

# **Community Safety Strategic Assessment:**

## **East Cambridgeshire**

### **2022**

### **Version 1.1**

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# 1. Executive Summary

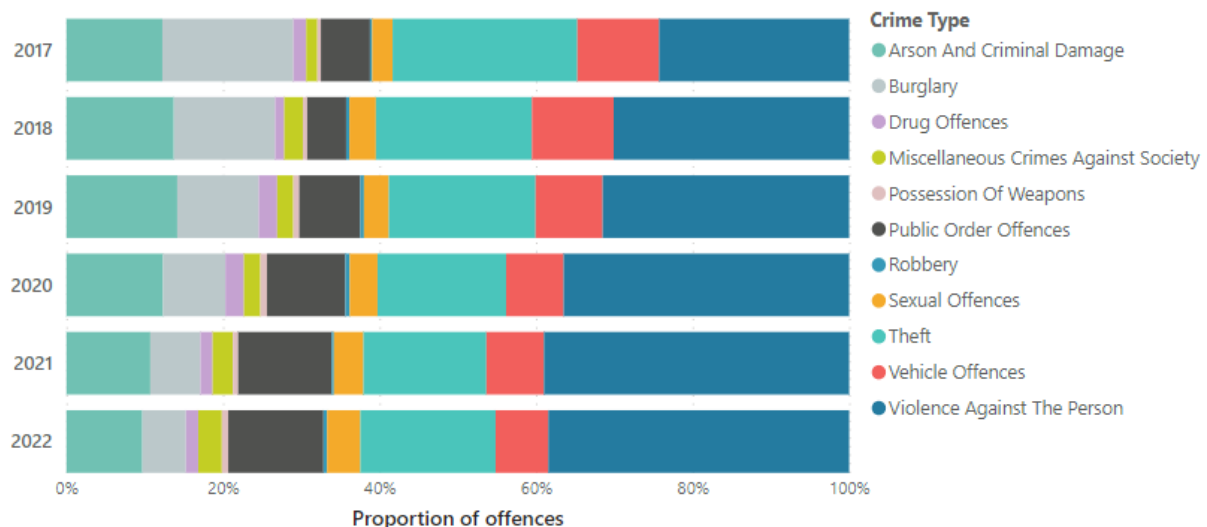
## 1.1. Summary

East Cambridgeshire remains a low crime area compared to national data and other districts in Cambridgeshire. The changes within the population since the last Census indicate a slowing of growth and where the population has increased, it is within the older age groups.

There have been some substantial increases in a few crime types locally. Some of these may be relating to the worsening / more challenging economic climate, others by easing of restrictions after Covid-19 measures, and of course increases can be seen where increased reporting occurs. It is likely that 2023 will be another challenging year for some, either through economic instability, health impacts from the last 3 years (including mental health) or other factors.

When considering longer term changes between 2017 and 2022 in police recorded crime it is clear to see the violence against the person (VAP) and public order have both increased their 'share' of the total (from 24% to 38% and 6% to 12% respectively). Whilst burglary has decreased from 17% to 6% of offences. And vehicle crime has dropped from 10% to 7% of the total. Specific crimes that have recorded an actual increase in volume are violence with injury and shoplifting.

**Figure 1: Proportion of offences in East Cambridgeshire by crime type, 2017 to 2022**



This document has drawn upon local and national data and evidence where possible. However there remain some gaps that would be worth considering how to address. The analysis has looked over four years rather than three where possible in order to understand where the Covid-19 pandemic and measures to tackle it might have affected crime and communities.

## 1.2. Recommendations

Overall it is recommended that the partnership retains the broad priority areas it currently has. Those being;

- 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.

However, it is recommended that there a clear focus is established for the forthcoming year that will enable the partnership to collaborate clearly and communicate activities and successes. The current action plan goes some way to do this but also has a broad range of activities and issues including some that are unlikely to be high risk or high harm topics.

The recommendations are broken down into the following categories in order to align with the current priorities and identify gaps.

- Greater understanding needed locally
- High risk/ vulnerability
- High Harm

The following list is the broad and complete list of recommendations in the document. The Board meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss these and agree the priorities for 2024/24:

### **1. Greater understanding needed locally:**

- 1.1.** The partnership should commission a more in-depth review of violence, particularly where injury occurred, in order to better understand this sustained increase.
- 1.2.** The CSP should utilise the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Needs Assessment to gain a more detailed understanding of these issues within the East Cambridgeshire.
- 1.3.** It is recommended that the partnership engages a broader membership to include relevant agencies that would bring additional local knowledge and understanding in order to establish the risks to local communities and any improvements in activity that would be appropriate.
- 1.4.** The partnership should use the latest Census data to consider whether particular cohorts are more present in the district now than previously.
- 1.5.** Given that public order can affect communities more generally than just individual victims it would be worth the partnership requesting a more detailed analysis of these crimes, the areas affected and overlaps with other community safety issues.

### **2. Prioritising high risk and vulnerability:**

- 2.1. It is worth the partnership considering overlaps between economic vulnerabilities in communities and aspects of acquisitive crime.
  - 2.2. The CSP should consider its role in raising and maintaining community awareness in relation to fraud, scams and cybercrime. In addition to prevention, higher levels of awareness could potentially lead to increases in reporting and victim's accessing support.
  - 2.3. The partnership should consider tackling violence in areas such as Ely and Littleport where police data indicates higher volumes of offences.
- 3. Prioritising high harm issues**
- 3.1. It is not recommended that the partnership focus a priority on all acquisitive crime. It is very low in East Cambridgeshire and the likely resources needed to tackle all aspects of it currently outside what the partnership has.
  - 3.2. The partnership to receive additional data and information from the High Harms Board (or thematic partnerships lead at force level) to more effectively prioritise emerging issues.

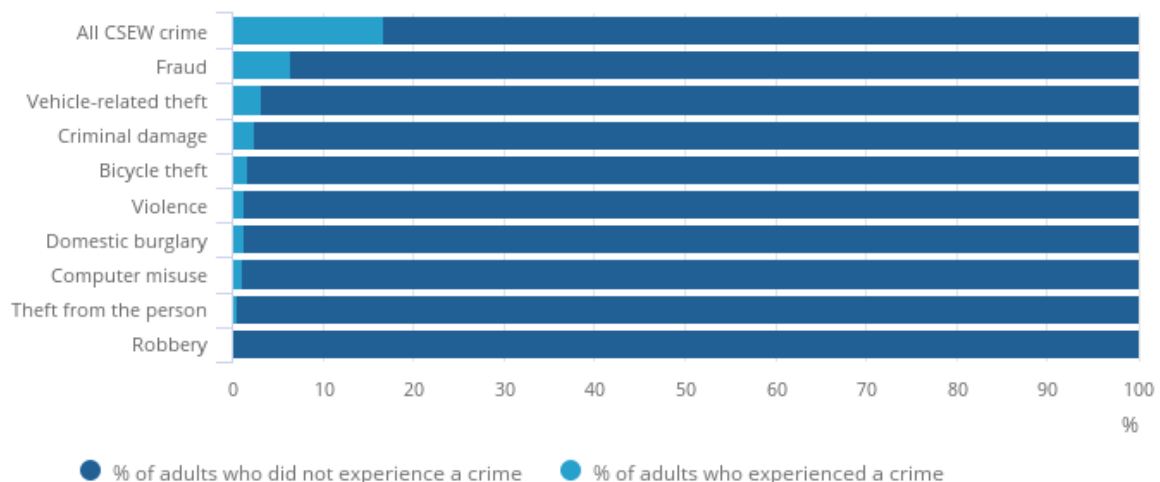
## 2. Understanding the context

### 2.1. National Crime Context

The latest national figures to September 2022 indicate an overall 10% decrease in crime since the year ending March 2020 (pre-pandemic), as estimated by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW).

The CSEW enables the ONS to estimate the likelihood of adults being a victim of any of the crimes that the survey asks about. The most recent estimates show differences between crime types, with fraud and vehicle-related theft being the most likely crime experienced.

**Figure 2: Proportion of adult victims who have experienced a crime by crime type**





Source: Figure 2 in CSEW report for YE September 2022 (ONS, 2023d).

Note. See technical notes in Appendix A.

Latest figures highlighted changes in crime categories for the year ending March 2020. It remains to be seen whether the decreases in many crime types during the coronavirus pandemic will persist in the long-term.

In addition it should be noted that there has been a national increase in police recorded sexual offences (22% compared to the year ending March 2020). The influence of high-profile cases on willingness to report has been cited as a likely driver for this change.

## 2.2. Countywide Changes

The countywide community safety board was refreshed in 2022 and now operates as the Countywide High Harms Board. This is chaired by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). The board meets quarterly focusing on four high harm issues:

- Drug Strategy
- Serious Violence
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Serious & Organised Crime

Delivery groups and countywide linkages alongside this aim to address other community safety issues. From August 2022 a new Problem-Solving Co-ordinator funded by the OPCC, is being hosted by East Cambridgeshire District Council for a three-year term. These are posts replicated in some other districts in the County. This post holder can also bid into a OPCC community fund for local crime and disorder issues.

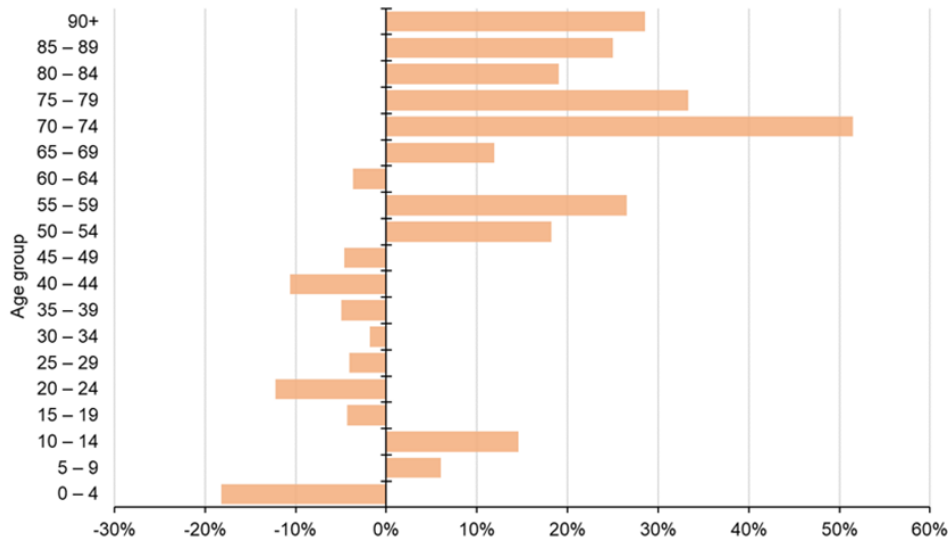
## 2.3. Demographic Changes in the District

The demographics of East Cambridgeshire district population continues to be older than the national average, with a greater proportion of economic inactivity due to retirement. The overall findings of the latest Census show that population growth is slowing down, with the relatively small increase in the number of people in the district being driven by increases in population aged 65 years and over.

There was an overall decrease in the population aged 0-19 years between the 2011 and 2021 Census. The working aged population (broadly represented by the population aged 20 to 64 years) has also hardly grown since Census 2011. In addition, the Census 2021 population estimate is lower than the ONS mid-2020

population estimate (based on the 2011 Census) by approximately 2,500 residents (-2.8%).

**Figure 3: Percentage change in East Cambridgeshire population group, Census 2011 to Census 2021**



The proportion of the population identifying as White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British has reduced from 89.7% at Census 2011 to 86.5% at Census 2021, however this is still above both the Cambridgeshire (77.2%) and England (73.5%) Census 2021 average for this ethnic group. Increases were seen in the following ethnic groups:

**Table 1: Proportion of population in East Cambridgeshire by Ethnic Group, Census 2011 and Census 2021**

Ethnic group	Proportion of population: Census 2011	Proportion of population: Census 2021
White: Other	6.5%	8.0%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	1.4%	2.1%
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	1.4%	1.9%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	0.6%	0.8%
Other ethnic group	0.3%	0.7%

There was little change in the percentage of households where no one had English as a main language (increase from 2.2% in 2011 to 2.8% in 2021). The top three languages (after English) by number of residents aged 3 years and over in the latest census were Polish, Romanian and Lithuanian. Portuguese has dropped from third to fourth place since 2011 Census.

In line with the national trend fewer people identified as Christian than in 2011 and the largest increase was those that stated they had no religion. There was a lower

proportion of households with at least one person classified as disabled under the Equality Act in East Cambridgeshire than in England (30% and 32% respectively).

Key findings for East Cambridgeshire:

- East Cambridgeshire's population has grown from 83,800 in Census 2011 to 87,700 in Census 2021. An increase of only 4.7%.
- In contrast the increase in population between Census 2001 and 2011 was 14.5%.
- In terms of the number of households within the district, East Cambs had the lowest percentage increase of any Cambridgeshire districts. With an increase of 7.5% change from 2011 to 2021. This is similar to the England increase of 6.2% but lower than the East of England average of 8.5%.
- By broad age group East Cambridgeshire can be seen to have substantial increase in the population aged 65 years and overs only. The more detailed age breakdown shows particularly high percentage growth for the population aged 70-74 years and 75-79 years. There was a decrease in the population aged 0-19 year. **While there has been growth in the population aged 5-9 years (6%) and 10-14 years (14.6%), there has been a notable percentage decrease in the population aged 0-4 years (-18.2%).**
- There has been minimal growth in the population aged 20 to 64 years. The more detailed age breakdown shows that while there has been growth in the population aged 50-59 years, there has been a decrease in the population aged 20-49 years.
- It should also be noted that the ONS mid 2020 population estimate is higher than the Census 2021 population estimate, with a difference of approximately 2,500 residents.

## 2.4. Economic Context

2022 was unprecedented for its impact on UK living standards and those on low income due to record level inflation. The Resolution Foundation reports that inflation reached its highest level in 41 years to 11% in October 2022 (Resolution Foundation, 2023). It has since fallen to 10.1% in January 2023. The Resolution Foundation also suggest that indicators such as this alongside the recent fall in wholesale energy prices indicate we the worst effects could be over. However, the outlook is still very much uncertain due to volatility in the markets. In the medium term, the cost of living crisis unfortunately shows few signs of slowing down even with inflation peaking.

Factors that will continue the cost of living crisis in 2023:

- Energy price cap is set to rise by 20% in April 2023 even though wholesale energy prices are at their lowest since December 2021 (Resolution Foundation, 2023).
- The energy price guarantee will end in April 2023 resulting in households likely seeing considerable jump in their energy bills.
- Food inflation rose by 16.5% in the 12 months to December 2022 (ONS, 2023b).
- Wages and benefits are rising slower than inflation; with real term wage growth adjusted to inflation falling. Real wage growth is not expected to return until the end of 2027 (Resolution Foundation, 2023).
- Fuel prices: petrol and diesel prices have continuously fallen since record highs in July 2022. However, prices are still higher than seen in 2021.
- Mortgage interest rates have continued to rise resulting in higher mortgage repayments and the fall in house prices (ONS, 2023e).

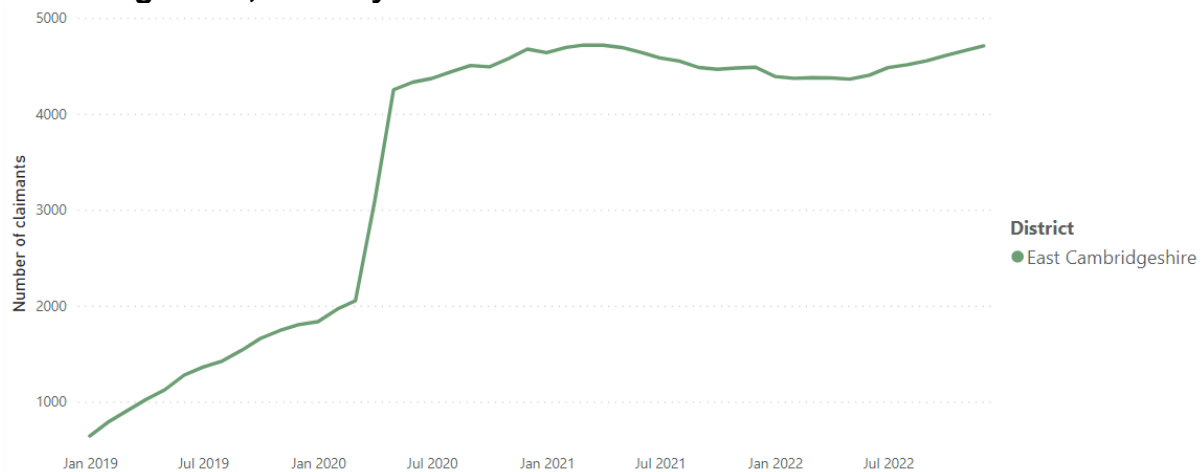
#### Economic context for East Cambridgeshire:

- Annual change in gross weekly pay increased by 4.57% in 2022. This signifies a real term wage decrease when adjusted to inflation (ONS, 2022a).
- Monthly universal claimants have increased by 6.8% from 4390 in January 2022 to 4690 in November 2022 (See Figure 4).
- Total number of food parcels distributed by the Trussell Trust food bank in the 2022 financial year fell by 29.9% (The Trussell Trust, 2022). Although long term trends indicate increasing demand for food bank services.
- Private monthly rents for East Cambridgeshire increased by 2.6% in the year ending September 2022 (ONS, 2022h).

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) reports that household disposal income will fall by 4.3% in 2022/23, the largest fall in a single year since records began in 1956 (OBR, 2022). Some government support has been announced which aims to minimise the impacts. This includes a household boost to assist with energy bills and a cost of living package which included the energy price guarantee. However, with support ending in 2023 for many of these announced measures and no announced replacements, there will be disproportionately higher impact on disposable income for those on lower income or in poverty.

Although there are signs that we are past the worst. The continuing impact of the cost of living crisis will place significant pressures on living standards and lower-income households throughout 2023.

**Figure 4: Trend in the monthly count of Universal Credit claimants in East Cambridgeshire, January 2019 to December 2022**



Source: Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) via Stat-Xplore

### 3. Overview of CSP activities

The current CSP priorities are extremely broad, this allows for the partnership to be responsive to local and emerging issues. It makes assessing impact against them much harder.

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.

The CSP has a local action plan that is maintained and updated with progress. However, it is not always clear which agencies were leading or actively involved in different aspects of activity. It is also not clear on what the short, medium and long term impacts have been. The partnership should use this point in the year to review the success of the action plan. Consideration should be given to how activities are judged to be successful or impactful and how best to record this.

## 4. Acquisitive Crime

### 4.1. Summary and Recommendations

Most types of acquisitive crime (see definition in technical notes, Appendix A) have shown a decrease compared to the period before the Covid-19 lockdown (~2019), both at a national level, and within East Cambridgeshire. East Cambridgeshire also follows the national trend with regards to the types of acquisitive crime that account for the majority of acquisitive offences; “other theft”, vehicle offences and shoplifting.

Where East Cambridgeshire has bucked the national trend is for burglary and shoplifting. At a national level, the share of acquisitive offences accounted for by burglary decreased only slightly since the period before the covid-19 lockdown (~2019), but East Cambridgeshire saw a larger decrease, driven primarily by decreases in residential burglary.

Whilst there has been a decrease in shoplifting offences at the national level, East Cambridgeshire has seen an increase. Despite this increase, the rate in East Cambridgeshire remains lower than the national rate.

Locally, vehicle crime has stayed relatively stable since 2019 (against a national decrease), but yearly increases have been seen in catalytic converter theft.

A number of factors are likely to be contributing to the current trends in acquisitive crime, including:

- Changes in work pattern - For some sectors of employment there has been a substantial increase in hybrid or homeworking. In line with the national trend, Census 2021 indicated that East Cambridgeshire saw a 28 point increase in the percentage of people homeworking since Census 2011 (Cambridgeshire Insight, n.d.).
- Cost of living crisis – Increased costs associated with fuel (domestic and commercial), food, utilities and clothing have resulted in pressures on families across the country.

What is currently unclear is the duration or extent of these impacts locally. Further research would be needed to determine the extent to which the increase in shoplifting and decrease in residential burglary in East Cambridgeshire are linked with the above factors. As detailed in the introduction, data suggests that deprivation may be increasing in East Cambridgeshire; for example the spike in benefits claimants from March 2020 in East Cambridgeshire (see Figure 4), and the decrease in gross weekly pay when inflation is taken into account. This is pertinent to community safety as socio-economic variables such as deprivation and inequality have been linked to levels of criminal behaviour (Krohn, 1976; Mishra & Novakowski, 2016; Ruffinos, et al., 2013).

**Recommendations: It is not recommended that the partnership focus a priority on all acquisitive crime. It is very low in East Cambridgeshire and the likely resources needed to tackle all aspects of it currently outside what the partnership has.**

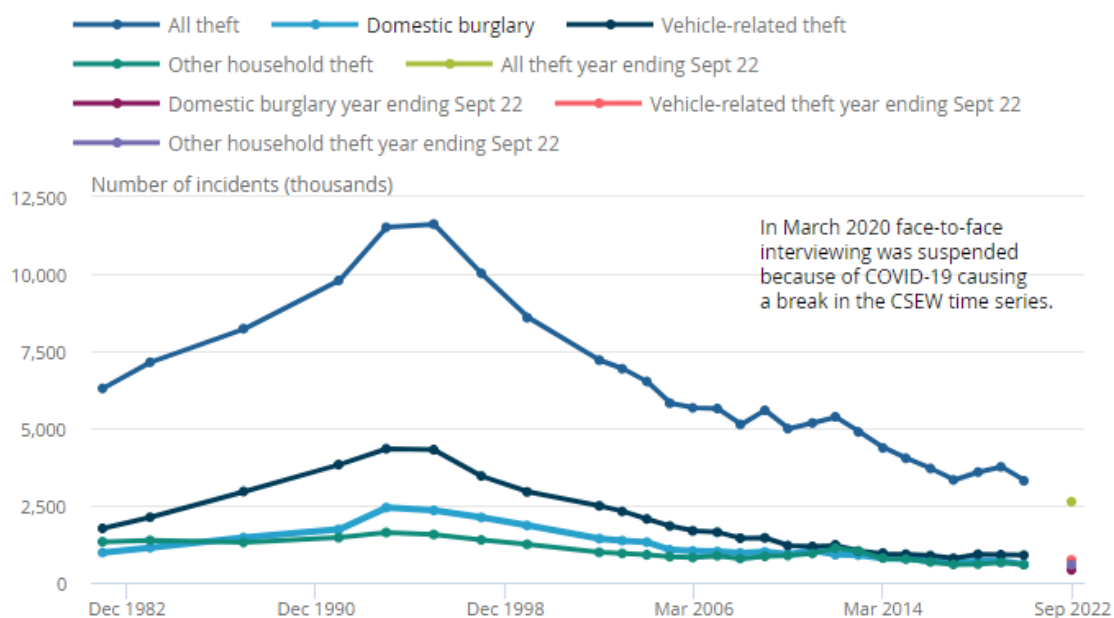
**It is worth the partnership considering alongside the other vulnerabilities that it wishes to tackle given the economic climate and that working closely with struggling communities is likely to create positive impacts across a broader range of outcomes.**

## 4.2. National Context

Data from the latest publication from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) showed decreases in theft offences since the year preceding the pandemic (Office for National Statistics, 2023) (CSEW use of the term ‘theft’ is a subset of acquisitive crimes as recorded by the police, see Appendix A).

The data for the CSEW for the year ending (YE) September 2022, indicated that there was a statistically significant decrease in theft of 20% compared to pre-covid-19 pandemic levels (for the YE March 2020) This decrease was reflected across most sub-types. These decreases follow long terms trends seen in theft offences as recorded by the CSEW (see Figure 5).

