches. This appears to have continued in 2021 with national incident levels peaking in January-March (during the third national lockdown) before notable reductions occurring in the following two quarters.

Local police data shows that East Cambridgeshire did not experience an increase in ASB during periods of national restrictions with incidents peaking between the first and second lockdowns (July-October 2020). Following the easing of restrictions in Spring 2021, monthly ASB counts were close to pre-pandemic levels before they dropped in the later part of the year (September-December 2021).

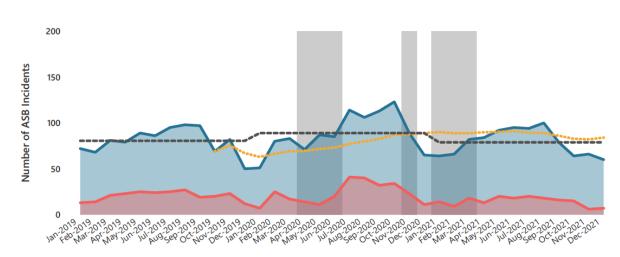


Figure 22: Police recorded monthly ASB incidents

Lockdown period -Total ASB Count -Youth Related ASB Count -12 month rolling average - Yearly Average

Youth-related ASB has been analysed by applying a keyword search to the incident description field to identify incidents that are likely to be youth-related. The subset of ASB incidents that have a youth keyword are displayed in the figure above (red shading). This shows that the number of youth-related incidents has broadly tracked with overall ASB, however, youth ASB has not spiked to the same degree as overall ASB following the easing of restrictions after lockdown one and lockdown three. There has been a decrease in the proportion of ASB incidents that are youth-related in 2021 compared to the previous two years, now at 18% down from 26% of incidents in 2019 and 2020.

'Nuisance', which refers to incidents which impact on the local community in general, has consistently accounted for the majority (75% +) of ASB incidents. In the past two years there has been a slight increase in the proportion of environmental ASB, up from 9.2% in 2019 to 13% in 2021. Environmental ASB refers to incidents where individuals or groups are having an impact on their surroundings (this can be the natural, built or social environment). A dip sample of environmental ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire in 2021 showed the dominant incident types were noise complaints and vehicle-related issues.

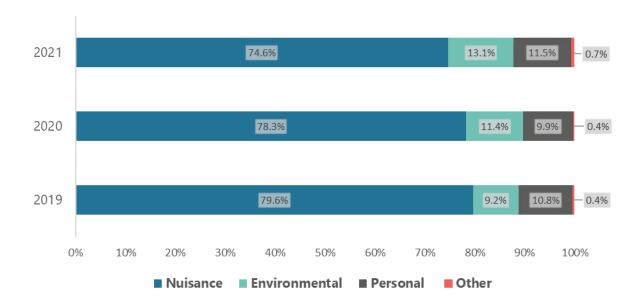


Figure 23: Police recorded ASB by category

Table 4 (below) shows the ward count of ASB incidents and the proportion of total East Cambridgeshire incidents occurring in each ward for 2020 and 2021. Ely West, Ely East and Littleport account for the highest proportion of incidents and there has been little change in the geographical breakdown since 2020.

Table 7: Counts of Police recorded ASB incidents by District/ Ward (2021 boundaries).

	2020		2021	
Ward	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Bottisham	59	5.5%	43	4.5%
Burwell	46	4.3%	60	6.3%
Downham Villages	17	1.6%	15	1.6%
Ely East	166	15.6%	147	15.5%
Ely North	37	3.5%	43	4.5%
Ely West	154	14.4%	156	16.5%
Fordham & Isleham	49	4.6%	42	4.4%
Haddenham	35	3.3%	49	5.2%
Littleport	152	14.2%	123	13.0%
Soham North	92	8.6%	54	5.7%
Soham South	80	7.5%	54	5.7%
Stretham	53	5.0%	46	4.9%
Sutton	89	8.3%	84	8.9%
Woodditton	38	3.6%	30	3.2%
Total	1067	100%	946	100%

#### 3.1.1. Electronic scooters (e-scooters) and ASB

The law in relation to electric scooters (e-scooters) currently forbids scooters being ridden on a road or public footpath. The only exception to this is specific e-scooter trials. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority launched the Voi E-Scooter Trial in Cambridge City and Peterborough in October 2020 running to March 2022.

