



# Community Safety Strategic Assessment:

Fenland District 2021/22

Version: 1.1 Final

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# 1. Introduction

The Research Group, Cambridgeshire County Council, was commissioned to produce a strategic assessment for Fenland Community Safety Partnership for the financial year 2021/22.

## 1.1. Purpose and scope this strategic assessment

Completion of a Strategic Assessment is a requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 act relating to Community Safety Partnerships.

This document provides a strategic assessment report for Fenland based on data from the last 3 calendar years (2019-2021).

Data incorporated in this assessment includes the following:

- Police recorded crime
- Police recorded DA
- Police recorded ASB
- Assault Related Ambulance Callouts
- DA service referrals (IDVA referrals)
- Fire incident data (deliberate fires)
- District level counts of clients in treatment or successfully completed treatment for substance misuse (Source: Change Grow Live)
- ONS national statistics as appropriate.

A summary of issues according to levels of harm is also included in this document.

## 1.2. Understanding the wider context – Countywide View

The Fenland Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is one of six within the Cambridgeshire police force area alongside county thematic groups that makes up the County Community Safety Board. This Countywide approach encompasses the two-tier area of Cambridgeshire and the unitary authority of Peterborough City Council. It enables a much more developed & joined-up approach to community safety, particularly around thematic areas such as safeguarding, domestic abuse, substance misuse and offending. The complexity of the overall community safety agenda is best tackled in a matrix management approach (see Appendix B for the countywide matrix) allowing for agencies to lead or support where appropriate. This allows the CSP to be heavily involved in developing strategies at a county-wide level whilst also freeing up the CSP itself to tackle local issues.

In May 2021 a new Police and Crime Commissioner was elected. Daryl Preston came into post on 13th May 2021 and began consultation for his Police and Crime Plan in July 2021. The consultation report was published in November 2021 (OPCC for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, 2021). The Police and Crime Plan 2021 to 2024 has subsequently been published (OPCC for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough,

2021). Included in this plan is an offer of three-year funding to CSP areas with a focus on co-ordination of local problem solving activity. Fenland CSP has accepted the offer to work in partnership with the OPCC, putting communities first through supporting local problem solving and community engagement. The OPCC also has a 'Communities Fund' available for the CSP to bid for specific projects addressing problems identified via the local problem solving group and problem solving coordinator post.

### 1.3. Current Context: COVID-19

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

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

Table 1: Lockdown periods represented in this report

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

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

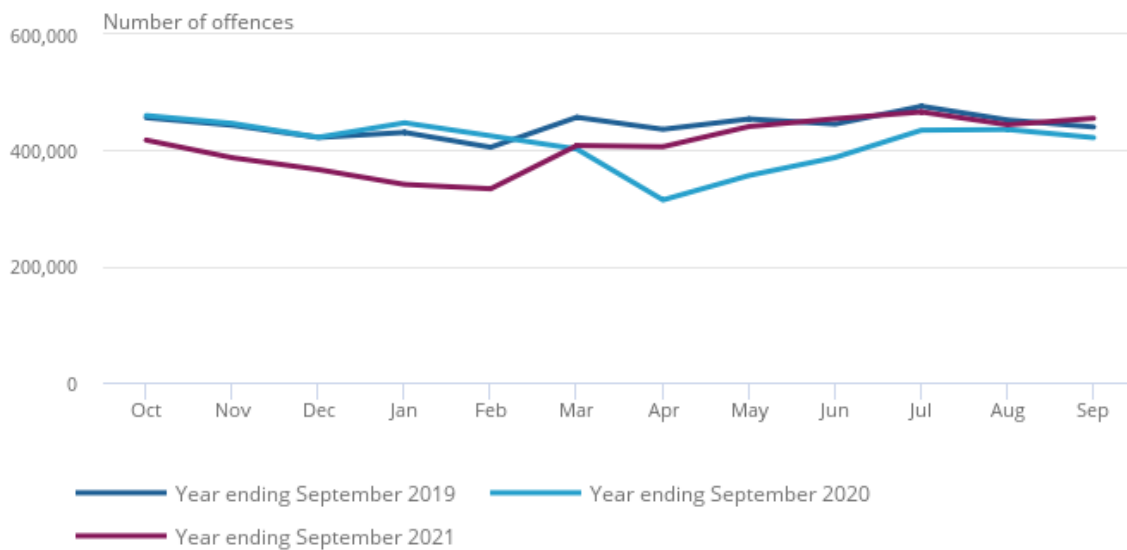
The latest published national statistics for England and Wales includes data to the year ending September 2021 (ONS, 2022).

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

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

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

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



Source: Home Office – Police recorded crime

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

## 1.5. Current context: Migrant workers report summary

The impact of the UK exit from the EU on migration, which is key to the Fenland economy, is yet to be fully established. Cambridgeshire Research Group have recently generated a report on Migrant workers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (report publication date to be confirmed). The key findings for Fenland from this report are outlined below. The migrant workers report primarily utilises National Insurance Number registrations (NINOs) which provide a good indication of inward migration, however, they do not account for people leaving the country, people moving within the country or those who have migrated but do not register for work. This caveat should be borne in mind when interpreting the key findings.

Trend data shows a steady reduction over the past 5 years in the number of migrant workers registering in Fenland, with very sharp decreases seen in 2020 due to the restrictions on movement resulting from COVID-19 lockdowns.

The European Union (EU) is the most common world area of origin for migrant workers registering in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, accounting for three quarters (75%) of total registrations in the past 10 years. For Fenland this proportion was 96%, the highest of all districts in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Of the EU origin NINO registrations in Fenland between July 2016 – June 2021 approximately half (51%) were from the EU2 countries; Bulgaria and Romania. 44% of registrations were from the EU8 countries (Estonia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia).

Since 2016 there have been marked reductions in the number of NINO registrations in Fenland from both EU2 and EU8 areas, likely linked to changes in Brexit migrant worker visas. The top single country of origin for Fenland NINO registrations between July 2016-June 2021 was Lithuania.

The full effects of Brexit are yet to be seen as the UK only officially left the EU in February 2020, with the transition period ending in January 2021. Unfortunately, much of the NINO data from March 2020 onwards has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic so any Brexit-induced long-term changes in NINO world area trends may not be seen for several years.

## 1.6. Current context: Ukrainian Crisis

Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 resulting in almost 5 million refugees leaving Ukraine (at the time of writing). There are many Ukrainians or people with Ukrainian heritage here in Cambridgeshire, as well as from, or with connections to nearby Baltic States and Russia too, who have been profoundly affected by this war. Fenland District Council, in partnership with other local authorities and Cambridgeshire County Council are responding to support guests granted a visa through with the Homes for Ukraine or Ukrainian Families Schemes. These two schemes operate in separate ways.



- The Government's **Homes for Ukraine** scheme, which asks people to offer space in their homes for those fleeing the war, has been launched. This will allow individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians (known as guests in this scheme) to safety – including those with no family ties to the country.
- The **Ukraine Family Scheme** allows applicants to join family members or extend their stay in the UK.

Further there is also a visa extension option for migrant workers. However, it is becoming apparent that there are already people falling through the gaps in England.

Whilst there are checks that the district council is obliged to carry out to safeguard host and guests (including housing and DBS checks) as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme these do not apply to other schemes. It should be remembered that refugees fleeing war should be considered vulnerable to exploitation.

### 1.7. Current Context: Economic

The Resolution Foundation reported that families on low incomes experienced increasing costs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (Resolution Foundation, 2021). Following on from the pandemic lockdown periods, the cost of living in the UK has risen notably in 2021/2022 with further increases forecast. In February 2022 inflation rose to 6.2% which is the highest level recorded since 1992 (Harari, Francis-Devine, Bolton, & Keep, 2022). A number of factors are influencing the cost of living crisis:

- Wages and benefits are rising slower than inflation
- Energy prices – the energy price cap increases by 54% in April 2022. Energy prices have increased as a result of global gas demand and are expected to continue to rise as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Fuel prices: petrol and diesel prices have increased sharply in early 2022, linked to the conflict in Ukraine
- Benefits and tax changes – the removal of the Universal Credit uplift in October 2021, increase in National Insurance contributions and freezing of the Income Tax Personal Allowance are expected to further squeeze households.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) reports that household disposal income will fall by 2.2% in 2022/23, the largest fall in a single year since records began in 1956 (Office for Budget Responsibility, 2022). Some government support has been announced which aims to minimise the impacts. This includes; a household boost to assist with energy bills, a reduction in fuel duty and an increase in the National Insurance contributions threshold. The OBR reports that the measures announced offset a third of the falls in living standards that would otherwise have occurred in the next 12 months (Office for Budget Responsibility, 2022). The impact of the economic context is likely to place significant pressures on both families and individuals already living in poverty and those who are currently just getting by.

## 2. Executive Summary

The introductory sections of this document outlines the reasons for completing a strategic assessment and the events affecting the assessment period, 2019-2021. Specifically the COVID-19 pandemic has generated varying impacts upon crime since 2020. More recent changes to the national context include changes in the economy (including ongoing Brexit impacts) and the war in Ukrainian. These are expected to have a local impact in the coming months and years.

This report provides the CSP with an initial evidence base on which to make informed decisions about the priorities it wants to tackle in the future. There are suggestions in this report on how to enhance the evidence in future.

Whilst the report breaks into sections in order to describe crime patterns, it should be noted that there are some general themes that should be considered. The likelihood of widening inequalities due to the pandemic, Brexit and the rise in cost of living should be noted when discussing the following findings.

The following describes the key findings for each section of this strategic assessment report. The analysis has been broadly in two categories. Personal safety and community harm attempts to group findings by crimes that have individual victims and those with wider impact. There is of course overlaps across these themes particularly when considering vulnerability within Fenland.

### 2.1. Personal Safety – key findings

Overall decreases in acquisitive crime have been seen nationally and locally in the context of covid restrictions, however, the overall reduction seen in Fenland between 2019-2021 was more modest (down 11%). This is due to variation in patterns of different acquisitive crime types compared to elsewhere. Increases were seen in business and community burglaries, theft of vehicles and other theft including shoplifting. The increase in shoplifting offences was particularly in contrast to the decreases seen nationally and in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole. Given the ongoing economic impacts and concerns about widening inequalities, attention to the type of shoplifting might lead to greater insight into vulnerabilities within Fenland.

Police recorded Domestic Abuse incidents and crimes did increase to a limited extent, however referrals to the IDVA service in Fenland have decreased. Whilst nationally indicators have shown an increase in Modern Slavery, there have been low volumes of modern slavery offences recorded by the police in Fenland since 2018. This is likely due to the hidden nature of the crime and should not be taken to mean it is not occurring in Fenland.

For children and young people in Fenland, concerns remain around Criminal Exploitation (including county lines), sexual exploitation and missing from home

incidents. Data indicates some increases and the risk of harm is high with all of these.

Overall the group of crimes collectively known as violence against the person (VAP) have increased in Fenland, driven by increases in stalking and harassment offences. This reflects a national trend. The majority of VAP offences recorded in Fenland were violence without injury; indeed violence with injury offences have remained relatively stable since 2019. Knife crime in Fenland has returned to pre-pandemic levels after a period of lower crime attributed to the effects of national lockdowns. This return to pre-pandemic levels is contrary to the national trend. Specific locations of high harm (street based) knife crime have been identified within Fenland.

## 2.2. Community Harm – key findings

The total number of police recorded ASB incidents in 2021 was 11% lower compared to the pre-pandemic year of 2019. Just under a third of ASB incidents (30.5%) in Fenland were youth-related, a notably higher proportion than seen in other districts in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Alcohol-related ASB was found to be highly concentrated within parts of Wisbech.

The volume of drug offences in Fenland has fluctuated around national lockdown periods, with increases associated with police activity at these times. By the end of 2021 the volume of offences was similar to the pre-pandemic period. Data from the substance misuse support provider (Change Grow Live) shows that clients resident in Fenland are predominantly in treatment regarding Opiate and alcohol misuse.

Analysis of fire incident data shows a slight reduction in the number of deliberate fires recorded over time, with deliberate fires accounting for 34.6% of all fires in 2021 compared to 36.8% of all fires in 2019.

Police recorded hate crime has increased in Fenland each year since 2019. The crime types this incorporates largely include Public Order, VAP and arson and criminal damage, in line with the national analysis of hate crime.

Fraud, scams and cybercrime have increased nationally, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Fenland there has also been an increase in police recorded cybercrimes since 2019, albeit from a low base.

## 2.3. Summary of issues according to harm

Understanding the volume and location of crime is important to tackle it effectively. So too is it important to understand the relative harm of different crimes, in order to prioritise activity with limited resources.

One systematic approach to understanding the harm caused by different crime types has been laid out in the Cambridge Crime Harm Index (CHI) (Cambridge University,

2016). This is a classification system of offences weighted by the likely prison sentence for each offence, where the sentence severity reflects harm caused by the crime. This index figure has been used as a weighting by the ONS to generate crime severity scores for different areas (ONS, 2021) .

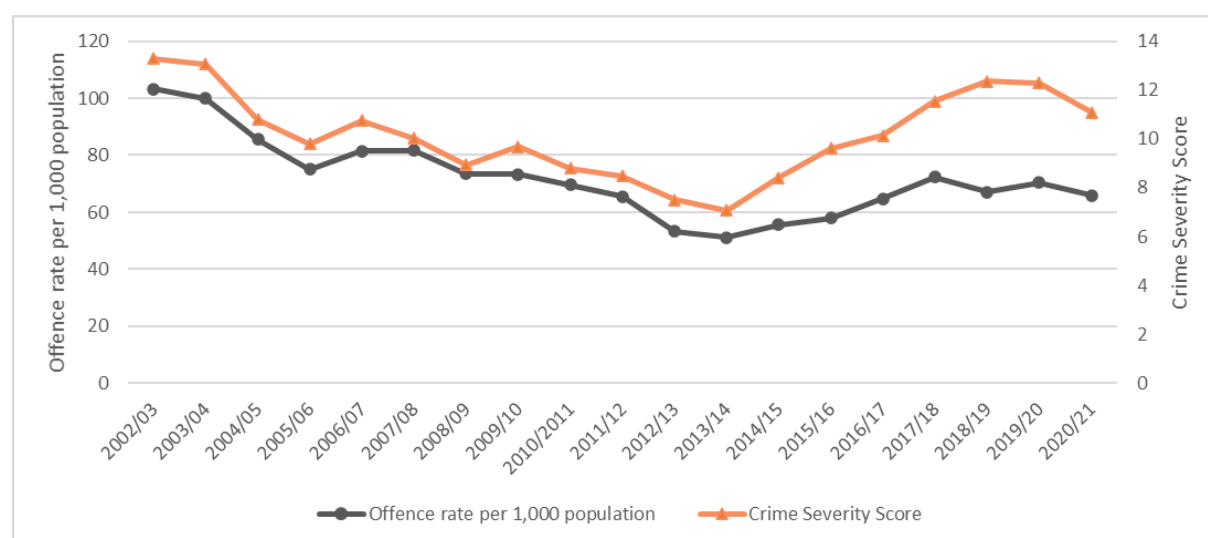
The Crime Severity Score is calculated as follows:

**Sum [across all offences] =**

**(Cambridge Harm Index Weighting) x (Number of offences) ÷ mid-year population estimate**

The crime severity score for total recorded crime in Fenland over time is shown in the figure below. This is based on figures to the year ending March 2021 only (the most recent scores published at the time of writing). This does show a peak in the crime severity score in the year ending March 2019, albeit in the context of a lowered overall crime rate. This illustrates that crime rates do need to be interpreted alongside other information about the kinds of crime taking place and the harm they may cause. During the period most affected by lockdowns (April 2020-March 2021) the severity score dropped. This drop should be treated with caution as overall the trend since 2013/14 has been increasing i.e. Fenland has had increasing harm from crimes.

**Figure 2: Crime Severity Score for total recorded crime and Offence rate per 1,000 population in Fenland 2019-2021 (Source: ONS)**



The figure below shows the crime severity scores for Fenland allowing comparison with other local districts as well as England and Wales as a whole. The crime severity score for Fenland in the year ending March 2021 was lower than that for England and Wales. However the Fenland score was the highest of the local districts outside Cambridge and Peterborough, both being urban areas. The offence rates published by the ONS alongside the crime severity scores are also shown below for context.

Figure 3: Crime Severity Score for total recorded crime in year ending March 2021 (Source: ONS)

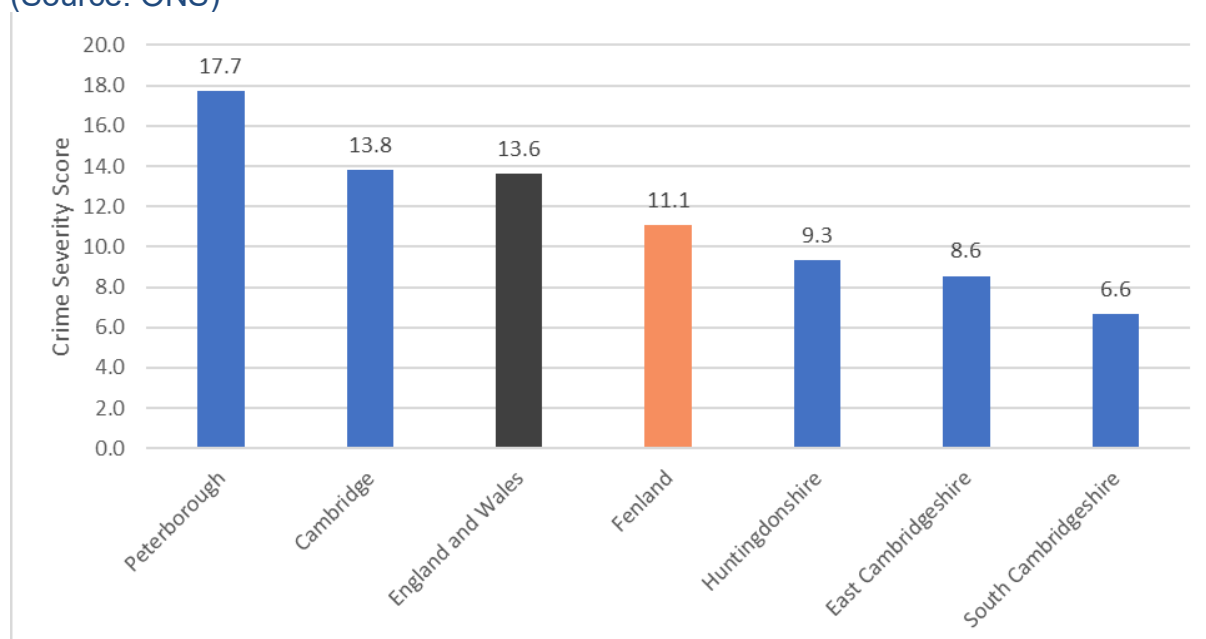
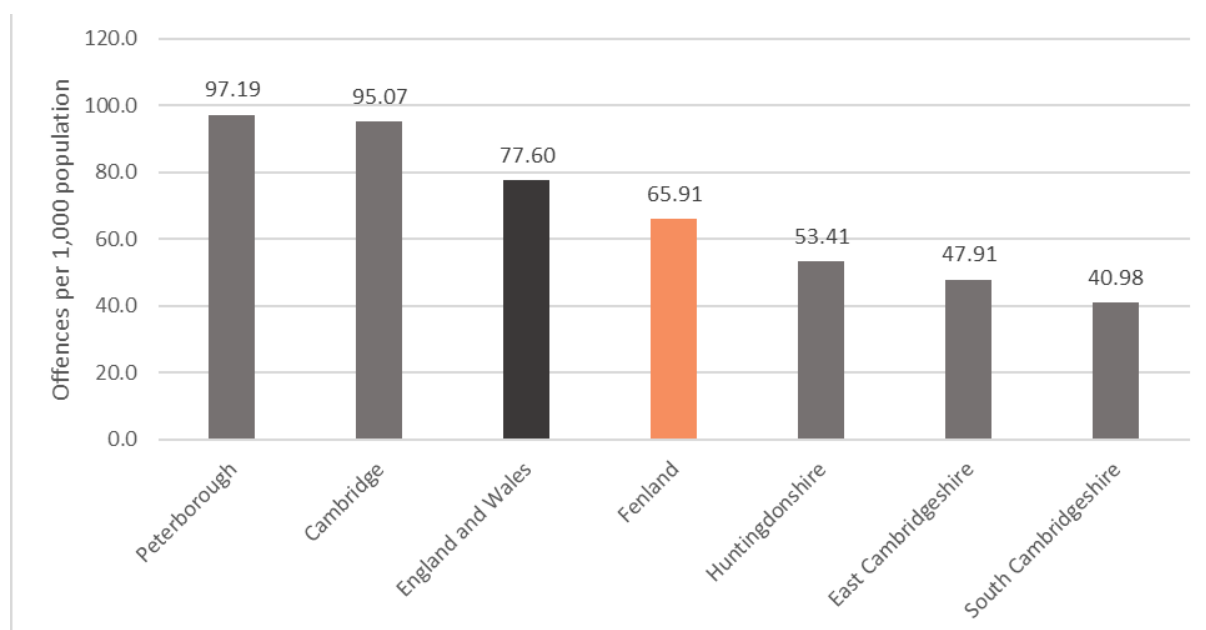


Figure 4: Offence rate per 1,000 population for total recorded crime in year ending March 2021 (Source: ONS)



There are some limitations to the ONS published severity scores outlined above, such as a current inability to collate domestic abuse or hate crimes which rely on crime markers rather than specific offence types. It does at least broadly summarise how overall crime severity in Fenland compares with other areas.

Analysis of local data in this strategic assessment highlights several high harm concerns. Unlike the crime severity scores above, this analysis can also consider wider information such as vulnerabilities identified in Fenland and non-crime incidents. A summary of issues by harm is shown in the table below. A diagram to

support explanation of this to the CSP board in April 2022 is in the appendix of this document for reference.

Figure 5: Summary of issues by harm in Fenland

**High harm issues increasing in Fenland alongside Fenland specific concerns**

Exploitation of young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased CSE crimes recorded in across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, including in Fenland.</li> <li>Higher CCE related harm to young people identified in Fenland.</li> <li>Missing From Home (MFH) incidents relatively high in Fenland.</li> <li>Historically there has been a larger proportion of the countywide housing offer for looked after children (LAC) located in Fenland.</li> </ul>
Knife crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low volume but increasing in Fenland, contrary to national trend.</li> <li>Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis showing that Medworth ward was a geographical focus for unusually high levels of knife crime related harm compared to other parts of Cambridgeshire.</li> </ul>

**High harm issues increasing in Fenland, in line with a national trend of increase.**

Stalking and harassment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A key component of the increase in Violence Against the Person, both nationally and in Fenland.</li> </ul>
Hate Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased nationally.</li> <li>Increase in Fenland, albeit from a low base.</li> </ul>

**High harm issues, recorded at low volume in Fenland but likely occurring in Fenland**

Modern Slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low volume of modern slavery offences recorded, while nationally there has been an increase.</li> <li>The characteristics of Fenland as an area mean that modern slavery is likely to be occurring.</li> </ul>
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**Low harm offences or incidents which may indicate wider vulnerabilities.**

Shoplifting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase recorded, contrary to national decrease.</li> <li>Could be linked to economic hardship or exploitation occurring.</li> </ul>
Youth related ASB incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fenland district has the highest proportion of youth-related ASB incidents in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.</li> <li>Could be linked to vulnerabilities specific to young people in Fenland.</li> </ul>

## 2.4. Data required to support the strategic assessment process

Development of information sharing will be required for future strategic assessments to meet the minimum standards for strategic assessments. This is needed to provide more comprehensive data for understanding the following issues.

Assault with injury:

- Data from health services (e.g. Emergency departments serving the Fenland area) in order to monitor patterns of assault with injury.

Antisocial behaviour:

- Antisocial behaviour reported to Fenland District Council
- Antisocial behaviour reported to housing providers in Fenland.

Substance misuse:

- Drug Paraphernalia finds reported to Fenland District Council.

### 3. Personal Safety

**Acquisitive Crime:** Overall decreases in acquisitive crime have been seen nationally and locally in the context of covid restrictions. Fenland saw a reduction of 11% between 2019-2021, this was a lesser decrease than seen nationally or constabulary-wide, due to increases seen in some acquisitive crime types. Residential burglary has decreased markedly, but there has been a slight increase in business and community burglaries in Fenland. In terms of vehicle crime, there have been notable reductions seen in theft from vehicles but increases in the theft of vehicles. Fenland had a pattern of increase in 'other theft' and shoplifting offences in contrast to the decreases seen nationally and in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole.