**Figure 5: CSEW 2022 annual estimates for England and Wales showing long term reduction in theft offences**



Source: Office for National Statistics – Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) 2022, Figure 9 (2023).

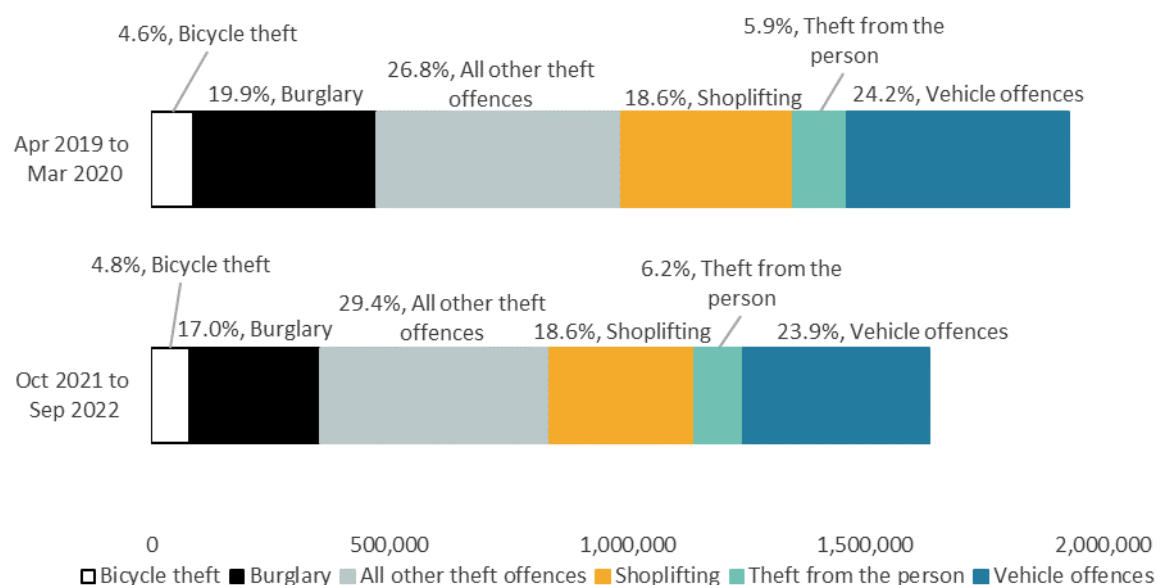
Police recorded acquisitive crime, includes business burglary, residential burglary, vehicle offences, theft from the person, bicycle theft, shoplifting, and “all other theft offences”, has seen fluctuations since the year preceding the Covid-19 lockdown period.

Following the national reductions seen during the pandemic (ONS, 2022d), police recorded acquisitive crime has increased since restrictions related to the third national lockdown were lifted (ONS, 2023d). A 20% national increase in acquisitive crime was seen for the year ending (YE) September 2022 (1.4 million offences) compared to the YE September 2021 (1.6 million offences).

Despite this increase in acquisitive crime since 2021, a similar pattern to CSEW data was seen when comparing current levels of total acquisitive offences to pre-covid-19 pandemic levels (for the YE March 2020). The YE September 2022 saw a decrease in acquisitive offences of 15.2%; with a rate of 27.4 per 1000 population in the YE September 2022 (ONS, 2023c).

The proportions of each acquisitive offence type stayed relatively similar from YE March 2020 to YE September 2022 (see Figure 6). The biggest change was a minor decrease in the share accounted for by burglary, from 19.9% to 17% (with a decrease in number of 27.8%), followed by “all other offences” for which the share increased from 26.8% to 29.4% (with a decrease in number of 6.8%) (Office for National Statistics, 2023). The categories that accounted for the majority of acquisitive offences in 2019 and 2022 were “all other theft”; vehicle offences; shoplifting and burglary.

**Figure 6: Share of theft offences subtypes for national police recorded theft offences for the years ending March 2020 and September 2022**



Source: Crime in England and Wales Appendix Tables (Office for National Statistics, 2023).

### 4.3. East Cambridgeshire Acquisitive Crime Types

The overall number of acquisitive offences in East Cambridgeshire decreased between 2019 and 2022 by 13.2%. In 2019, the categories that accounted for the largest share of acquisitive offences in East Cambridgeshire were “other theft” with 29.5%, vehicle offences with 22.4%, and residential burglary with 18%. Between 2019 and 2022:

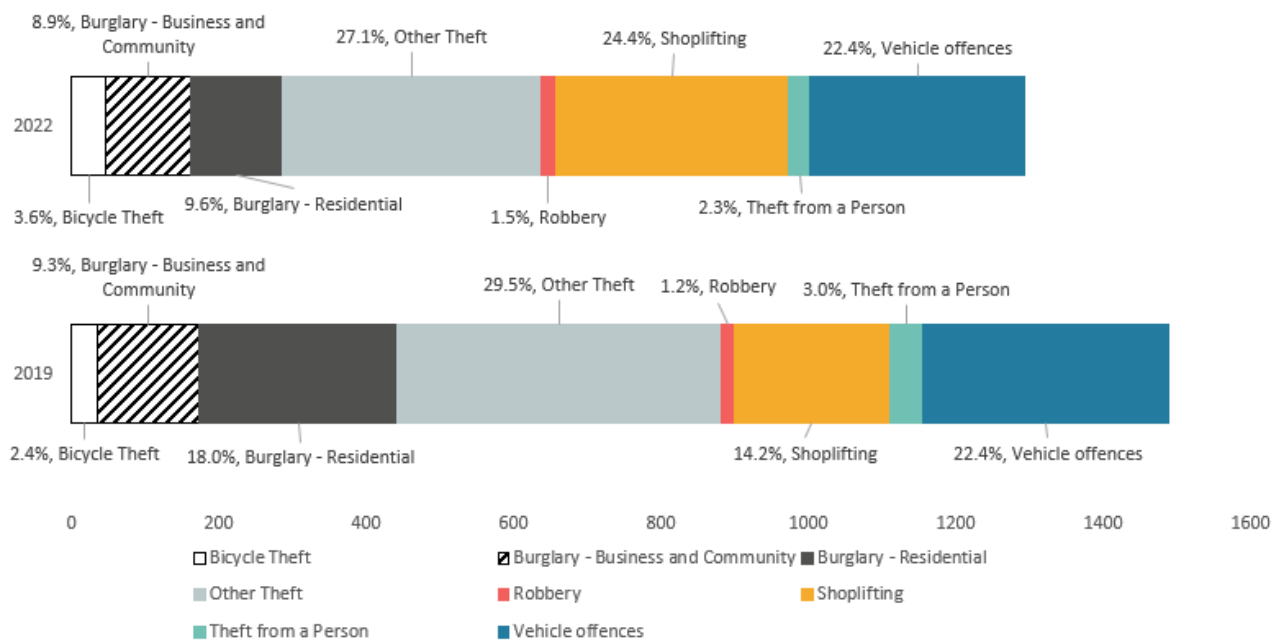
- The share of shoplifting offences increased from 14.2% in 2019 to 24.4% in 2022, and saw an increase in number of 49.1%.



- The share of residential burglary decreased to 9.6% and decreased in number by 53.7%.
- The share of vehicle offences in 2022 remained the same but decreased in number by 13.1%.
- The share of other offences decreased slightly to 27.1% and decreased in number by 20.1%.

These changes meant that the categories with the largest share of acquisitive offences in 2022 changed to “Other theft”, vehicle offences and shoplifting. This contrasts the national figures that saw relatively similar distributions of offences in 2019 and 2022, although the largest categories were similar to that of East Cambridgeshire, of “other theft”, vehicle offences, shoplifting, and burglary (a category including both residential and non-residential burglaries).

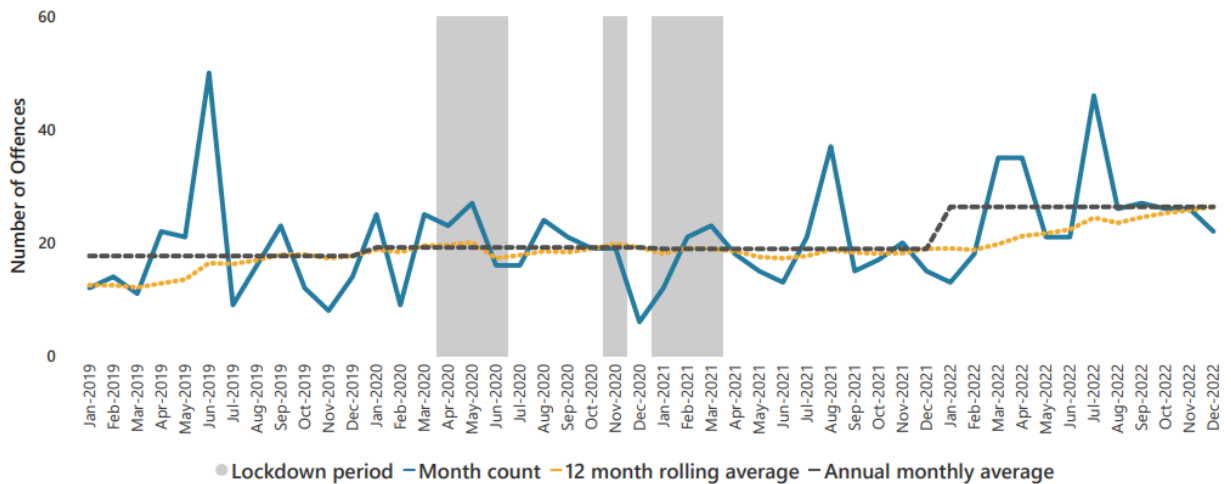
**Figure 7: Share of acquisitive crime sub-type in East Cambridgeshire for 2019 and 2022**



#### 4.4. Shoplifting

The national count of police recorded shoplifting offences decreased by 15.3% from YE March 2020 to YE September 2022 (ONS, 2023c), however in East Cambridgeshire it increased by 49.1% from 212 in 2019 to 316 in 2022 (YE December). As shown in Figure 8, the number of offences increased slightly from 2019 to 2020, where it stayed relatively stable until 2022 where it showed a larger increase. Despite this increase, the rate of shoplifting offences in 2022 for East Cambridgeshire (YE December) was lower than the national rate (YE September) at 3.6 versus 5.1 per 1000 population respectively (ONS, 2023c).

**Figure 8: Trend in shoplifting offences in East Cambridgeshire from January 2019 to December 2022**

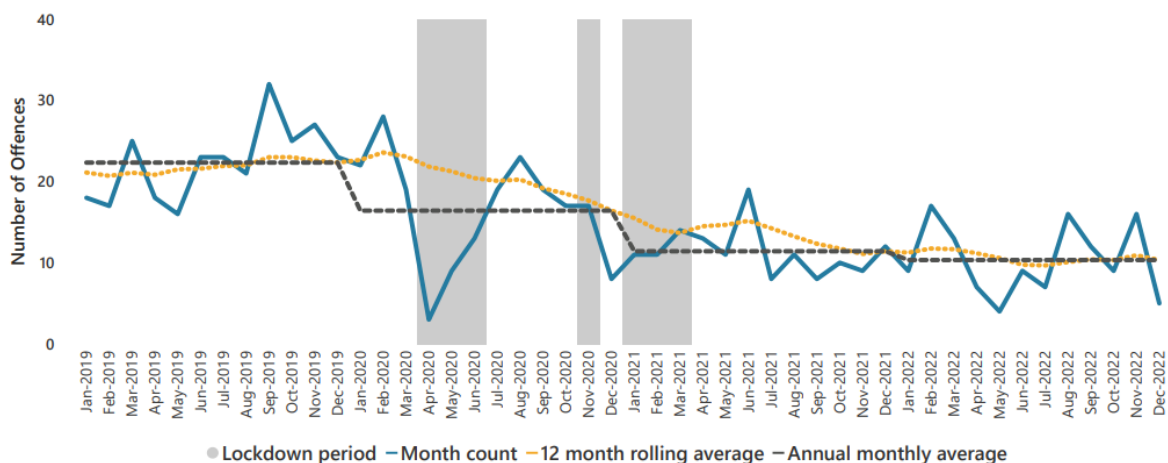


#### 4.5. Residential Burglary

The national count of police recorded residential burglary decreased by 28.5% between YE March 2020 to the YE September 2022 (ONS, 2023c). As shown in Figure 9, the count of residential burglary offences in East Cambridgeshire has shown a yearly decrease since 2019, with a decrease of 53.7% from 2019 to 2022.

The rate of residential burglary offences in East Cambridgeshire in 2022 (YE December) of 3.3 per 1000 households is lower than the national rate (YE September) of 6.1 per 1000 households.

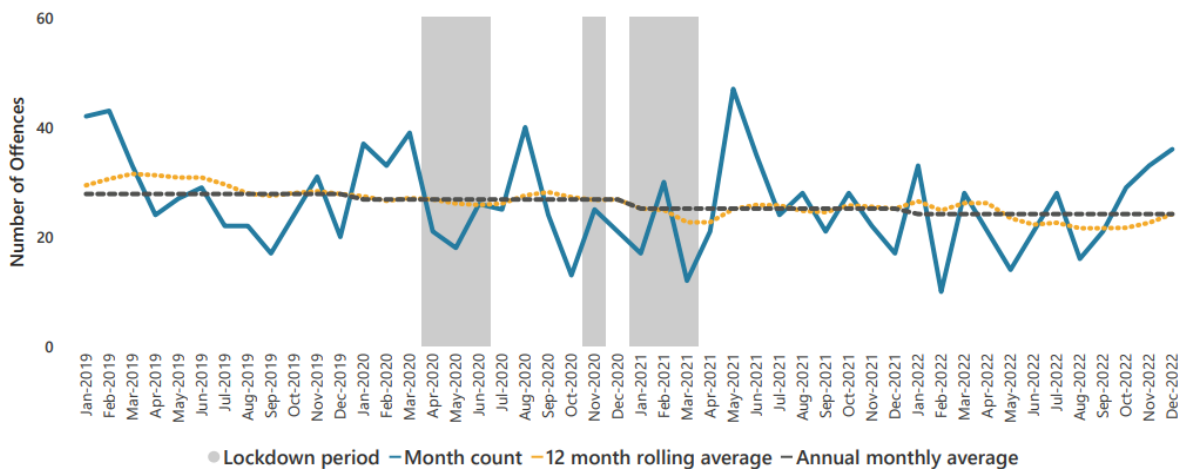
**Figure 9: Trend in residential burglary offences in East Cambridgeshire from January 2019 to December 2022**



## 4.6. Vehicle Crime

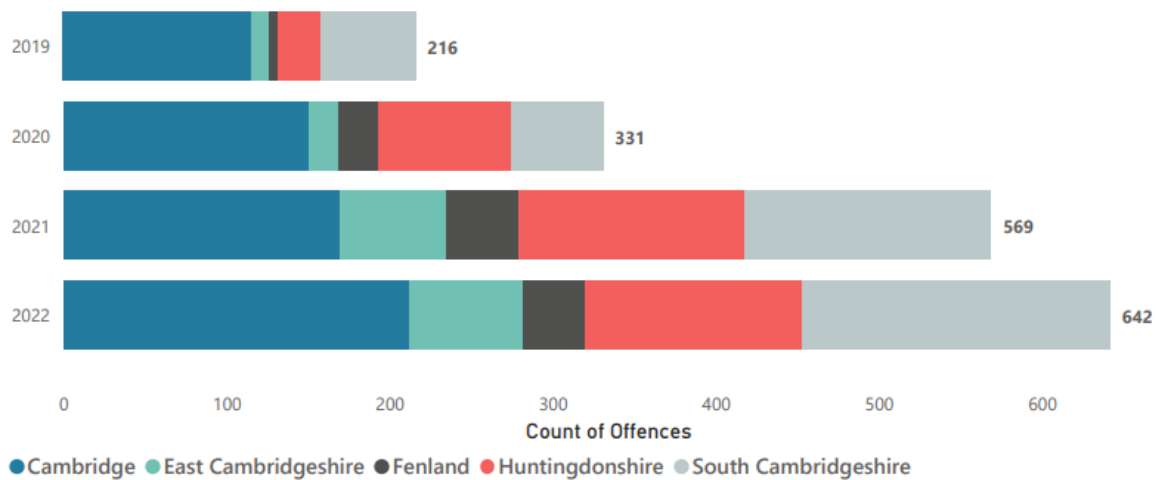
The national count of police recorded vehicle offences decreased by 16.1% from YE March 2020 to YE September 2022 (ONS, 2023d). However, as shown in Figure 10, the count of vehicle crime offences in East Cambridgeshire has stayed relatively stable since 2019. The rate of vehicle offences in 2022 in East Cambridgeshire (YE December) was 3.3 per 1000 population; half the national rate (YE September) of 6.6 per 1000 population (ONS, 2023c).

**Figure 10: Monthly trend in vehicle offences in East Cambridgeshire from January 2019 to December 2022**



Whilst vehicle crime in East Cambridgeshire has remained relatively stable, catalytic converter theft has increased between 2019 and 2022. As shown in Figure 11, this increase is reflected across all districts within Cambridgeshire, with an overall increase of 197% from 2019 to 2022. East Cambridgeshire saw a 536% increase in catalytic converter theft between 2019 and 2022 (from 11 in 2019 to 70 in 2022); but accounts for a smaller proportion of offences than Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire. East Cambridgeshire accounted for 5.1% of offences in 2019, and 10.9% in 2022 (See Table 8 in Appendix B for a full breakdown of figures from 2019-2022 across districts).

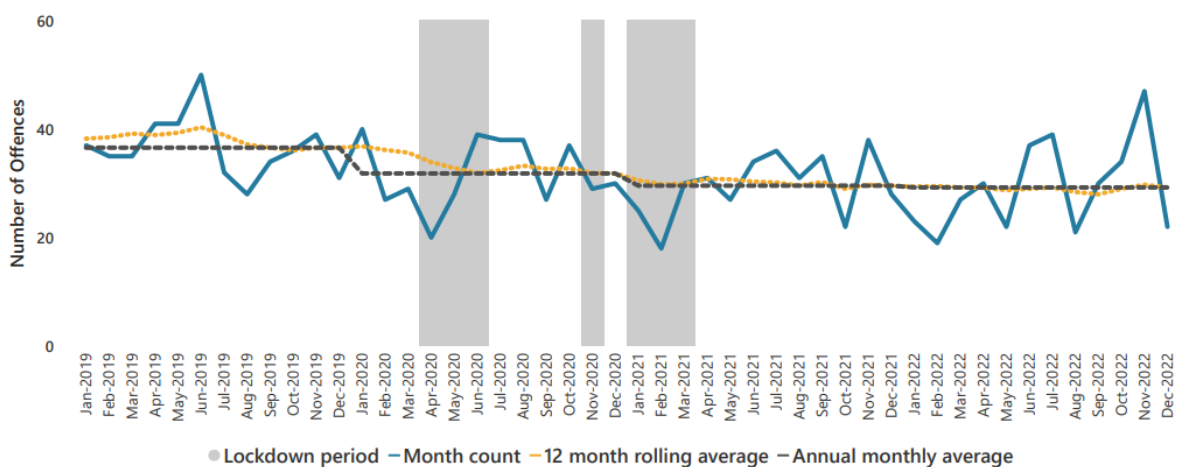
**Figure 11: Trend and share of catalytic converter theft from 2019 to 2022 in Cambridgeshire districts**



#### 4.7. “All Other Theft”

The national rate of police recorded “all other theft” offences showed a slight decrease 6.8% from YE March 2020 to YE September 2022 (ONS, 2023d). Whilst this category accounted for the largest share of acquisitive offences in East Cambridgeshire, as shown in Figure 12 the count of other theft offences has shown a yearly decrease since 2019; with a decrease from 2019 to 2022 of 20%. Furthermore, the rate in 2022 in East Cambridgeshire (YE December) was half the national rate (YE September) at 4.0 versus 8.1 per 1000 population.

**Figure 12: Monthly trend in other theft offences in East Cambridgeshire from January 2019 to December 2022**



## 5. Scams, Fraud and Cyber Crime

### 5.1. Summary and Recommendations

The true scale of scams and fraud carried out either online or in person is not known. This area has substantial underreporting locally and nationally. Offenders adapt their methods quickly as demonstrated by the scams carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Recommendation: The CSP should consider its role in raising and maintaining community awareness in relation to fraud, scams and cybercrime. In addition to prevention, higher levels of awareness could potentially lead to increases in reporting and victim's accessing support.**

### 5.2. National Context

The National Crime Agency (NCA) national strategic assessment of serious and organised crime (2021) identifies cybercrime and fraud as key threats, citing £3 billion in losses recorded by Action Fraud in 2020. Significant underreporting means the true figure is likely to be higher with much fraud remaining undetected and hidden (NCA, 2021). The report highlights that during the Covid-19 pandemic, serious organised crime offenders used adaptable methods to maintain criminal profits, for example, using Covid-19 related themes for online scams. The ever-changing landscape is likely to make fraud, scams and cybercrime an emerging/growing threat. Factors to be considered include:

- Technological developments, including new potential means of offending and an increased availability of cybercrime-related tools.
- A growing marketplace for cybercrime tools and data.
- Increases in the extent to which people live their lives online.
- A shift to home working.
- Potential constraints on offending opportunities for non-cyber related acquisitive crime following on from the pandemic.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) was commissioned to conduct a thematic inspection of fraud in 2019. The report concluded that given the scale of fraud, not enough was being done and that in the absence of a national strategy the response to fraud was disjointed and ineffective (HMICFRS, 2019). The report was re-visited in August 2021, concluding that many issues remained. An extract from this review:

“The effect of fraud on the UK is still huge, and the chance of becoming a victims of it is still far too high. It causes misery to victims, individuals and businesses, and

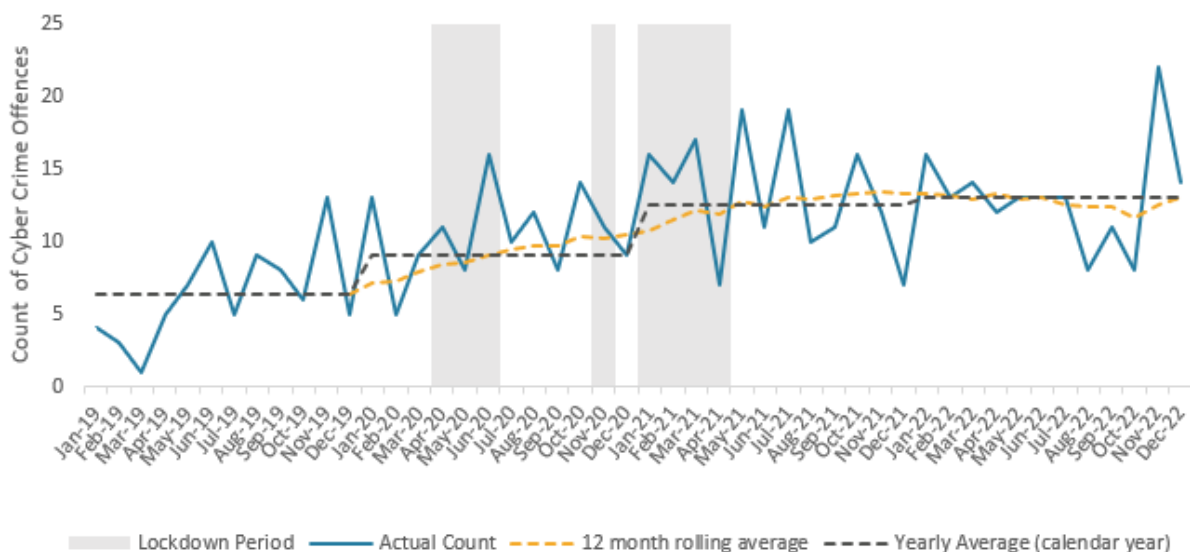
damages the national economy. It is estimated to be the type of crime that has the highest number of incidents committed in England and Wales. Adults are still more likely to be a victims of fraud than any other crime.” (HMICFRS, 2021).