In response to reports of problems with e-scooters ridden in public, the East Cambridgeshire neighbourhood policing team did a month-long awareness raising effort in Summer 2021. They took the approach of stopping riders and giving them information and advice in the first instance. If an individual was stopped for a second time the e-scooter was seized and responsible adult was required to collect it from Ely police station (where those stopped were under 18).

A scan of police recorded anti-social behaviour incidents in East Cambridgeshire in 2021 showed a very small number of incidents relating to e-scooters, indicating that this is not currently an issue of concern emerging through reported incidents in the district.

#### 3.2. Substance Misuse

National research indicates police recorded **drug offences** increased by 19% in 2020/21 compared to the previous year (House of Commons Library, 2021).

The overall volume of drug offences remains relatively low in East Cambridgeshire, however, there have been noticeable fluctuations by month as shown in the figure below. The highest peak during the first national lockdown in 2020 is likely to have been driven by focused police activity at this time. However, the yearly average figure for 2021 (5.3 drug offences per month) is lower than the pre-pandemic year 2019 (7.7 drug offences per month).

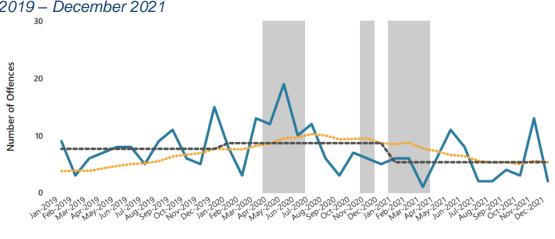
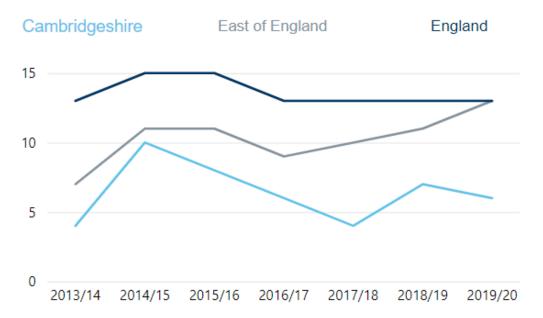


Figure 24: Monthly breakdown in drug offences in East Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021

Lockdown period — Actual —12 month rolling average — Yearly Average

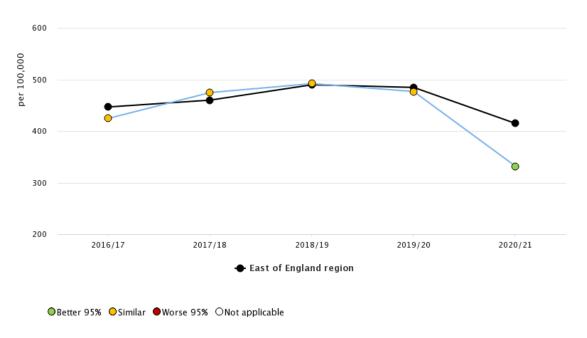
Healthcare service statistics regarding substance misuse can help to understand trends in substance misuse. The annual rate of hospital admissions for drug-related mental and behavioural disorders is available at a county level and is shown in the figure below. The rate for Cambridgeshire in 2019/20 is 6 admissions per 100,000 (NHS Digital, 2021). This is a low admissions rate compared to other local authority areas. The rate for Cambridgeshire has also remained lower than that for East of England and England since 2013/14. More recent statistics are yet to be released, and as such any changes since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic are not clear. Unfortunately, district level data is not currently available for this indicator.

Figure 25: Hospital admissions for drug-related mental and behavioural disorders, per 100,000 population by year (Source: NHS Digital)



Hospital admissions statistics for alcohol related conditions are reported at a district level, as shown in the figure below. Since 2016/2017 East Cambridgeshire has had a similar admissions rate to the Eastern region and had a comparatively lower rate in 2019/20. More recent data beyond the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic is yet to be published.





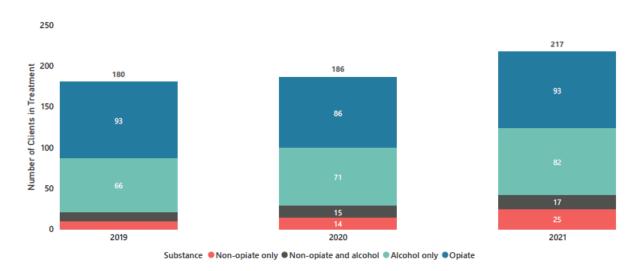
Information provided by Change Grow Live (drug and alcohol support services) does give a more detailed local view on the number of people in treatment for drug or alcohol misuse.