**Domestic Abuse:** There has been an overall trend of increase in DA crimes and DA incidents recorded in Fenland since 2019. Fluctuations were seen around national lockdown periods with increases seen as restrictions eased, in line with patterns identified nationally. The relatively new offence of coercive control is also described in this section, with the rate per 1000 population for this offence type being comparatively high in 2021. Whilst police recorded DA crimes and DA incidents have increased, IDVA referrals in Fenland have seen a decrease.

**Modern Slavery:** The low volumes of modern slavery offences recorded by the police in Fenland since 2018 are likely due to the hidden nature of the crime and should not be taken to mean it is not occurring here. This is particularly true when the national context of increases is taken into consideration.

**Child Sexual Exploitation:** Fenland has seen an increase in police recorded Child Sexual Exploitation. Whilst CSE crimes are low in total volume, CSE is an underreported and high harm crime type. A relatively high level of children Missing From Home (MFH) incidents, a key risk factor for young people being vulnerable to CSE, has been identified in Fenland.

**County Lines:** County lines activity links across several topics covered in this report. Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis has recognised that Child Criminal Exploitation (a feature of County Lines activity) has particularly affected young people in Fenland.

**Violence:** Overall the group of crimes collectively known as violence against the person (VAP) have increased in Fenland, driven by increases in stalking and harassment offences. This reflects a national trend. The majority of VAP offences recorded in Fenland were violence without injury. The rate of violence with injury offences has remained relatively stable since 2019. Whilst Emergency Department data is not available for the fenland area, assault related ambulance callout data shows a downward trend since 2019.

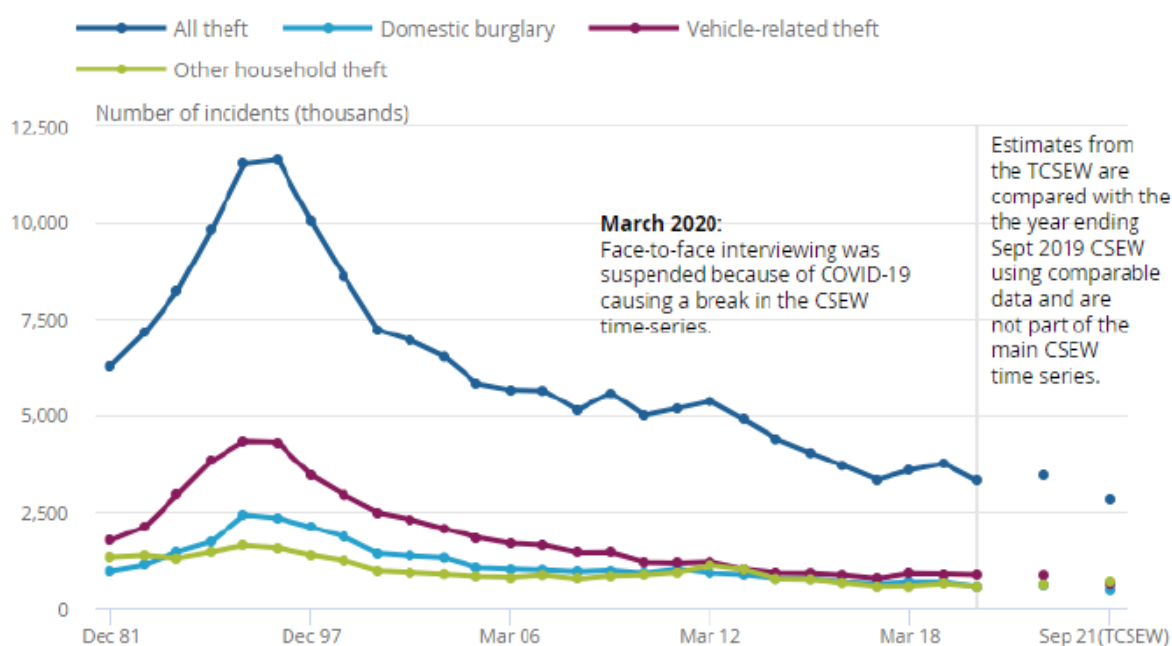


**Knife Crime:** Knife crime in Fenland has returned to pre-pandemic levels after a period of lower crime attributed to the effects of national lockdowns. This return to pre-pandemic levels was seen by the latter half of 2021 and is contrary to the national trend. Specific locations of high harm (street based) knife crime have been identified within Fenland.

### 3.1. Acquisitive crime

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

Figure 6: CSEW annual estimates showing long-term reductions in theft offences (Source: ONS)



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

National police recorded crime data also reflects this pattern with a 14% reduction in theft offences in the year ending September 2021 compared to the previous year. The greatest decreases were seen in burglary (21%), theft from the person (20%), vehicle offences (14%) and shoplifting (13%). A 9% increase in metal theft was recorded nationally which has been linked to improvements in the recording of catalytic converter thefts by the Metropolitan Police.

Local police recorded crime data shows a similar pattern in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with an overall decrease of 32% in the number of acquisitive crimes recorded in 2021 compared to 2019. Figures for Fenland showed a more modest reduction of 11%, however, there was notable variation by crime type as illustrated in the table below. Residential burglary saw the largest decrease in this time period with 296 fewer offences recorded in 2021, a reduction of 63% compared to 2019. In contrast there was a slight increase in business and community burglaries, up 7% compared to 2019. Patterns of vehicle crime also differed at the offence sub-type level, with notable reductions seen in theft from vehicles but increases in the theft of vehicles. Robbery levels were down, in line with national patterns. In contrast to patterns seen nationally and in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole, theft offences were marginally higher in Fenland in 2021 compared to 2019, driven by increases in 'other theft' and shoplifting. Notable reductions were seen in cycle theft and theft from the person offences.

Figure 7: Percentage change in number of acquisitive offences in Fenland, 2021 compared to 2019 (Change in offence counts shown in brackets).

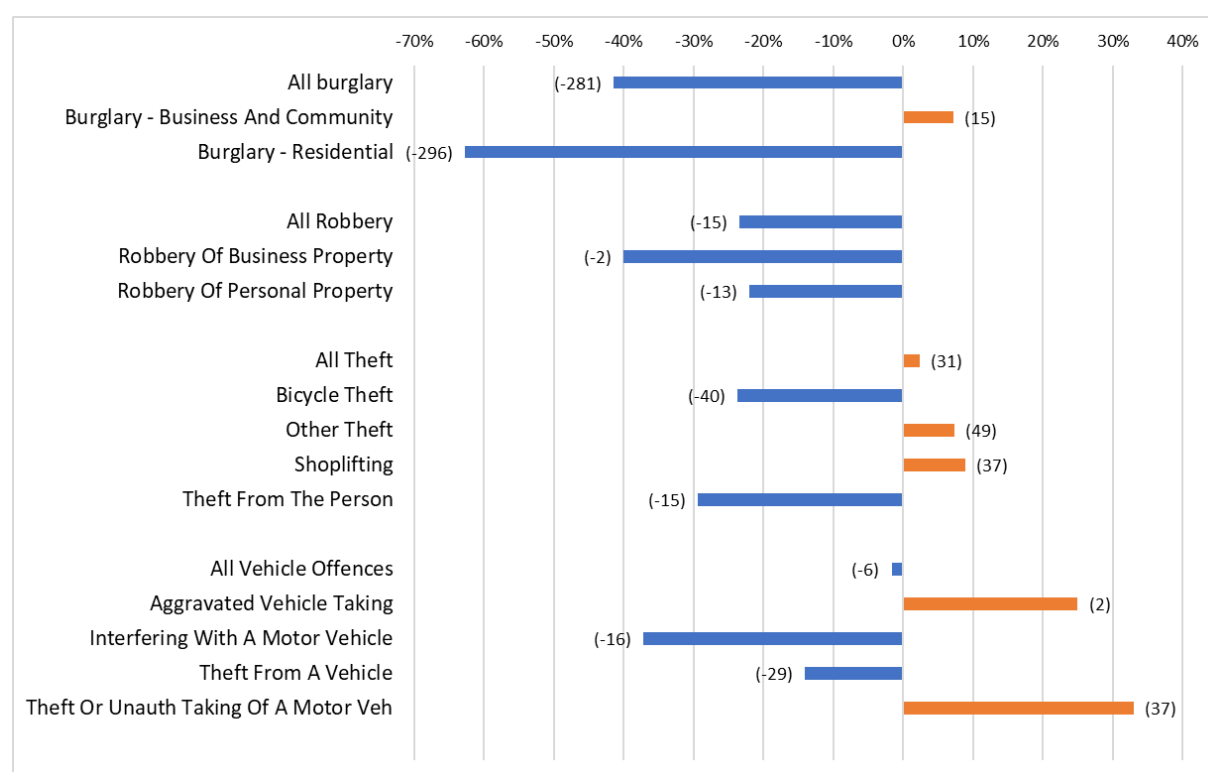
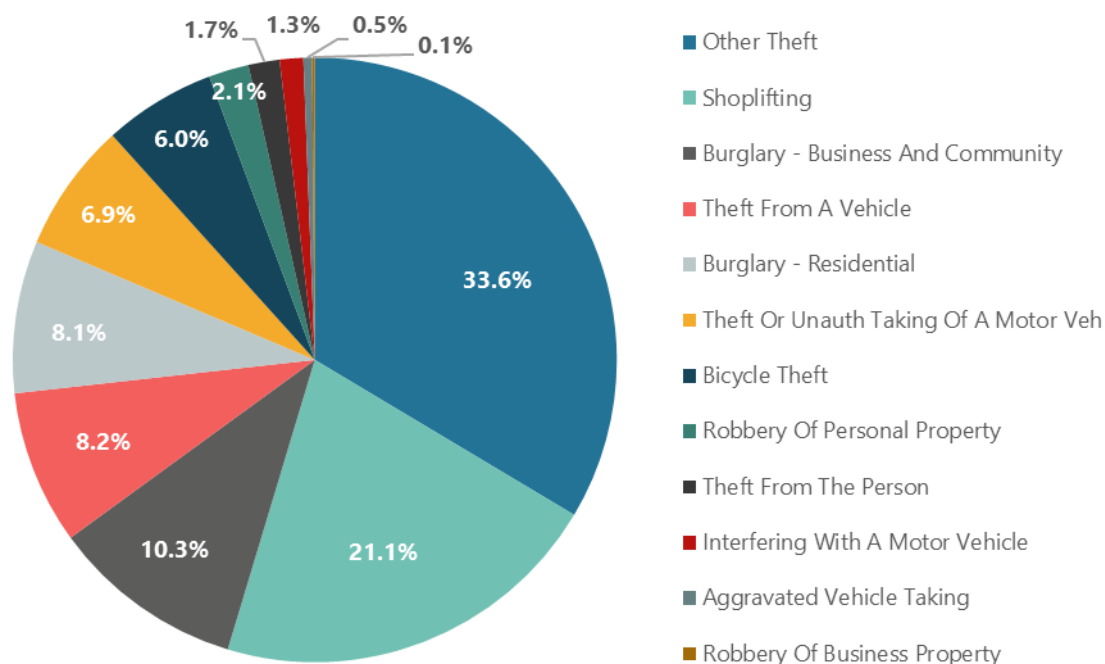


Figure 6 (below) shows the 2021 acquisitive crime sub-type breakdown for Fenland. 'Other theft' was the dominant offence type, accounting for over a third (37%) of acquisitive crime. Shoplifting accounted for just over a fifth (21%) of acquisitive crimes. The next most prevalent acquisitive offence types in Fenland were; business burglary (10%), theft from a vehicle (8%) and residential burglary (8%).

Figure 8: Acquisitive crime in Fenland breakdown by offence sub-type, 2021



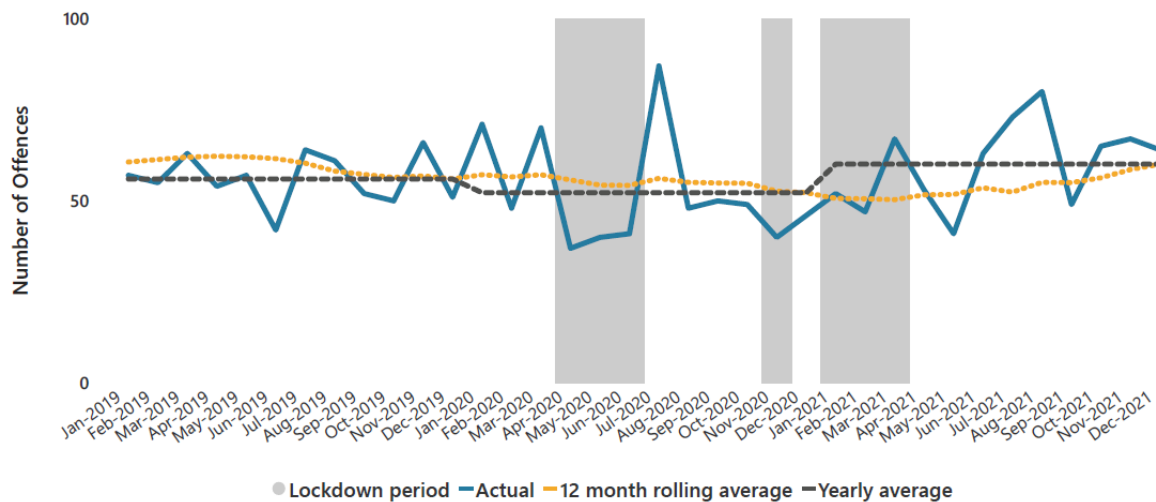
The following section explores the detailed three-year trend for the most prevalent acquisitive crime types in Fenland; other theft, shoplifting, vehicle crime, burglary (residential and business/community) and theft from a vehicle.

### 3.1.1. Other Theft

The category of other theft covers offences which involve the theft of property which is not taken directly for a person or shop. The predominant sub-type offences under this category of offences in Fenland in 2021 were 'theft if not classified elsewhere', 'making off without payment', 'theft in a dwelling other than from an automatic machine or meter' and 'blackmail'.

Analysis of the monthly counts of other theft offences in the past three years (see figure below) shows there was a marked reduction during the first national lockdown with offences then spiking as restrictions were eased in July 2020. Monthly offence counts were mostly below pre-pandemic levels in the second and third lockdown. Other theft offences increased in the summer months of 2021 resulting in a slightly higher annual monthly average (60 offences) compared to 2019 (56 offences).

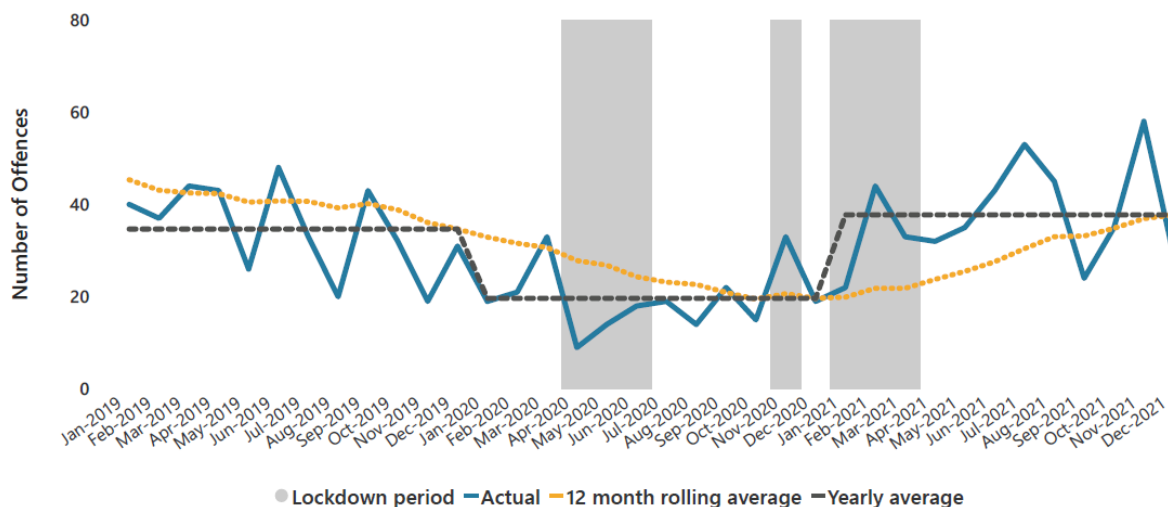
Figure 9: Police recorded Other Theft offences in Fenland, January 2019 – December 2021



### 3.1.2. Shoplifting

Levels of shoplifting offences were on a downwards trajectory in 2019 and early 2020, albeit with monthly variations. There was a sharp reduction in April 2020 as all non-essential retail was closed during the first national lockdown. Since the lows recorded in the first lockdown, shoplifting offences were on upward trajectory with monthly peaks observed during the second and third lockdowns despite restrictions on movement and non-essential retailers. 2021 has seen monthly variations with peaks in July and November but a notable drop in September. The annual average monthly count of 38 offences for 2021 is up slightly compared to 2019 (35 offences), in contrast to a reduction seen in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole.

Figure 10: Police recorded shoplifting offences in Fenland, January 2019 - December 2021

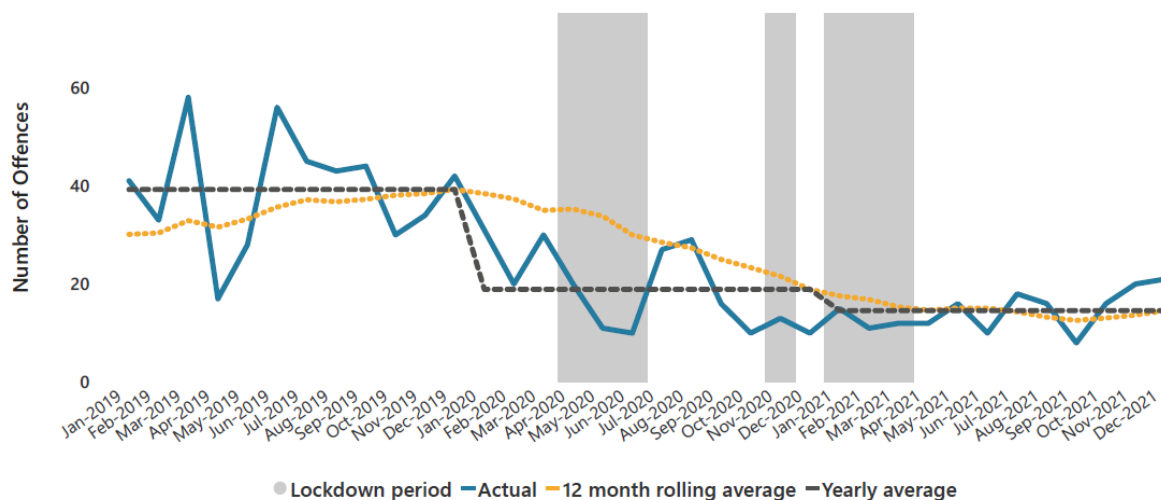


### 3.1.3. Burglary

The ONS have reported notable reductions in the number of residential burglaries during the pandemic period, linked to people spending more time at home and thus enhancing guardianship of properties. The Telephone Survey for England and Wales found the volume of burglaries was down by a fifth (20%) in the year ending September 2021 compared to 2019. National police recorded crime similarly showed a 21% reduction of burglaries in this time period (ONS, 2022).

Local data (see figure below) shows that residential burglaries fell during the first national lockdown. There was an increase in residential burglaries as restrictions eased in July-August 2020, but offences have since remained at depressed levels throughout the second and third lockdowns and during the remainder of 2021. This pattern has led to a marked reduction in the average monthly count of residential burglaries, down from 39 in 2019 to 15 in 2021. The reductions seen during lockdowns were expected due to the reduced opportunities for offending as people stayed at home. The longer-term reductions seen in 2021 may be linked to a sustained shift towards home working providing continued increase guardianship for homes.

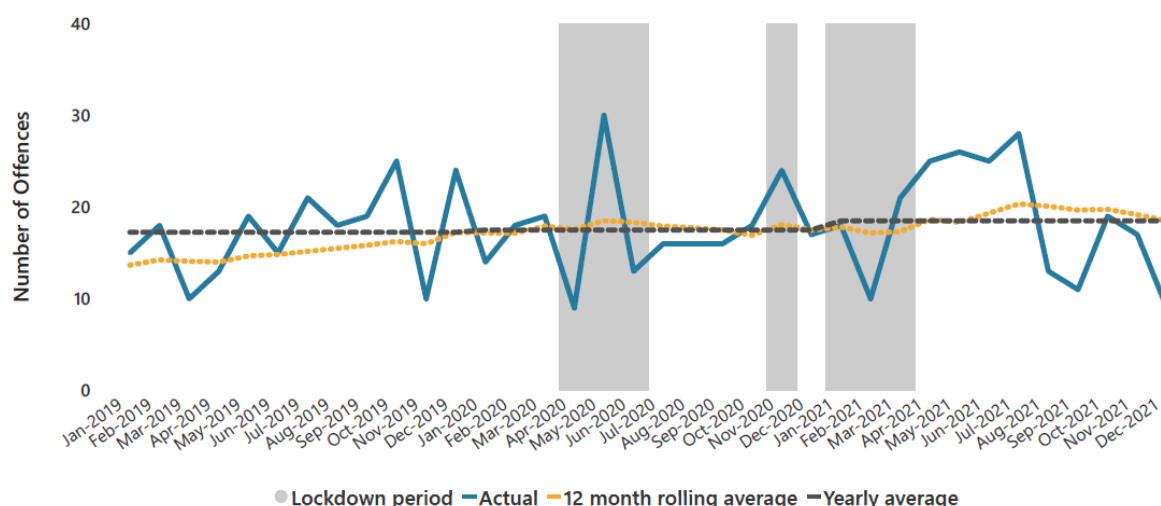
Figure 11: Police recorded Burglary (Residential) in Fenland January 2019 – December 2021



The Crime Survey for England and Wales does not gather data on business victims. Police recorded crime data showed a 39% reduction in non-residential burglaries in the year ending September 2021 compared to the pre-pandemic year ending September 2019. These figures go against the theory that residential burglaries may have been displaced to empty commercial properties during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Figures for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole show a similar pattern with business and community burglaries down by 26% between 2019 and 2021. Fenland in contrast recorded a slight increase of 7% in this time period.

The trend data for Fenland (see figure below) shows notable monthly variations, including during lockdown periods where both peaks and troughs were seen. This indicates that lockdown restrictions did not have the same protective effect on commercial properties as they did on residential properties.

Figure 12: Police recorded Burglary (Business and Community) in Fenland, January 2019 – December 2021

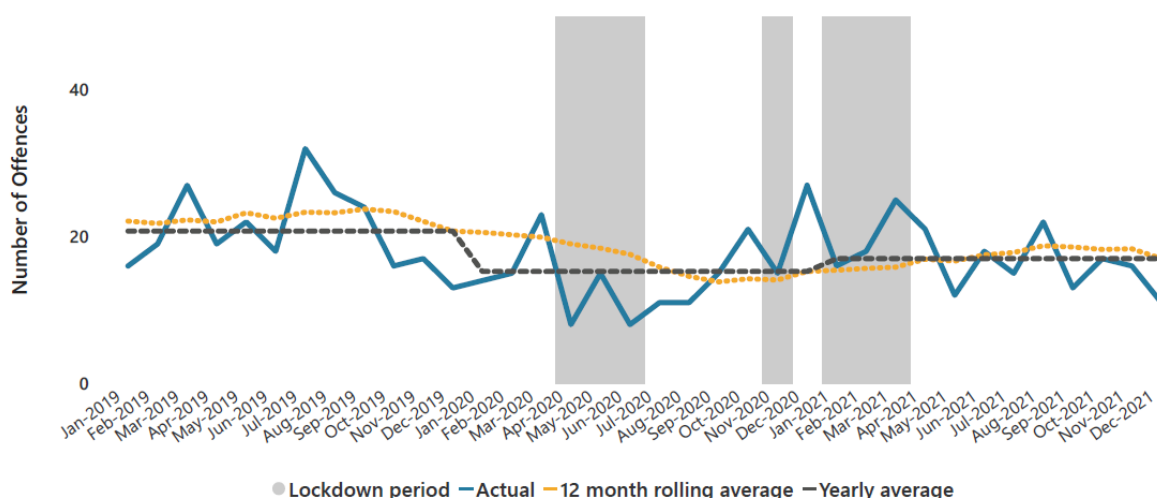


### 3.1.4. Vehicle Crime

Vehicle crime can broadly be split into two main types; the theft of vehicles and the theft from vehicles. In Fenland, contrasting patterns have been seen in these different crime types in recent years as discussed in section 2.5. Since 2019 there has been an increase in the theft of vehicles and a decrease in theft from vehicles and attempted theft from vehicles (recorded as interfering with a vehicle).