The CSEW showed that nationally there was a marked increase in fraud, scams and cybercrime during the Covid-19 pandemic. Estimates for the year ending (YE) June 2022 showed levels had returned to pre-pandemic levels, indicating that these increases were specifically linked to the pandemic rather than representing a long-term shift in the trend.

### 5.3. Local Known Offences

Police recorded cybercrime offences in East Cambridgeshire however, saw yearly increases from 2019 (YE December) with 76 offences, to 2021 with 159, changing very little in 2022 (with 157). The monthly and annual trend from 2019 to 2022 is shown in Figure 13. The figures provided here are likely to also be impacted by underreporting and the true number of victims far higher.

**Figure 13: Police recorded cybercrime offences in East Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2022**

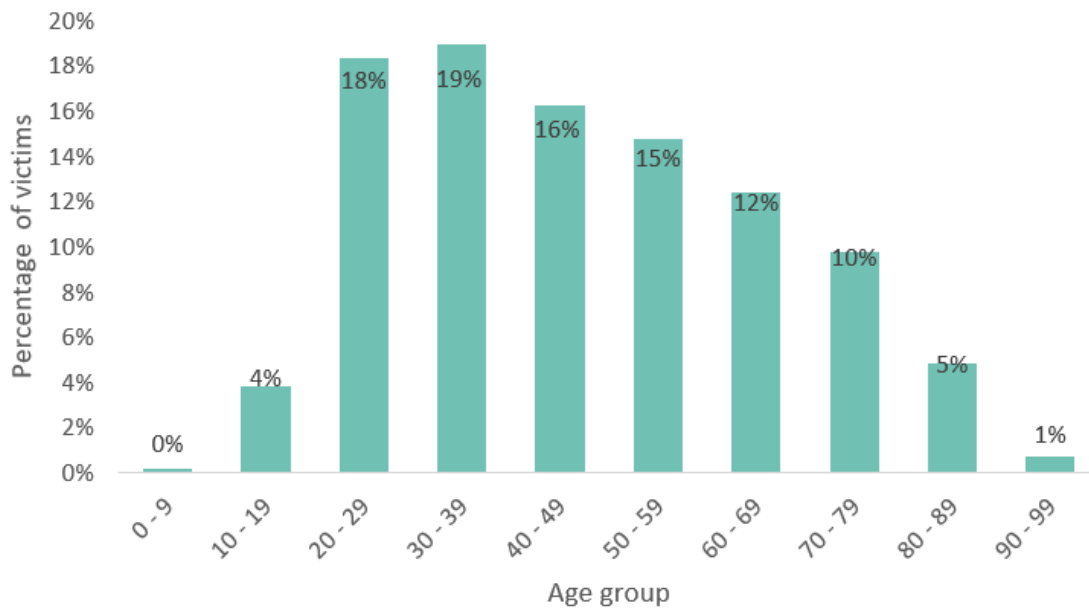


The risk of harm associated with fraud and cybercrime offences is likely to vary notably between victims depending on the incident type, but has the potential to be very high.

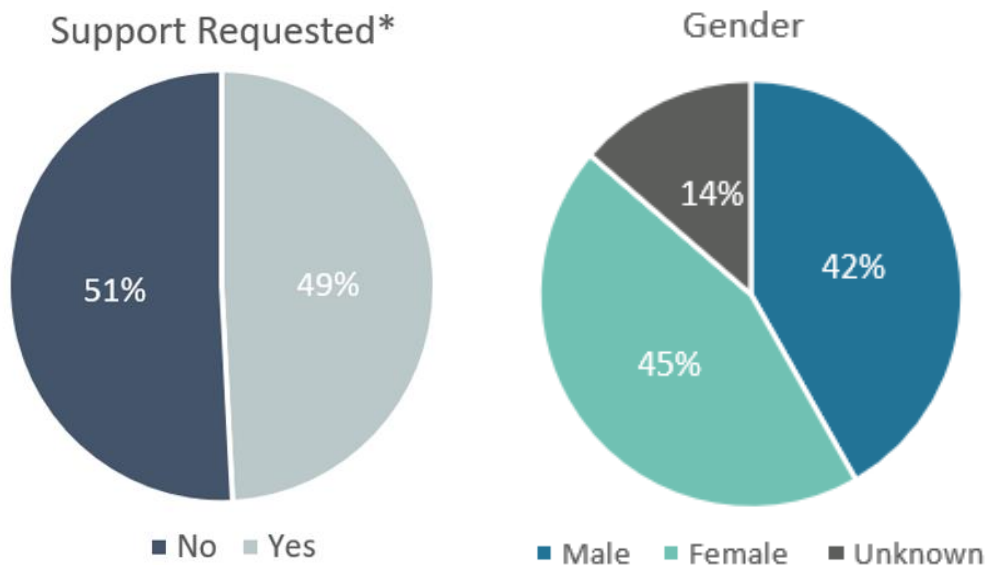
Action fraud (2022) figures for the Cambridgeshire Constabulary area (district level data is not available) provides a breakdown of the demographics of individuals reporting fraud and cybercrime offences as shown in.

Figure 14 and Figure 15. The majority of victims were age 20-69, however the gender of victims (where known) was relatively equally split. 51% of victims did not request support when they reported the fraud.

**Figure 14: Action Fraud figures for individual victims of cybercrime and fraud by age group, Jan 2022 to Dec 2022, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough**



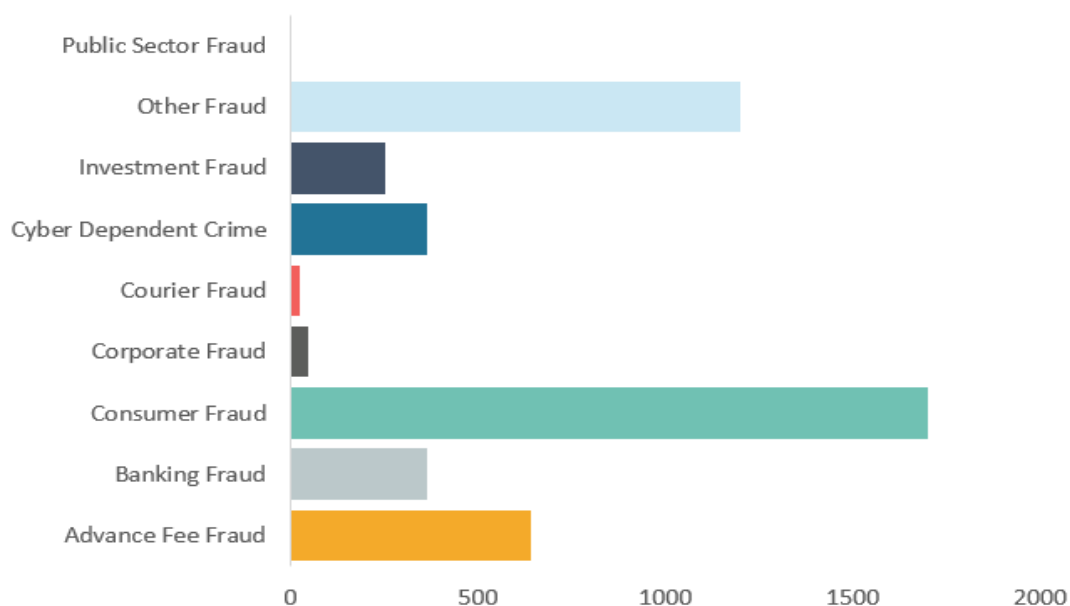
**Figure 15: Action Fraud figures for individual victims of cybercrime and fraud by gender and support requested, Jan 2022 to Dec 2022 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough**



Note. \*Unknowns have been excluded from the chart

Figure 16 also shows the grouped crime codes according to the type of fraud committed. This is to give an indication of the kind of crimes the victims have experienced; Consumer fraud is a key crime group according to this data.

**Figure 16: Action Fraud figures for individual victims of cybercrime and fraud by crime group, Jan 2022 to Dec 2022 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough**



## 6. Violence

### 6.1. Summary and Recommendations

Different sources indicative of national and local levels of violence appear to be showing contrasting trends, with health data sources showing a decrease, police recorded data showing an increase, and data from the crime survey for England and Wales (CSEW) showing a lack of significant change.

- Whilst local emergency department (ED) data indicates a decrease in violence related attendances between 2019 and 2022, police recorded violence shows an increase at both a national and local level.
- The police recorded violence with injury rate is 4.5 per 1000 population, less than half the national rate of 9.7 per 1000 population.
- Police recorded stalking and harassment has shown a larger percentage increase in East Cambridgeshire between 2019 and 2022 than at the national level; but the rate remains relatively low compared to national rates, and to other districts within Cambridgeshire.
- Rates of police recorded violence against the person in East Cambridgeshire are relatively low compared to other districts within Cambridgeshire, across all sub-types.
- Data indicates that Ely, Littleport and Soham are areas that appear in police and ambulance data. These are some of the more densely populated areas in the district.



Whilst it is unclear as to the direction of the trend in local levels of violence, local levels of recorded interpersonal violence do appear to be lower than national levels, and appear to be low compared to most other districts in the county. Furthermore, the increasing trend seen in police recorded data may be reflective of improvements in recording practices over time.

Whilst health data is indicating a trends of decreasing levels of violence in Cambridgeshire, it is also worth noting the cost of living crisis as detailed in the introduction, and the indication from benefits data (see Figure 4) that levels of deprivation may be increasing. Socio-economic variables such as deprivation and inequality have known links with higher levels of recorded criminal behaviour, and interpersonal violence (Daly, et al., 2001; Kelly, 2000; Krohn, 1976; Mishra & Novakowski, 2016; Reilly, et al., 2023). We recommend that the CSP revisits the issue of violent crime and the cost of living crisis within the year.

**Recommendation: The partnership should consider prioritising some work around violence. In particular;**

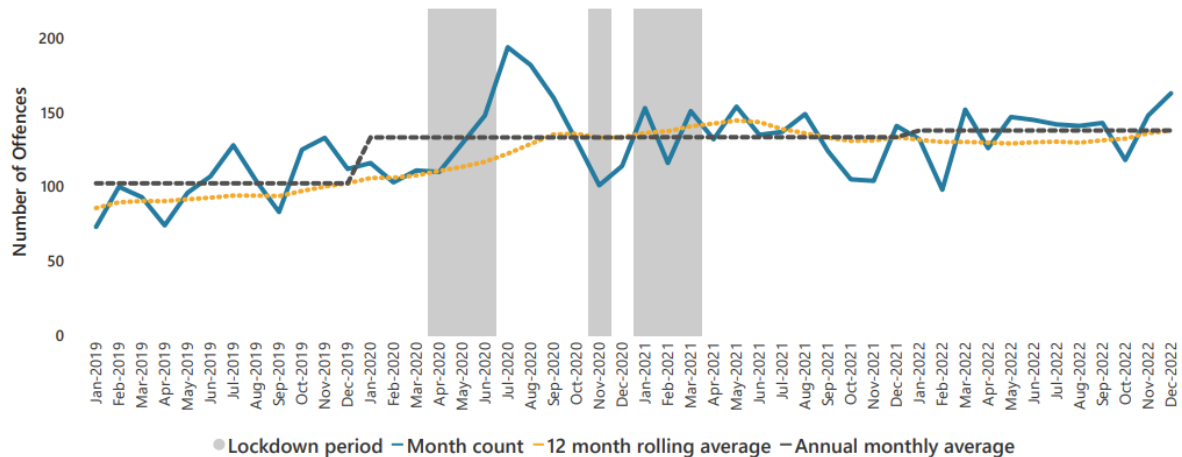
- A. The partnership should commission a more in-depth review of violence, particularly where injury occurred, in order to better understand this sustained increase.**
- B. The partnership should consider tackling violence in areas such as Ely and Littleport where police data indicates higher volumes of offences.**

## 6.2. Trends Over Time

The latest publication from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) (ONS, 2023d) for the year ending (YE) September 2022 showed no significant change in violent crime when compared to before the period before the coronavirus pandemic (for YE March 2020). Police recorded violent crime however showed increases over that same period, with a 20.8% increase in violence against the person (VAP) (Office for National Statistics, 2023).

The CSEW data is not available at district level so it is not possible to test whether the national trend is also seen locally. East Cambridgeshire saw a larger increase in police recorded VAP offences between 2020 and 2022 of 34.8%. As shown in Figure 17, VAP offences increased in 2020 (YE December), peaking temporarily after the first Covid-19 lockdown period, after which it has stayed relatively stable, increasing only slightly on average in 2022.

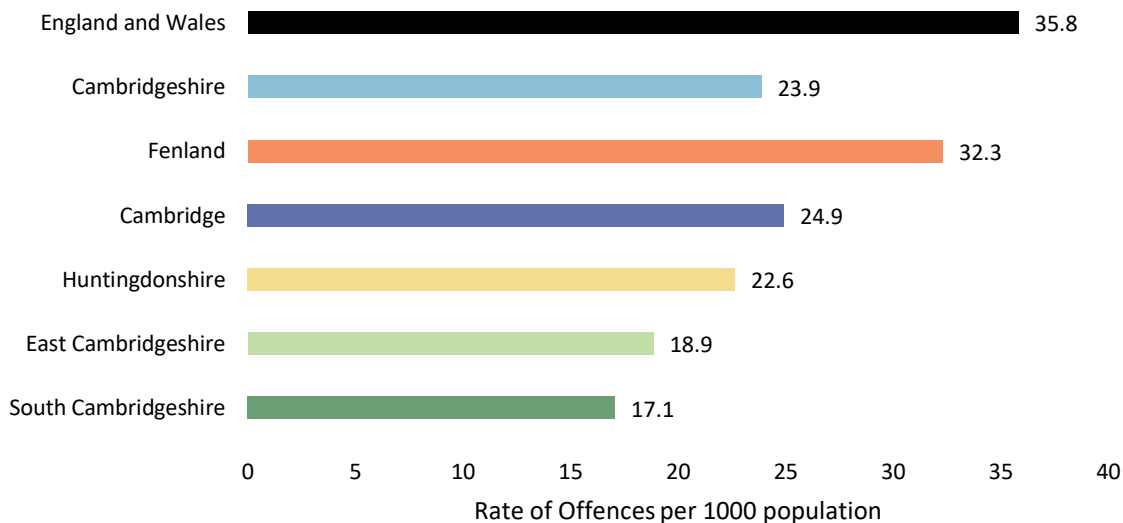
**Figure 17: Trend in Violence Against the Person offences in East Cambridgeshire from January 2019 to December 2022**



Despite the larger percentage increase in the count of VAP offences compared to national VAP offence counts, the rate for VAP in East Cambridgeshire in 2022 (YE December) remained considerably lower than the national rate (YE September), with 18.9 per 1000 population; compared to the national rate of 35.8 per 1000 population.

As shown in Figure 18, the rate of VAP offences in 2022 in East Cambridgeshire is lower than the overall rate for Cambridgeshire and has the second lowest district rate in the county after South Cambridgeshire.

**Figure 18: Rate of Violence Against the Person (VAP) per 1000 population in 2022 in East Cambridgeshire compared to district, county and national rates**



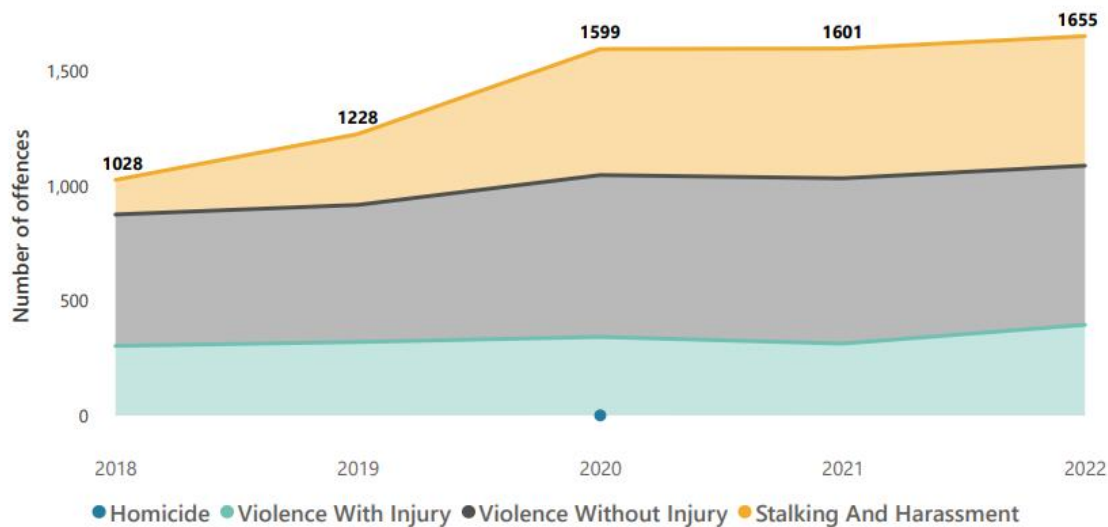
### 6.3. East Cambridgeshire Violent Crime Types

The VAP crime group is broken down into 4 crime sub-types; homicide, violence with injury, violence without injury, and stalking and harassment. As shown in

Figure 19, the biggest change was in stalking and harassment, for which the share took a sharp increase between 2018 and 2020, after which the share in sub-types of VAP offences stayed relatively stable.

Violence without injury accounted for the largest proportion of VAP offences in both 2019 (with 48.6%), and 2022 (with 41.9%). Homicide offences are rare with one offence committed in 2020.

**Figure 19: Trends in Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences sub-types in East Cambridgeshire from 2018 to 2022**



## 6.4. Stalking and Harassment

### 6.4.1. National Context

Due to changes in recording practices long term trends cannot be clearly established.

Nationally, police recorded stalking and harassment accounted for 34% of all police recorded violence in 2022 (YE September); with a 45% increase in stalking and harassment compared to the period before the coronavirus pandemic (YE March 2020); and a 5% increase compared to 2021 (YE September) (ONS, 2023d). As noted by ONS, this follows the trend of year on year increases since 2012 (YE March), and has been partially driven by changed in Home Office Counting Rules across this period (ONS, 2022c).

Estimates from the CSEW for 2022 (year ending September) indicated that 11% of adults (age 16+) had experienced harassment within the last 12 months. More women than men report experiencing harassment within the last 12 months, (i.e. 21% women compared to 13% of men). With the largest difference in being in

experiences of sexual harassment; with 15% of women experiencing sexual harassment within the last 6 months, compared to 4% of men (ONS, 2023d).

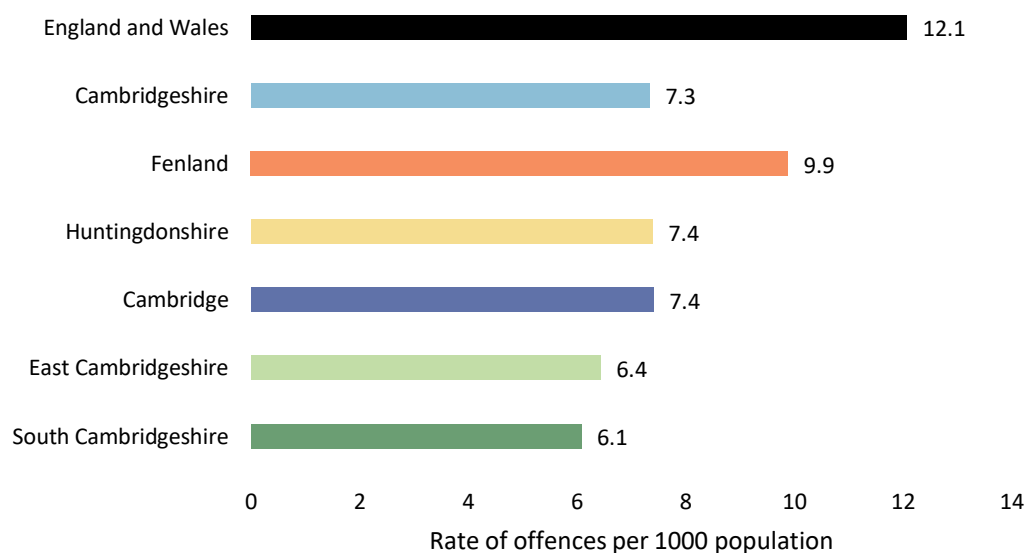
### 6.4.2. East Cambridgeshire

In East Cambridgeshire, the share of VAP offences accounted for by stalking and harassment changed from 14.7% in 2018, to 34.4% in 2020, peaking at 35.4% in 2021, coming back down to 34.1% in 2022.

Between 2019 and 2022 (YE December), the count of stalking and harassment offences increased by 82.8% in East Cambridgeshire; the second largest increase in the county behind South Cambridgeshire, and larger than the national increase of 45%.

Despite this large increase, the rate of stalking and harassment offences in East Cambridgeshire is the second lowest district in the County at 6.4 per 1000 population; almost half the national rate of 12.1 per 1000 population (ONS, 2023c) (see Figure 20). The data indicates that it has remained relatively stable for three years.

**Figure 20: Rates of police recorded stalking and harassment offences per 1000 population in East Cambridgeshire compared with National, county and district rates**



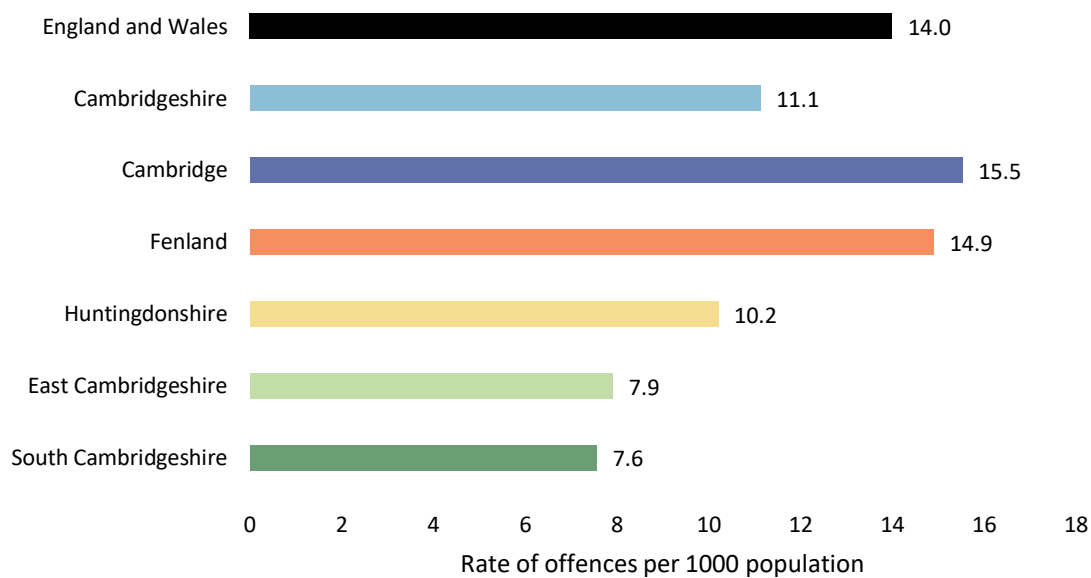
### 6.5. Violence Without Injury

Violence without injury accounted for the largest share of VAP offences in East Cambridgeshire in both 2019 (with 48.7%) and 2022 (with 41.9%). The change in share being driven by the increase in stalking and harassment. The volume

increased in number between 2019 and 2022 (YE December) by 16.1%. This increase was slightly higher than the national increase of 14.2%.