Table 8: Clients in treatment or successfully completed treatment in the year ending December 2021. This does not reflect the location of treatment service necessarily (Source: Change Grow Live)

Clients Groups by substance	Count of clients	Percentage of total clients in treatment
Total number of clients in treatment	217	100%
Opiate	93	43%
Non-opiate only	25	12%
Alcohol only	82	38%
Non-opiate and alcohol	17	8%
Successful completions	48	-

In 2021 a majority of clients from East Cambridgeshire are in treatment for Opiates (43%) or Alcohol only (38%). There has been an 21% increase in the number of clients in treatment since 2019. 'Alcohol only' and 'Non-opiate only' substance misuse being a key component of this increase.

Figure 27: Clients in treatment in East Cambridgeshire by year and Substance (Source: CGL)



A further source of local information for this issue is the level of demand for drug paraphernalia clearance (for example safe disposal of needles found in public spaces). The East Cambridgeshire District Council waste team has trained officers able to safely remove drug paraphernalia found in public spaces. This team reported fewer than 10 incidents in 2021. Key locations noted for needle removals included those close to Ely Cathedral (public toilets) and Barton Road, Ely. **The CSP is advised to seek regular updates on drug paraphernalia reports/ removals across the district. This could help identify key locations of concern.** 

Upcoming Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis in 2022/23 will be able to further inform the CSP as to the drug market situation locally. It is recommended that the CSP would allow space in their action plan to respond to the constabulary analysis of the local drug market in due course.

In December 2021 a new national drug strategy was announced (Home Office, 2021). The CSP will need to ensure it is kept up to date on this strategy via the relevant strategic community safety boards. At a local level it should be noted that the countywide Drug and Alcohol strategic board is due to consider a new local strategy in March 2022, which is being developed with reference to the latest national strategy.

#### 3.3. Deliberate Fires

National data is available from Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) in England up to September 2021. Local data direct from Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue provides additional detail for analysis. Both data sources include both deliberate and accidental fires. For the purposes of the strategic assessment the deliberate fires are of interest as they reflect risky behaviour.

National data shows that the total number of incidents (537,039) attended by FRS did not change from 2019/20 to 2020/21, but it corresponds to a 2% decrease compared with 5 years ago (549,687) (Home Office, 2022)

It should be noted that the national data has a lag in the release, so the latest data is up to September 2021, whereas local data goes to the end of December 2021. Further the national data as seen in the graph below initially reflects financial years, with the two most recent time points being year ending September 2021.

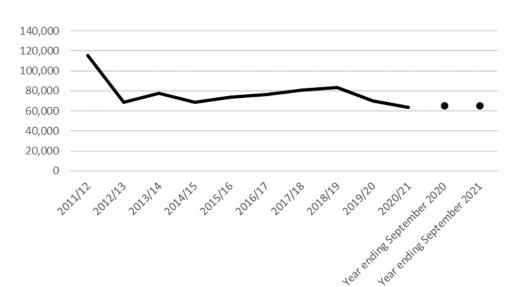
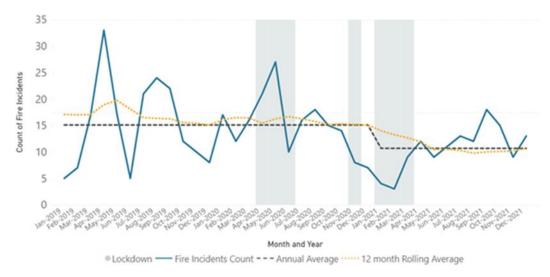


Figure 28: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England

The fire service recorded 128 fires incidents in East Cambridgeshire between January 2021 and December 2021. This is a 29.28% decrease on the 2020 figure of 181. East Cambridgeshire accounts for approximately 7% of the total fires in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and only 5% of deliberate fires.

Deliberate fires accounts for approximately a fifth of the total number of fires. The number of deliberate fires East Cambridgeshire saw a 23.5% decrease between 2020 and 2021 from a total of 34 to 26 fires.