Theft from a vehicle and vehicle interference combined accounted for the majority of vehicle offences in Fenland in 2021 (56%). The three-year pattern for these two offence sub-types combined is displayed in the figure below. Each lockdown period saw an initial reduction in offences, likely linked to reduced opportunities for movement during the strict restrictions. Whilst spikes occurred after the first two lockdowns there was actually a reduction in offences in April and May 2021 as the third lockdown ended. Monthly counts of theft from vehicle offences have remained mostly below pre-pandemic levels throughout 2021 leading to a lower yearly average of 17 offences per month compared to 20.75 in 2019. There were 10 theft of catalytic converters recorded in December 2020 which drove the overall spike seen between lockdowns. In 2021 the theft of catalytic converters accounts for over a quarter of all theft from vehicle/vehicle interferences offences in 2021 (27.5%). This issue is explored in more detail in the section below.

Figure 13: Police recorded theft from a vehicle and vehicle interference offences in Fenland, January 2019 – December 2021



The theft of catalytic converters from vehicles has been identified as a national issue in recent years. The National Crime Agency's National Strategic Assessment of Serious Organised Crime highlights catalytic converter theft under organised acquisitive crime, with Cambridgeshire Constabulary similarly identifying catalytic converter theft as a form of organised acquisitive crime (National Crime Agency, 2021).

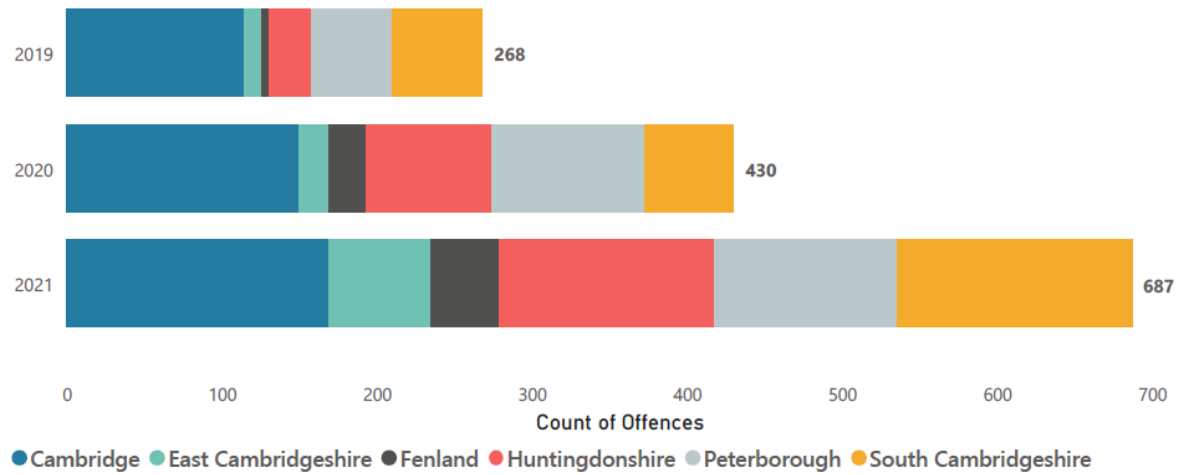
The National Crime Agency strategic assessment notes a growth in thefts in 2020, driven by increases in the value of the precious metals they contain. The ONS reports a 9% increase in metal theft in the year ending September 2021, in part attributed to improved recording of catalytic converter thefts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

Local data has been examined to explore the issue in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A keyword search was conducted on the MO field of all vehicle offence to identify catalytic converter thefts/attempted thefts. The data shows an increase of 156% in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between 2019 (268 offences) and 2021 (687 offences). Figure 7 (below) shows the count of offences by district over this time period. It shows that Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire had the highest increase in volume during this time period. Fenland accounted for the smallest proportion of catalytic converter thefts in Cambridgeshire



and Peterborough but has seen an increase from the very low base of 5 offences in 2019 to 44 in 2021.

Figure 14: Number of vehicle offences featuring catalytic converter keywords in the MO field





## 3.2. Domestic Abuse

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

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

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

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

Upcoming outputs from the 2021 census will help evidence where some of these groups are located across the local area. It should be noted that the DASVP IDVA team includes specialist Housing IDVAs as well as those supporting victims from Eastern European (A8) countries, speaking a variety of languages.

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

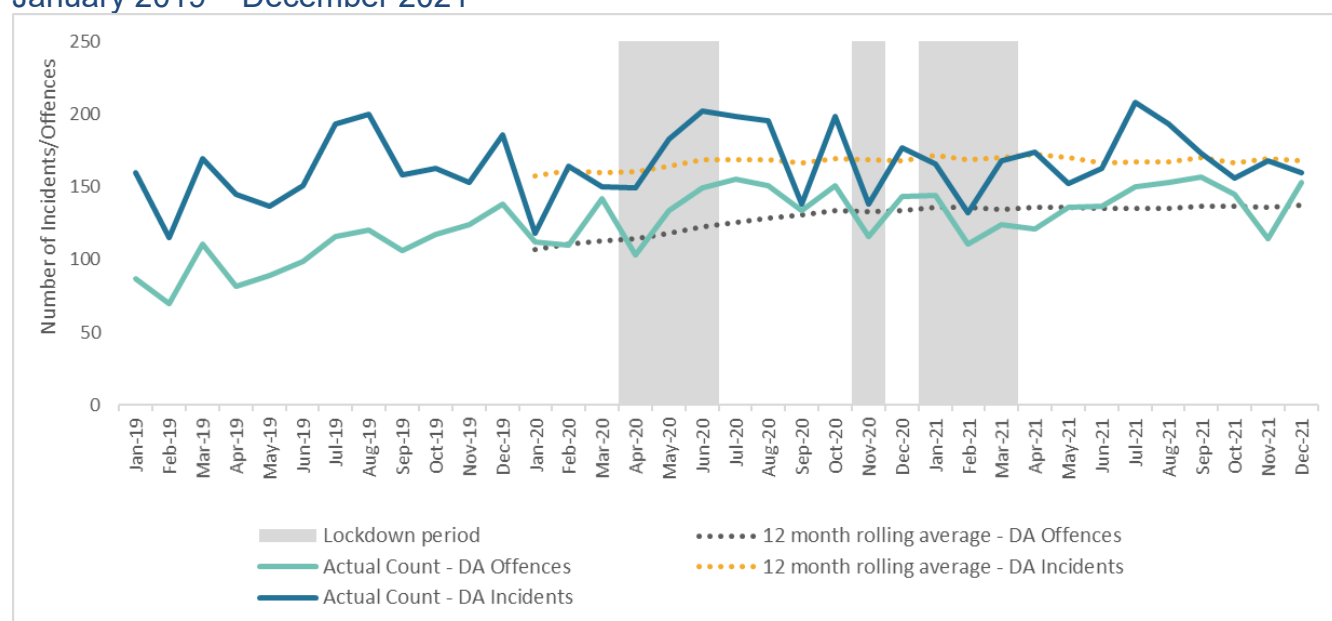
As the table below shows, the rate of incidents per 1,000 population is maintained higher than the rate of DA crime in Fenland. Increases in the rate of DA crime per 1000 population are likely to reflect improved reporting and recording practices. It should however be acknowledged that these figures will include repeat victimisation at an unknown rate.

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

Year	Total number of DA incidents	Rate of incidents per 1,000 population	Total number of crimes	Total number of crimes per 1,000 population
2019	1930	18.95	1259	12.36
2020	2010	19.69	1600	15.67
2021	2013	19.72	1645	16.11

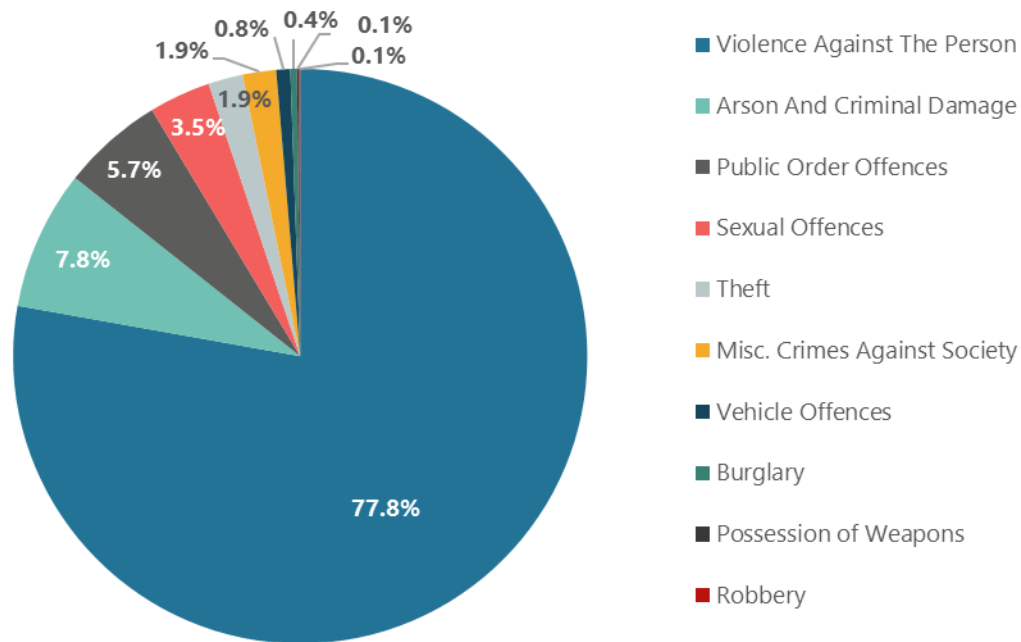
There have been some fluctuations in DA crimes and incidents within each year, as shown in the figure below. In Fenland there are increases seen towards the end of or shortly after national lockdown periods. This does align with patterns identified in rapid research conducted across several UK police force areas (Hohl, 2021). Separation is a known trigger for escalation in domestic abuse. Fewer victims separated in the early stages of each lockdown and separations were likely delayed until lockdown eased, driving the increases in incidents and crimes recorded.

Figure 15: Police recorded Domestic Abuse incidents and Crimes in Fenland, January 2019 – December 2021



The figure below shows police recorded Domestic Abuse related offences broken down by crime type. Whilst Violence Against the Person forms a majority of these offences, it is important to note that Domestic Abuse can entail other offence types such as Arson & Criminal Damage (7.8% in 2021), Public Order Offences (5.7%) and Sexual Offences (3.5%).

Figure 16: Domestic Abuse-related offences in Fenland breakdown by crime type, 2021



Coercive control is a relatively new offence which is of specific relevance to domestic abuse. Since its introduction in 2015, both awareness of the issue and police recording is likely to have improved. From 2019 to 2021 there have been 146 coercive control offences recorded in Fenland. The figure below shows the rate per 1000 population for these offences, to give context and allow comparison between local areas. Fenland had a comparatively higher rate of Coercive control offences per 1000 population in 2021.

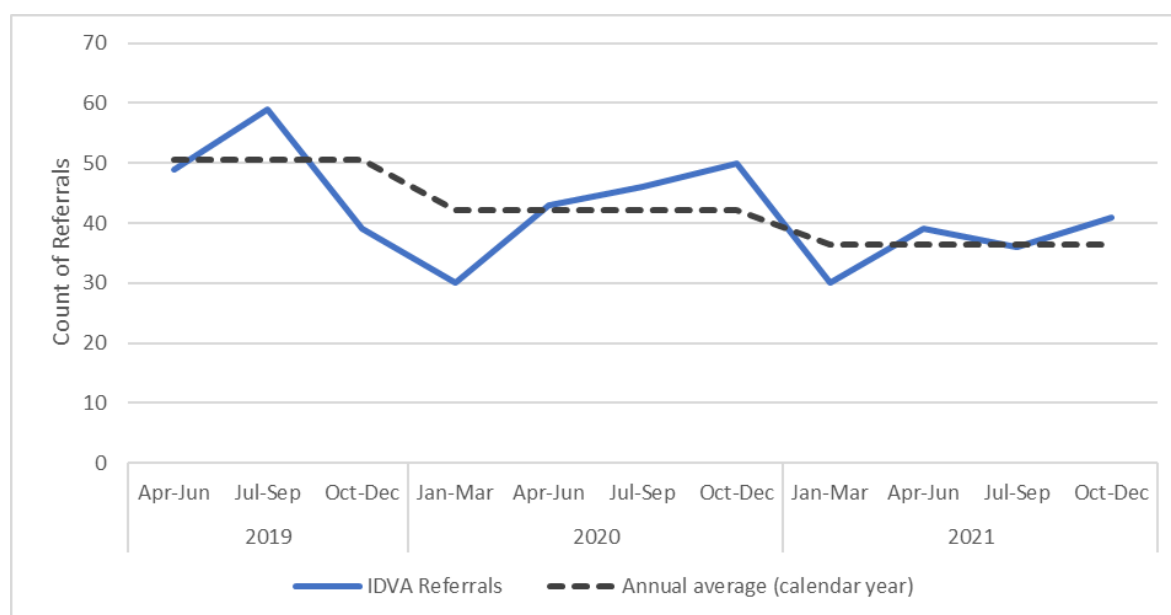
Table 3: Police recorded coercive control offences counts and rates (based on available ONS population estimates) 2019-2021

District	Count (2019)	Rate (per 1000 people, mid-2019 estimates)	Count (2020)	Rate (per 1000 people, mid-2020 estimates)	Count (2021)	Rate (per 1000 people, mid-2020 estimates)	Total Count (2019-2021)
East Cambridgeshire	18	0.2	36	0.4	31	0.34	85
Huntingdonshire	62	0.35	96	0.54	73	0.41	231
South Cambridgeshire	49	0.31	49	0.3	71	0.44	169
Cambridge City	46	0.37	76	0.61	75	0.6	197
Fenland	23	0.23	56	0.55	67	0.66	146
Peterborough	104	0.51	138	0.68	172	0.85	414
Cambridgeshire	198	0.3	313	0.48	317	0.48	828
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	302	0.35	451	0.52	489	0.57	1242

In terms of local support services, the overall number of IDVA referrals (for all risk levels) in Fenland has gone down. There was an average of 36 referrals per quarter in 2021 compared to 50 in 2019, a 28% decrease.

A proportion of these are repeat referrals. Repeat referral rates are reported on a financial year basis. For the full financial year 2020-21 this represented 33% of all IDVA referrals in Fenland (maintained at the same level as 2019-2020).

Figure 17: Quarterly IDVA referrals in Fenland, 2019-2021 (Source: DASVP)



### 3.2.1. Domestic Homicide Reviews

A countywide approach to completing Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), which are a statutory requirement for CSPs, has now been adopted across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

At the time of writing 3 DHRs currently in progress in Fenland (relating to deaths in 2021 and early 2022). This includes DHRs for suicides. One DHR has been submitted to the Home Office (relating to a death in Sept 2020)

A further DHR relating to a homicide in 2018 has been completed and published on the Fenland District Council website ( [Domestic Homicide Review - Fenland District Council](#) ).

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

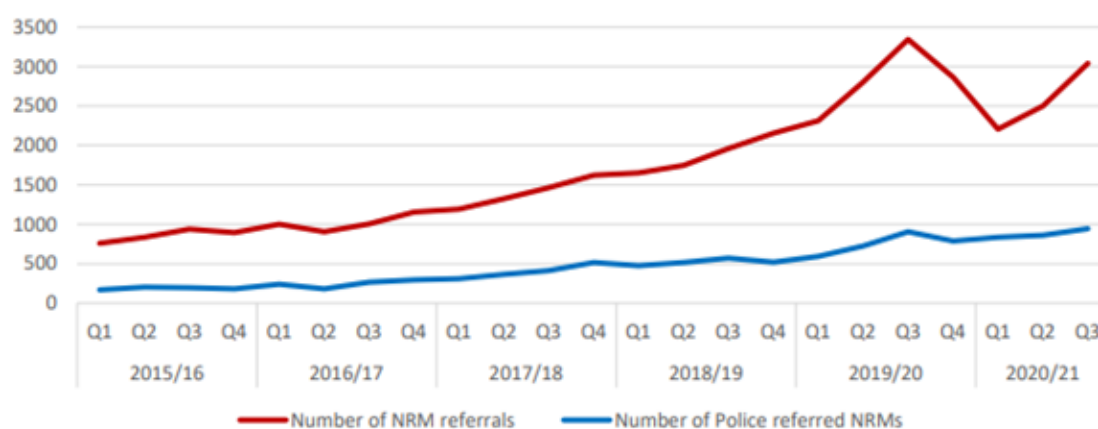
- Victims are generally not well known to services, but with some level of contact via health services.
- DHRs relating to suicides have been required in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in recent years. Partner organisations need to ensure links with suicide prevention efforts locally.

It should be noted that a recent national review of 124 DHRs found that 41% of the DHRs recorded that there were dependent children (aged under 18) living in the household at the time of the homicide. Taking into account the age of the victim (i.e. those under 60) the proportion with dependent children in the household was 52%. (Home Office/ Analytics Cambridge and QE Assessments Ltd, 2022).

### 3.3. Modern Slavery

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

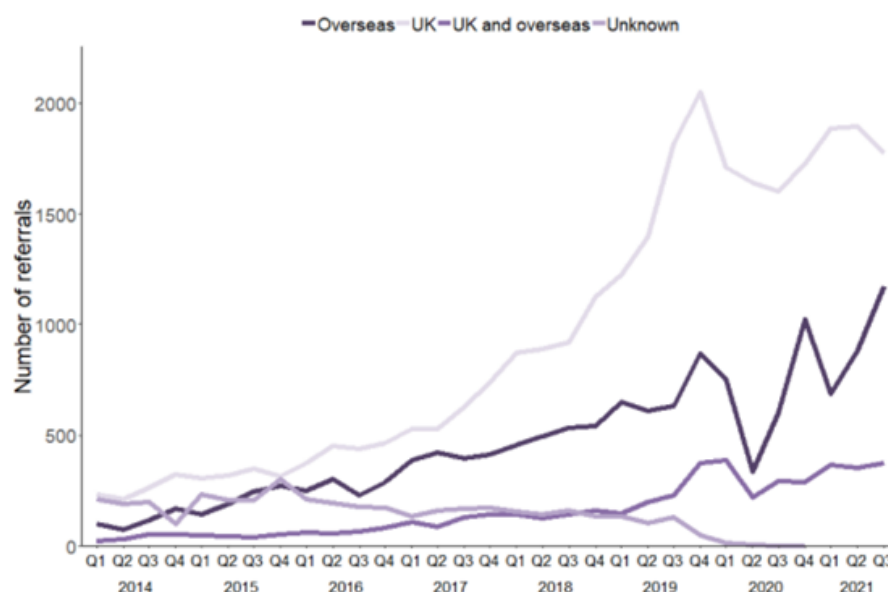
Figure 18: National Referral Mechanism Referrals 2015/16-2020/21) (Source: Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme 2021)



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

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

Figure 19: Number of quarterly NRM referrals by location of exploitation (Home Office, 2021)

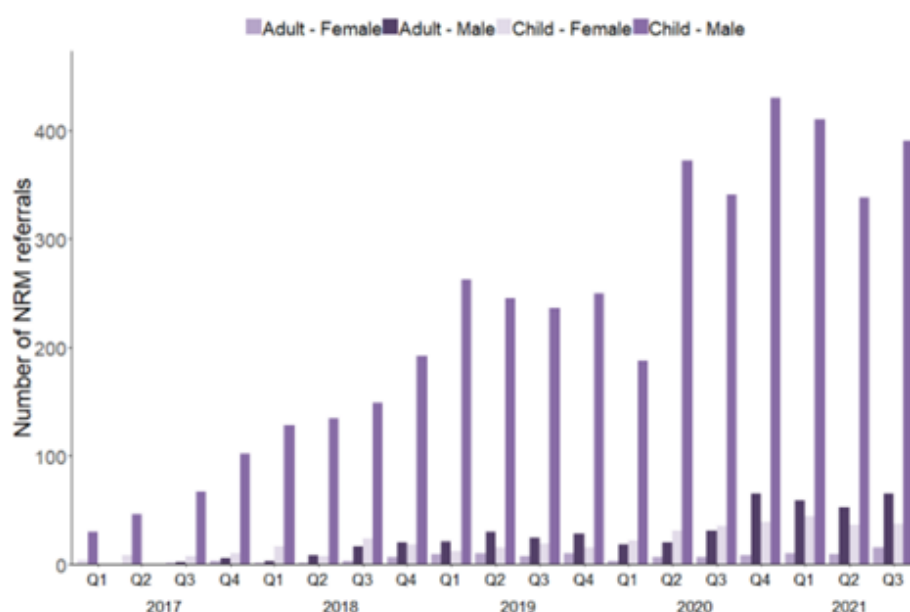


Border closures also meant increasing risk of exploitation for victims already inside the UK. This is because those exploiting them would have had a greater reliance on those already in the UK while unable to source potential victims from outside of the UK at this time (Home Office, 2021). This was reflected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

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

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Figure 20: Number of NRM referrals flagged as county lines, by age group at exploitation and gender (Home Office, 2021)



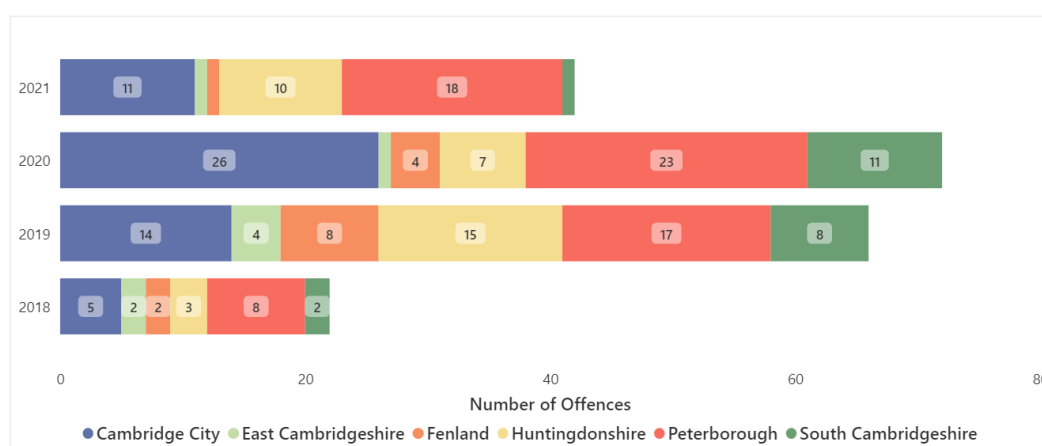
The most recent quarterly report (Quarter 3 of 2021) showed that most potential victims of modern slavery referred to the NRM were male (78%). The majority also claimed to have experienced exploitation in the UK only (53%) rather than overseas (35%) or in the UK and overseas. A high proportion of potential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

Since 2018 Police recorded Modern Slavery offences in Fenland have been recorded, albeit at low volumes with a peak of 8 in 2019, as shown in the figure below.

In the national context of increases in Modern Slavery as well as the characteristics of Fenland (outlined below), it is likely that this is due to Modern Slavery not being identified rather than Modern slavery not taking place in Fenland.



Figure 21: Police recorded Modern Slavery offences (Source: CADET 2021)



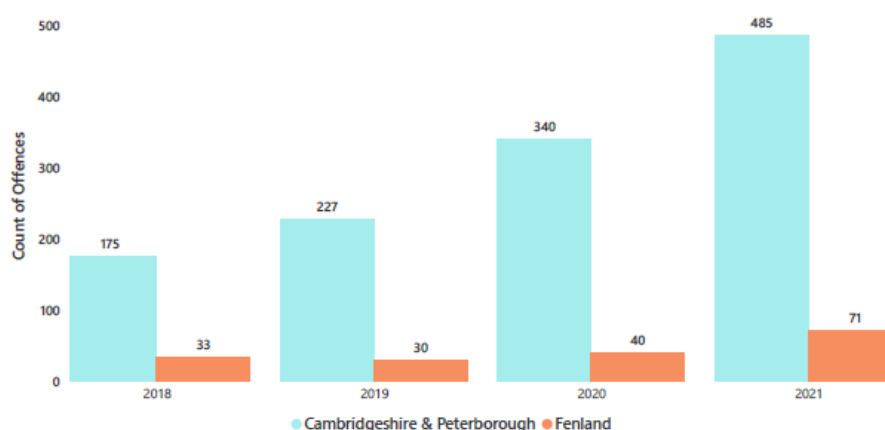
One aspect of modern slavery offences is organised immigration crime (OIC) and human trafficking. Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis completed in 2021 highlighted that Fenland, particularly Wisbech, is a ‘destination’ to which those being trafficked are frequently sent. The economic and labour market characteristics of Fenland (e.g. main industries reliant on migrant temporary workers) are known to create opportunities for organised crime groups involved in labour exploitation and human trafficking.