Despite this increase, the rate in 2022 was the second lowest district rate in the county at 7.9 per 1000 population and is almost half the national rate of 14.0 per 1000 population (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).

**Figure 21: Rate of police recorded Violence Without Injury Offences per 1000 population in East Cambridgeshire compared with district, county and national rates**



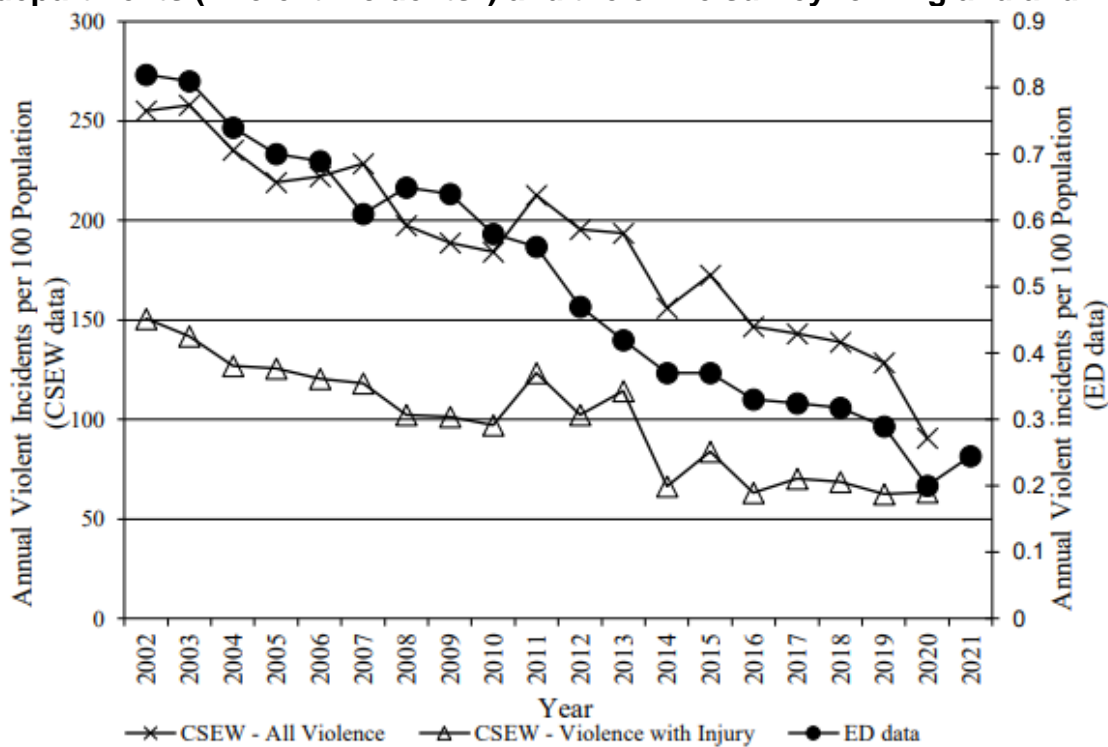
## 6.6. Violence With Injury

### 6.6.1. National Context

Nationally, police recorded violence with injury increased by 7.4% in 2022 (YE September) compared to the period before the pandemic (YE March 2020) (ONS, 2023d).

According to the estimates from the National Violence Surveillance Network (NVSN), violence related Emergency Department attendances decreased by a third in 2020 during the onset of the Covid-19 lockdown. 2021 saw the largest annual increase in attendances ever recorded by the NVSN of 23% (23.1% for males, and 23.8% for females). Despite this increase, NVSN noted that long term trends are showing a steady decrease in rates (as shown in Figure 22) (Sivarajasingham, et al., 2022).

**Figure 22: National trends in violence related attendances to emergency departments ("violent incidents") and the crime survey for England and Wales**



Source: Figure is from the 2021 NVSN report (Sivarajasingham, et al., 2022, p. 15)

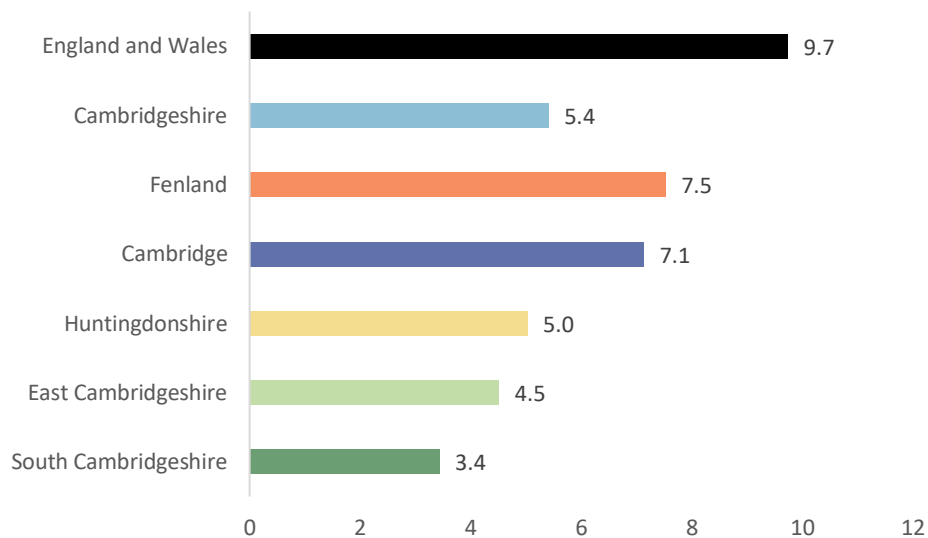
According to NVSN data (Sivarajasingham, et al., 2022), 2021 saw a rate of 2.54 incidents per 1000 residents. The rate for males (3.38 per 1000 residents) was more than twice the rate for females (1.54 per 1000 for females). The age group with the highest injury rate was 18-30 for both males (8.09 per 1000 population) and females (6.01 per 1000 population). There was a strong association between lower levels of violence and restrictions put in place to mitigate the spread of Covid-19; with levels increasing as restrictions were eased. By summer of 2021, numbers were close to pre-pandemic levels (Sivarajasingham, et al., 2022). The NVSN report for 2022 has not yet been released.

### 6.6.2. East Cambridgeshire Violence with Injury

East Cambridgeshire saw the largest district increase in violence with injury offences in the county with 23.4%. Despite this increase, East Cambridgeshire has the lowest count of violence with injury offences. The rate of violence with injury offences in East Cambridgeshire is the second lowest in the county with 4.5 per 1000 population, and is less than half the national rate of 9.7 per 1000 population (see Figure 23).

Without further analysis it is not clear what caused the increase. It should of course be noted that percentage increases can look large when total numbers are lower.

**Figure 23: Rate of police recorded Violence with Injury offences per 1000 population in East Cambridgeshire compared with national, county, and district rates**



The most common sub-type of violence with injury across all districts was Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), which accounted for 75% of police recorded violence with injury in East Cambridgeshire in 2022.

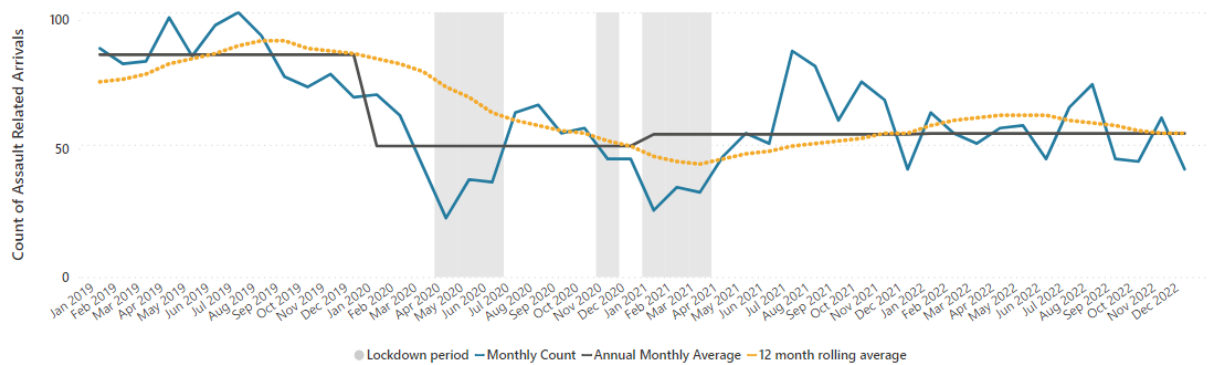
Data on assault related emergency department (ED) attendances at Addenbrooke’s hospital can give an indication of local trends of violence with injury. However, it should be noted that the assaults will not necessarily have taken place in East Cambridgeshire, and the patients will not necessarily reside in East Cambridgeshire.

Similar to national estimates of ED attendances by the NSVN, assault related attendances at Addenbrooke’s ED were lower during the lockdown periods, and thereafter increased (see Figure 24). The higher levels in 2022 (with an average of 55.9 per month) did not reach that seen in 2019 (an average of 86.6 per month), but are more similar to the average levels seen in 2016 (average of 58.6 per month).

Similar to the NVSN national estimates on ED attendances for violence related injuries, Addenbrooke’s ED attendances for violence related injuries saw a decrease across all age groups, with an overall decrease from 2019 to 2022 of 35.4%; this contrasts the increase seen in police recorded violent offences at both a national and local level, and also contrasts the lack of significant change in violent offences noted by the CSEW.

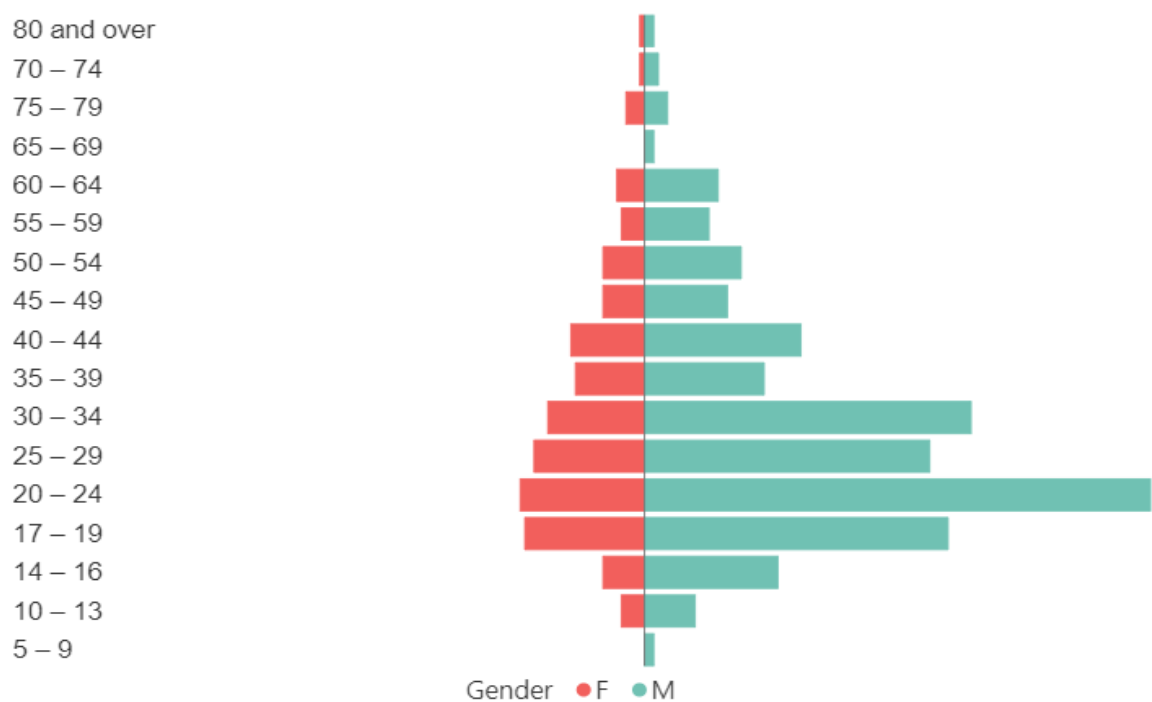
The monthly trend of assault related ED attendances at Addenbrooke’s Hospital from January 2019 to December 2022 is shown in Figure 24.

**Figure 24: Monthly attendances for assault seen at Addenbrooke's Emergency Department for the period January 2019 to December 2022**



The NVSN data for 2021 showed that males aged 18-30 accounted for the majority of violence related emergency department attendances. Locally available data was broken down further, and showed that males aged 20-24 accounted for the largest share of violence related ED attendances at Addenbrooke's Hospital in 2022, as shown in Figure 25. Whilst the age groups are not exactly the same there is an overlap.

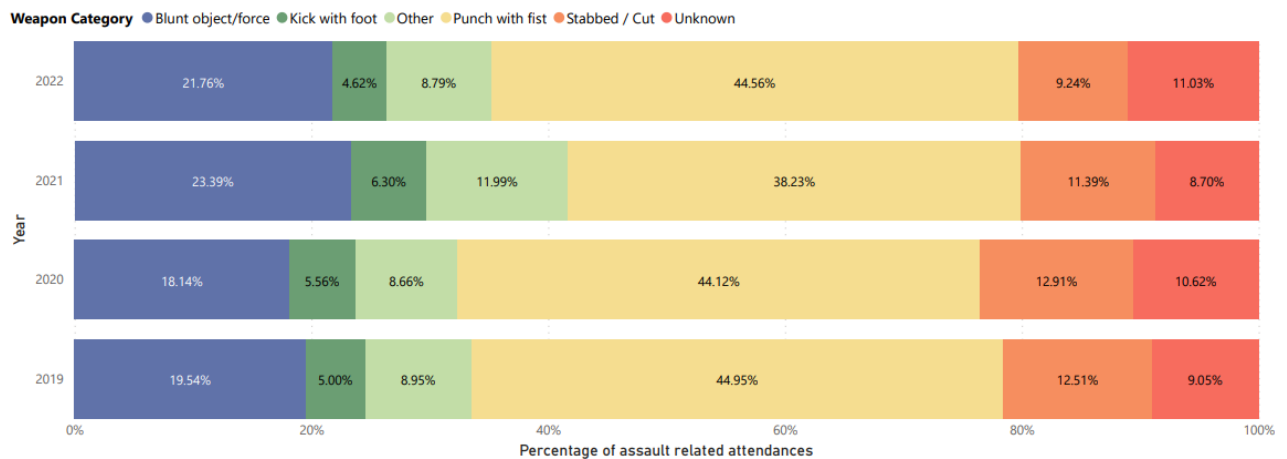
**Figure 25: Gender and age breakdown of violence related Emergency Department (ED) attendances at Addenbrooke's Hospital in 2022**



As shown in Figure 26, the most common weapons used between 2019 and 2022 have stayed relatively stable, with the most common being punch with fist at 44.6% in 2022, followed by blunt object / force with 21.8%. Stabbed / cut accounted for 9.2% of ED attendances at Addenbrooke's.



**Figure 26: Weapons used for violence related Emergency Department (ED) attendances at Addenbrooke's Hospital between 2019 and 2022**



As shown in the heat table in higher numbers of assault related arrivals in 2022 were seen at 1am on Saturday evening, with a further peak on Monday at noon. Relatively high levels were seen throughout the early hours on Sunday morning, and later in the afternoon compared to other days, making Sunday the most common day of arrival, accounting for 23.5% of assault related ED arrivals. Despite the higher numbers in the early hours of the morning on weekends, the hour with the overall highest number of assault related arrivals throughout the week was noon. The month with the highest number of assault related ED arrivals was August with a count of 75.

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**Figure 27: Heat table showing the time and day of assault related arrivals at Addenbrooke's Emergency Department (ED), 2022**

Hour Text	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Midnight								24
1am								38
2am								35
3am								29
4am								36
5am								21
6am								7
7am								13
8am								21
9am								23
10am								34
11am								32
Noon								45
1pm								33
2pm								36
3pm								30
4pm								33
5pm								32
6pm								22
7pm								31
8pm								26
9pm								21
10pm								21
11pm								28
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>671</b>

### 6.6.3. Geographic Distribution in East Cambridgeshire

Police recorded data on violence with injury offences, and data recorded by the East of England Ambulance Service on assault-related ambulance call outs provides an additional indicator of violence with injury occurring within the local area.

The latest local data by the East of England Ambulance Service shows a low level of assault related call outs with 34 recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2022, down from 45 in 2019. It should be considered that operational challenges affecting the availability of ambulances recently may have had an impact on the level of assault related callouts recorded.

Geographical analysis of the location of callouts shows Ely to be the main hotspot in the district, followed by Soham and Littleport. Ely East, Ely West and Ely North wards combined accounted for half of all assault related callouts recorded in 2022.

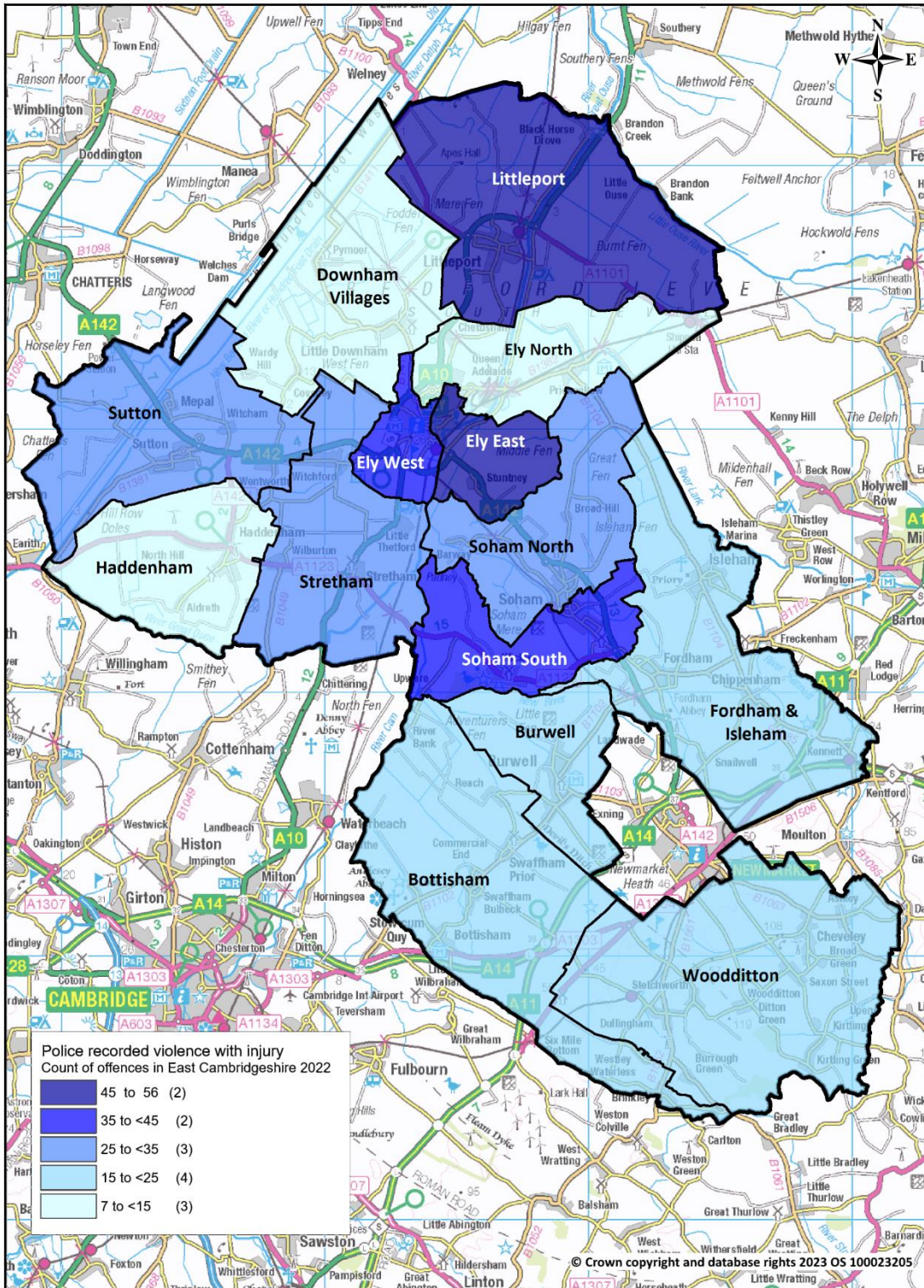
Within Ely, Soham and Littleport call outs were typically spread out through the villages with no individual locations seeing a high volume of repeat call outs in 2022.

Similarly, police recorded data indicates that wards in Ely and Littleport are in the top three wards for volume of violence with injury (as shown in Table 2 and Figure 28). The biggest change since 2019 (the year preceding the Covid-19 lockdown period) was in Ely West, which increased by 109%, from 21 to 44 offences. The biggest decrease was seen in Haddenham, which decreased by 41.7% from 12 offences in 2019, to 7 in 2022.

**Table 2: The count and percentage change in police recorded violence with injury offences in East Cambridgeshire wards in 2019 and 2022**

Ward	2019	2022	% Change
Ely East	56	56	0.0%
Littleport	53	56	5.7%
Ely West	21	44	109.5%
Soham South	36	39	8.3%
Stretham	23	34	47.8%
Soham North	26	33	26.9%
Sutton	23	28	21.7%
Fordham & Isleham	19	22	15.8%
Burwell	11	19	72.7%
Woodditton	12	19	58.3%
Bottisham	12	18	50.0%
Ely North	8	13	62.5%
Downham Villages	9	8	-11.1%
Haddenham	12	7	-41.7%

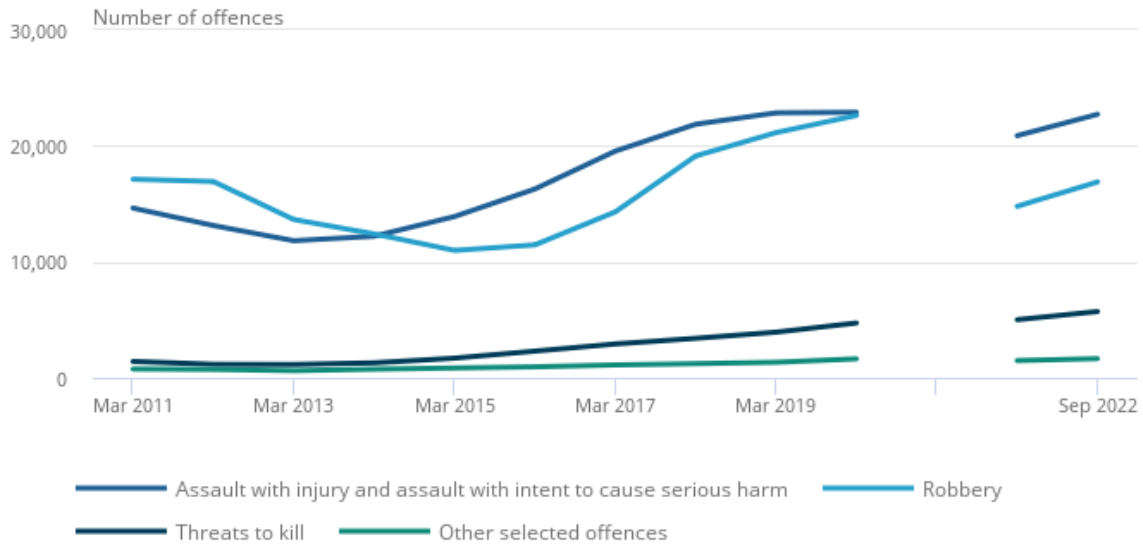
**Figure 28: Police recorded violence with injury in East Cambridgeshire wards in 2022**



## 6.7. Knife Crime

Nationally police recorded knife-enabled crime remains below pre-pandemic levels, however, there has been an increase of 11% from the year ending September 2021 to the year ending September 2022 (see Figure 29).