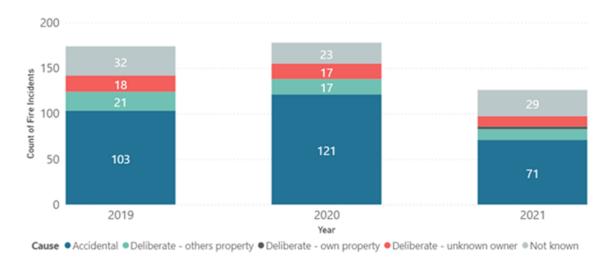


The decrease in deliberate fires in the district could be linked to the strict restrictions during the coronavirus lockdowns in 2020/21, meaning people had less opportunity to cause deliberate fire damage. This is supported by the fact that East Cambridgeshire saw low numbers of deliberate fires in January and February of 2021, likely the result of a combination of seasonal variation and the strict national COVID-19 lockdown in early 2021.

Although it should be noted that fires started to increase during the third lockdown. Deliberate fire counts towards the end of 2021, however, are slowly increasing and going back to pre-pandemic levels.

Of the 128 recorded fires, 55.47% were categorised as accidental, 20.31% as deliberate and 22.66% has an unknown cause in 2021. When fires are deliberate, they are mainly happening in others' properties.

Figure 30: Count of fires in East Cambridgeshire broken down by cause of fire, 2019 - 2021

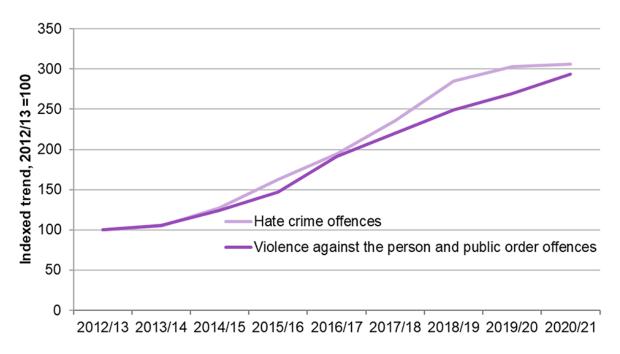


#### 3.4. Hate crime

National statistics regarding police recorded hate crime highlight long term increases and attribute this to improved recording practices, however certain trigger events such as Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic have generated real short-term increases (Home Office, 2021).

The figure below shows national analysis of Hate crime offences, Violence against the person totalled with public order offences. The trends are broadly aligned in the long term.

Figure 31: Indexed trends in the number of police recorded violence against the person and public order and hate crime offences, year ending March 2013 to year ending March 2021 (year ending March 2013 = 100) (Home Office 2021)

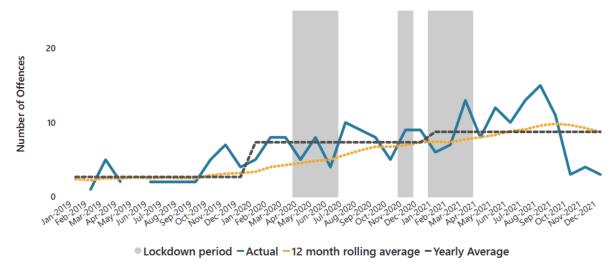


However, any offence can be marked as a hate crime. National statistics for 2020/21 (year ending March 2021) noted the following:

- 52% of the hate crimes recorded by the police were for public order offences
- 40% were for violence against the person offences
- 5% per cent were recorded as criminal damage and arson offences.

Police recorded hate crime in East Cambridgeshire has increased over the last 3 years but from a low base. This could reflect improved recording to some extent. This data does not necessarily show which communities or characteristics are being targeted. Further analysis using victims' data would be required to better understand this locally.

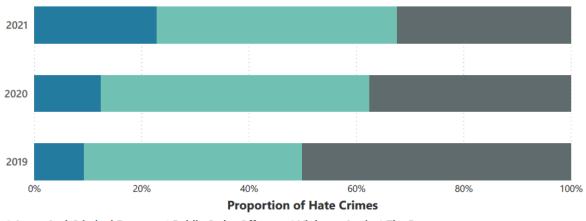
Figure 32: Monthly police recorded hate crime, East Cambridgeshire January 2019 – December 2021\*



<sup>\*</sup>There were no hate crime offences recorded in May 2019.

When the annual hate crime figures are broken down by crime types (as shown below), public order offences are the main component (45% in 2021). This is in line with national trend.