### 3.4. Child Sexual Exploitation

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

Constabulary-wide Child Sexual Exploitation crimes have seen a year-on-year increase since 2018. In Fenland there has been an increase each year since 2019. The most marked increase occurred between 2020 and 2021 (a 78% increase).

Figure 22: Police recorded child sexual exploitation crimes, Jan-Dec data (Source: CADET Dec 2021)



Whilst CSE crimes are low in total volume, CSE is an underreported and high harm crime type. The true extent of this issue is therefore likely much higher.

Going missing from home or care is a known risk factor for exploitation of young people i.e. CCE and CSE. This risk can be because;

- A child is going missing as they are already being exploited
- Because of fewer protective factors when a child goes missing, meaning they are more at risk of being exploited whilst missing.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis in 2021 highlighted that Fenland had a disproportionately high rate of under 18 Missing From Home (MFH) incidents recorded. Historically there has been a larger proportion of the countywide housing offer for looked after children (LAC) located in Fenland. As such this raises the concern that there may be a higher concentration of young people vulnerable to CSE (and CCE) in Fenland.

### 3.5. 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 (National Crime Agency, 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 (National Crime Agency, 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 (National Crime Agency, 2019). It should be noted that Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), completed in 2020, highlighted Fenland as having the highest concentration of under 18s affected by CCE crime harm at the time.

County lines activity links across several topics covered in this report. It has already been identified as an increasing feature in national NRM figures for Modern Slavery as outlined in the section above. Child Sexual Exploitation, also included above, is

associated with County Lines activity. Substance misuse more generally, including drug misuse, is covered in the latter half of this report.

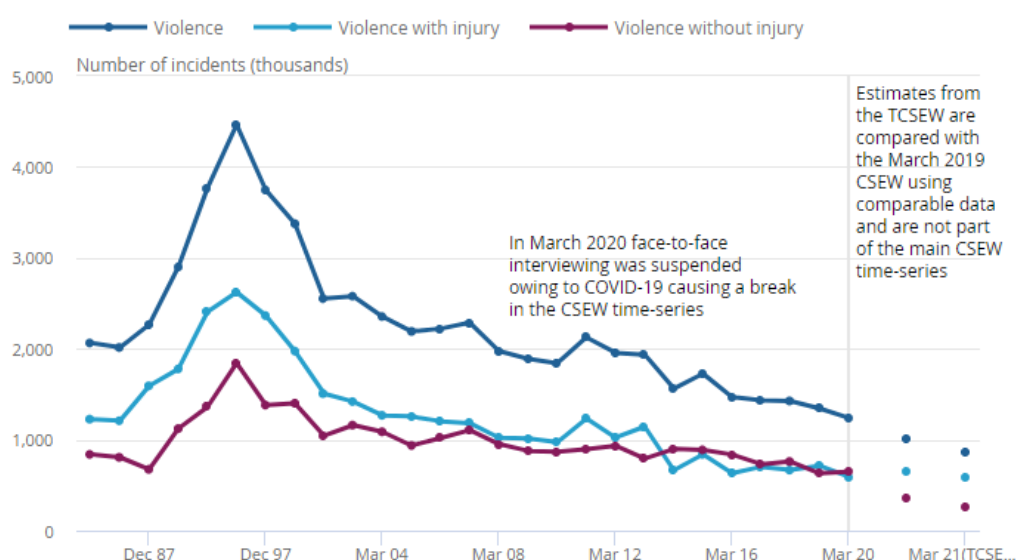
Serious violence and knife crime are also associated with county lines. As such county lines drug dealing is one of the specific crime types targeted by the Serious Violence Duty and advised to be covered by the strategic needs assessment process for this (Home Office, 2021). The following section will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

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

### 3.6. Violence

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

Figure 23: Crime Survey for England and Wales – annual estimates of Violent crime. (Source: ONS)

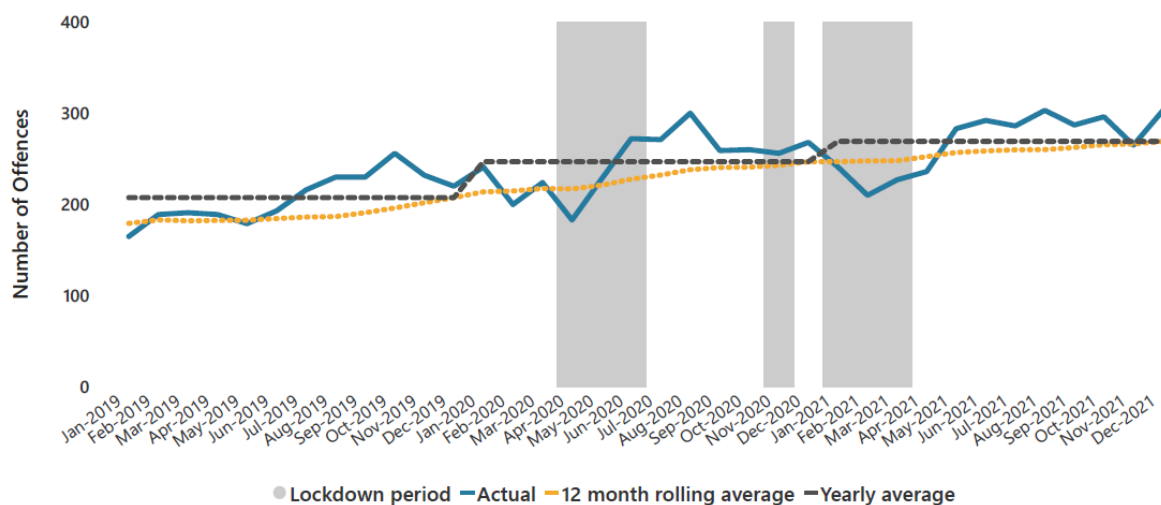


### 3.3.1 Violence Against the Person (VAP)

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

There has been an overall trend of increase in Violence Against the Person (VAP) in Fenland since 2019, as shown in the figure below. Short term decreases were seen to coincide with national lockdown periods when restrictions on movement took place.

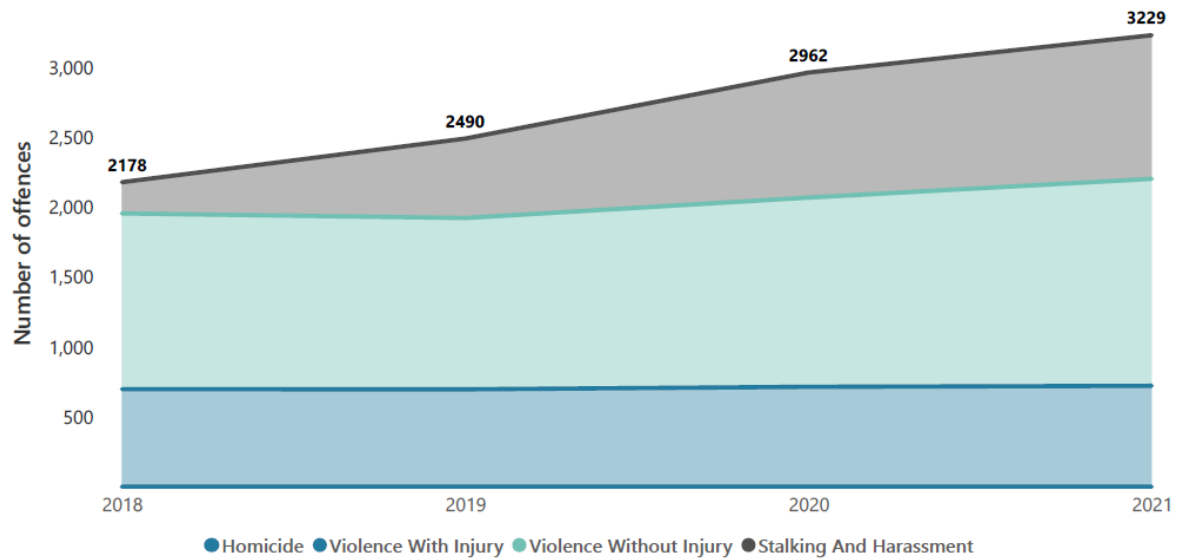
Figure 24: Police recorded Violence Against the Person offences in Fenland, January 2019 – December 2021



Nationally, police recorded violence increased by 8% for the period ending September 2021 compared with the previous year. Locally we are considering the 12 months ending December 2021 as the most recently available data. Whilst not an exact match, this is still a useful comparison. Fenland had a 9% increase in VAP offences between 2019 and 2021 (calendar years).

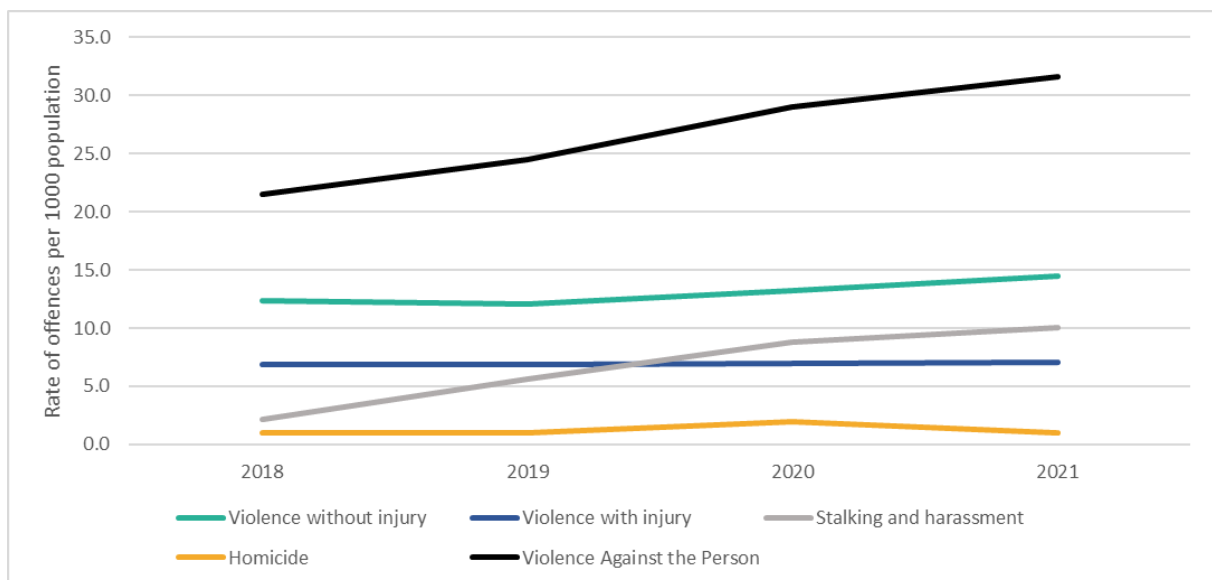
The national increase in VAP was driven by a rise in the number of stalking and harassment offences, which increased by 21% (excluding controlling and coercive behaviour) in the year ending September 2021 (ONS, 2022). From 2020 to 2021 (calendar years) there was a 15% increase in the volume of stalking and harassment recorded in Fenland, and as such the national trend was reflected locally. The figure below shows the breakdown of VAP by type in Fenland, with Stalking and Harassment offences being the key component of increase since 2019.

Figure 25: Police recorded Violence Against the Person offences in Fenland by type



The rates per 1000 population of VAP crime subtypes in Fenland over time are shown below for context. Violence without injury has the highest rate per 1000 population in 2021 (14.5 offences per 1000 population). Stalking and harassment was recorded at a lower rate of 10.1 offences per 1000 population in the same year. The lowest sub-type rate in 2021 (aside from homicide) is violence with injury at 7.1 offences per 1000 population.

Figure 26: Rate of Violence Against the Person category offences and subtype offences per 1000 population in Fenland, 2018-2021



### 3.3.2 Violence with Injury

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

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

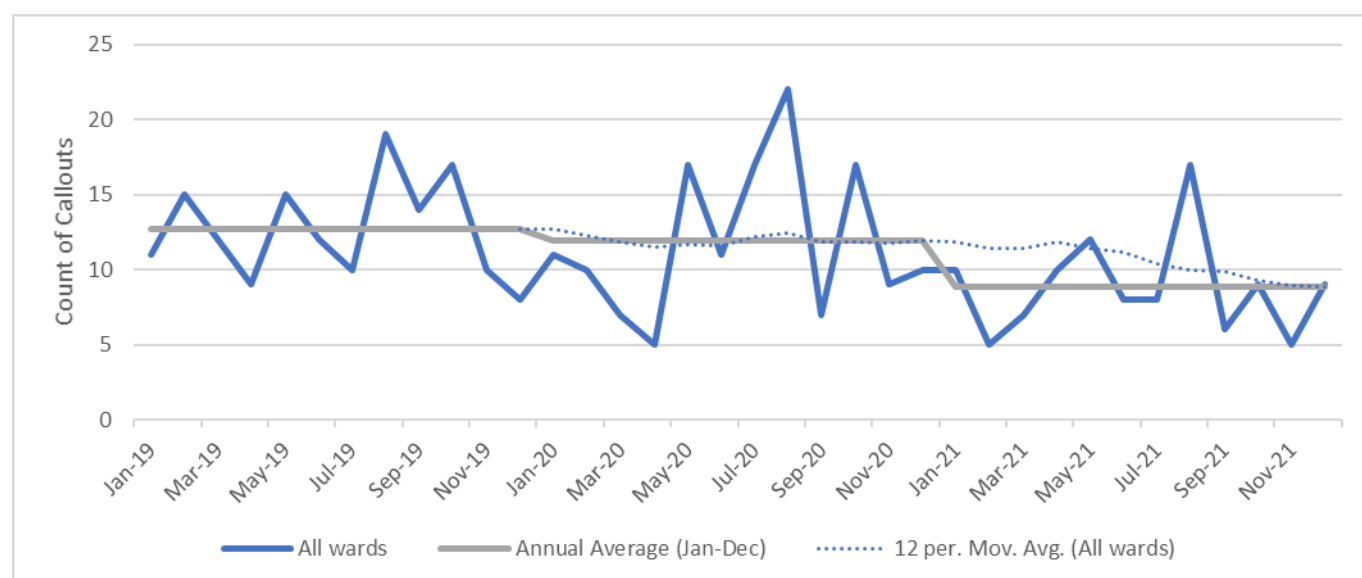
Halford et al. (2020) analysed the effect of lockdowns on crime in the UK and argued that crime levels and mobility are strongly interlinked. They measured that after one week of lockdown, on 23 March, all crime nationally declined by 41%; shoplifting (– 62%), domestic abuse (– 45%), assault (– 36%),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

But COVID-19 did not alter the distribution of risk in sustaining injury in violence by gender or age group. As in previous years, males and young adults aged 18-30 years were most likely to be injured. Those at highest risk of violence-related injury in 2020 were males (2.7 per 1,000 population: more than twice the risk for females) and those aged 18-30 (4.7 per 1,000 population). For both genders, those aged 18-30 years had the highest injury rates (males 6.5; females 2.93 per 1,000 population) and children aged 0-10 years had the lowest injury rates (males 0.19; females 0.08 per 1,000 population) (Sivarajasingam, Guan, Page, Moore, & Shepherd, 2021).

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Emergency Departments are able to share information regarding patients arriving due to assault related injury. This is via the Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV) data sharing standard. Data from Emergency Departments and healthcare providers covering the Fenland area is not currently available for analysis. The East of England Ambulance Service does however share information with the research group covering the Fenland area. As such the volume of assault related ambulance callouts in Fenland can be quantified and is shown in the figure below. Whilst assault related ambulance callouts are low in volume, figures do fluctuate from month to month. The Annual average has decreased since 2019. A peak of 22 callouts was seen in August 2020 in a period when lockdown restrictions had eased. This is in line with the pattern seen nationally, as outlined above.

Figure 27: Monthly Count of Assault related ambulance callouts in Fenland, 2019-2021

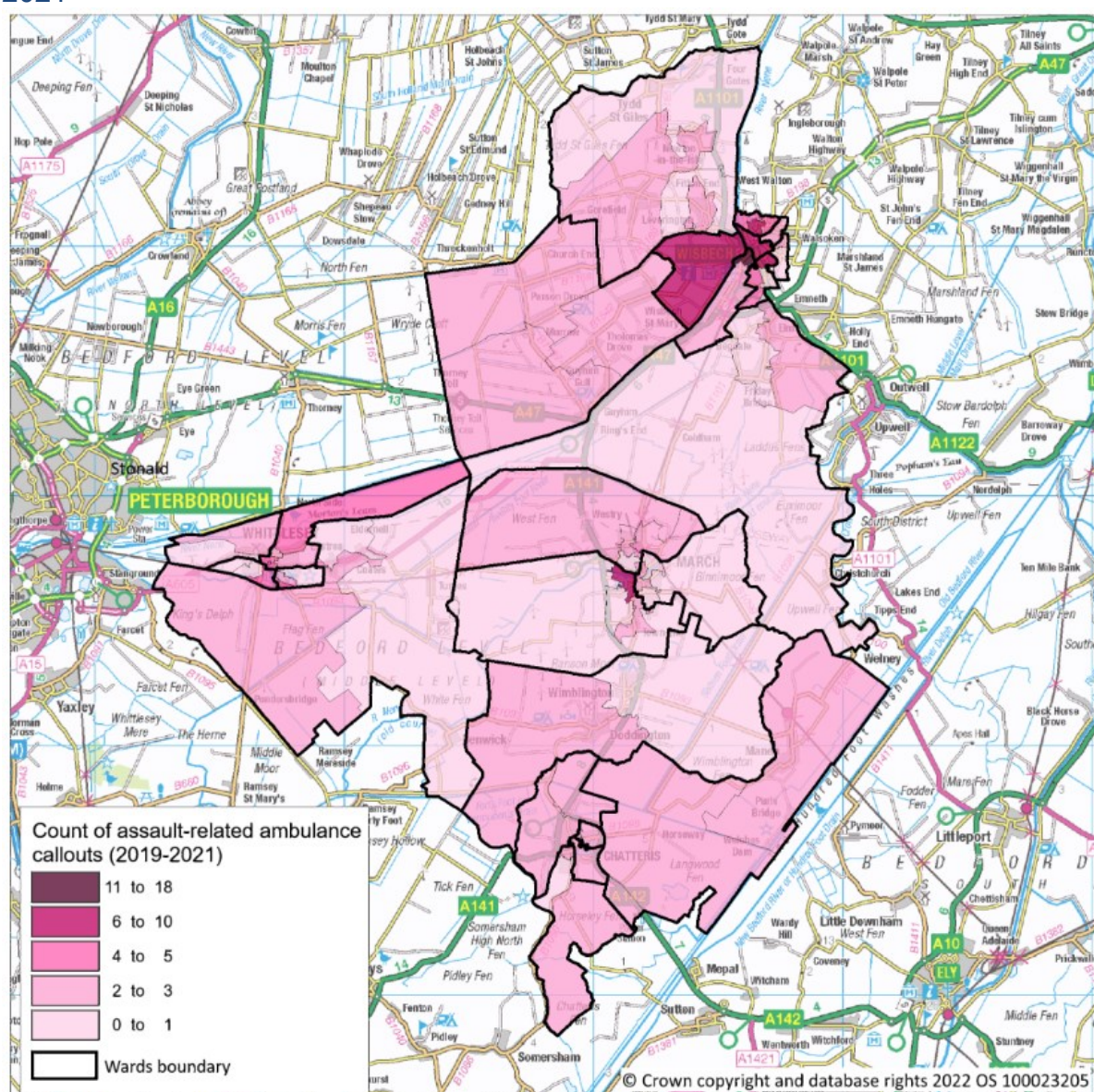


20.4% of assault related callouts were in Medworth ward, the next highest proportion of callouts were attributed to Octavia Hill Ward (9.7%).

The map below highlights LSOAs where most assault-related ambulance callouts were recorded in 2019-2021. LSOA Fenland 003I (Medworth ward, Wisbech) had the highest number of callouts at 18, this accounted for 17% of all Fenland callouts. The neighbouring LSOA of Fenland 002A had the next highest number at 8 callouts, followed by Fenland 009C (within March West ward) which had 7 callouts in the three-year period.



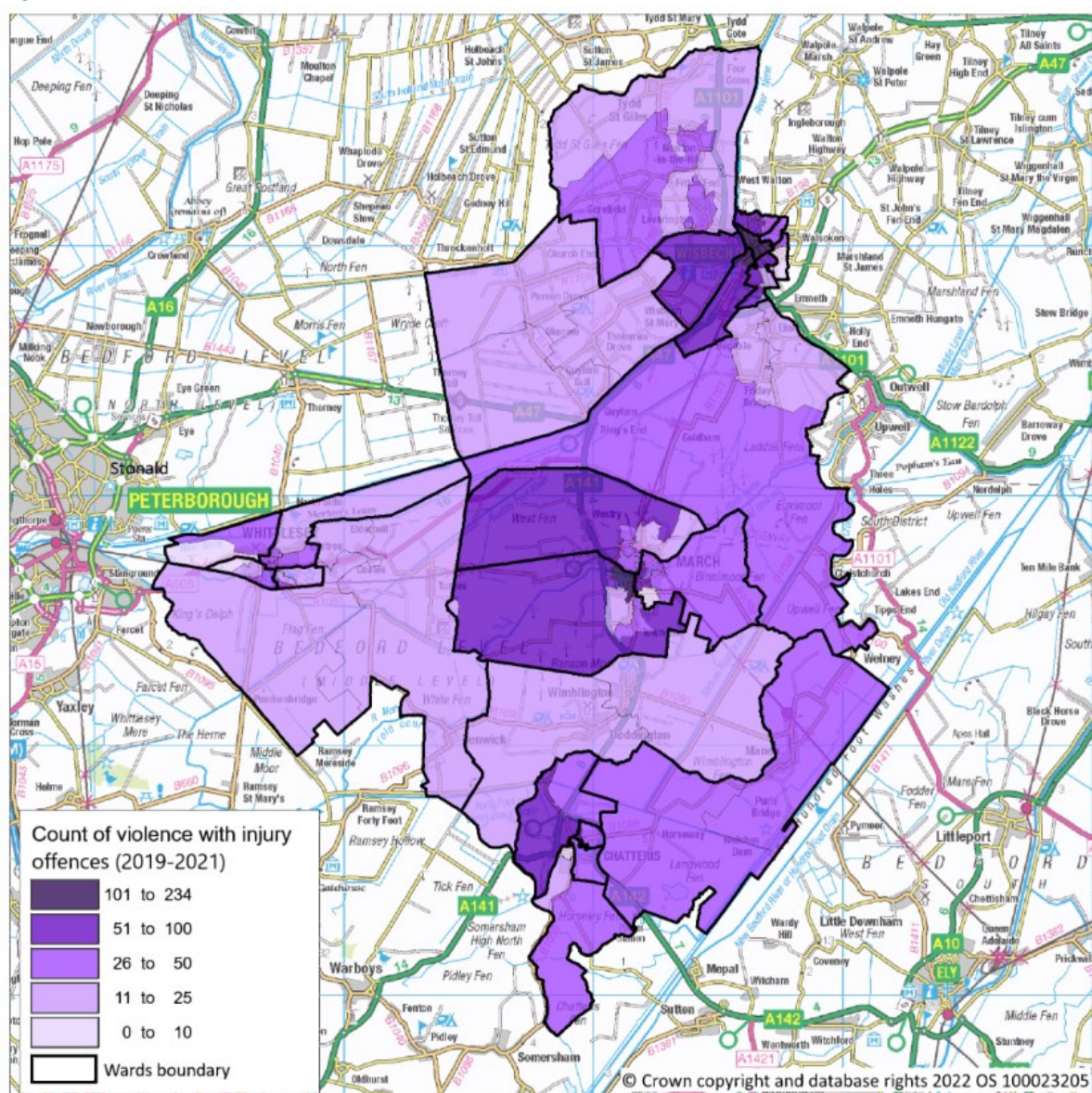
Figure 28: Map of Assault related ambulance callouts by LSOA in Fenland, 2019-2021



Whilst the rate of violence with injury offences per 1000 population has remained relatively stable since 2018, it can be helpful to understand the locations that these offences are taking place. As such the map below shows the total police recorded violence with injury offences from 2019-2021 by LSOA. The pattern reflects that of the assault-related ambulance call out data with the same three LSOAs accounting for the highest proportion of violence with injury offences; Fenland 003I (Medworth ward) 11%, Fenland 002A (Clarkson ward) 5.8% and Fenland 009C (March West ward) 5%.



Figure 29: Map of police recorded Violence with injury by LSOA in Fenland 2019-2021



### 3.3.5 Knife crime

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

Local police recorded crime with a 'knife/ sharp instrument' marker are provided below. October-December 2020 and January-March 2021 do represent periods of

relatively low volumes of knife crime in Fenland. This is in line with the national pattern related to lockdown periods as outlined above. However, contrary to the national pattern, Fenland has seen the volume of knife crimes subsequently return to pre-pandemic levels in July-Dec 2021.