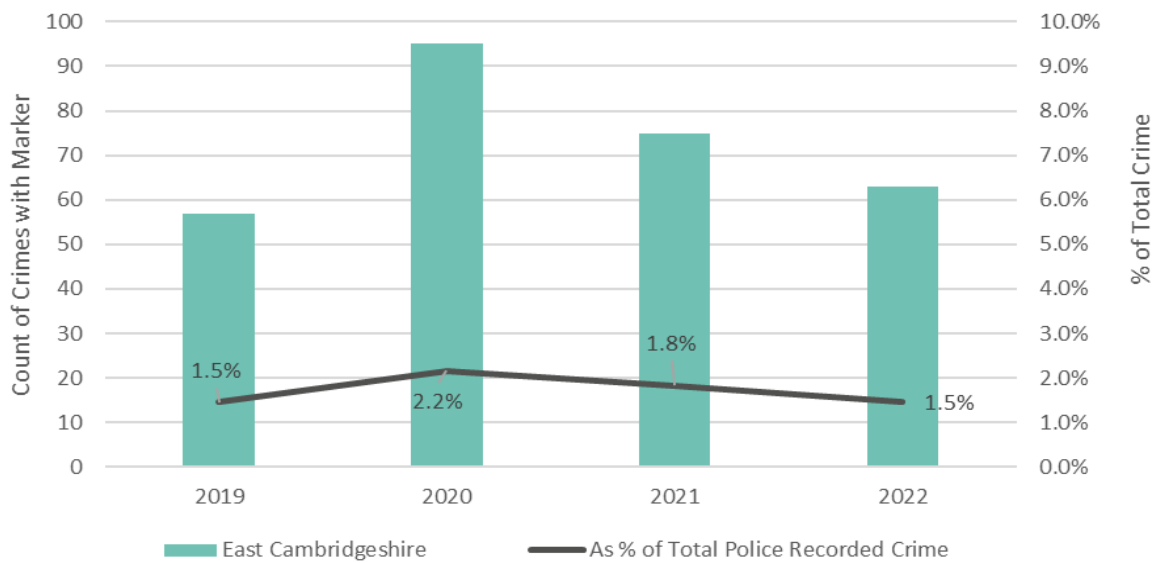
**Figure 29: Knife-enabled crime recorded by the police in England and Wales**



Source: Home Office – Police recorded crime. Figure 5; “Knife enabled crime recorded by the police remained lower than pre-coronavirus pandemic levels, but increased by 11% in the last year. England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police), year ending March 2011 to year ending September 2022” (ONS, 2023d).

In East Cambridgeshire the volume of police recorded crime that involves knives is very low. And it should be noted that police activity can influence knife crime figures, for example recording of possession offences resulting from police activity to tackle knife crime. As the figures are very low they have been displayed as annual counts and the percentage of the total crime count for the district. Knife crime accounted for 1.5% of total crime in East Cambridgeshire in 2022. A figure unchanged from the pre-pandemic period.

**Figure 30: Police recorded knife/sharp instrument crime between 2019 and 2022 in East Cambridgeshire**



Cambridgeshire Constabulary produced a knife crime profile in 2022 which indicates:

- Littleport and Ely East wards was identified as a hotspot for knife crime in terms of volume and harm index analysis within East Cambridgeshire.
- Littleport ward featured in the 7 wards that (relative to population) consistently recorded the highest density of knife crime offences in terms of both volume and harm for the southern policing area (Cambridge City, South Cambs, East Cambs, Huntingdonshire).

## 6.8. Sexual Offences

### 6.8.1. Summary and Recommendations

The number of police recorded sexual offences has risen in East Cambridgeshire in the last three years, up 48% in 2022 compared to 2019. This falls under the backdrop of long-term increases observed nationally, with substantial increases seen since 2021. Increased reporting and improved police recording have played a role in the increases, however the extent to which a real terms increase in victimisation may form part of the increase recently is currently unclear. Reporting delays should be considered when interpreting trends as 23% of sexual offences recorded by police in East Cambridgeshire in 2022 had occurred at least one year prior to reporting.

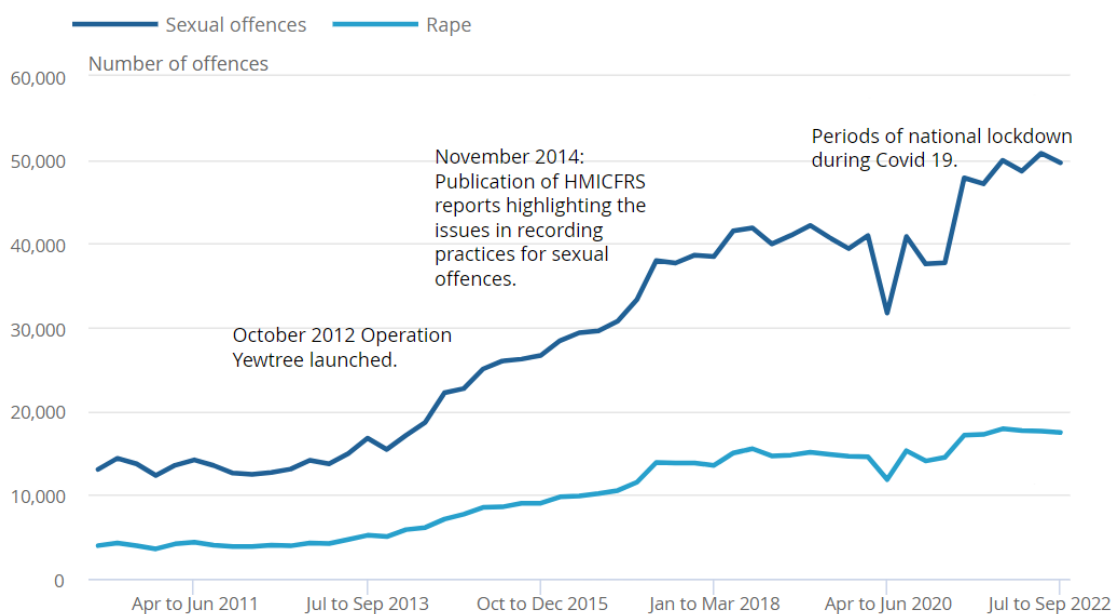
The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) is due to complete a needs assessment in 2023.

**Recommendation: The CSP should utilise this assessment to gain a more detailed understanding of sexual offences within the East Cambridgeshire.**

## 6.8.2. Trends Over Time

National police recorded crime data shows long-term increases in the number of sexual offences recorded over the last decade as illustrated in the figure below.

**Figure 31: England and Wales quarterly police recorded sexual offences from January 2010 to September 2022**



Source: Figure 8. Home Office – Police recorded crime (ONS, 2023d).

The latest national data for the YE September 2022 showed the highest annual offence count ever recorded in England & Wales, up 22% compared to the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020. The number of sexual offences recorded was lower during periods of national lockdowns, but substantial increases have occurred since April 2021 (ONS, 2023d).

Sexual offences are historically associated with under-reporting. CSEW estimates indicate that, prior to the pandemic, fewer than one in six victims of rape or assault by penetration reported the crime to the police. Increases in reporting and recording of sexual offences is likely to have played a significant role in the increases observed, with key impacting factors including:

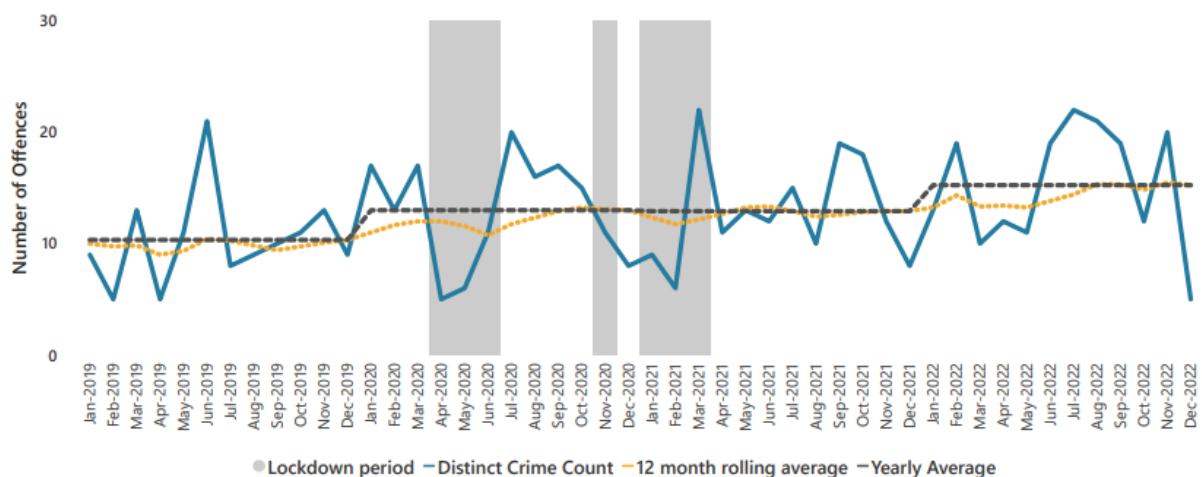
- high profile incidents such as the Jimmy Saville scandal and the MeToo movement
- media coverage
- campaigns on people's willingness to report incidents to the police
- reports highlighting issues in police recording practices (ONS, 2022c).

It should be noted that not all media coverage has positively reported survivors' experiences of the criminal justice system. Whilst increased reporting and improved recording are influencing factors, it is not known the extent to which real terms increases in the number of victims form a part of this trend.

Local police recorded crime data shows a higher proportional increase for East Cambridgeshire compared to the national picture. In 2022, 183 sexual offences were recorded in East Cambridgeshire, a 48% increase on 2019 when 124 offences were recorded. This increase is also above that seen for Cambridgeshire during the same period where offences were up 23% overall. However, it should be noted that this is from a lower base level of offences in East Cambridgeshire compared to some other districts.

For 2022, offences in East Cambridgeshire increased by 18% (+28 offences) compared to the previous year, likely due to reductions seen during periods of national lockdown (see Figure 32). There was a notable reduction in offences in December 2022 with just 5 recorded.

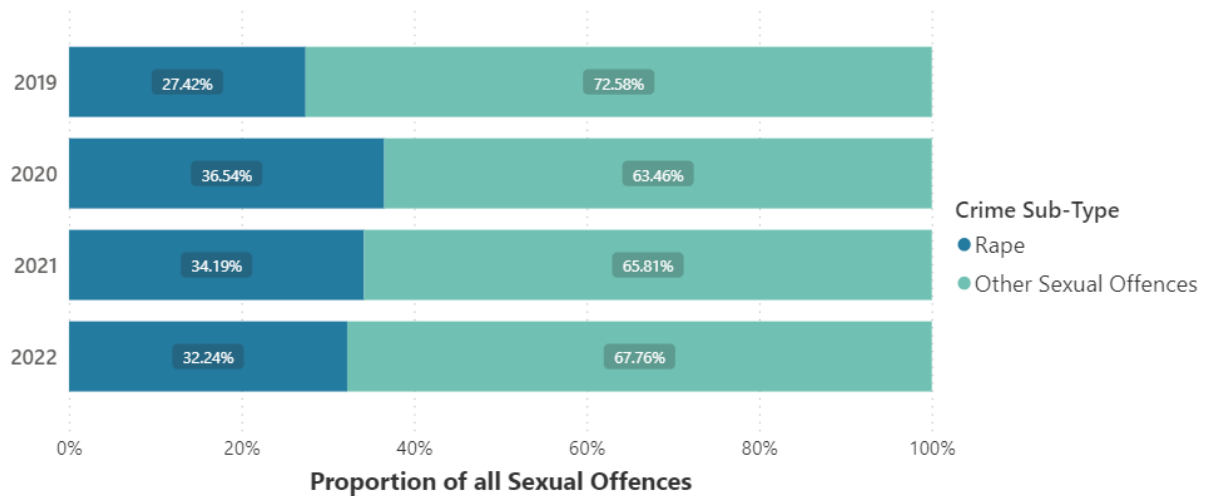
**Figure 32: Police recorded sexual offences in East Cambridgeshire, January 2019 - December 2022**



Rape accounted for approximately a third of all sexual offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2022 (52 offences). This proportion has been fairly consistent over the last three years having increased slightly in 2020 (see Figure 33). The breakdown is broadly in line with that seen in Cambridgeshire County as a whole (29%), and nationally (35% in the year ending September 2022).



**Figure 33: Breakdown in police recorded sexual offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 - 2022**



Just over a fifth (22%) of sexual offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2022 were marked as domestic abuse related (40 offences). For rape offences specifically, 34% of those recorded in 2022 were marked as domestic abuse related (20 offences).

For sexual offences in particular, it needs to be acknowledged that crimes recorded by the police in the most recent period may have happened in an earlier time period. Just under a quarter (23%) of all East Cambridgeshire sexual offences recorded by the police in 2022 had an offence occurred date which was at least one year prior to the date the crime was recorded. For rape offences specifically, the proportion of reported crimes which had occurred a year or more before is slightly higher at 36%. National data (from a subset of forces supplying data to the Home Office) showed similar proportions, with 22% of all sexual offences and 31% of rape offences recorded in the year ending September 2022 having occurred over a year before (ONS, 2023d).

## 7. Domestic Abuse

### 7.1. Summary and Recommendations

A slightly different approach to analysing Domestic Abuse (DA) data has been trialled in this assessment. This has enabled better comparison with national data and provided a clearer picture of the scale and nature of DA within East Cambridgeshire for the partnership. Overall, police recorded data shows a stable level of DA incidents and crimes in the last three years locally. There has been a volume rise in DA crimes (public order, sexual offences and violence) compared to the pre-pandemic period, however, it is important to understand that these increases reflect the pattern in non-DA related offences in the same crime categories. Stalking

and harassment has consistently accounted for a third of DA-related violence against the person recorded in East Cambridgeshire in the last three years.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) is due to complete a needs assessment in 2023.

**Recommendation: The CSP should utilise the needs assessment to build on the findings presented in this strategic assessment and to gain a more comprehensive understanding of DA-related issues within East Cambridgeshire.**

## 7.2. Domestic Abuse Data Methodology

Locally in the past few years the Research Team at Cambridgeshire County Council has reported on police recorded domestic abuse (DA) crime and incident data separately. Neither are considered official statistics due to the limitations in the recording practices for this data.

When conducting analysis to understand DA, the team use a wide range of sources including the results from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) to inform the scale and nature of problem. However, the CSEW results are not published at a low enough geography for CSPs to have a local picture.

One of the many data issues faced in the past is that of double counting. Where incidents have resulted in a crime or crimes also being recorded but have appeared in both data sets it has been difficult in the past to separate those out and provide a clearer picture of the scale of domestic abuse.

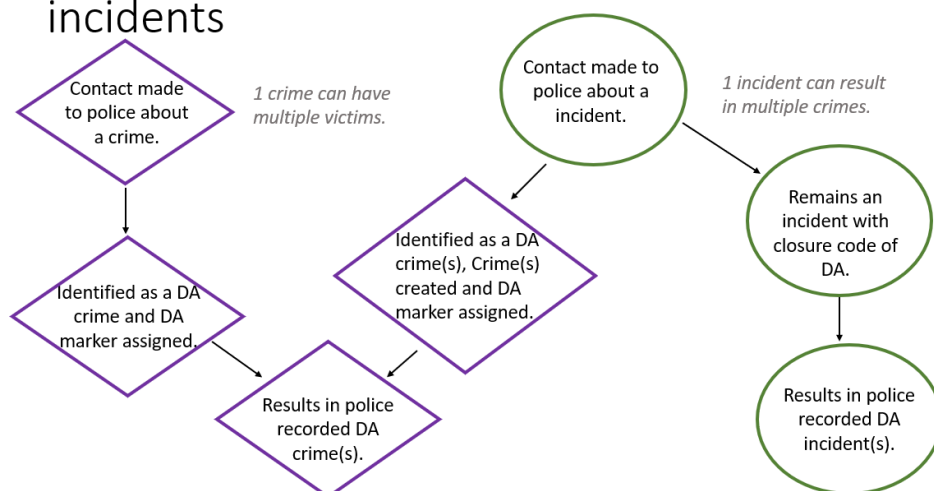
This year the Research Team has worked to develop a methodology with the local data with the aim of replicating nationally released data for comparison purposes. This experimental statistic still requires some quality assurance and is going to key partners for discussion. This methodology aims to present the data in a more consistent way to national data and provide a clearer local picture of the scale of reported abuse.

### **Methodology Notes**

In order to understand how the figures were calculated it is important to understand that recording of incidents and crimes is not an either/or option. The chart below describes in simple terms the two main ways in which contact to the police result in incidents and crimes being recorded.

**Figure 34: Flow of police recording – DA Crimes and DA incidents**

### Domestic abuse police recorded crimes and incidents



### Limitations

Whilst those incidents that have resulted in at least one crime being recorded are removed, the data does still contain some ambiguity. In particular;

- The number of crimes resulting from the incidents is not directly shown
- The number of crimes will include repeat victims
- The number of victims is not within this specific dataset
- The number of perpetrators is not within this specific dataset

The result of analysing the data in this way is shown below in Table 3. It shows the improvement in recording crimes brought to the police attention initially as incidents. The overall change is a moderate increase from 54% of incidents resulting in a crime or crimes being recorded in 2019 to 58% in 2022. This is in line with the national proportion of incidents that were 'crimed' (61%) (ONS ref).

**Table 3: DA incidents and crimes recorded in East Cambridgeshire, 2019-2022**

<b>Incident category</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Total Incidents	950	984	946	958
Incidents that result in a crime being recorded	510	595	558	553
Incidents that remain as incident only	440	389	388	405
<b>Proportion of Incidents that were 'crimed'</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>58%</b>

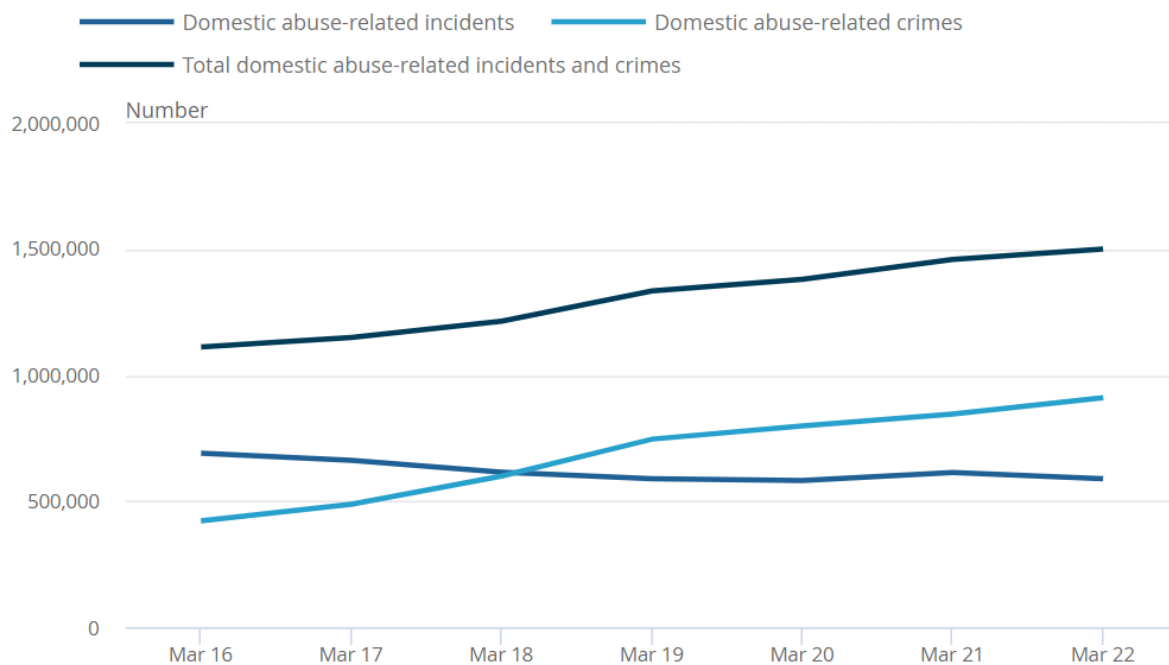
## 7.3. Domestic Abuse Trends

The latest national DA prevalence estimates available are for the year ending March 2022, after face-to-face interviews resumed for the CSEW in October 2021. It should be noted that these estimates are not badged as national statistics due to the reduced data collection period and lower responses rates. These estimates showed

5% of adults (aged 16 and over) having experienced domestic abuse in the last year. Time series analysis of the CSEW estimates shows no significant change in the prevalence of domestic abuse in recent years, including from prior to the Covid-19 pandemic (ONS, 2022f).

National police recorded figures show the number of crimes exceeding the number of police recorded incidents from March 2018 onwards (see figure below). There has been a continued increase in police recorded domestic abuse crimes, whilst domestic abuse-related incidents have now decreased to pre-pandemic levels nationally (ONS, 2022f). As prevalence estimates have remained stable, the increase seen in crimes is likely due to improved recording as well as potentially increased reporting.

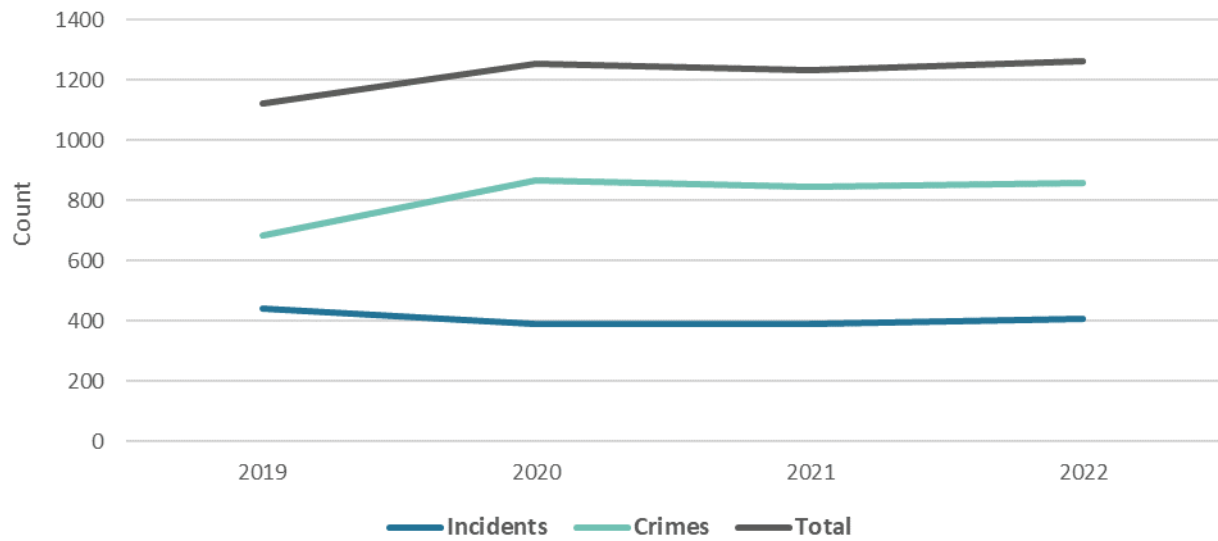
**Figure 35: Number of domestic abuse-related incidents recorded by police, England and Wales, year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2022**



Source: Figure 4. Home Office, police recorded crime (ONS, 2022e).