Figure 33: Hate crime marker offences in East Cambridgeshire broken down by crime type



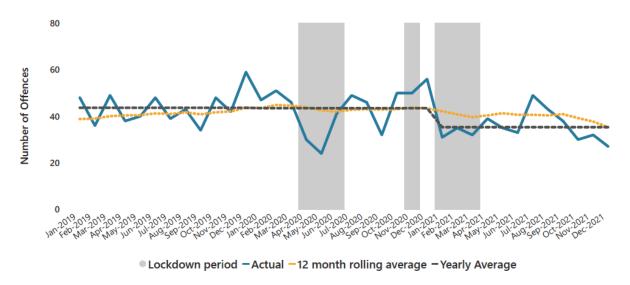
● Arson And Criminal Damage ● Public Order Offences ● Violence Against The Person

There has been a shift in the crime types marked as hate crime in East Cambridgeshire. Arson and criminal damage hate crimes went from 9% of recorded hate crime in 2019 to 23% in 2021. A recent series of anti-Semitic graffiti incidents have clearly contributed to this, with a peak of this hate crime in Autumn 2021.

#### 3.5. Criminal Damage

Police recorded criminal damage in East Cambridgeshire has fluctuated in the context of national lockdown periods, likely due to the restrictions in movement at these times. A monthly average of 44 criminal damage offences were recorded per month in both 2019 and 2020. This figure has decreased in 2021 to 35 per month. A short-term increase in criminal damage in 2021 can be attributed to the hate crime series outlined above.

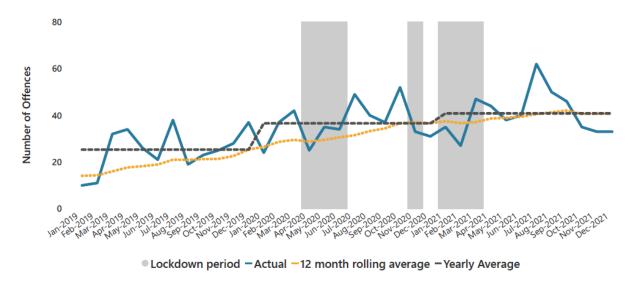
Figure 34: Monthly breakdown in Criminal Damage offences in East Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



#### 3.6. Public Order

As outlined previously, there is a substantial overlap between national trends in public order offences and hate crime. Whilst there were short term decreases in public order offences associated with the national lockdown periods, public order offences have increased overall since 2019 in East Cambridgeshire, albeit from a low base.

Figure 35: Monthly breakdown in Public Order offences in East Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



#### 3.7. Fraud, Scams and Cyber crime

#### 3.7.1. Fraud and scams

**Fraud** – according to Action Fraud, fraud is when "trickery is used to gain a dishonest advantage, which is often financial, over another person". The Office for National Statistics (ONS) suggests people are more likely to be the victim of fraud or cyber offences than any other crime type. A scam is a type of fraud, for example mass marketing scams are a common type of scam (Action Fraud, n.d.).

Long-term data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) suggests fraud and computer misuse offences have markedly increased in the past decade. The latest available data from the TCSEW showed that fraud offences did not follow the same pattern of decreased victimisation seen for other offence types during the pandemic period. In the year ending September 2021 the TCSEW showed 5.1 million fraud offences, up 36% on the pre-pandemic year ending September 2019 (ONS, 2022). The majority of these offences did not result in a loss with just 26% losing money or property with no or only partial reimbursement.

Action Fraud (the public-facing national fraud and cyber crime reporting platform), saw a 27% increase in fraud offences in the year ending September 2021 compared to the previous year, with a 42% increase in "financial investment fraud" and an 18% rise in "advanced fee payments" (ONS, 2022).

It is proposed that increases in fraud observed during the pandemic period may be linked to offenders exploiting changes in behaviour relating to COVID-19, such as an increase in online shopping and higher levels of savings. UK Finance suggests that during the pandemic fraudsters played to people's fears and worries, tricking them

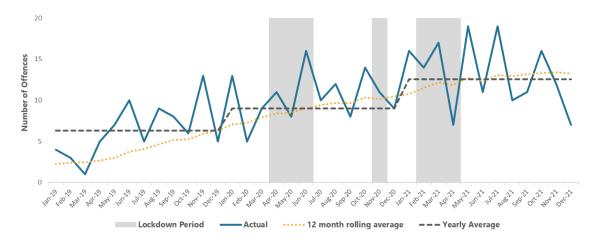
into parting with money by offering desirable incentives supposedly from trusted organisations such as vaccines and COVID-19 related pay-outs.