Figure 30: Police recorded Knife/Sharp Instrument marker crimes in Fenland by quarter (Source: CADET Dec 2021)

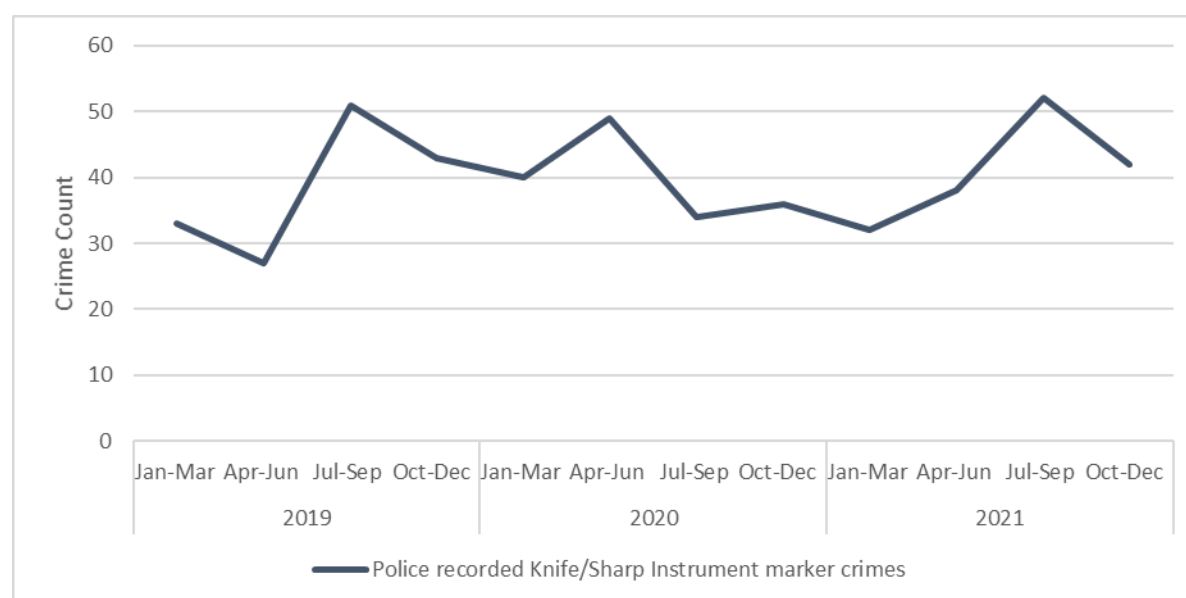


Table 4: Police recorded Knife/Sharp Instrument marker crimes in Fenland by quarter (Source: CADET Dec 2021)

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
2019	33	27	51	43
2020	40	49	34	36
2021	32	38	52	42

Recent Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis of (street based) knife crime highlighted Medworth ward for unusually high levels of knife crime related harm, relative to other wards in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Provisional hospital admissions data from the NHS shows there was a 12% decrease in hospital admissions nationally for 'assault with sharp objects' in the year ending September 2021 (ONS, 2022). Admissions maintained a younger demographic with 41% of those admitted aged 24 and under and 59% aged 25 and over (ONS, 2022). Data of this type for the hospitals local to Fenland is not currently available.

Changes in the volume of crimes with a knife marker can be driven by targeted police activity relating to knife crime. Other data sources are needed to build a

comprehensive picture of knife crime. For example, further localised healthcare data could help identify patterns of knife assaults in the local area.

### 3.3.6 Serious Violence Duty

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

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

- Police
- Justice
- Fire and Rescue
- Health
- Local Authorities

Consultation with educational, prison and youth custody authorities is also encouraged.

As per the current [Serious Violence Duty strategic needs assessment guidance](#), responsible authorities will be required to collaborate to generate the following at an agreed geography:

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

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

- Using an evidence-based approach for identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area and the causes of that violence.
- Sharing data and knowledge for targeting interventions to prevent serious violence.
- Preparing, implementing and reviewing a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.

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

## 4. Community harm

**Anti-social behaviour:** Levels of ASB have fluctuated around national lockdown periods. The total number of incidents recorded in 2021 was 11% lower compared to the pre-pandemic year of 2019. Medworth ward has consistently accounted for the highest proportion of ASB in Fenland between 2019-2021. Just under a third of ASB incidents (30.5) in Fenland were youth-related, a notably higher proportion than seen in other districts in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Alcohol-related ASB was highly concentrated within Wisbech, with the two town centre LSOA's accounting for 31% of all incidents recorded in Fenland between 2019-2021.

**Substance Misuse:** The volume of drug offences in Fenland has fluctuated around national lockdown periods, with increases associated with police activity at these times. However, 2021 has seen a return an average monthly volume of offences close to the pre-pandemic period. Data from the substance misuse support provider (Change Grow Live) shows that clients resident in Fenland are predominantly in treatment regarding Opiate and alcohol misuse.

**Fire:** Analysis shows a slight reduction in the number of deliberate fires recorded over time, with deliberate fires accounting for 34.6% of all fires in 2021 compared to 36.8% of all fires in 2019.

**Arson:** There were a total of 170 arson offences recorded in Fenland from 2019-2021. Arson offences in Fenland are relatively low in volume and reducing over time since 2019. The data shows there are locations where this offence type has been focused within Fenland with common themes outlined in this section.

**Hate Crime:** Police recorded hate crime has increased in Fenland each year since 2019. Public Order, VAP and arson and criminal damage form the main components of hate crime in Fenland, which is in line with the national analysis of hate crime.

**Criminal Damage:** Although criminal damage offences recorded in Fenland have fluctuated around national lockdown periods, the yearly average remains stable for this crime type since 2019. From 2019-2021 less than 1% of all criminal damage offences in Fenland had a hate crime marker.

**Public order:** Public order offences have shown a trend of increase since 2019, albeit from a low base. 8.4% of public order offences in Fenland from 2019-2021 had a hate crime marker.

**Fraud scams and Cybercrime:** Nationally there has been a marked increase. In Fenland there has been an increase in offences recorded with a cybercrime marker since 2019. However this is from a low base (an average of 7.7 crimes recorded per month in 2019). Constabulary wide data from Action Fraud is included in this section in order to highlights how a range of ages can be affected by cybercrime.



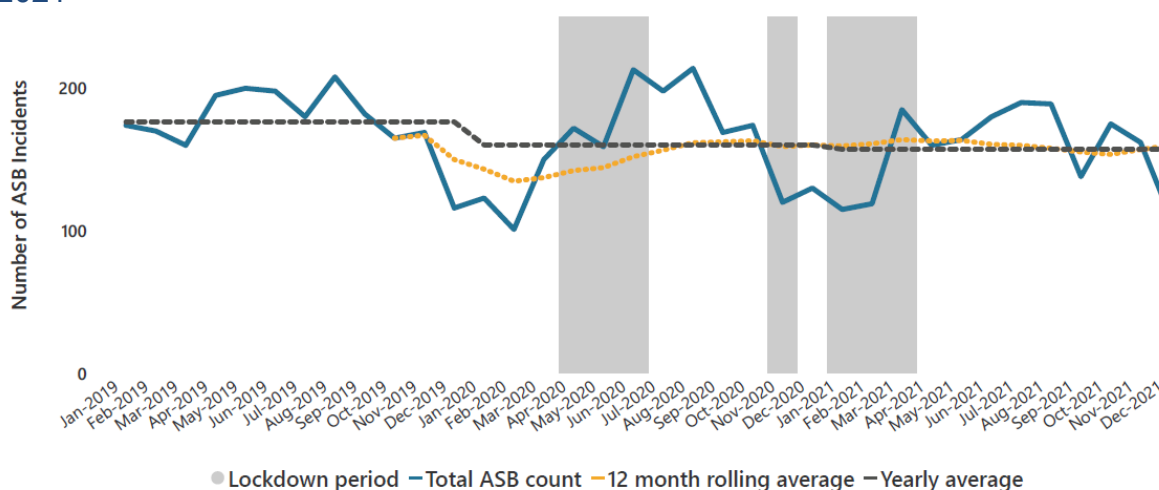
**Road safety:** A brief summary of the Vision Zero Partnership for Cambridgeshire is provided for information.

## 4.1. Anti-social Behaviour

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

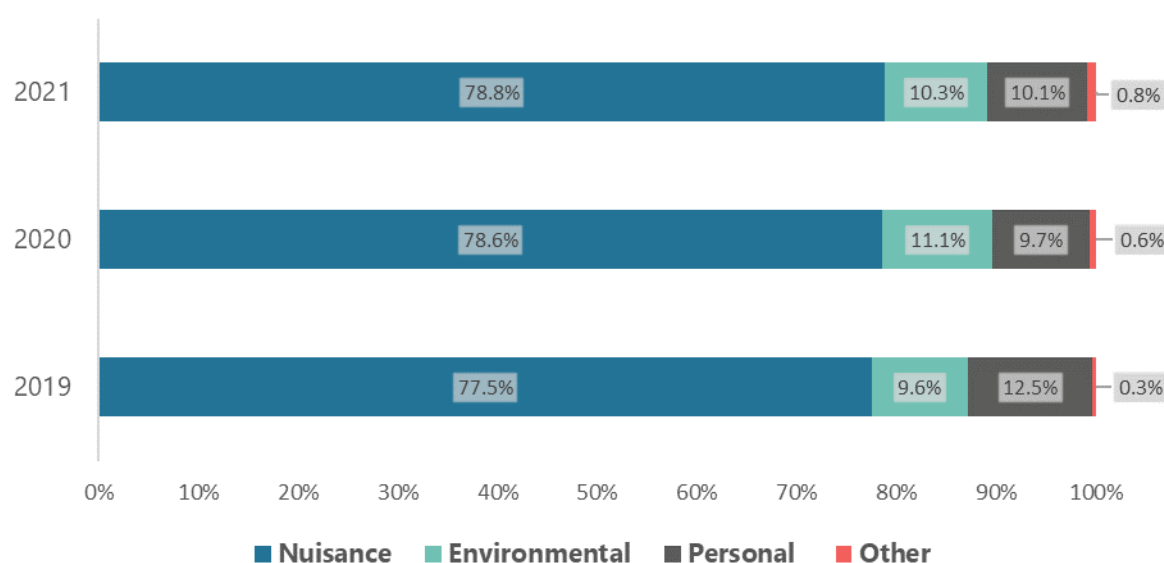
Local data showed increases in the number of ASB during the first national lockdown in 2020 which continued into the summer as restrictions were reduced. A dip sample analysis of incidents recorded between April-June 2020 did show some reports of restriction breaches but this was a small proportion of all incidents. ASB incidents were below typical volumes between November 2020 – February 2021 but have since returned to a similar level as seen before the pandemic. The total annual count of incidents in 2021 was down by 11% compared to 2019.

Figure 31: Police recorded ASB incidents in Fenland, January 2019 – December 2021



‘Nuisance’, which refers to incidents which impact on the local community in general, has consistently been the dominant incident type, accounting for over three quarters of ASB incidents in each of the past three years. There has been a slight reduction in the proportion of personal ASB incidents since 2019. Personal ASB incidents have a risk classification ranging from ‘no risk’ up to ‘high risk’. Looking specifically at this data for 2021, half of the personal ASB incidents (49.5%) were ‘standard risk’, 41.6% were recorded as ‘no risk’ with the remaining 8.9% ‘medium risk’. There were no ‘high risk’ personal ASB incidents recorded in Fenland between 2019-2021.

Figure 32: Police recorded ASB annual breakdown by category, 2019-2021



Geographical analysis shows that Medworth ward has consistently accounted for the highest proportion of ASB in Fenland, albeit that this proportion has dropped from 19.1% in 2019 to 14.2% in 2021. The wards accounting for the next highest proportion of ASB incidents for 2021 were; Roman Bank (8.1%), March East (6.4%) and March West (6.4%).

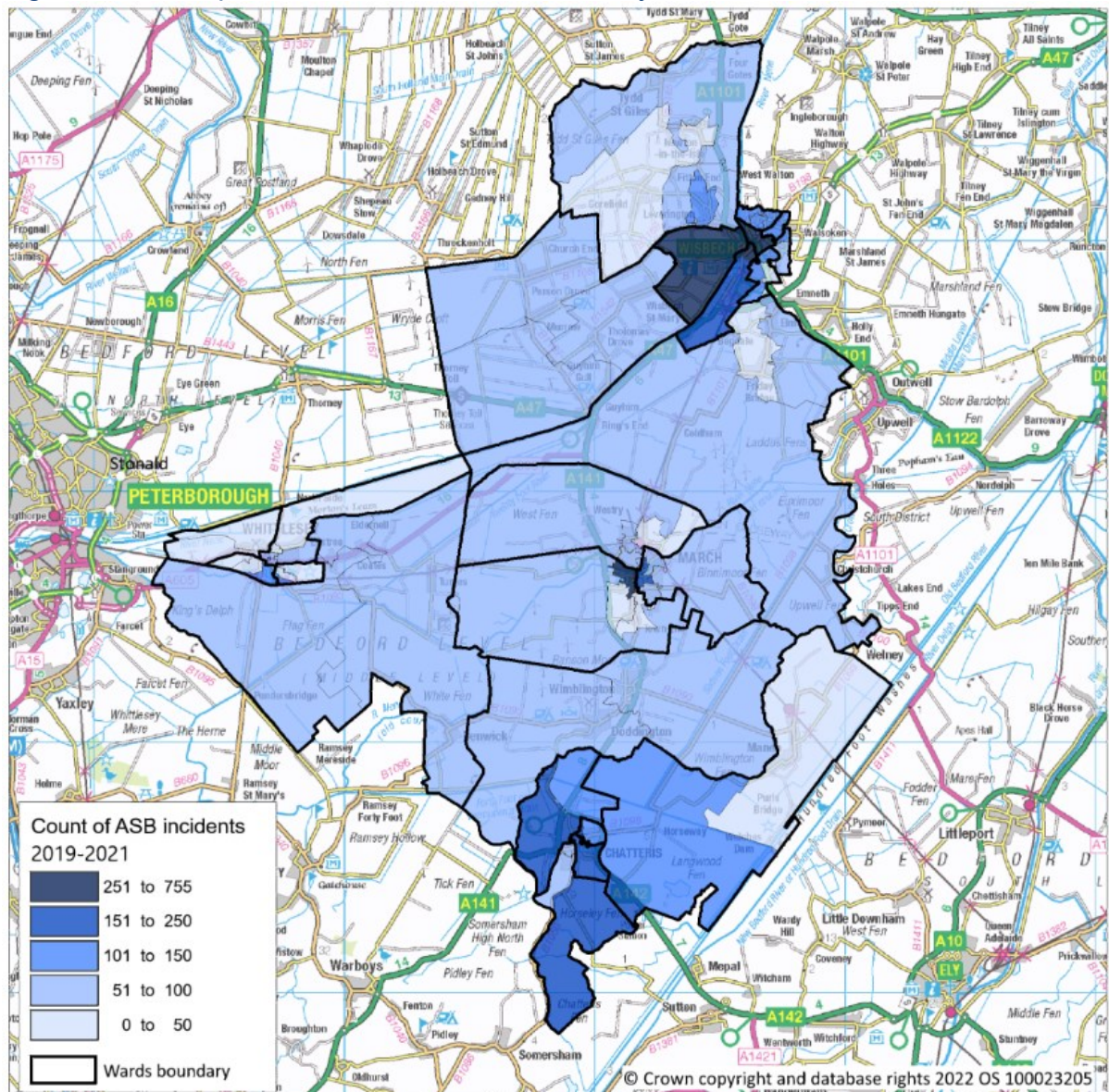
Table 5: Counts of Police recorded ASB incidents by District/ Ward (2021 boundaries)

	2019		2020		2021	
Ward	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Bassenhally	65	3.1%	72	3.7%	61	3.2%
Benwick, Coates & Eastrea	52	2.5%	80	4.2%	59	3.1%
Birch	48	2.3%	48	2.5%	51	2.7%
Clarkson	125	5.9%	114	5.9%	95	5.0%
Doddington & Wimblington	50	2.4%	61	3.2%	67	3.6%
Elm & Christchurch	55	2.6%	66	3.4%	53	2.8%
Kirkgate	37	1.7%	49	2.5%	54	2.9%
Lattersey	33	1.6%	34	1.8%	27	1.4%
Manea	22	1.0%	21	1.1%	32	1.7%
March East	124	5.9%	131	6.8%	121	6.4%
March North	102	4.8%	97	5.0%	93	4.9%
March West	135	6.4%	146	7.6%	121	6.4%
Medworth	404	19.1%	278	14.5%	268	14.2%
Octavia Hill	140	6.6%	85	4.4%	86	4.6%
Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary	71	3.4%	76	4.0%	75	4.0%
Peckover	105	5.0%	68	3.5%	84	4.5%

	2019		2020		2021	
Roman Bank	90	4.3%	100	5.2%	153	8.1%
Slade Lode	84	4.0%	44	2.3%	87	4.6%
St Andrews	48	2.3%	61	3.2%	50	2.6%
Staithe	60	2.8%	57	3.0%	49	2.6%
Stonald	19	0.9%	22	1.1%	19	1.0%
The Mills	37	1.7%	50	2.6%	44	2.3%
Waterlees Village	145	6.8%	117	6.1%	70	3.7%
Wenneye	66	3.1%	46	2.4%	68	3.6%

The map below displays the total count of ASB incidents between 2019-2021 by LSOA to explore the level of ASB at a more granular detail than ward level. This map shows that the LSOA's with the highest levels of ASB are mostly located within the market towns of Wisbech, March and Whittlesey. The rural LSOAs around Chatteris also saw a higher level of ASB.

Figure 33: Total police recorded ASB incidents by LSOA, 2019-2021

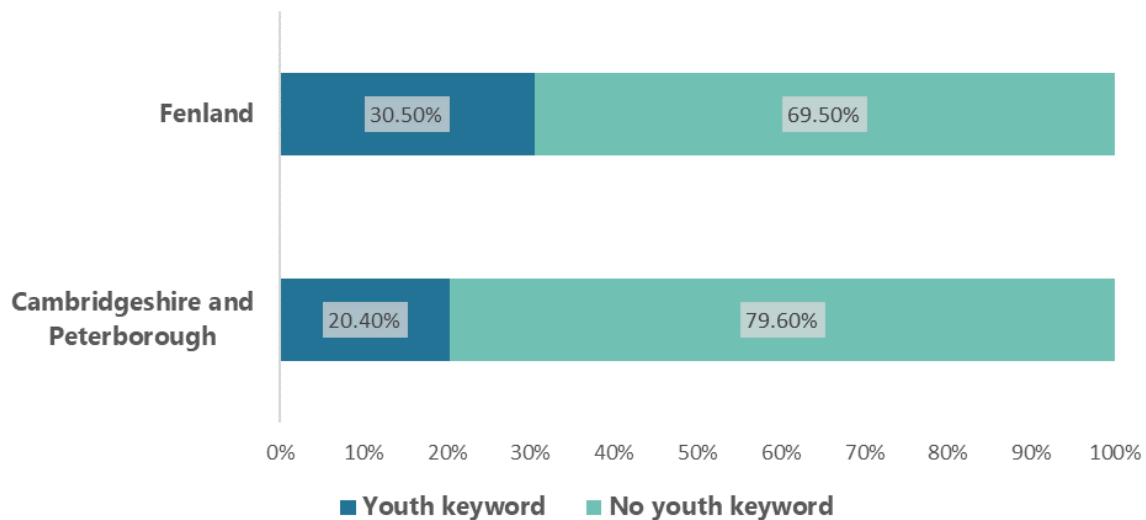


### 4.1.1. Youth ASB

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 youth related ASB.

Fenland has the highest proportion of youth related ASB incidents of all the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough districts at 30.5% in 2021. As highlighted in the figure below, this is notably higher than the 20.4% for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole. The proportion of ASB incidents that are youth related in Fenland has remained fairly consistent since 2019 with just a slight increase seen in 2021.

Figure 34: Proportion of ASB incidents with a youth keyword, 2021



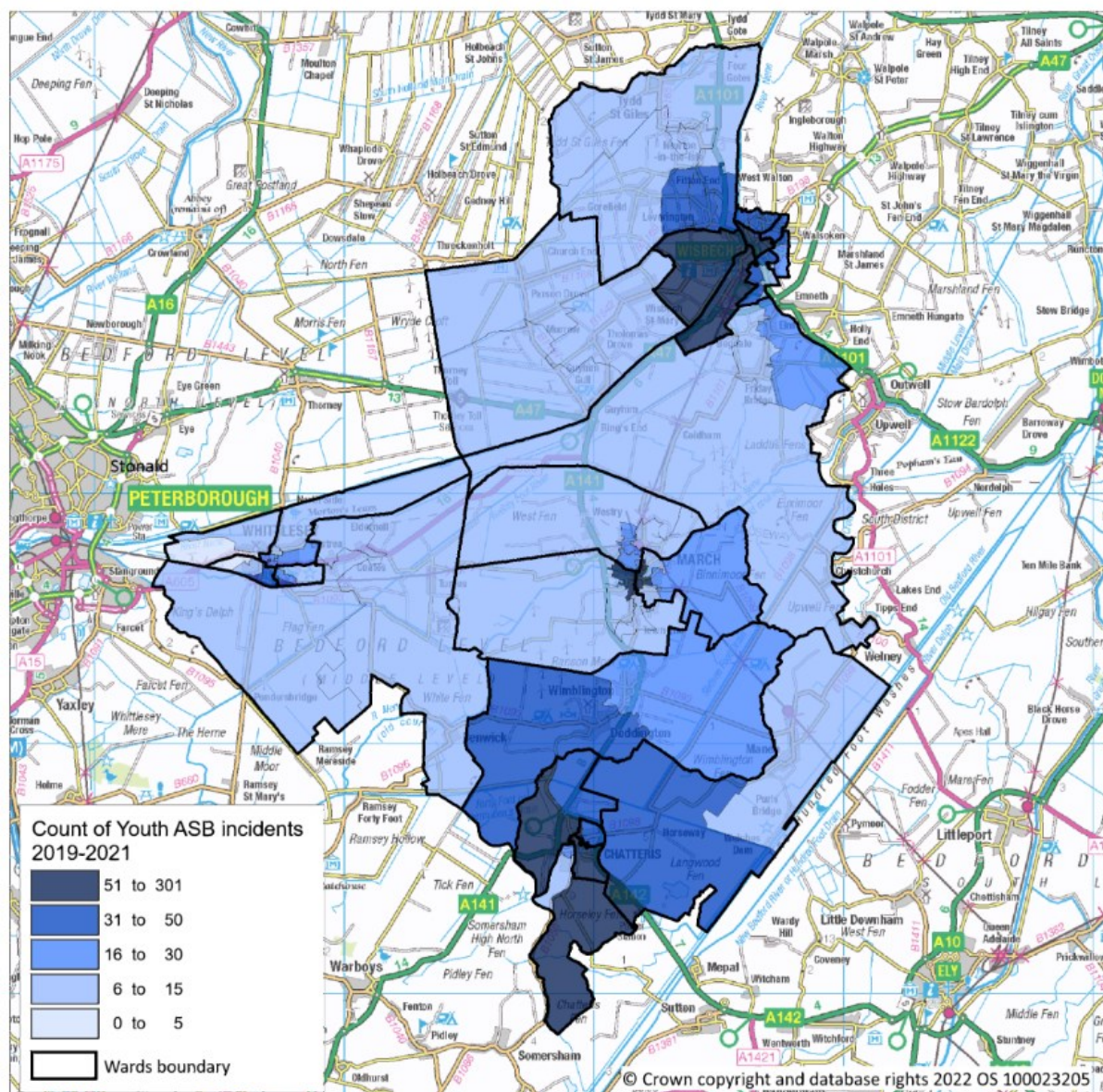
Nuisance accounts for a higher proportion of youth related ASB at 84%, compared to non youth-related incidents where it accounts for 76%.

Ward level analysis showed that Medworth accounted for by far the highest proportion of youth ASB incidents at 21%, slightly above the proportion of overall ASB located within Medworth which is 16%. The next highest proportion of youth-related ASB is in Waterlees Village (6.3%), Clarkson (6.2%) and Roman Bank (6%).

The map below shows the count of youth related ASB incidents by LSOA. The LSOAs with the highest level of youth ASB are in Wisbech, March and Chatteris. Of these, LSOA Fenland 003I in central Wisbech had the highest volume of incidents at 301 (17.7% of all youth ASB in 2019-2021).