Local police recorded data for the past 4 years is presented in Figure 36. The East Cambridgeshire pattern reflects the national picture, whereby the number of DA crimes has increased since 2019 and the number of incidents has remained stable. The annual number of crimes recorded has remained twice as high as incidents from 2020 to 2022. Whilst the total number of DA crimes recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2022 was 26% higher than that recorded in 2019, total levels have remained stable from 2020 to 2022. This differs from the national pattern where increases have been seen year-on-year.

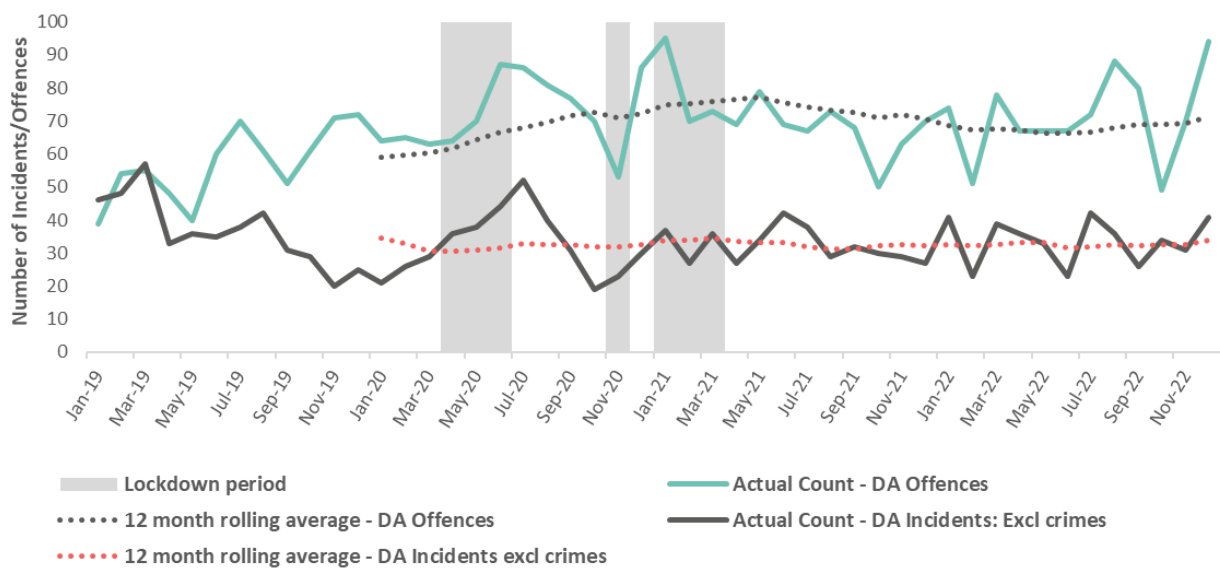
**Figure 36: Police recorded DA crimes and incidents (non-crime only) in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 - 2022**



An alternative way of looking at the figures is to examine the crimes and incidents together. Of the total crimes and incidents (i.e. those incidents that did not result in crime(s) being recorded) in 2022, 68% are crimes. This is an increase from 61% for 2019.

Analysing the data on a monthly basis (as seen in Figure 37) shows that whilst there are monthly fluctuations (particularly for crimes), the 12-month rolling averages have stabilised in 2021 and 2022 for both incidents and crimes in East Cambridgeshire.

**Figure 37: Monthly police recorded DA incidents and Crimes, East Cambridgeshire, January 2019 to December 2022**



## 7.4. Domestic Abuse Crime Types

All crimes can have a DA marker applied to them. In East Cambridgeshire, a fifth (20%) of all crime recorded in 2022 was domestic abuse related. This proportion has been consistent in the last 3 years after a slight increase from 17% in 2019.

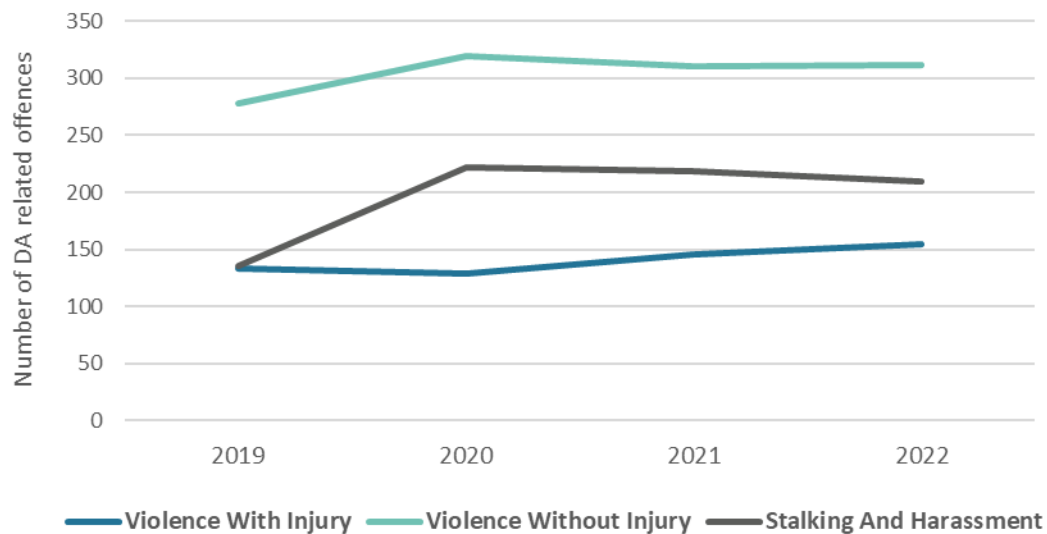
As in previous years, violent offences account for the majority of police recorded DA crimes. In 2022, over three quarters (79%) of DA crimes recorded in East Cambridgeshire were violence against the person category offences. This figure has remained consistent since 2019. The remaining 21% of DA related offences were split across 10 different crime types, with the next highest proportions being arson and criminal damage (5.7%), public order offences (5.1%) and sexual offences (4.7%).

Looking specifically at the volume of offences by crime type and comparing to the pre-pandemic period, there are notable increases in DA-related violence against the person, public order, and sexual offences. Public order and sexual offences saw the highest percentage increase, but the numbers remain low. In 2022 there were 44 DA related public order offences (up 69% compared to 2019) and 40 sexual offences (up 48% compared to 2019). The same level of increase was seen for non-DA related sexual offences which increased by 47% in the same period. 676 DA-related violence against the person offences were recorded in 2022, up 24% compared to 2019.

Exploring the DA related violence against the person offences by sub-type for East Cambridgeshire shows differing patterns over time, as illustrated in the figure below. Violence without injury has consistently been the main sub-type and saw a slight increase in 2020. Violence with injury offences have remained relatively stable with just a small steady increase over the past four years. In contrast, stalking and harassment saw a sharp increase in offences in 2020 compared to the previous year, up 64% to 222 offences. This increase is likely linked to changes in Home Office counting rules introduced in April 2020 (Home Office, 2023b). As a result of these increases, stalking and harassment accounted for a quarter of all domestic abuse related offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2022, this is the same proportion seen nationally in the year ending March 2022 (ONS, 2022f).

The volume of recorded stalking and harassment DA crimes shows the importance of including them within the discussion about the nature of DA offending as it accounts for approximately one third of violent crime with a DA marker.

**Figure 38: Police recorded DA-related violence against the person offences by sub-type, East Cambridgeshire, 2019-2022**



The specific offence type of engaging in controlling or coercive behaviour was introduced in 2015. In 2022, 27 coercive control offences were recorded in East Cambridgeshire. Whilst this is 50% higher than the 2019 figure, numbers remain low and offence levels have been stable in the last 3 years with a small reduction seen in 2022. This reflects the pattern seen for Cambridgeshire as a whole.

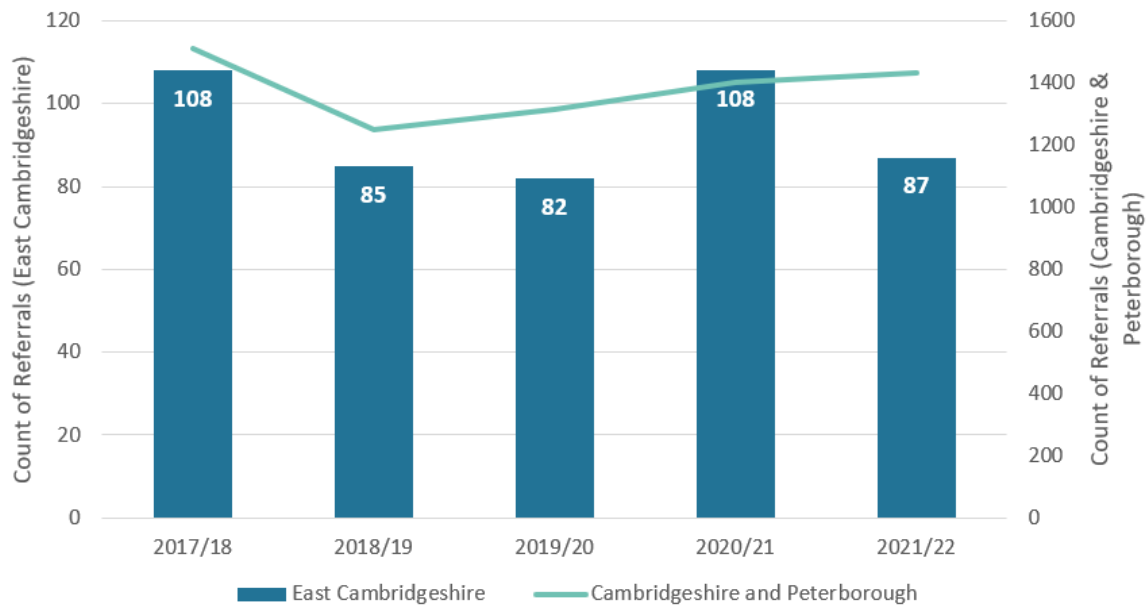
## 7.5. Local Services

Cambridgeshire County Council manages the IDVA Service which states in the 2021/22 annual report

“due to additional funding received from the Ministry of Justice via joint bids with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, now includes 29.6 FTE Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors (IDVAs), an IDVA Operations Manager, 3 Senior IDVAs, 1 Safe Accommodation Manager, and 4 MARAC Coordinators. Most of the posts are based at the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Godmanchester with posts covering Peterborough based at Copse Court. The IDVA Service offers support to high-risk victims, which is managed by geographical area, and also has a number of specialist posts that take referrals at all risk levels”.

The figure below shows the number of referrals received by the service for East Cambridgeshire residents annually between 2017/18 to 2021/22 (financial year). Referrals in East Cambridgeshire have broadly followed the pattern seen in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough as a whole, although there was a slight drop in the latest year locally not seen in the wider area. The service is threshold based and fluctuations in referrals should not be seen as an indication of changing levels of domestic abuse but rather a reflection on service capacity and demand at any given time.

**Figure 39: Referrals to IDVA service for East Cambridgeshire residents by financial year, 2019 to 2022**



## 8. Exploitation and Vulnerability

### 8.1. Summary and Recommendations

Vulnerability is a broad umbrella term used to mean slightly different things in different contexts. Whilst it is right for the partnership to consider vulnerability there should be a shared agreement about the meaning in this context and the extent to which being ‘vulnerable’ contributes to victimisation and exploitation. There are two ways of considering vulnerability in terms of crime and safety, the risk of an existing vulnerability being exploited (such as in the case of cuckooing) or where additional vulnerability is the result of being victimised or abused (e.g. self-harm as the result of abuse).

This section highlights a few known risks around exploitation. It should be noted there are others including modern slavery that the partnership should make sure it is familiar with.

It should be noted that data for these areas is often harder to obtain and draw broad conclusions from. An example is hate crime. The police recorded data is limited due to under-reporting but does indicate a longer-term increase. The scale remains hidden and there is some difficulty through administrative data sets to gain a true understanding of the impact on communities.

Age, gender, sexual orientation, race, existing exclusions from social, work or school environments are examples of vulnerabilities often considered in the context of



community safety work. There are further sources of information including partner agencies that would also have access to data on vulnerability.

**Recommendation: The latest Census data will give the partnership an opportunity to consider whether particular cohorts are more present in the district now than previously.**

**Recommendation: Receiving additional data and information from the High Harms Board (or thematic partnerships lead at force level) to enable to the partnership to more effectively prioritise emerging issues.**

## 8.2. County Lines

County Lines refers to a model of offending whereby gangs and organised crime groups move drugs into supply areas within the UK via the exploitation of vulnerable individuals. These individuals are recruited and coerced into the drug supply chain (NCA, 2019). The term 'County Line' refers to the dedicated mobile phone line used to receive orders for drugs. Criminal networks involved in running county lines operations are typically located in urban hubs but facilitate the movement of drugs into more rural areas.

Exploitation is a key element of county lines as it reduces offender's risk by distancing them from the supply transaction (NCA, 2019). Children are commonly targeted, particularly where they have additional vulnerabilities such as; poverty, frequent missing episodes, 'looked after status', behavioural and developmental disorders etc. National research supports the fact that young people are targeted in county lines activity and states that whilst young people with certain vulnerabilities may be at risk, those without such vulnerabilities are also targeted (Black, 2020). The most significant adult vulnerability is drug addiction, however, mental health conditions and learning/developmental disorders are also often identified in adult victims of criminal exploitation relating to county lines (NCA, 2019).

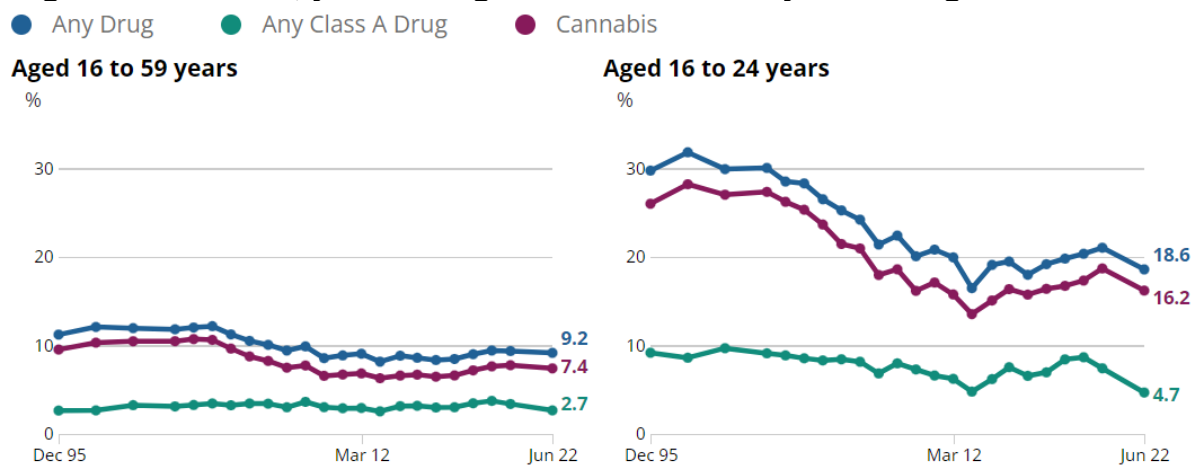
There are various crimes associated with County Lines including (but not limited to);

- Drug possession and supply
- Serious Violence
- Knife Crime
- Robbery and possession of offensive weapons
- Modern slavery and exploitation, including exploitation of young and/or vulnerable people.

### 8.3. Substance Misuse

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides a useful indicator of patterns in drug use within the population as typically much drug use will not come through on police recorded crime statistics. Long-term changes tracked by the CSEW show reductions in all drug use in recent years, with particularly large decreases for class A drug use by younger people (see figure below).

**Figure 40: Proportion of adults ages 16 to 59 years and 16 to 24 years reporting use of any drug, any Class A drug and cannabis in the last year, England and Wales, year ending December 1995 to year ending June 2022**

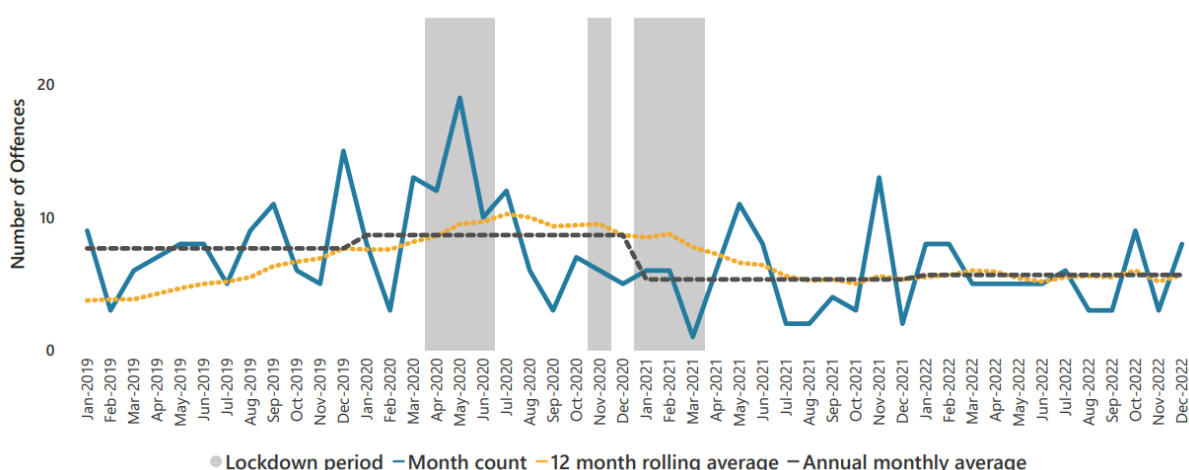


Source: Office for National Statistics (2022g).

The latest CSEW data on drug misuse show 9.2% of adults (aged 16-59) reported having taken drugs in the latest year in the year ending June 2022, with no change noted from the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020. For adults aged 16-24 the percentage rises to 18.6% (ONS, 2022g). Police recorded crime data shows a 4% reduction in all drug offences recorded in the year ending September 2022 compared with the year ending March 2020 (ONS, 2023c).

Local data shows consistently low levels of police recorded drug offences in East Cambridgeshire in the past two years, with 68 offences in 2022 and 64 offences in 2021. A higher level of offences was recorded in 2020 which was likely due to increased proactive policing activity during the first national lockdown (see figure below). Comparing 2022 to the pre-pandemic year of 2019 shows drug offences down by 26% in East Cambridgeshire, in contrast to Cambridgeshire County as a whole, where drug offences increased by 43% in the same period.

**Figure 41: Police recorded drug offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2019-2022**



Almost half of all East Cambridgeshire drug offences recorded in 2022 occurred in the Ely area; Ely East (21%), Ely West (16%), Ely North (10%).

Police recorded offence data does not provide a complete picture of substance misuse and as such further data sources should be sought to enhance understanding. Data from local support services can provide additional insight and is presented for East Cambridgeshire below.

A summary of East Cambridgeshire residents in treatment with Change, Grow, Live (the current provider of substance misuse treatment for adults) is presented in the table below. In 2022, the majority of CGL clients in East Cambridgeshire were in treatment for Opiate misuse (55%). A further 26% were in treatment for Alcohol only. A total of 45 clients successfully completed treatment in 2022.

**Table 4: Clients residing in East Cambridgeshire and in treatment or successfully completed treatment in the year ending December 2022**

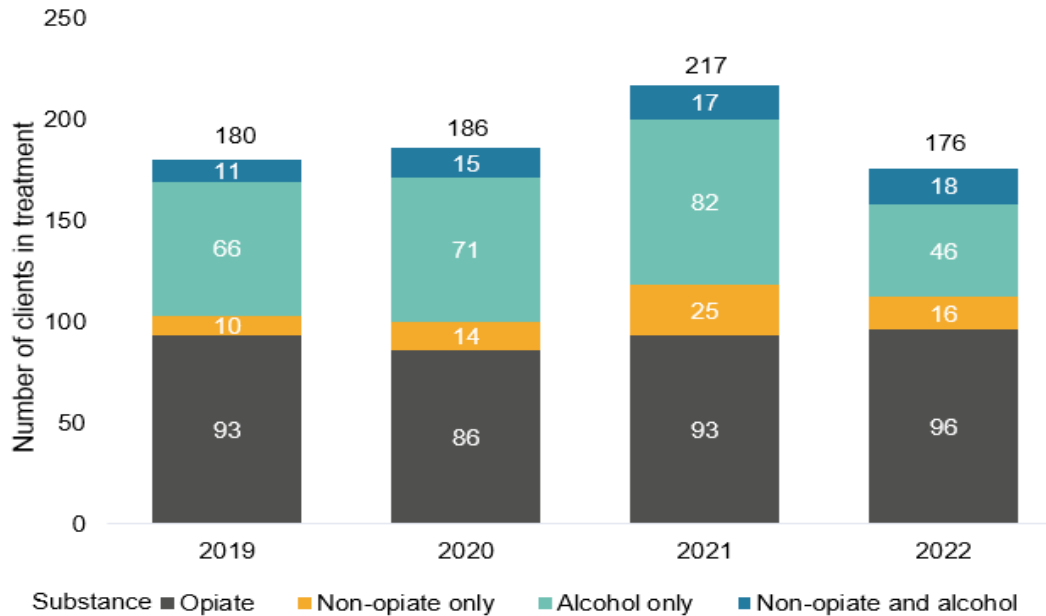
Clients grouped by Substance	Count of Clients	Percentage of total clients in treatment
Opiate	96	55%
Non-opiate only	16	9%
Alcohol only	46	26%
Non-opiate and alcohol	18	10%
Total number of clients in treatment	176	100%
Successful completions	45	-

Source: Change Grow Live

Note. This does not reflect the location of the treatment service but the service user’s address.

There has been a 19% reduction in the total number of East Cambridgeshire residents in treatment in 2022 compared to the previous year. The number of clients in treatment is consistent with pre-pandemic levels seen in 2019, as illustrated in the figure below.

**Figure 42: Clients in treatment in East Cambridgeshire by calendar year and substance type**



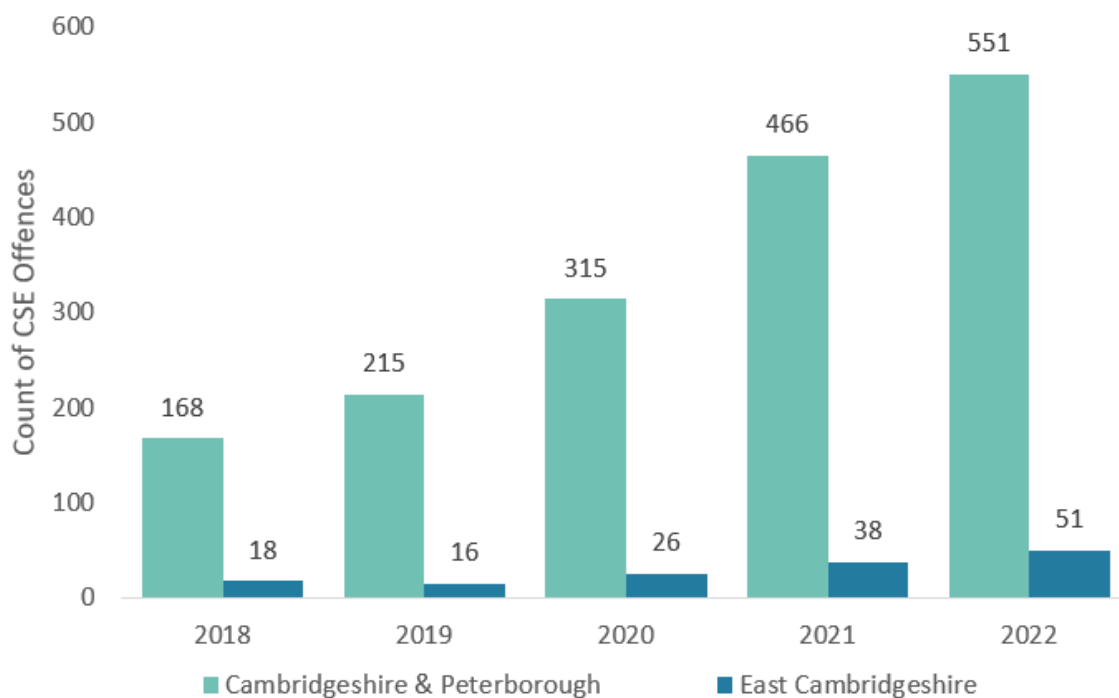
Source: Change Grow Live

There is an ongoing strategic needs assessment for drugs and alcohol across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough due to be published shortly. This should provide a useful evidence base for the CSP going forward.