#### 3.7.2. Cyber Crime

Cybercrime is an umbrella term which covers both cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crimes. Cyber-dependent crimes can only be committed through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) devices, such as hacking, malware or Denial of Service (DOS) offences. Cyber-enabled crimes are more traditional crime types which can be increased in scale or reach through the use of technology, including a wide range of offences such as fraud, malicious communications, child sexual offences etc (CPS, 2019).

Local police recorded crime data for East Cambridgeshire shows increasing levels of cybercrime (offences with an online crime marker or cyber-enabled keyword), with the total 2021 count up over 100% compared to 2019. Caution needs to be applied in interpreting these changes due to the low figures and it is difficult to draw robust conclusions about the impact of the pandemic on online crime in East Cambridgeshire. It should be acknowledged that underreporting is a significant issue for cyber crime and true figures are likely to be much higher.

Figure 36: Police recorded cybercrimes in East Cambridgeshire, January 2019-December 2021



### 4. Update on CSP activities

An update of activities completed within the CSP action plan has been circulated to the CSP Board in March 2021.

This action plan incorporates the following items:

- Community Engagement
- Cyber Crime
- Young People
- ASB
- Prevention Strategy
- Local Councillor Training
- Communication
- Working Together
- Road Safety/Speeding
- Substance misuse
- Violence Against the Person
- Fire Safety

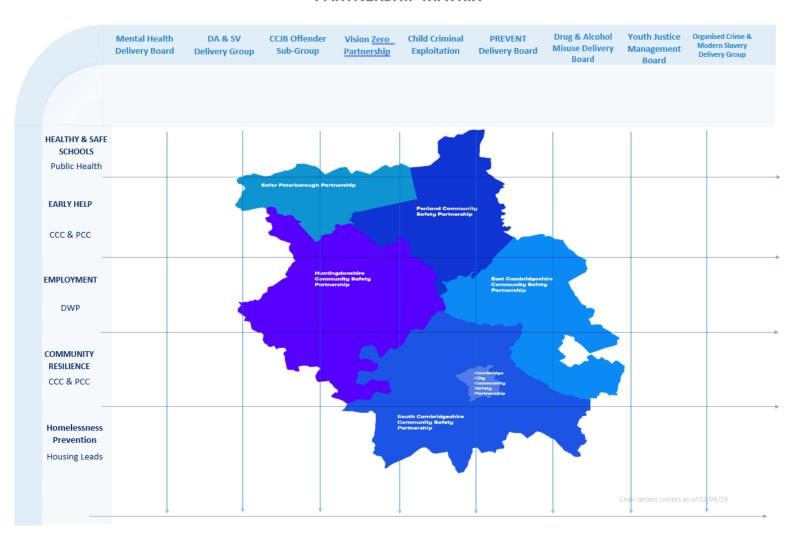
- Hate incident/crime
- Delivery Group
- Problem Solving Group
- Eyes and Ears
- Domestic Abuse
- Safer Streets Initiative
- Modern Day Slavery
- Support for care leavers (18-24)
- Scams
- Counter terrorism
- Prevent Duty

The action plan provides detail of completed and ongoing actions across various areas and different groups and services. However, a full understanding of the impact of the work carried out is not clearly defined at this time. It is therefore difficult to confidently assess the CSP actions in relation to the indicators and trends described in this strategic assessment.

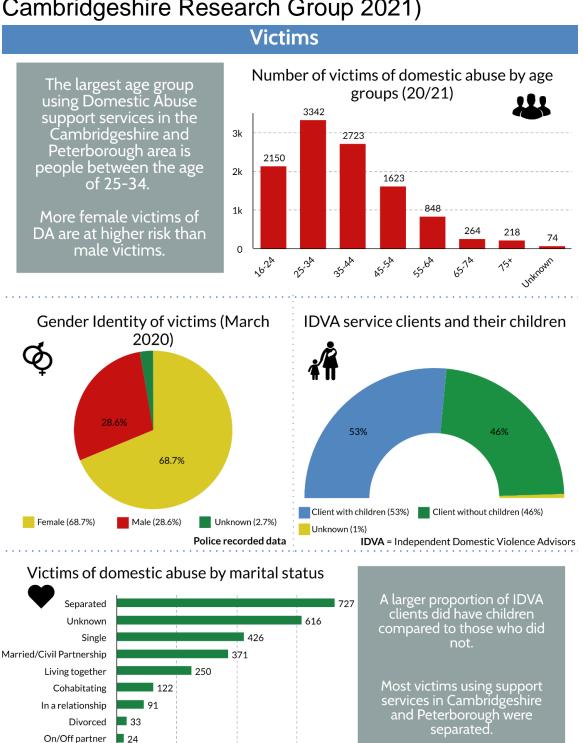
It is recommended that the CSP explores and establishes a way to routinely assess and record the impacts of CSP activity in more detail. Doing this ahead of the next strategic assessment will mean the strategic assessment process can reflect on how trends in crime and community safety issues locally may relate to the actions of the partnership.