Figure 35: Police recorded ASB incidents with a youth keyword by LSOA, 2019-2021



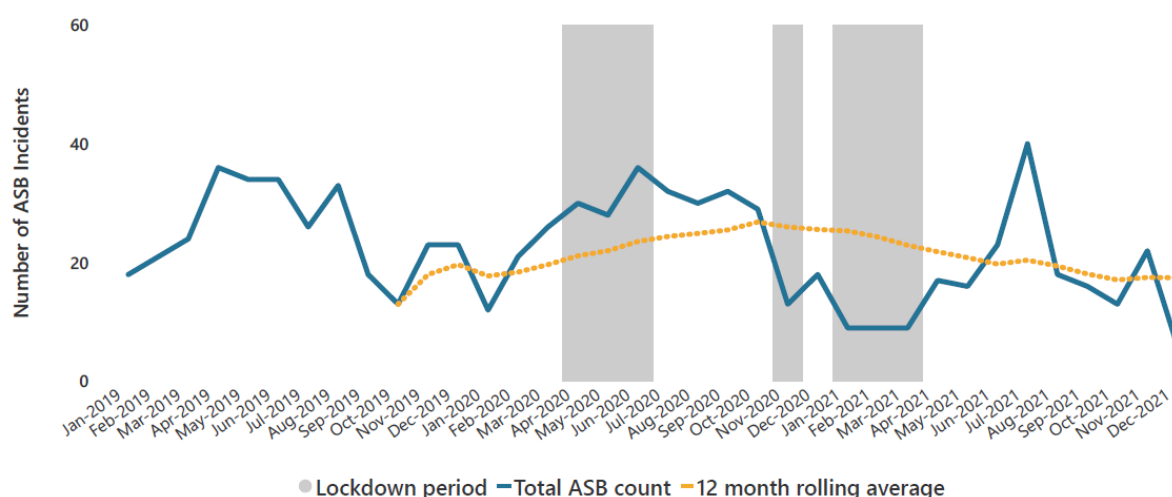
#### 4.1.2. Anti-social Behaviour : Alcohol related

Alcohol-related ASB has been analysed by applying a search to the incident description for words relating to alcohol/drinking in order to identify incidents that are likely to be alcohol-related. Similarly to the youth keyword search, this does not represent a perfect measure as alcohol keywords may be included within the incident description even where this is not a key factor in the incident. Despite this limitation it represents the best available indicator of alcohol related ASB.

The trend data for alcohol related ASB shows that the total number of incidents was stable between 2019 and 2020 but dropped by 36% in 2021 compared to the previous year. The monthly counts are displayed in the figure below. There was an

increase during the first national lockdown but the number of incidents dropped notably in the second and third lockdowns. Aside from a peak in incidents in July 2021, incidents have remained low, leading to the overall drop recorded.

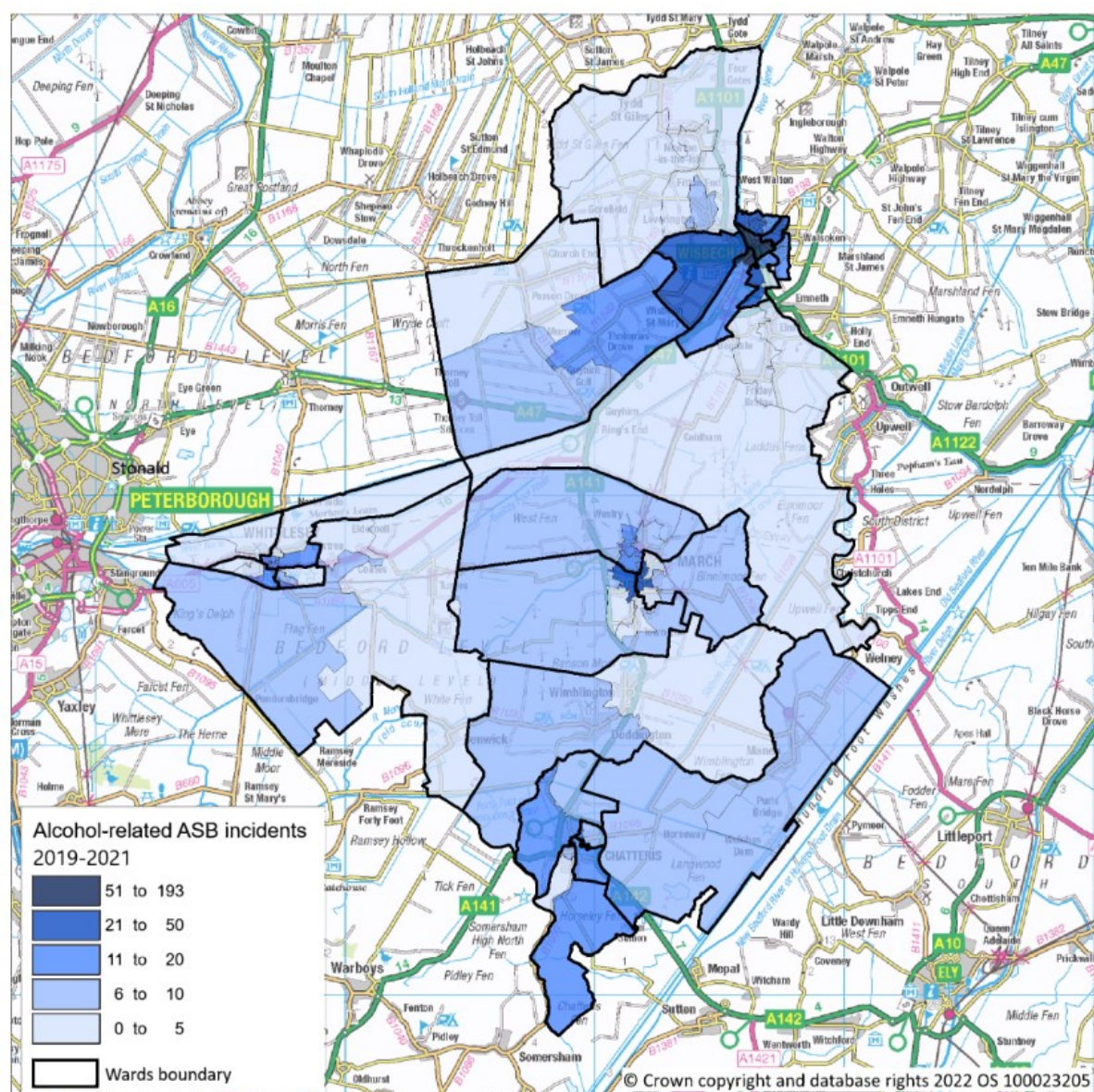
Figure 36: Police recorded ASB incidents with an alcohol-related keyword, January 2019-December 2021



Geographical analysis of alcohol related ASB incidents shows there is a slightly different picture compared to overall ASB or youth ASB, with a higher concentration of incidents within Wisbech. The LSOA Fenland 003I which is located in Wisbech town centre (within Medworth ward) accounts for almost a quarter (24%) of all alcohol related ASB recorded in 2019-2021. The bordering LSOA Fenland 002A accounts for the next highest proportion of incidents at 7%. As such these two Wisbech town centre LSOAs combined account for just under a third (31%) of all alcohol-related ASB recorded within the district.



Figure 37: Police recorded ASB incidents with an alcohol-related keyword by LSOA, 2019-2021



### 4.1.3. E-Scooters

The law in relation to electric scooters (e-scooters) currently forbids scooters being ridden on a road or public footpath. The only exception to this is specific e-scooter trials. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority launched the Voi E-Scooter Trial in Cambridge City and Peterborough in October 2020, initially a 12-month trial, this was then extended.

The trial is supported by the Department of Transport and implemented by the Voi E-Scooters Company. This new flexible means of transport is an active travel solution, reducing the impact on climate change and contributing to improving air quality and health (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authorities, 2022). The

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Board also recommended to expand the trial into market towns and rural areas (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, 2022). Towns in Fenland under consideration for this extension include Wisbech and March (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, 2022).

The use of e-scooters as part of the trial implies following specific rules and standard traffic code, e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles like cars or motorbikes (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, 2022), (GOV.UK, 2021)). If rules are not followed, then riders would be committing an offence.

- Riders must be 18 years old and have driving licence.
- Riders cannot ride when intoxicated.
- Riders cannot use mobile phones while driving.
- E-scooters can be used on the road and cycle lanes only, they cannot be used on pavement.
- E-scooters can be used in the local area hosting the trail only. Voi e-scooters use geofencing technology preventing them to function properly outside the local authority designated borders.
- Maximum speed is 15.5 mph (Voi e-scooters are locked at 10 mph).
- Helmet and florescent clothing are recommended.

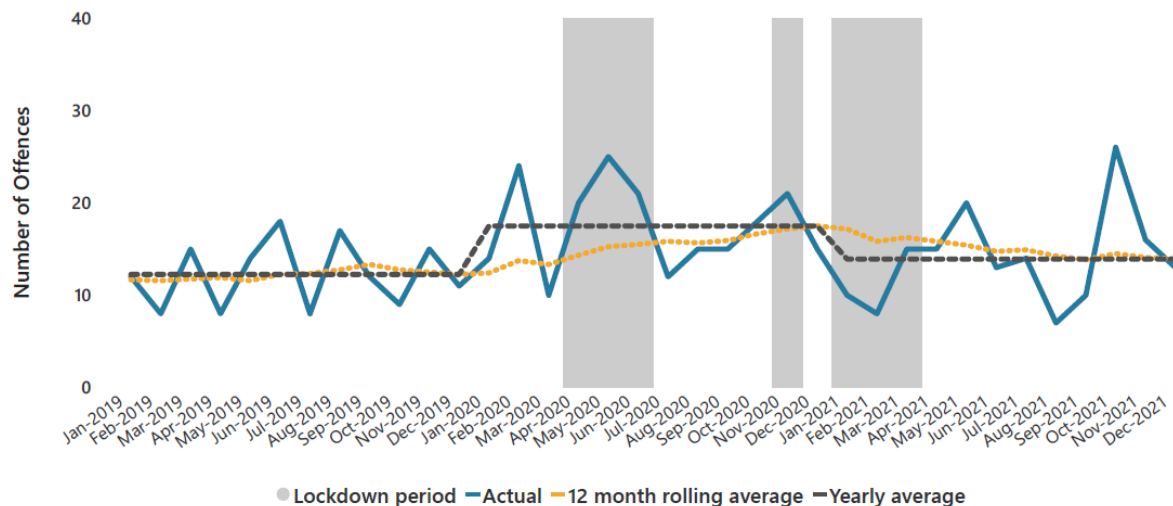
Another more complex issue is the private purchase of e-scooters, this means e-scooters outside the Voi e-scooter trail. Firstly, private e-scooters are not monitored with geofencing or a speed cap. Secondly, it is illegal to use a private e-scooter on public land, because it is not possible to get insurance for private e-scooters, in addition private e-scooters need a licence and the owner must pay road tax. This means that private e-scooters can only be used on private land with the permission of the landowner (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authorities, 2022).

A keyword search was completed on the comments field of police-recorded ASB incidents to examine to extent of ASB issues relating to e-scooters in Fenland. Numbers have increased in 2021 but still remain low at 27 incidents. This represents just 1.4% of all ASB incidents recorded in Fenland.

## 4.2. Substance Misuse

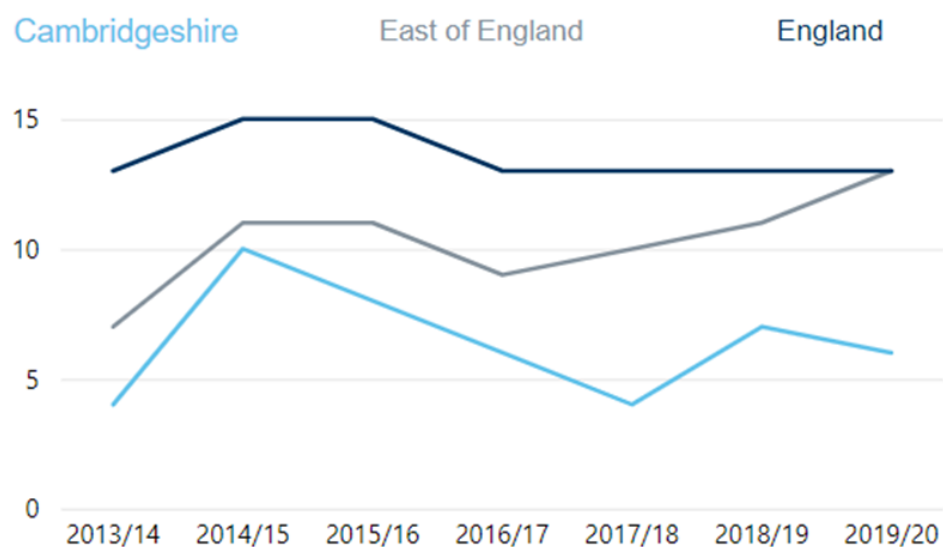
The volume of drug offences in Fenland has fluctuated around national lockdown periods, with increases associated with police activity at these times. However, 2021 has seen a return an average of 13.9 offences per month, closer to the pre-pandemic period (2019) average of 12.3 offences per month.

Figure 38: Police recorded drug offences in Fenland, January 2019 – December 2021



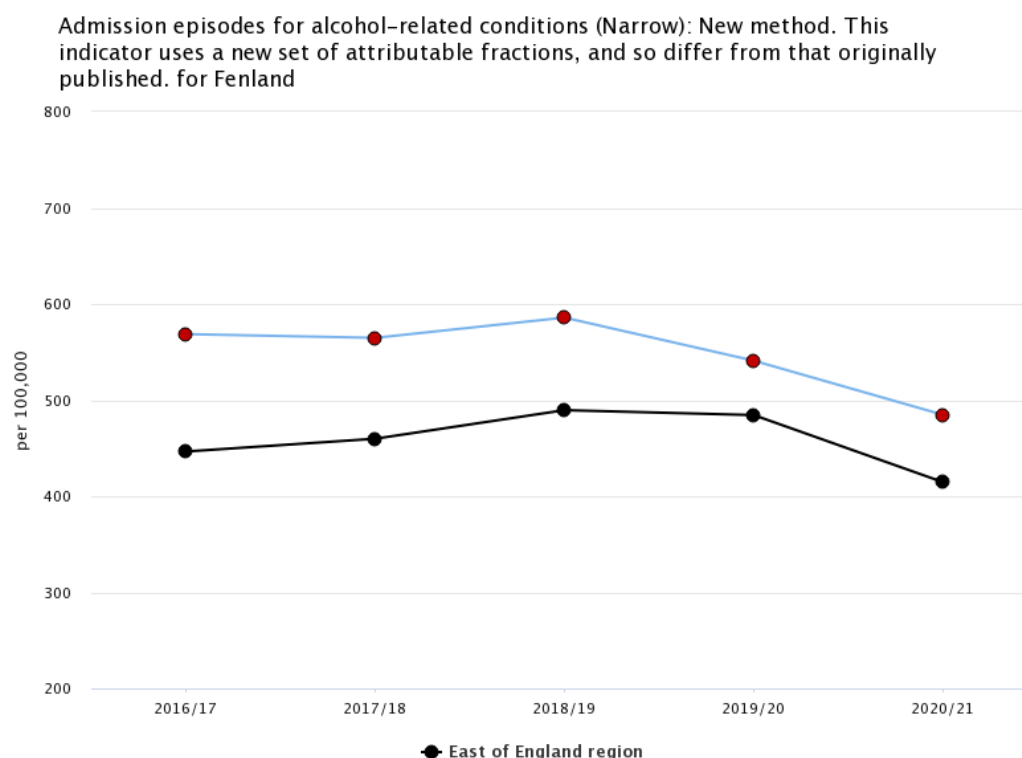
Healthcare service statistics regarding substance misuse can help to understand trends in substance misuse. The annual rate of hospital admissions for drug-related mental and behavioural disorders is available at a county level and is shown in the figure below. The rate for Cambridgeshire in 2019/20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

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



The rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions in Fenland district has been consistently higher than that for the Eastern Region since 2016/2017 financial year (as shown in the figure below) (PHE, 2022). Whilst the rate in 2020/2021 was lower than all previous years, there may be impacts of the pandemic affecting these figures (2021/22 figures are yet to be published).

Figure 39: Rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions in Fenland, compared to the East of England (Source: PHE)



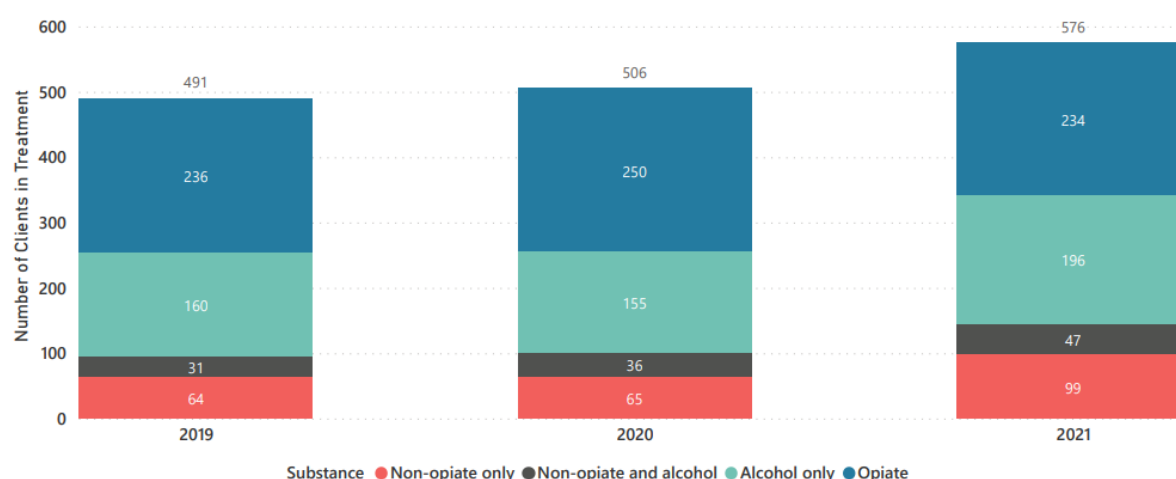
Information provided by Change Grow Live (drug and alcohol support services) does give a more detailed local view on the number of people in treatment for drug or alcohol misuse.

Table 6: Clients in treatment or successfully completed treatment in the year ending December 2021. This does not reflect the location of treatment service necessarily. (Source: Change Grow Live)

Clients Grouped by substance	Count of clients	Percentage of total clients in treatment
Total number of clients in treatment	576	100%
Opiate	234	41%
Non-opiate only	99	17%
Alcohol only	196	34%
Non-opiate and alcohol	47	8%
Successful completions	154	-

In 2021 a majority of CGL clients resident in Fenland were in treatment for Opiate misuse (41%). A further third (34%) of Fenland resident clients were in treatment for Alcohol only in this period. There has been a 17% increase in the total number of clients in treatment in Fenland since 2019.

Figure 40: Clients in treatment in Fenland by year and Substance (Source: CGL)



Upcoming Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis in 2022/23 will be able to further inform the CSP as to the drug market situation locally

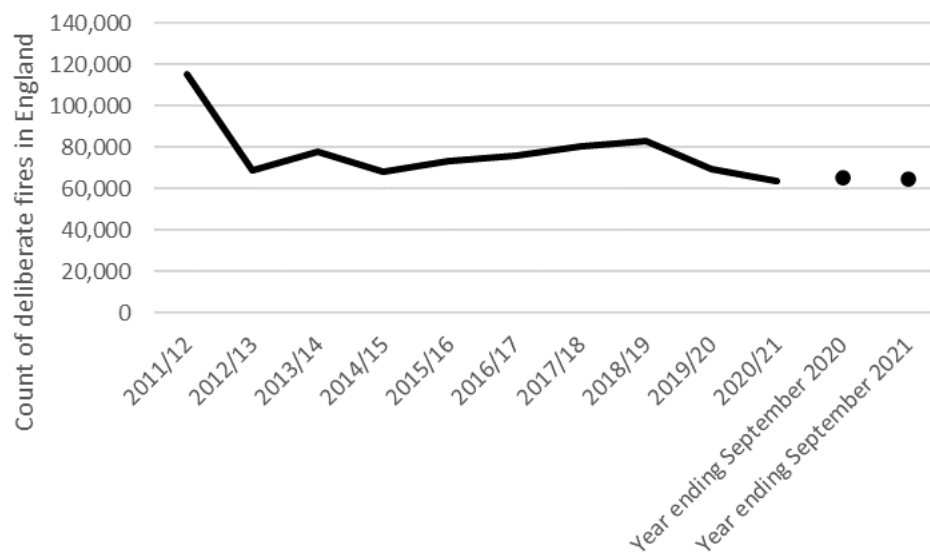


### 4.3. Fire

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

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

Figure 41: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England

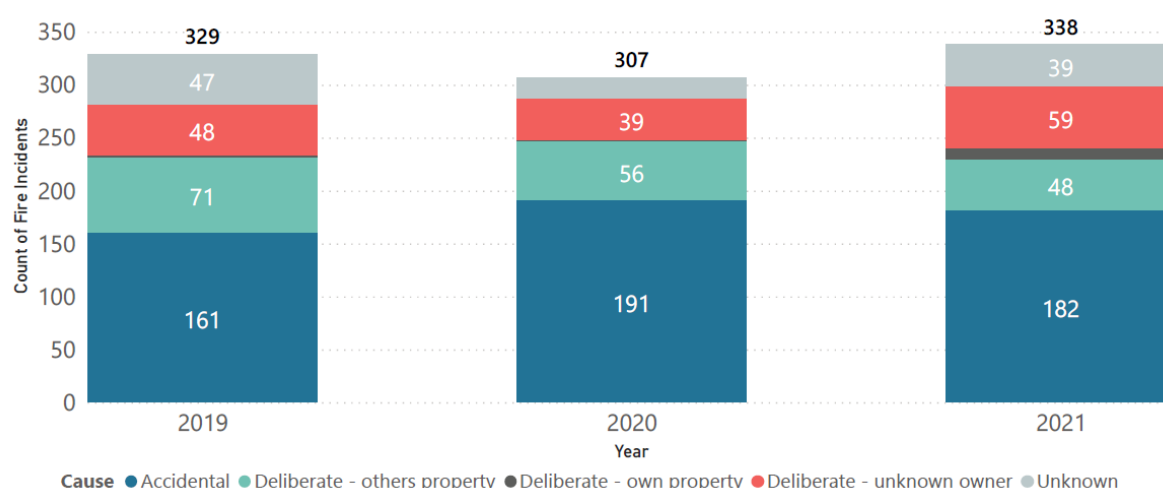


The fire service recorded 338 fires in Fenland between January 2021 and December 2021, a 10 % increase on the 2020 figure of 307. Fenland accounts for approximately 19.2% of the total fires in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and 24.2% of deliberate fires in 2021.

The figure below displays the number of fires in Fenland broken down by cause for the past three years. This shows a slight reduction in the number of deliberate fires recorded over time, with deliberate fires accounting for 34.6% of all fires in 2021 compared to 36.8% of all fires in 2019.