## 8.4. Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation

Constabulary-wide Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) crimes have seen a year on year increase since 2018. The total volume of CSE offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire was 51 in 2022, an increase from 38 in 2021. CSE is known to be an under reported issue so this is likely an underestimate of the scale of the issue. Further data sources are needed to build a more comprehensive picture of CSE and CCE in East Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire a whole.

**Figure 43: Police recorded CSE yearly from 2018 to 2022 (year ending December) in East Cambridgeshire**



## 8.5. Hate Crime

A hate crime is defined as “any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic” (Home Office, 2022). The police can apply a hate related marker to any offence where it appears to be motivated by one or more of the five monitored hate characteristics; race or ethnicity, religion or beliefs, disability sexual orientation and transgender identity.

The CSEW has not released estimates on hate crime since 2020, owing to the suspension of face-to-face interviewing during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, current hate crime victimisation prevalence levels in England & Wales are unknown. National police recorded data can provide an indication of police demand relating to hate crimes and highlights a long-term increase in offences recorded. This upward trend is likely to be predominantly driven by improvements by police forces in both the identification of what constitutes a hate crime and recording of hate crimes. However, it is not possible to accurately quantify this, and real terms increases have previously been seen in relation to events including the EU referendum and terrorist attacks in 2017.

The latest national data shows a 26% increase in hate crimes recorded in the year ending March 2022 compared to the previous year, the largest year-on-year increase observed since the year ending March 2017. The majority of hate crimes recorded in

2021/22 were racially motivated (70%), in line with previous years. Annual increases were seen for all five strands of hate crime (see table below), ranging from a 19% increase in race motivated hate crimes to a 56% increase in transgender motivated hate crimes. The extent to which these increases relate to improved recording or represent real terms increases is currently unclear and may vary between hate crime strands. The higher increases seen in 2021/22 may also relate to lower levels of crime in the previous year linked to the COVID-19 pandemic (Home Office, 2022).

**Table 5: Police recorded hate crimes in England and Wales**

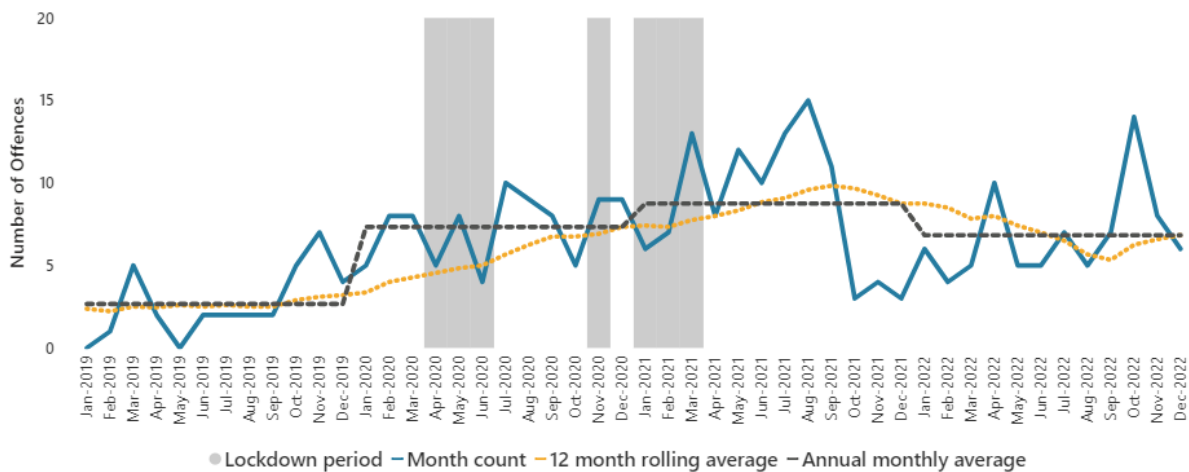
Hate crime strand	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	% Change 2020/21 to 2021/22
Race	71,264	78,906	[x]	92,063	109,843	19%
Religion	8,339	8,559	[x]	6,383	8,730	37%
Sexual orientation	11,592	14,472	[x]	18,596	26,152	41%
Disability	7,221	8,250	[x]	9,945	14,242	43%
Transgender	1,703	2,329	[x]	2,799	4,355	56%
Total number of motivating factors	100,119	112,516	[x]	129,786	163,322	26%
Total number of offences	94,115	106,458	114,421	124,104	155,841	26%

Note: [x] denotes data unavailable

Source: Home Office (2022).

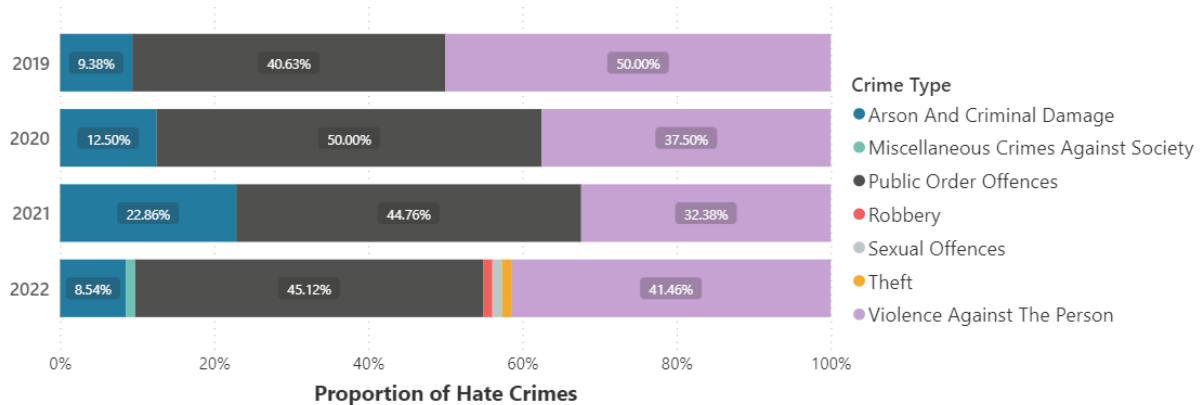
East Cambridgeshire saw an upward trend in hate crimes between 2019 and 2021, in line with Cambridgeshire as a whole. Levels dropped slightly in the latest year with 82 offences recorded in 2022, but this still remains well above pre-pandemic levels. Caution needs to be taken in the interpretation of trends observed due to the low volume of offences and the impact of improved police recording. The number of hate crimes recorded monthly varies notably as illustrated in the figure below. Crime incident level analysis showed that the spike in August 2021 resulted from a linked series of racially aggravated graffiti offences in the Ely area. The more recent spike seen in October 2022 was linked to multiple cases of prior victimisation being reported.

**Figure 44: Police recorded Hate Crimes in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 – 2022**



The figure below shows the offence type breakdown for all hate crimes recorded in East Cambridgeshire in the last four years. The majority of hate crimes are public order offences or violence against the person (accounting for 87% combined in 2022). The proportion of arson and criminal damage offences increased in 2021 due to the linked graffiti series.

**Figure 45: Breakdown in crime type of police recorded Hate Crimes in East Cambridgeshire, 2019-2022**



National data shows that increase in hate crimes for the two dominant offence categories (public order and violence against the person) have risen broadly in line with non-hate related offences under these categories (Home Office, 2022). For East Cambridgeshire, the percentage rise seen for hate crimes between 2019 and 2022 is above and beyond that seen for non-hate related public order and violence offences, but the low offence numbers need to be considered when drawing conclusions.

At the time of writing, the Cambridgeshire County Council Research Team does not currently have access to data on the motivating factors linked to hate crimes. Further analysis of additional data fields and sources would enable a more complete understanding of the current picture of hate crime in East Cambridgeshire, in particular the extent to which different groups are being victimised.

## 9. Environmental / Community

### 9.1. Summary and Recommendations

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and deliberate fires are showing a longer-term downward trend in East Cambridgeshire. Deliberate fires recorded a small increase in 2022, more in line with the volume seen in 2019.

Public order offences as recorded by the police are showing an overall increasing trend and now account for more of the total crimes recorded than in previous years. This is a broad category, but does include harassment and violence and includes offences marked as hate crime.

**Recommendation: Given that public order can affect communities more generally than just individual victims it would be worth the partnership requesting a more detailed analysis of these crimes, the areas affected and overlaps with other community safety issues.**

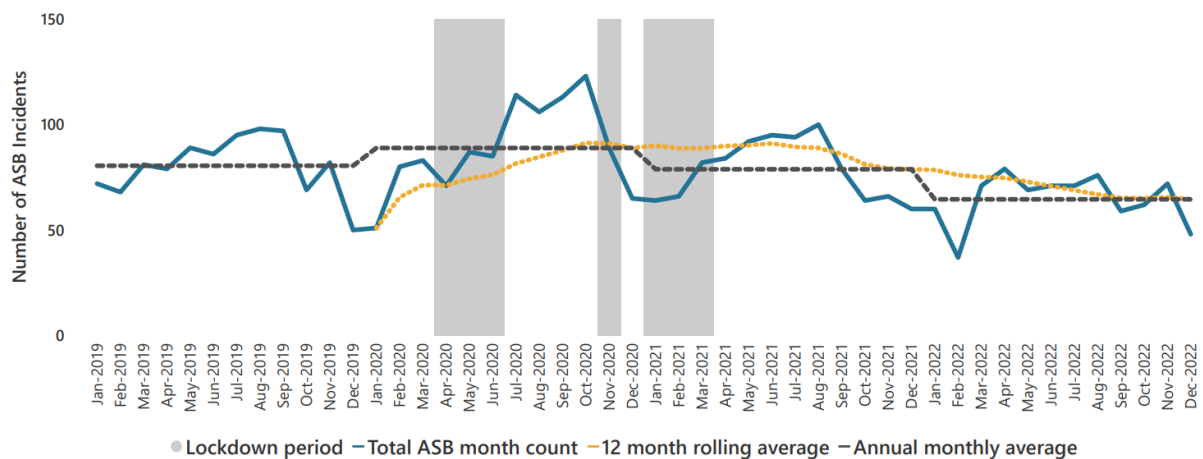
### 9.2. ASB

The most recent ONS report states there were 1.1 million police recorded ASB incidents in England and Wales in the year ending September 2022, down 21% from the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020 where 1.4 million incidents were recorded (ONS, 2023d). There was a spike in ASB recorded in 2021, attributed by the ONS to reports of COVID-19 restriction breaches recorded by the police as ASB.

Overall ASB levels are on a downward trajectory in East Cambridgeshire, as illustrated in the figure below. A total of 775 ASB incidents were recorded in 2022, down by a fifth (20%) compared to the pre-pandemic year of 2019. Analysis of the monthly data shows ASB levels are typically slightly elevated in the summer months, in line with expected patterns during more favourable weather and longer daylight hours.



**Figure 46: Police recorded ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire, 2019-2022**



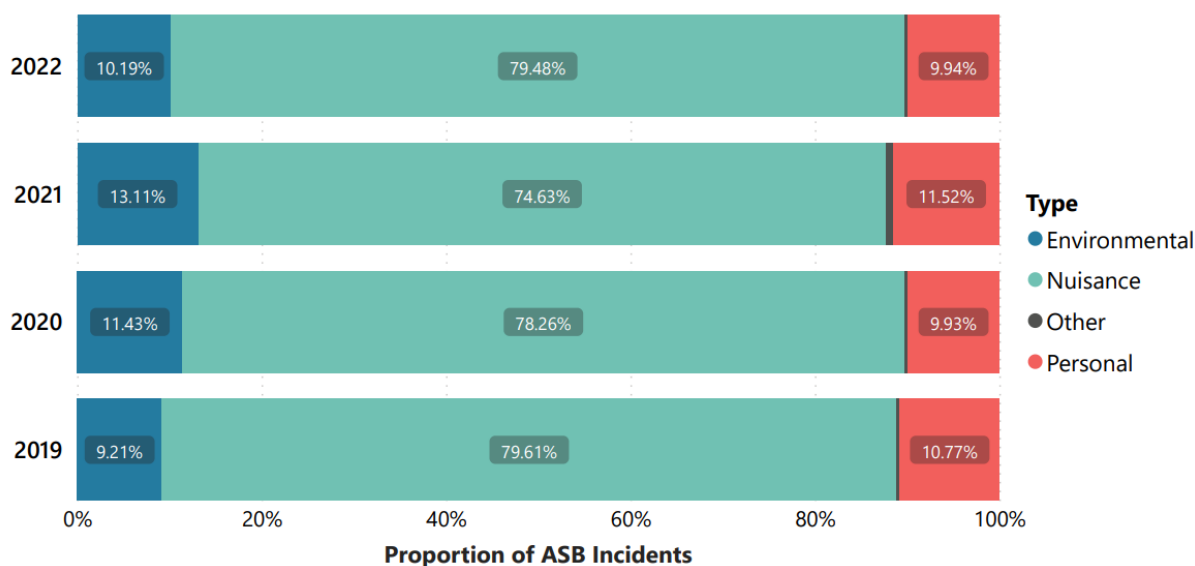
Youth-related ASB has been analysed by applying a keyword search to the incident description field to identify incidents that are likely to be youth-related. It should be noted that this is not a perfect measure, it may include some incidents where young people were present or victims but the incident itself was not youth related. Despite this limitation it represents the best available indicator of police recorded youth-related ASB.

A quarter of incidents recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2022 included a youth keyword. This proportion is up slightly from 2021 but is consistent with the proportion seen in 2019-2020. Cambridgeshire County as a whole saw a similar proportion of youth-related ASB in 2022 (24%).

‘Nuisance’, which refers to incidents which impact on the local community in general, has consistently been the primary ASB type in recent years, accounting for 4 out of every 5 ASB incidents recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2022. There was a slight increase in the proportion of environmental ASB in 2021, however, this was not sustained in 2022, dropping back down to 10% of all ASB in 2022.

Personal ASB also accounted for 10% of incidents recorded in 2022. Personal ASB incidents are categorised by risk on a scale from ‘no risk’ to ‘high risk’. There were no high-risk incidents recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2022 and just seven medium risk incidents.

**Figure 47: Breakdown in incident type for police recorded East Cambridgeshire ASB incidents, 2019-2022**



The table below shows the count of ASB incidents in each East Cambridgeshire ward and the proportion of total East Cambridgeshire incidents occurring in each ward for 2021 and 2022. As in previous years, Ely East, Ely West and Littleport accounted for the highest proportion of incidents in 2022. Ely East has seen a slight increase in the share of East Cambridgeshire ASB incidents in the latest year.

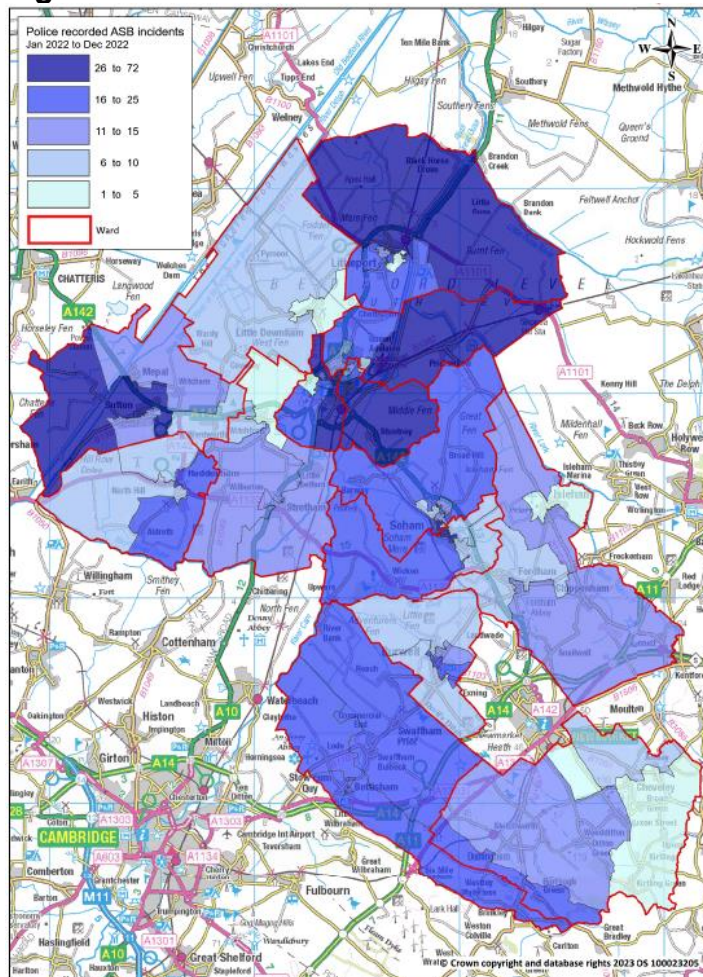
**Table 6: Count of police recorded ASB incidents by ward (2021 boundaries) and percentage of ASB, East Cambridgeshire 2021-2022**

Ward	2021 Count	2021 Percentage	2022 Count	2022 Percentage
Bottisham	43	4.5%	56	7.2%
Burwell	60	6.3%	42	5.4%
Downham Villages	15	1.6%	10	1.3%
Ely East	147	15.5%	135	17.4%
Ely North	43	4.5%	27	3.5%
Ely West	156	16.5%	120	15.5%
Fordham & Isleham	42	4.4%	30	3.9%
Haddenham	49	5.2%	26	3.4%
Littleport	123	13.0%	113	14.6%
Soham North	54	5.7%	50	6.5%
Soham South	54	5.7%	42	5.4%
Stretham	46	4.9%	31	4.0%
Sutton	84	8.9%	69	8.9%
Woodditton	30	3.2%	24	3.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>100%</b>

The thematic map overleaf (Figure 48) presents the annual count of ASB incidents at the lower level geography of LSOA. This illustrates that the LSOA's with the highest levels of ASB (over 25 incidents) are primarily located within the Ely and Littleport

area. Specifically central/eastern Ely, north Littleport and the rural LSOA's in the North East of the district. High ASB count LSOA's can also be seen in Soham (crossing the border of Soham North & Soham South) and Sutton ward.

**Figure 48: Police recorded ASB in East Cambridgeshire, 2022**



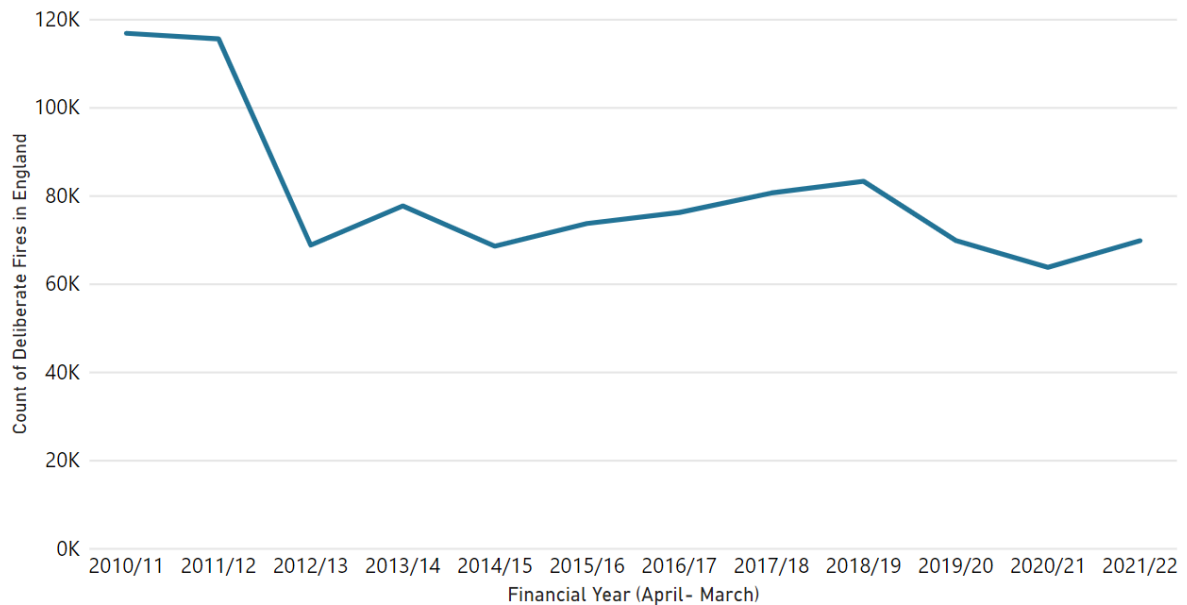
### 9.3. Deliberate Fires

The national and local Fire Service data used in this section includes accidental, deliberate and fires where the cause was unknown. This document primarily focuses on deliberate fires as they represent the riskier behaviour. National data from the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) (reported by year ending March) shows that the total number of fires attended in the 2021/22 was 152,629. This is 1% higher than seen in the previous year. However, total fires are still 16.5% less than before the pandemic in 2019/20 (Home Office, 2022).

The national data has a delay in its release, so the full year is up to March 2022. Local fire data has less delay and runs to the end of December 2022.

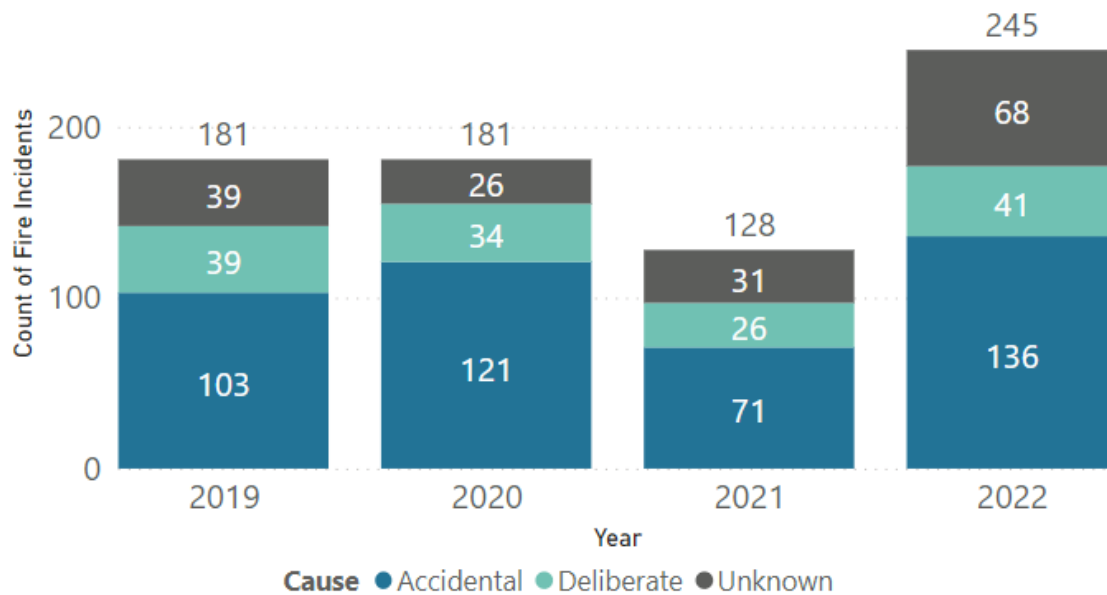
Below are the national figures for deliberate fires since 2010/11. Between 2020/21 and 2021/22 the number of deliberate fires attended increased by 10% to 69,782 but counts have remained fairly stable since 2010.