## Appendix A: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Thematic Matrix

#### **PARTNERSHIP MATRIX**



# Appendix B: Summary of key findings from the safe accommodation needs assessment 2021 (DASVP/ Cambridgeshire Research Group 2021)



#### **Data Sources:**

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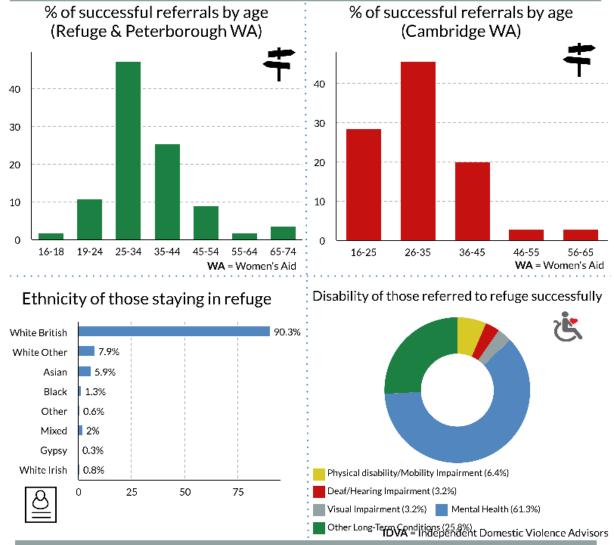
Data sets are provided from the following support services for year 2020/21: Adult Social Care, Aspire Peterborough CGL, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Children's Social Care, IDVA Service, MARAC, Probation, Rape Crisis, Refuge Outreach, SARC, WA Cambridge Outreach, WA Peterborough Outreach and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

600

400

#### **Refuge Accommodation**

Most people staying in refuge were aged between 25-35 (26-35 for Cambridge Women's Aid). A low amount of successfully referred people were aged 46 or over.

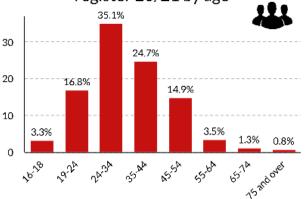


#### Data Sources:

Data sets are provided from the following support services for year 2020/21: Adult Social Care, Aspire Peterborough CGL, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Children's Social Care, IDVA Service, MARAC, Probation, Rape Crisis, Refuge Outreach, SARC, WA Cambridge Outreach, WA Peterborough Outreach and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### Housing options beyond emergency accommodation

Domestic Abuse victims on housing register 20/21 by age



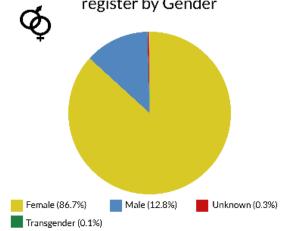
Note: this chart includes data of all Cambridgeshire and
Peterborough districts except Huntingdon, this is due to data quality and limitations

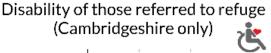
The most common age group of victims on housing register due to DA was 25-34 yrs.

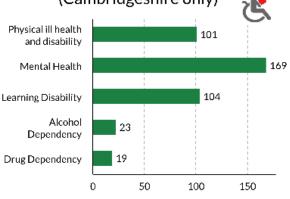
The large majority of those accessing housing services at the district councils were female.

The most common disability recorded across the district councils in 2020 was 'history of mental health problems'.

# Victims of Domestic Abuse on housing register by Gender







#### Data Sources:

Data sets are provided from the following support services for year 2020/21: Adult Social Care, Aspire Peterborough CGL, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Children's Social Care, IDVA Service, MARAC, Probation, Rape Crisis, Refuge Outreach, SARC, WA Cambridge Outreach, WA Peterborough Outreach and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### Key recommendations

Increasing support/services for specific groups of residents:

- · Lithuanian and Polish women
- · Gypsy/traveller communities
- · Older people
- ·Women
- · People with uncertain immigration status
- Residents with disabilities (especially women with mental health issues and misusing substances)

Limitations of the report: inconsistent data across agencies.

Produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group

Contact: Research.group@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk

# Appendix C: Sources for lockdown periods and relevant coronavirus restriction periods by date

23rd March 2020

Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 23 March 2020 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

15th June 2020 – Non-essential retail reopens.

<u>Prime Minister sets out timeline for retail to reopen in June - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>

4th July 2020 – Pubs, restaurants, hairdressers, two households meeting, staycations, some leisure and tourist attractions, etc.

PM announces easing of lockdown restrictions: 23 June 2020 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

14th Oct 2020 – three tier system introduced to replace local lockdowns.

<u>Covid-19 local alert levels: Three-tier system for England - House of Lords</u> Library (parliament.uk)

5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020:

Prime Minister announces new national restrictions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2020:

403 | The Institute for Government

6th Jan 2021

Prime Minister announces national lockdown - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

29th March 2021

COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021 (Summary) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

# Appendix D: Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)	Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person' (Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 and Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011).  Source: What is antisocial behaviour?   Metropolitan Police
ASB categories: personal, environmental and nuisance	3 ASB categories: Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group. Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings. Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community. Source: What is antisocial behaviour?   Metropolitan Police
Accidental Fires	Where the motive for the fire is thought to be accidental or is unknown.
Arson	The criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property.
Child Sexual Exploitation	"where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology".  Source: Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Coercive Control	Act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.  Source: Coercive control - Womens Aid
County Lines	A term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

Deliberate Fires  Dip sample	Where the motive was thought to be or suspected to be deliberate. Whilst deliberate fires can include arson incidents, not all deliberate fires are arson.  Methodology for examining data. A suitable proportion of
	records from a specified period are sampled (ideally at random) and then reports are read in detail to ascertain if there are common themes across those records.
Domestic Abuse Crime	Domestic Abuse Crime is not limited to specific offences. Any police recorded crime can be flagged as Domestic Abuse related and as such would be counted as a 'Domestic Abuse Crime'.
Domestic Abuse Incident	A (police recorded) report of a domestic incident, which occurs in either a public or private place. Recording such incidents enables data to capture those incidents where the circumstances do not amount to a notifiable crime i.e., not all domestic abuse incidents result in a crime being recorded.  Source: National standard for incident recording counting rules - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Domestic Homicide Review	When a person is murdered in the context of domestic violence or abuse, a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is usually carried out. The responsibility for DHR's sits with the relevant district Community Safety Partnership (part of the District Council). The Community Safety Partnership will commission an independent Chair and Author for the DHR and organize a panel of appropriate professionals (membership dependent on the case). Source: Welcome to Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership (cambsdasv.org.uk)
Hate Crime	A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone's: race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability. These aspects are known as 'protected characteristics'. A hate crime can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and damage to property. A hate incident is behaviour which isn't a crime but which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on the 5 protected characteristics.  Source: Hate Crime (campaign.gov.uk)

Modern Slavery	Modern slavery is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. It covers a wide range of abuse and exploitation including sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting.  Source: Modern slavery   Metropolitan Police
National Referral Mechanism (for Modern slavery) (NRM)	The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation. It encompasses:  - human trafficking - slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour An individual could have been a victim of human trafficking and/or slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Source: National referral mechanism guidance: adult (England and Wales) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Other Theft	Other theft offences involve the theft of property which is not taking directly from a person or shop. Some subcategories include; blackmail, theft by an employee, theft of mail, making off without payment etc.
Substance misuse: Opiate and Non- opiate	<ul> <li>Opiate – e.g., heroin</li> <li>Non-opiate – e.g., cannabis, crack and ecstasy</li> <li>Source: Adult substance misuse treatment statistics 2019</li> <li>to 2020: report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</li> </ul>
TCSEW (Telephone- operated Crime Survey for England and Wales)	The Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) became operational on the 20 May 2020. It was a replacement for the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) which was suspended on the 17 March 2020 because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Source: Comparability between the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales and the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)  The Crime Survey for England and Wales is an important monitor of the extent of crime in England and Wales. It is used by the Government to evaluate and develop crime reduction policies as well as providing vital information.
	reduction policies as well as providing vital information about the changing levels of crime over the last 30 years. Source: Crime Survey for England & Wales

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