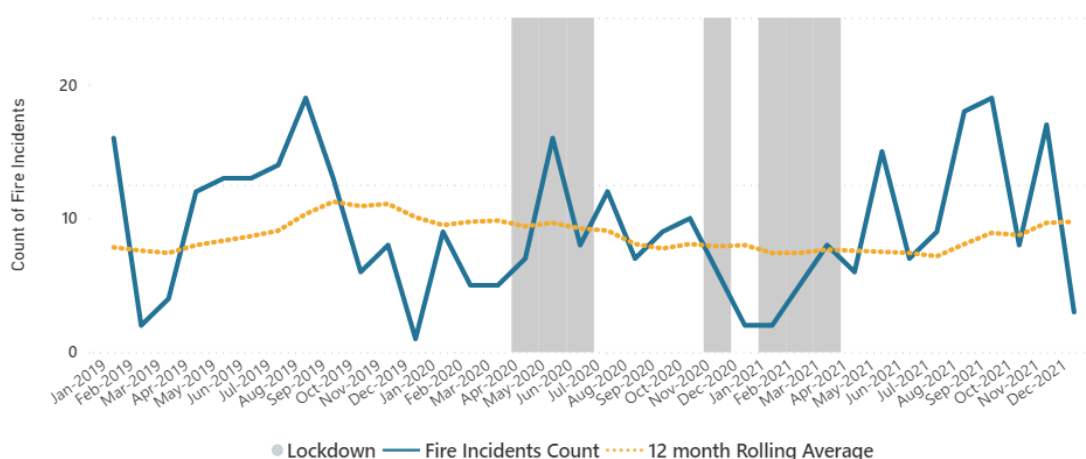


Figure 42: Count of fires in Fenland by cause, 2019-2021



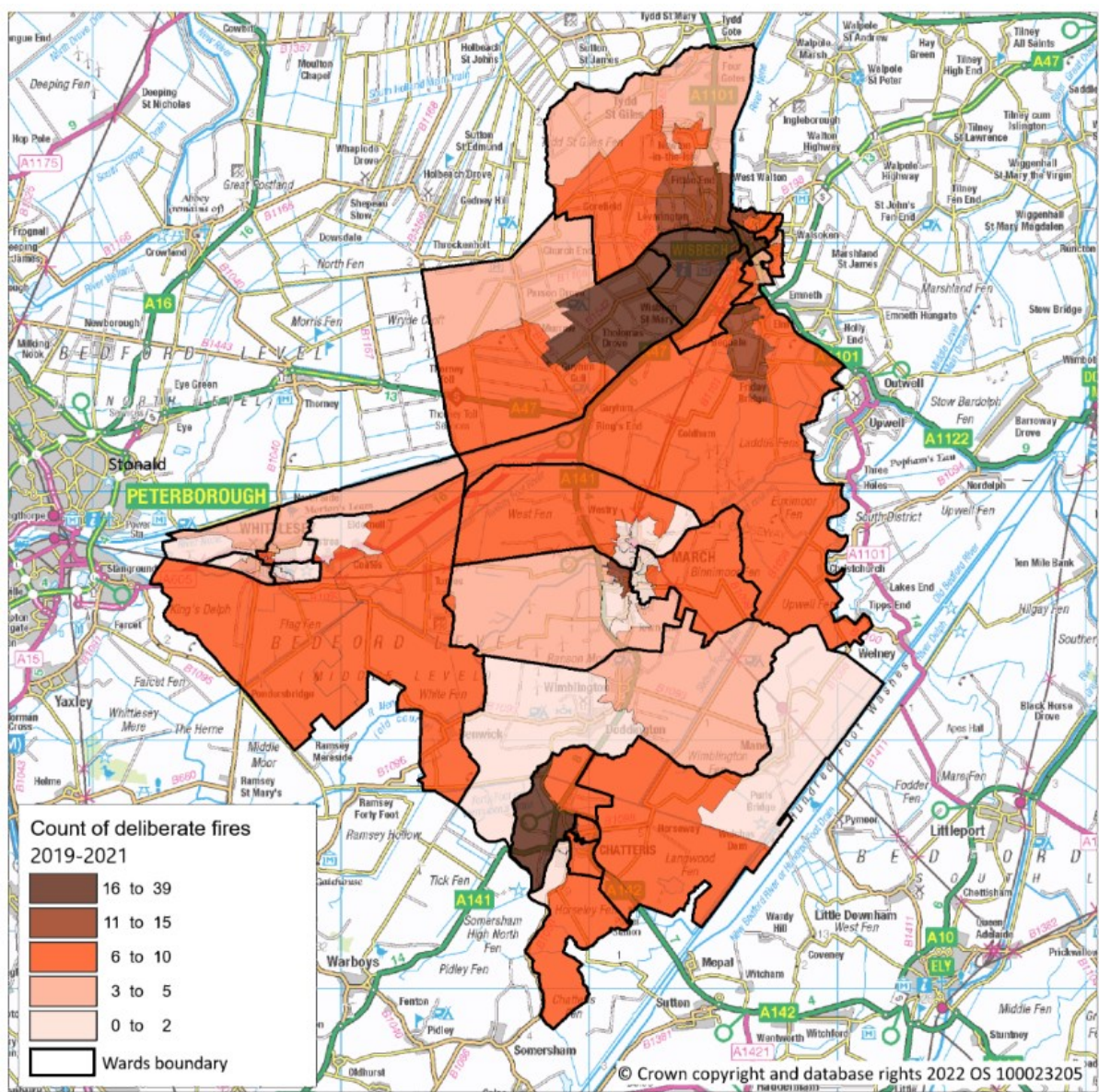
The monthly count of deliberate fires is displayed in the figure below and shows that a reduction was not observed in the first national lockdown period, however, the volume of fires was below average in December 2020 - February 2021 period (at the beginning of the third lockdown). It is likely the reduced number of deliberate fires seen in Fenland during this period was due to seasonal variation and the lockdowns reducing the opportunities to cause deliberate fire damage. Later in 2021 a peak of 19 deliberate fires was recorded in September, this does not exceed monthly peaks seen pre-pandemic in 2019.

Figure 43: Monthly count of deliberate fires in Fenland, January 2019 – December 2021



The figure below displays the count of deliberate fires between 2019-2021 by LSOA. This highlights that the highest levels of deliberate fires were seen in central Wisbech, west of Wisbech and north/west Chatteris. The LSOA with the highest number of deliberate fires was Fenland 002A (within central Wisbech, Clarkson ward) which accounted for 11.7% of all deliberate fires recorded during this three year period.

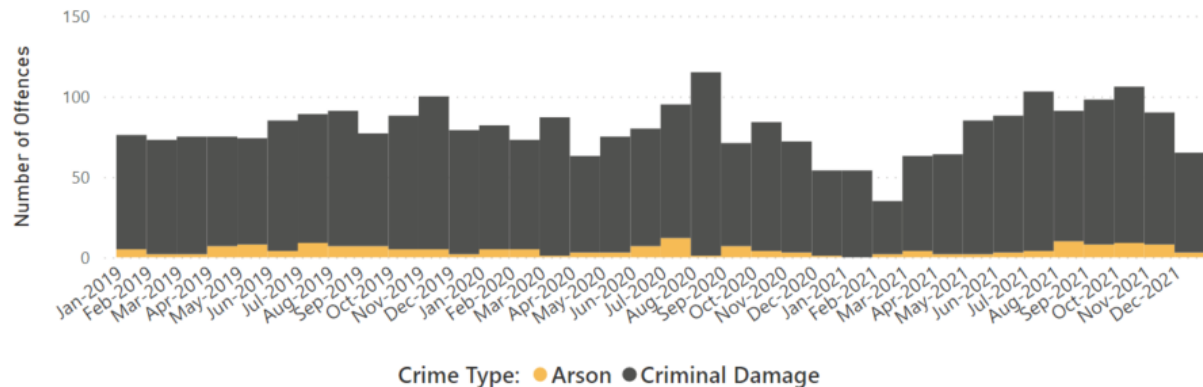
Figure 44: Count of deliberate fires by LSOA, 2019-2021



## 4.4. Arson

Whilst Arson is recorded in the same crime group as Criminal damage it forms a small proportion of 'Arson and Criminal Damage' group crimes in Fenland (and indeed all crimes), as shown in the figure below. From 2019-2021 arson formed 6% of all arson and criminal damage offences and 1% of all police recorded crime in Fenland.

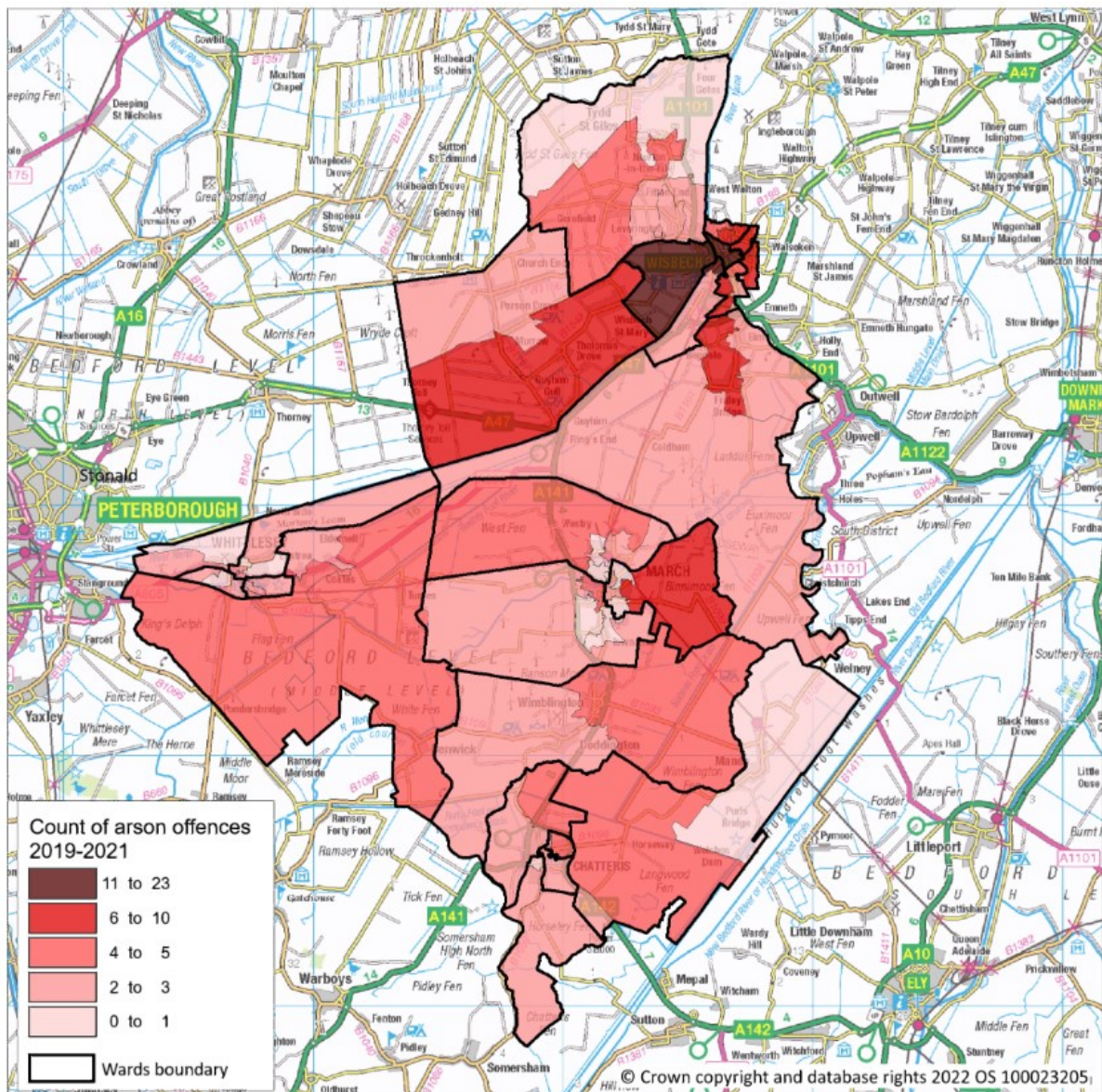
Figure 45: Police recorded arson and criminal damage offences in Fenland, January 2019 – December 2021



There were a total of 170 arson offences recorded in Fenland from 2019-2021. There has been an overall reduction from 63 crimes in 2019 decreasing to 55 crimes in 2021). The map below shows the police recorded arson by LSOA from 2019-2021. Two wards in Wisbech were highlighted in this data. 14% of arson offences were recorded in Clarkson ward and 11% in Waterlees Village ward. A common theme in the records for those wards was setting fire to rubbish bins (e.g. wheelie bins) and street furniture (e.g. benches). Wisbech park was a commonly quoted location and several of these fires have been kept ablaze by people adding fuel (including a gas cannister used on one occasion).



Figure 46: Count of police recorded arson offences by LSOA in Fenland from 2019-2021

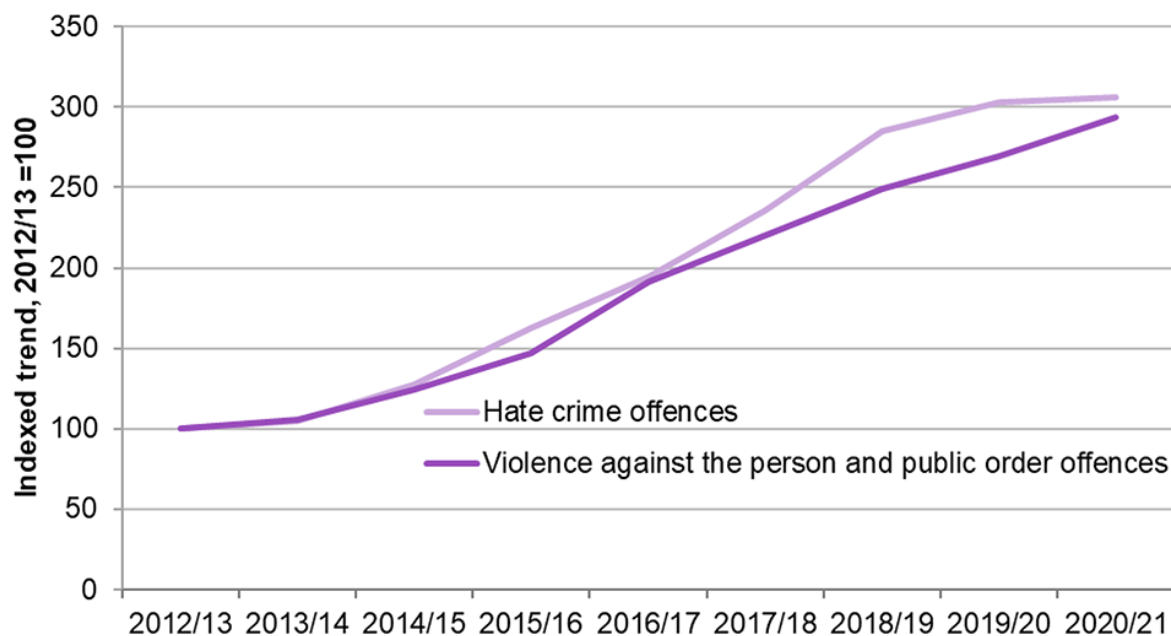


## 4.5. Hate crime

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

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

Figure 47: Indexed trends in the number of police recorded violence against the person and public order and hate crime offences, year ending March 2013 to year ending March 2021 (year ending March 2013 = 100) (Home Office 2021)

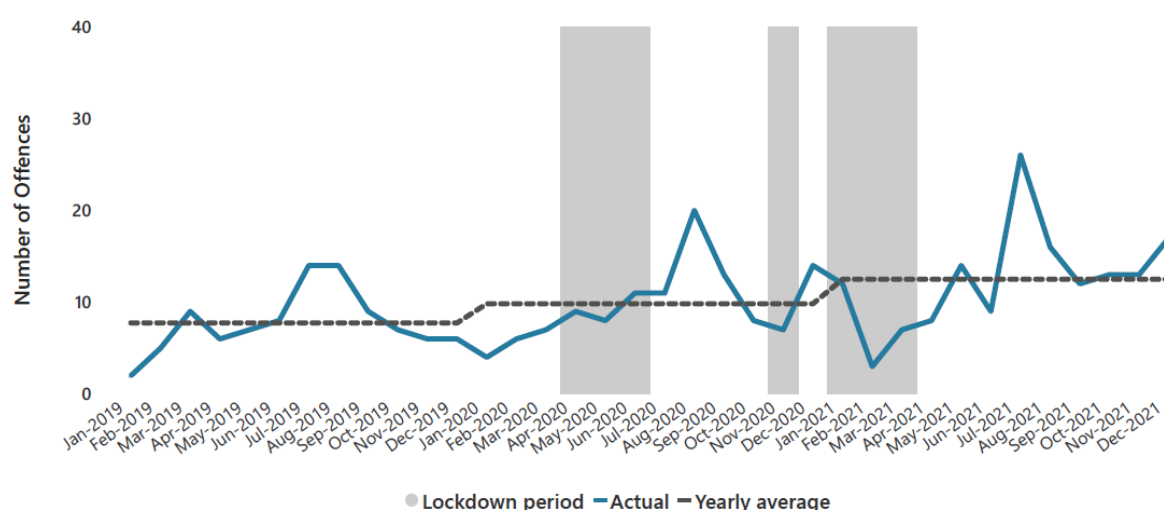


However, any offence can be marked as a hate crime. National statistics for 2020/21 (year ending March 2021) noted the following:

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

Police recorded hate crime in Fenland has been low in overall volume since 2019 but fluctuated from month to month. Crime counts were lower in the national lockdown periods, however there were peaks in hate crime after the first and third lockdowns eased. The yearly average has seen an increase from 7.8 crimes per month in 2019 to 12.5 crimes per month in 2021. In 2019 there was a total of 93 hate crimes recorded in Fenland, increasing to 150 in 2021, which represents a 61% increase.

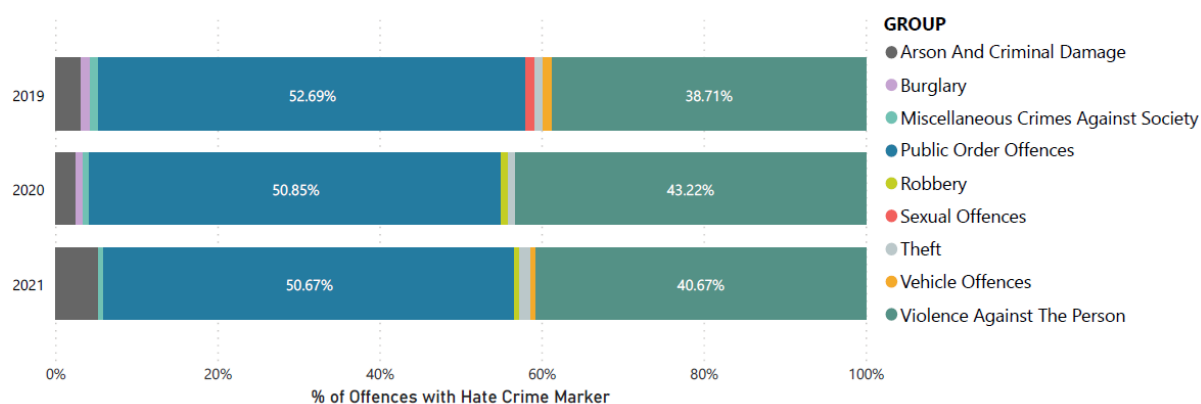
Figure 48: Police recorded hate crimes in Fenland, January 2019 – December 2021



The highest peak in hate crimes occurred in July 2021 (26 crimes recorded). Examination of the records for this month does not indicate a focused event or location associated with this short-term increase.

The offence groups for hate crimes recorded in Fenland are shown in the figure below. Public Order, VAP and arson and criminal damage form the main components, in line with the national analysis outlined above. It should be noted that there are no arson offences in 2019-2021 with a hate crime marker i.e. all offences in the Arson and Criminal damage group over this period are criminal damage type offences. Broken down by ward, a majority of hate crimes occurred in Medworth ward (18.3%). This is a markedly high proportion of hate crimes in Fenland. The hate crimes were otherwise geographically dispersed across wards, for example the next largest proportion of hate crimes was seen in Waterlees Village ward (6.6% of hate crimes in Fenland).

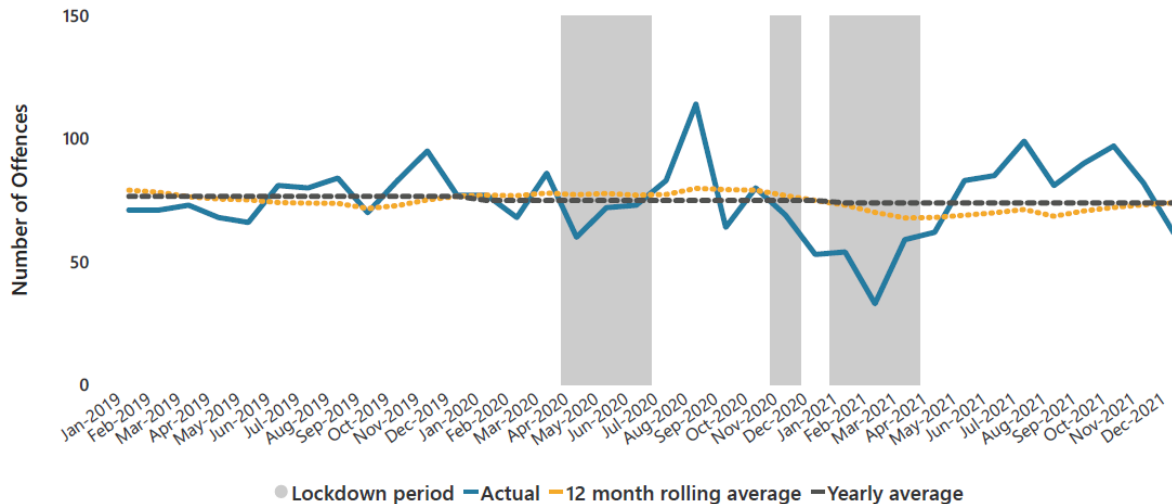
Figure 49: Hate crime marker offences in Fenland broken down by crime type, 2019-2021



## 4.6. Criminal Damage

Criminal damage offences formed 12% of all crimes recorded in Fenland from 2019-2021. Although criminal damage offences recorded in Fenland have fluctuated around national lockdown periods, the yearly average remains stable for this crime type. In 2021 there was an average of 73 criminal damage offences in Fenland per month. From 2019-2021 less than 1% of all criminal damage offences in Fenland had a hate crime marker.

Figure 50: Police recorded Criminal Damage offences in Fenland, 2019- 2021

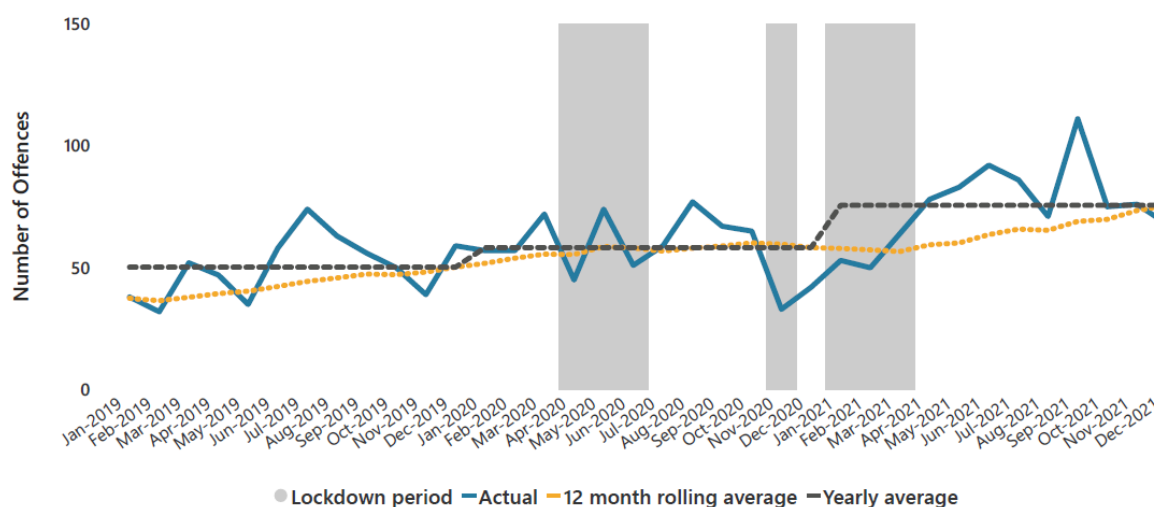


## 4.7. Public Order

Public order offences have shown a trend of increase since 2019, albeit from a low base. Since 2019 the annual count of public order offences has increased by 50% (from 603 in 2019 to 907 in 2021). 8.4% of public order offences in Fenland from 2019-2021 had a hate crime marker. The figure below illustrates that public order offences did fluctuate to some extent around lockdown periods with increases as lockdown restrictions eased.



Figure 51: Police recorded Public Order offences in Fenland, January 2019 – December 2021



## 4.8. Fraud, Scams and Cybercrime

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

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

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

It is proposed that increases in fraud observed during the pandemic period may be linked to offenders exploiting changes in behaviour relating to COVID-19, such as an increase in online shopping and higher levels of savings. UK Finance suggests that during the pandemic fraudsters played to people’s fears and worries, tricking them into parting with money by offering desirable incentives supposedly from trusted organisations such as vaccines and COVID-19 related pay-outs.