**Figure 49: Deliberate fires attended by fires and rescue services in England between 2011 and 2022 (Year ending March)**



Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue service recorded 245 fires in East Cambridgeshire in the 2022 calendar year. This is a 91% increase on 2021 figures of 128. East Cambridgeshire accounted for 11% of the total fires in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and 7% of all deliberate fires in 2021.

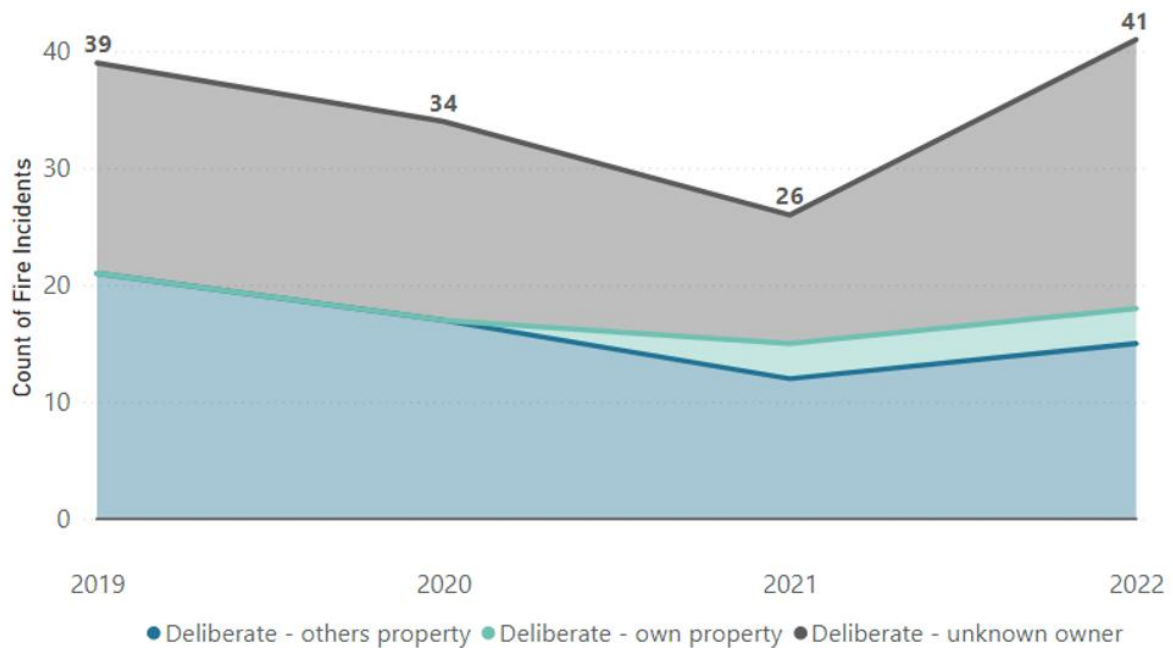
**Figure 50: Count of Fires in East Cambridgeshire by cause, 2019 – 2022 (Year ending December)**



As shown in Figure 50, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue service recorded 245 fires in East Cambridgeshire in the 2022 calendar year. This is a 91% increase on 2021 figures of 128. East Cambridgeshire accounted for 11% of the total fires in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and 7% of all deliberate fires in 2021.

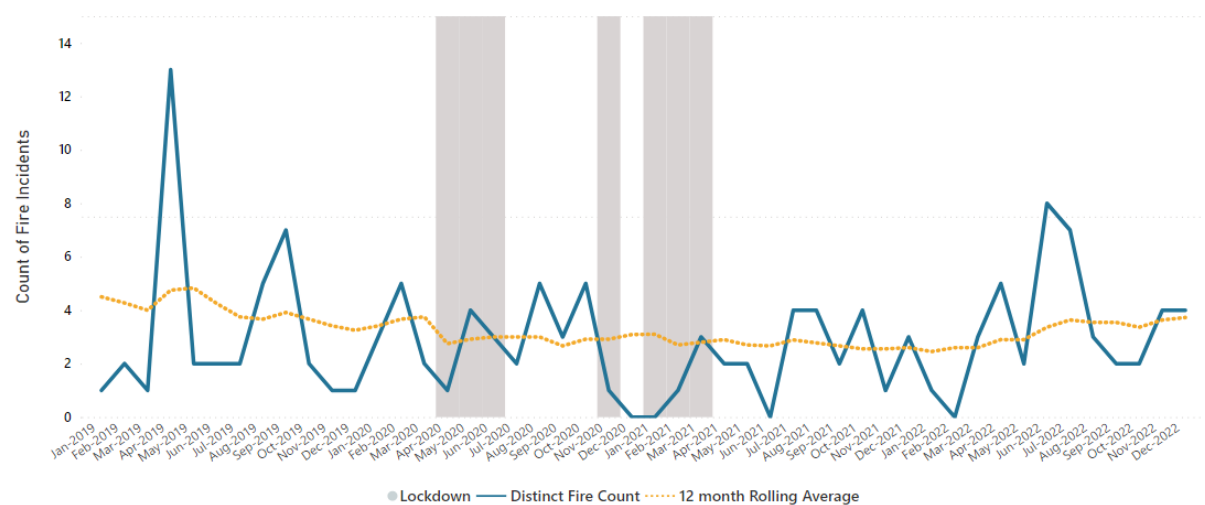
Figure 50 displays the number of fires in East Cambridgeshire broken down by cause over the past four years. This shows a 58% increase in the number of deliberate fires recorded, from 26 in 2021, to 41 incidents in 2022. Deliberate fires accounted for 16.73% of all fires in 2022 compared to 20.31% in 2021. Accidental fires also increased by 92% during the same period. With 'outdoor' and 'outdoor structure' having 200% and 117% increase respectively.

**Figure 51: Breakdown of deliberate fires in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 – 2022 (Year ending December)**



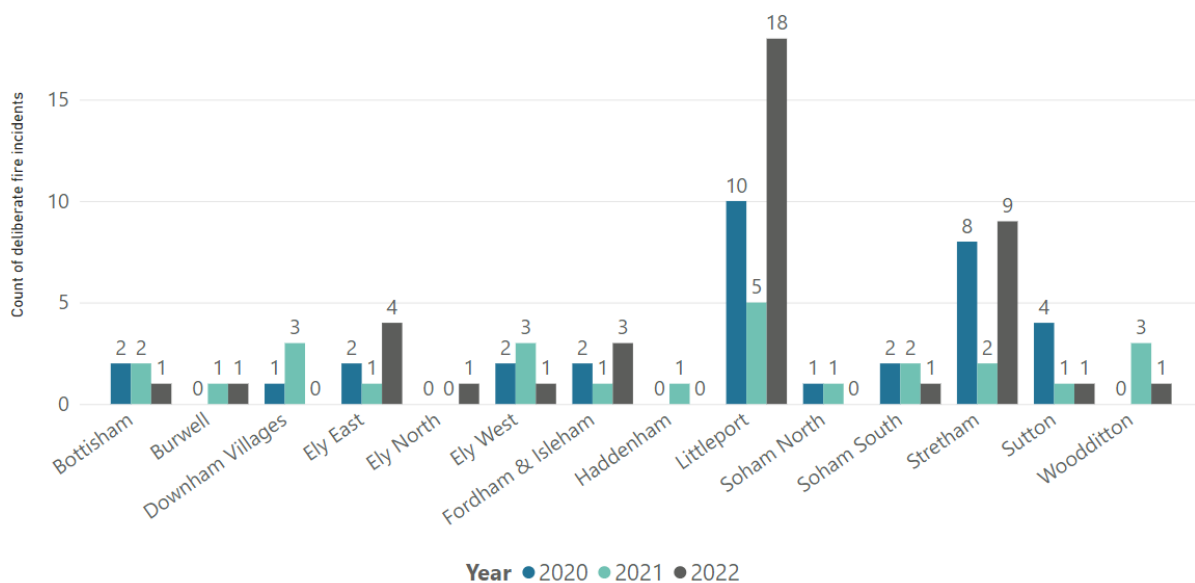
As detailed in Figure 5151, there has been a notable increase in deliberate fires between 2021 and 2022. The large increase in these types of fires was due to the summer heatwave between June and August 2022. The Home Office notes that between 2021 and 2022, the number of outdoor primary fires and secondary fires attended by FRS in the east of England increased by 218% (Home Office, 2022). Furthermore, the lifting of lockdown at the beginning of 2021 also resulted in a large increase during 2022 as specific fire incident types like outdoor structures occurred less frequently.

**Figure 52: Monthly count of deliberate fires in East Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2022**



The monthly count of deliberate fires is displayed in the chart above (Figure 5252). Following the third lockdown in 2021, the number of deliberate fires has remained low which contrasts the other districts in Cambridgeshire that saw deliberate fires return to pre-covid levels. It wasn't until summer 2022 during the heatwave when incidents began to increase. Between June and August 2022, the count of deliberate fires was 18 compared to 8 in the same 3 month period in 2021. The increase may be related to the summer heatwave that resulted in 72% of all deliberate fires between June to August 2022 categorised as 'outdoor-fires', but it is not clear from the data. Deliberate fire counts have decreased again since the summer and, since September 2022, the number of reported incidents has remained between 2 and 4.

**Figure 53: Count of deliberate fires in East Cambridgeshire by ward, 2020 – 2022 (Year ending December)**

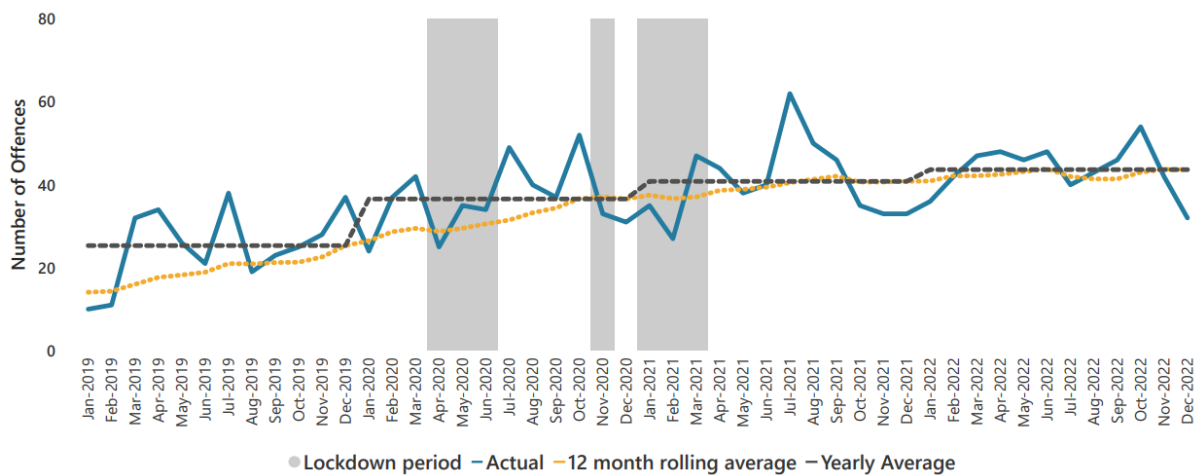


When comparing the number of deliberate fire incidents in the last 3 years, there has been notable increases in specific East Cambridgeshire wards. As detailed in the chart above (Figure 53), Littleport ward saw an increase from 5 incidents in 2021 to 18 in 2022.

## 9.4. Public Order

Public order offences refer to incidents of violence and/or intimidation committed by individuals or groups in public. Local police recorded crime data shows year-on-year increases in public order in East Cambridgeshire with 524 offences recorded in 2022, up 72% since 2019. Cambridgeshire as a whole saw a lesser increase of 42% in the same timeframe.

**Figure 54: Police recorded public order offences in East Cambridgeshire, January 2019 - December 2022**



The majority of public order offences recorded in 2022 were ‘Public fear, alarm or distress’ (81%). ‘Race or religious aggravated public fear, alarm or distress’ accounted for 3.4% (18 offences). Of the 524 public order offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2022, 7% were marked as hate crimes.

Geographical analysis showed the wards with the highest levels of public order offences in 2022 were: Ely East, Ely West, Littleport and Soham North which each accounted for 13% of offences in the district. When comparing the ward breakdown for all crime, Soham North accounted for higher proportion of district wide public order (13% compared to 8%) whilst Littleport accounted a lower proportion of public order compared to all crime (13% compared to 18% for all crime).

## 10. Re-offending

### 10.1. Summary and Recommendations

The statutory responsibilities of Community Safety partnerships include reduction of reoffending in their area. Membership of CSPs should include the relevant agencies regarding reoffending (e.g. probation). The High Harms Board has oversight of a range of thematic partnership activity including reducing re-offending. At the district CSP level there is a more limited understanding of current activities and issues.

At the time of writing little local data was available for inclusion in this report. What nationally available data there was, indicated that East Cambridgeshire had similar levels of re-offending to England & Wales.

**Recommendation: It is recommended that the partnership engages a broader membership to include relevant agencies that would bring additional local**



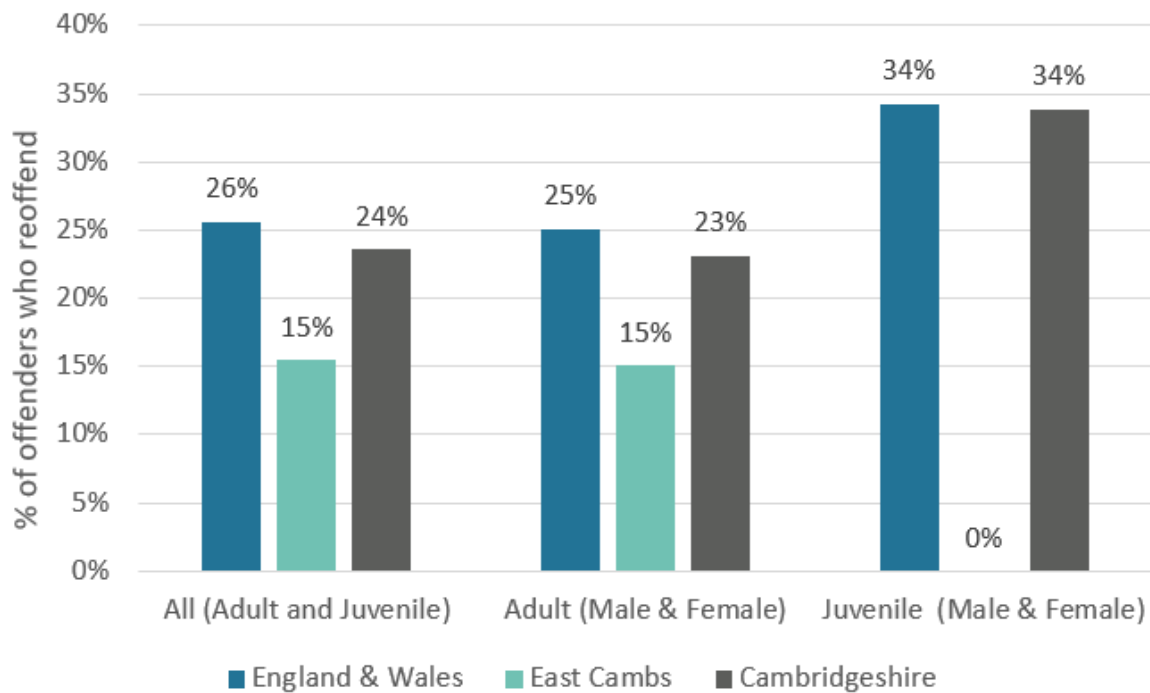
**knowledge and understanding in order establish the risks to local communities and any improvements in activity that would be appropriate.**

There is limited local data available on offenders and re-offending, however a Victim Offender and Suspects Needs Assessments (Commissioned by the OPCC) was published by Cambridgeshire Research Group in October 2020. This needs assessment aimed to provide an overview and profile of the available data relating to Victims, Offenders and Suspects in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Analysis of the Adult Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BeNCH) Community Rehabilitation Cohort (CRC) (2020) highlighted the following in terms of reoffending:

- Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the most common re-offence was Violence.
- Finance and Accommodation needs were particularly prevalent among re-offenders residing in East Cambridgeshire with 54% of the cohort having a finance need and 41% having an accommodation need.
- Re-offenders who have No Fixed Abode are the most likely to re-offend 5 times or more with 65% having 5 or more re-offences compared to 38% in Cambridgeshire and 42% in Peterborough.

Proven reoffending statistics are published by the Ministry of Justice on a quarterly basis, with some indicators published to Local Authority District level. The latest statistics published related to the October to December 2020 offender cohort. The coronavirus pandemic has generated a lot of volatility in reoffending figures due to the impact of court closures and delays, including the most recently published statistics (published October 2022). For this reason, the proven reoffending statistics prior to pandemic disruption for East Cambridgeshire (April 2019 -March 2020) are outlined in the figure below. The geography here relates to the most recent known address recorded for each offender.

**Figure 55: Proportion of Offenders in East Cambridgeshire who reoffend (%) April 2019 to March 2020**



In East Cambridgeshire there was a total of 38 adult reoffenders and 1 juvenile reoffender in the April 2019 to March 2020 cohort analysed for these statistics. It is notable that the proportion of offenders who reoffend was lower for East Cambridgeshire compared to Cambridgeshire and England and Wales, most notably for juvenile offenders. There remains a data gap (both nationally and locally) as the national reoffending data is not providing the whole picture. As such the CSP needs to consider what insights can be drawn from probation services and other key agencies locally as to levels of offending and the concerns regarding offenders in the local area.

## 11. Glossary

**Table 7: Glossary**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)</b>	“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).” (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, n.d., a)
<b>Acquisitive Crime</b>	Acquisitive crime is a broad crime category, encompassing a wide range of offences, including burglary, robbery, theft and vehicle offences. In this document acquisitive crime is defined as business burglary, residential burglary, vehicle offences, theft from the person, bicycle theft, shoplifting, and “all other theft offences”.
<b>ASB categories: personal, environmental and nuisance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.</li> <li>• Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person’s actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.</li> <li>• Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, n.d., a).</li> </ul>
<b>Accidental Fires</b>	Where the motive for the fire is thought to be accidental or is unknown.
<b>Arson</b>	The criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property.
<b>BeNCH CRC</b>	Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BeNCH) Community Rehabilitation Cohort (CRC).
<b>Catalytic converters</b>	“Catalytic converters are devices fitted to vehicle exhausts to reduce the amount of dangerous gases emitted. They are often targeted by thieves as they contain valuable metals and can be removed in less than a minute.” (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, n.d., b)

<b>CCE/CSE</b>	Child Criminal Exploitation/Child Sexual Exploitation
<b>Child Sexual Exploitation</b>	“...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”. (Department for Education, 2018)
<b>Coercive Control</b>	“...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.” (Women's aid, n.d.)
<b>County Lines</b>	“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.” (Home Office, 2023a)
<b>CRG</b>	Cambridgeshire Research Group
<b>CSEW</b>	Crime Survey for England and Wales
<b>CSP</b>	Community Safety Partnership
<b>DASVP</b>	The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership
<b>Deliberate Fires</b>	“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 (Home Office, 2023c).
<b>Domestic Abuse Crime</b>	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’.

<b>Domestic Abuse Incident</b>	“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.” (Home Office, 2011, p. 19).
<b>ED</b>	Emergency Department
<b>FRS</b>	Fire and Rescue Service
<b>FTE</b>	Full Time Equivalent
<b>Hate Crime</b>	“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.” (HM Government, n.d.)
<b>HMICFRS</b>	Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services
<b>IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisers)</b>	“IDVAs provide emotional and practical advice, guidance and support to help you and your family to become and remain safe. They will seek ways to empower you to make positive safe choices and they will liaise with other professionals on your behalf. The support they provide could include help for you through a court process, help to access safe accommodation and advocate on your behalf.” (Safer Futures, n.d.).
<b>LSOA; Lower Super Output Area</b>	An LSOA is a geographical area, usually comprising of between 400 to 1200 households, and a resident population of between 1000 and 3000 people (ONS, 2023a).

<b>MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference)</b>	Where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors (Safe Lives, 2013).
<b>Modern Slavery</b>	“Modern slavery is a complex crime that covers all forms of slavery, trafficking and exploitation. Trafficking includes transporting, recruiting or harbouring an individual with a view to them being exploited.” The 5 main types of exploitation that victims of modern slavery may experience are: labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting (ONS, 2020).
<b>NCA</b>	National Crime Agency
<b>ONS</b>	Office for National Statistics
<b>OPCC</b>	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
<b>Other Theft</b>	Other theft offences involve the theft of property which is not taken directly from a person or shop. Some subcategories include; blackmail, theft by an employee, theft of mail, making off without payment etc.
<b>Substance misuse: Opiate and Non-opiate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opiate – e.g., heroin</li> <li>• Non-opiate – e.g., cannabis, crack and ecstasy (Public Health England, 2020).</li> </ul>
<b>Theft offences</b>	In this document, when discussing figures from the CSEW, theft offences are defined as theft from the person, other theft of personal property, domestic burglary, vehicle theft, and other household theft. Household theft includes domestic burglary, vehicle theft, and other household theft (ONS, 2022b).
<b>Ward</b>	Wards (or electoral wards), are geographical areas used to elect local authority councillors (ONS, 2023a).
<b>YE (Year ending)</b>	The final month of the 12 month period measured.

## 12. Appendix A: Technical Notes

### 12.1. Proportion of adult victims who have experienced a crime by crime type

Percentages for violence, robbery, theft from the person, fraud and computer misuse are quoted for adults. Percentages for domestic burglary and criminal damage are quoted for households. Percentage for vehicle-related theft and bicycle theft are quoted for vehicle or bicycle owning households.

### 12.2. Census 2021

The Census is a once-in-a-decade survey organised by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and gives us the most accurate estimates of all people and households in England and Wales. It collects data on characteristics including education, religion, ethnicity, working life and health. Census day took place on 21 March 2021 and the ONS achieved an overall response rate of 97%. The first data outputs from Census 2021 were released in 2022. The population estimates from the Census are used as the starting point to produce mid-year population estimates for the intervening years between each Census. It should be noted that Census 2021 was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic, which may have affected the data collected.

### 12.3. Crime Rates

Rates for crimes in this report were calculated based on Census 2021 population figures.

## 13. Appendix B: Catalytic Converter Thefts Table

**Table 8: Count and share of police recorded catalytic converter theft from 2019 to 2022 in Cambridgeshire districts**

Districts	2019 count	2019 %	2020 count	2020 %	2021 count	2021 %	2022 count	2022 %
Cambridge	115	53.2%	150	45.3%	169	29.7%	212	33.0%
South Cambridgeshire	58	26.9%	57	17.2%	151	26.5%	189	29.4%
Huntingdonshire	27	12.5%	81	24.5%	139	24.4%	133	20.7%

East Cambridgeshire	11	5.1%	19	5.7%	66	11.6%	70	10.9%
Fenland	5	2.3%	24	7.3%	44	7.7%	38	5.9%
<b>Year Total</b>	216	100%	331	100%	569	100%	642	100%



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