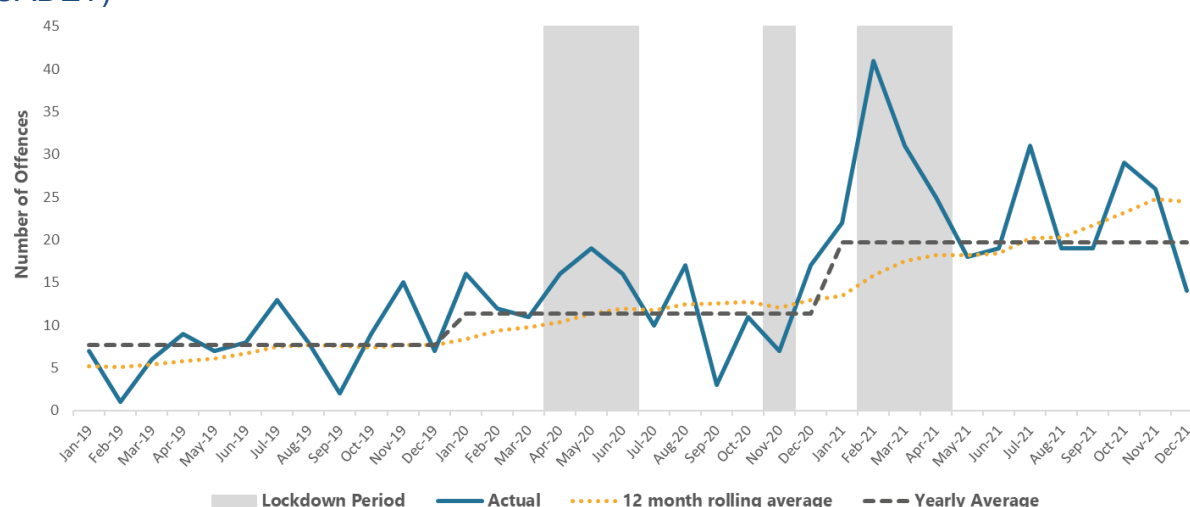
**Cybercrime** is an umbrella term which covers both cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crimes. Cyber-dependent crimes can only be committed through Information



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

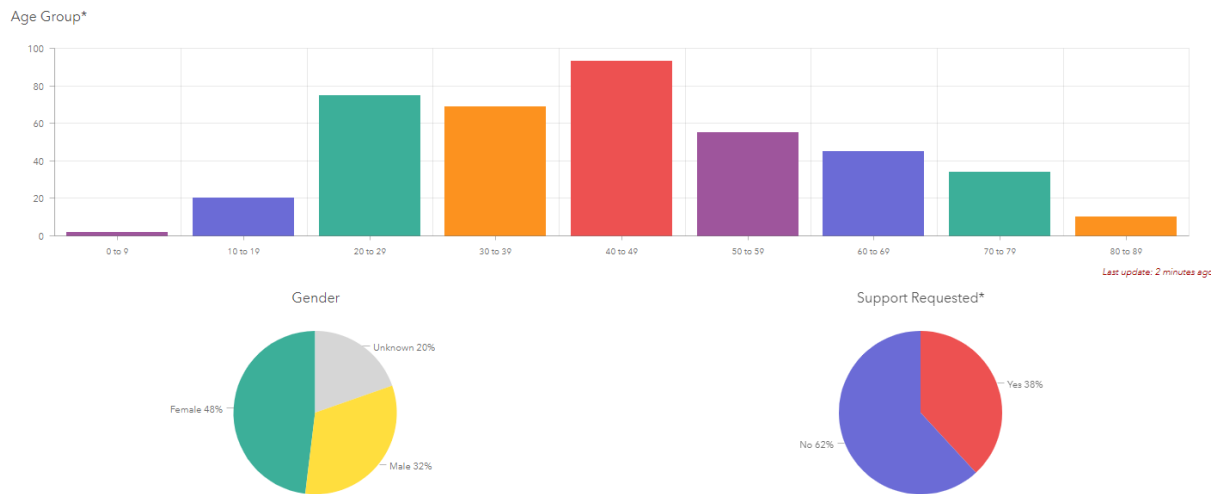
Local data is available from Cambridgeshire Constabulary regarding the volume of crimes with a cybercrime marker. In Fenland there has been an increase since 2019, albeit from a low base (an average of 7.7 crimes recorded per month in 2019). There was a marked peak of 41 crimes in February 2021 (during the third national lockdown) and the yearly average in 2021 was 19.7 crimes per month.

Figure 52: Police recorded crimes in Fenland with a cybercrime marker (Source: CADET)



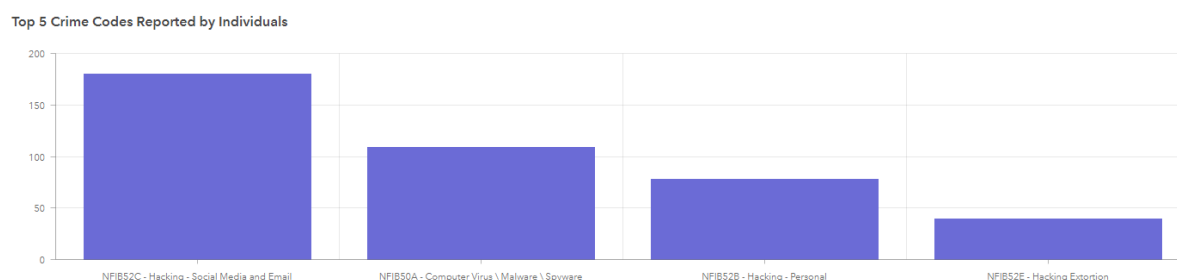
Action fraud figures for the Cambridgeshire Constabulary area (district level data is not available) provides a breakdown of the demographics of individuals reporting fraud offences (2019-2021). It should be noted that a wide range of victim ages are recorded, as shown in the figure below. The data also shows not all victims request further support.

Figure 53: Action Fraud figures for individuals reporting as victims of cybercrime, 2019-2021, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. (Source: NFIB Fraud and Cybercrime Dashboard)



The figure below also shows the main crime codes reported by individuals, to give an indication of the kind crimes these victims have experienced. It should be noted that hacking with extortion does feature here.

Figure 54: Action Fraud figures for main crime codes reported by individuals, 2019-2021, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough (Source: NFIB Fraud and Cybercrime Dashboard)



## 4.9. Road safety

Road Safety in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is overseen by the Vision Zero partnership. Vision Zero is a road safety partnership strategy incorporating the international Safe System policy approach for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Partnership members include:

- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Peterborough City Council
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Beds, Cambs & Herts Tri-force road policing
- National Highways (formerly Highways England)
- Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
- East of England Ambulance Service
- Public Health
- Cambridge University Hospitals (Addenbrooke's)
- The East of England Trauma Network
- Roads Victims' Trust
- Magpas Air Ambulance

The Vision Zero partnership reports to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and the Combined Authority for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

More information can be found at the partnership website: <https://www.cprsp.co.uk/>.

## 5. Update on CSP activities

Project	Priority Areas	Highlight Outcomes
Domestic Abuse – Increased awareness of what DA is, support networks and reporting options.	Priority 1: Offending Priority 2: Victims Priority 3: Communities	<p>DA Community Awareness Campaign Between December 2021 and March 2022, the CSP launched a DA community awareness campaign. Posters and flyers were displayed along with stickers in English, Lithuanian and Polish in local businesses and hospitality venues, A8 groups, Polish schools and social media sites, sports clubs, community centres and libraries.</p> <p>CSP – Workforce Development Sessions Between September 2021 and March 2022, three training sessions were organised by the CSP and delivered with the support of Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence Partnership and Refuge. The awareness training increases the knowledge and resilience of frontline workers and community organisations to identify and signpost DA victims to the appropriate support or reporting pathway. It also included references to developing understanding linked to offending and perpetrators. It's also an opportunity to promote other training opportunities that are available. Such as risk assessment training and accreditation opportunities such as DAHA.</p> <p>Communications Community Engagement The CSP in partnership with DASV and Refuge recorded an online DA session with information and advice on what DA is, support network and reporting options. This is made available on Local Authority YouTube Channel. The link is available through the CSP page on the FDC website and shared in the quarterly Newsletter.</p> <p>Community Awareness The community awareness campaign below raised awareness in the Fenland community between December 2021 and March 2022.</p> <p>Posters and flyers were displayed and distributed. Additionally, stickers in English, Lithuanian and Polish were displayed on the back of toilet doors in local businesses and hospitality venues, community locations primarily used by the migrant population, Polish Saturday schools, sports clubs,</p>

		<p>community centres, libraires, and social media.</p> <p>As well as sharing social media activity of key partners such as Respect, Police, Refuge. This also included messaging around victims, perpetrators, family members and witnesses.</p> <p>BBC Radio Cambridgeshire</p> <p>Following a media release about the DA Campaign, Vickie Crompton from DASV, spoke on behalf of the CSP in a radio interview. The interview covered awareness, signposting and the CSP campaign work.</p>
Loan Sharks – Community awareness and confidence to report	<p>Priority 2: Victims</p> <p>Priority 3: Communities</p>	<p>CSP Loan Shark Awareness Campaign</p> <p>A project delivered in partnership with the Illegal Money Lending Team. The intention to raise awareness of Loan Sharks to reduce victimisation, understand reporting options and support networks.</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Three schools in Fenland took part in a Loan Shark Awareness project. These schools were chosen as being in areas of deprivation and most at risk of attention from Loan Sharks. Delivered in partnership with Blackfield Creative, which included presentations in assemblies, arts and crafts projects and information packs for the schools and parents.</p> <p>Community awareness raising</p> <p>Posters displayed on the sides of 6 refuse vehicles of Fenland District Council. Posters and signs were displayed in community locations of high footfall such as town parks, community centres and local businesses.</p> <p>Media</p> <p>Supporting regular communications from the Illegal Money Lending Team. The CSP webpage found on the FDC website also provides links to the IMLT website.</p>
Community Volunteering – Increased awareness of volunteering opportunities across Fenland	Priority 3: Communities	<p>New Community Volunteering Page</p> <p>CSP have worked with our partners across Fenland to develop a community volunteering page.</p> <p>This is a directory of organisations across Fenland that offer residents a wide range of volunteering opportunities and are currently welcoming new enquiries.</p>

Cybercrime - raising awareness of cybercrime, how to prevent and how to report.	Priority 2: Victims Priority 3: Communities	<p>Cyber-Crime Work Force Development</p> <p>CSP worked with partners to deliver scams and Cyber Crime training for community organisations and frontline professionals. This was supported with the help of Cambridgeshire Constabulary and CAPASP. It's intended to improve the knowledge of those who are likely to have direct contact with vulnerable people, potential victims as well as those who have been unwittingly caught out. Providing opportunities for prevention, signposting and support.</p> <p>Sharing Cyber Crime Alerts</p> <p>Regular Cyber-Crime updates are shared through the CSP social media feeds, through the Local Authority Communications network and with town and parish councils.</p> <p>CAPASP &amp; Friends Against Scams</p> <p>Statutory and community organisations are encouraged to sign up to become a friend against scams to receive their newsletter and regular updates.</p>
COVID19 – Supporting the County and District response to the pandemic	Priority 3: Communities	<p>Supported the County response to the health pandemic COVID-19.</p> <p>Attendance at meetings, supporting project delivery and responses as well as supporting communication strategies.</p>
Safer Wisbech Group	Priority 1: Offending Priority 2: Victims Priority 3: Communities	<p>Community Surveys</p> <p>Regular CSP surveys identified Wisbech was considered an unsafe place whereas the other Fenland towns were considered safe.</p> <p>The CSP response has been to set up a working group to understand why this is and develop response options.</p>

Domestic Homicide Reviews, a statutory responsibility of the CSP, are covered in the Domestic Abuse Section of this report.



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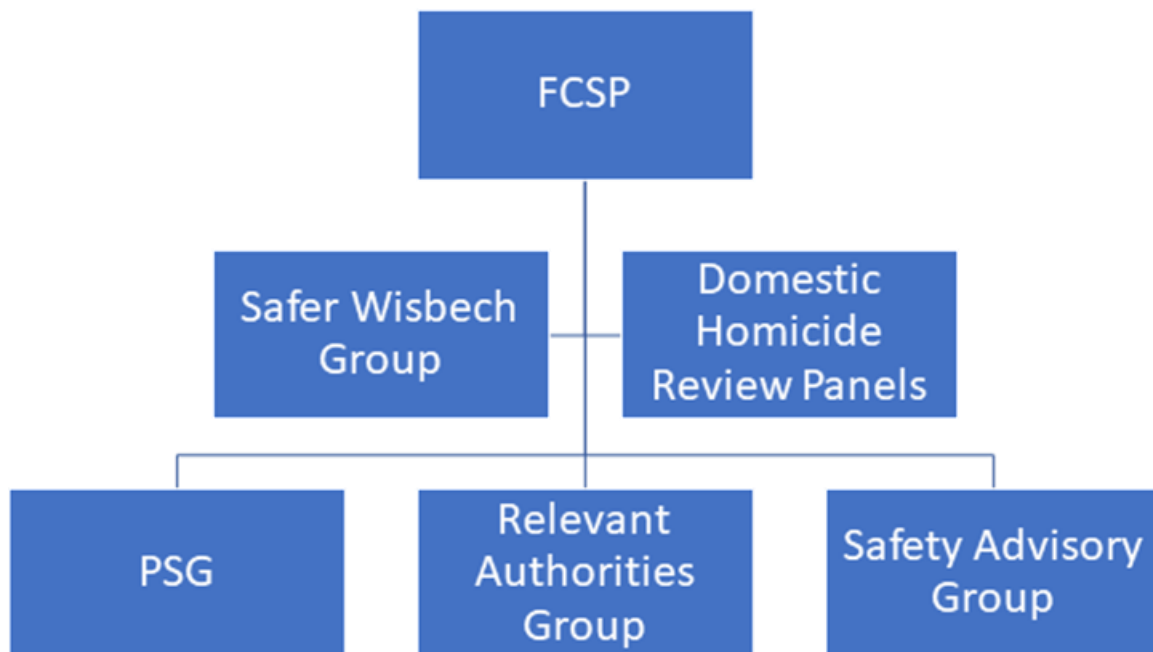
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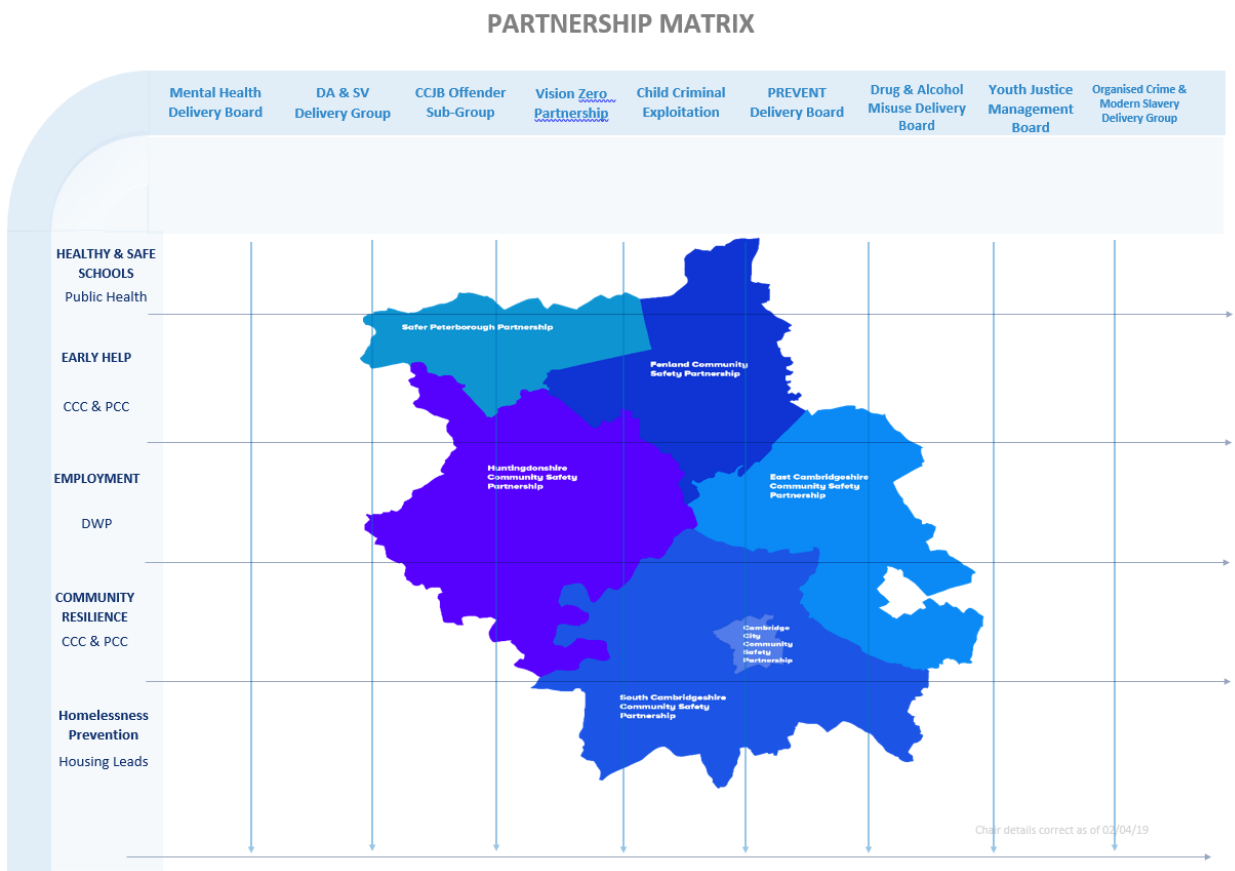
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## Appendix A: Fenland CSP Structure Chart 2021-2022



PSG: Problem Solving Group

# Appendix B: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Thematic Matrix

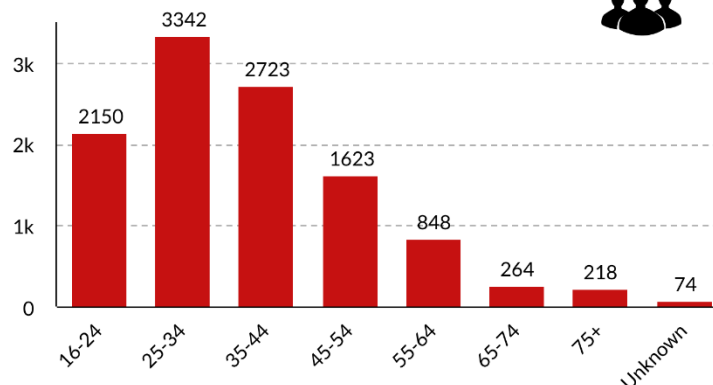


## Victims

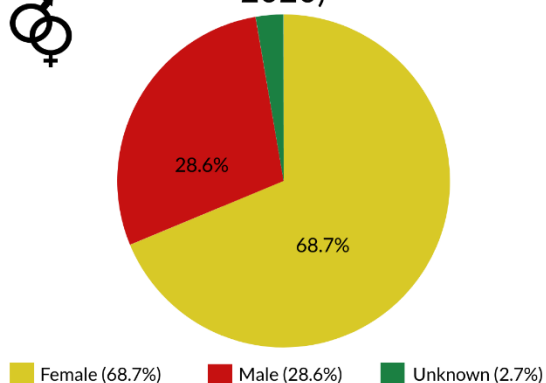
The largest age group using Domestic Abuse support services in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area is people between the age of 25-34.

More female victims of DA are at higher risk than male victims.

Number of victims of domestic abuse by age groups (20/21)

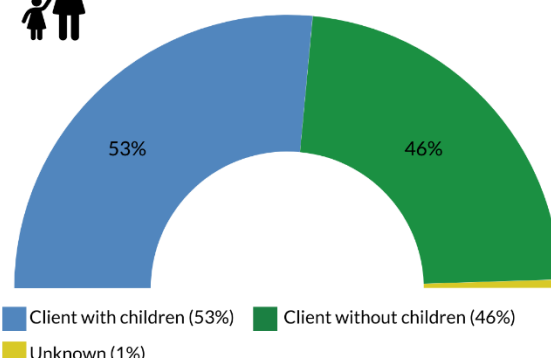


Gender Identity of victims (March 2020)



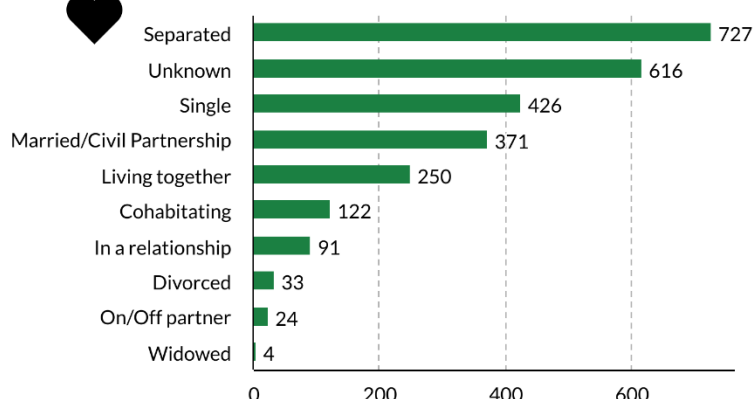
Police recorded data

IDVA service clients and their children



IDVA = Independent Domestic Violence Advisors

Victims of domestic abuse by marital status



A larger proportion of IDVA clients did have children compared to those who did not.

Most victims using support services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were separated.

**Data Sources:**

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

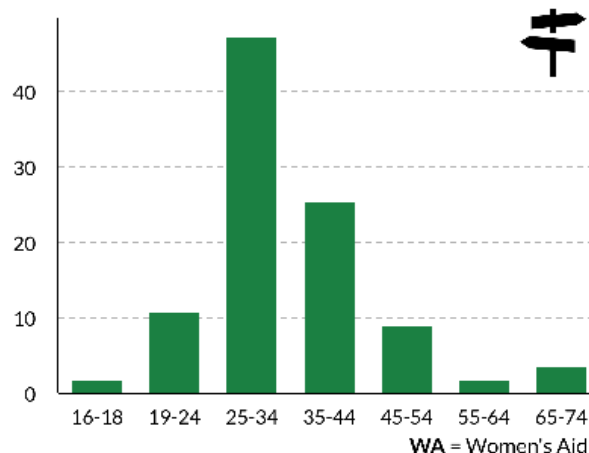


## Refuge Accommodation

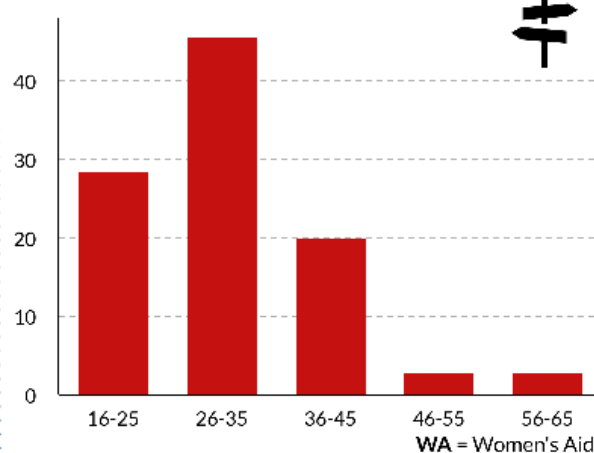
Most people staying in refuge were aged between 25-35 (26-35 for Cambridge Women's Aid).

A low amount of successfully referred people were aged 46 or over.

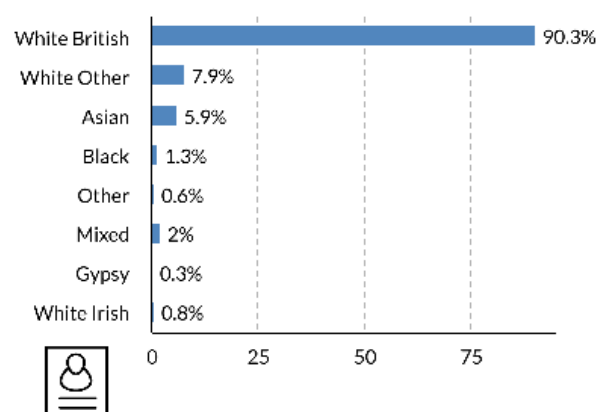
% of successful referrals by age  
(Refuge & Peterborough WA)



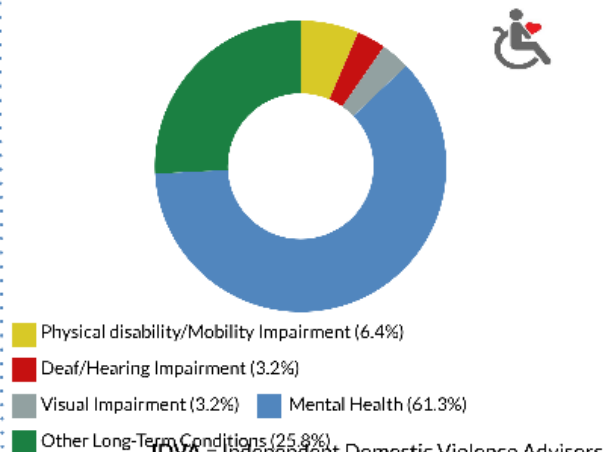
% of successful referrals by age  
(Cambridge WA)



Ethnicity of those staying in refuge



Disability of those referred to refuge successfully



Majority of clients are White British.

If clients have uncertain legal status, they may not be entitled to public funds.

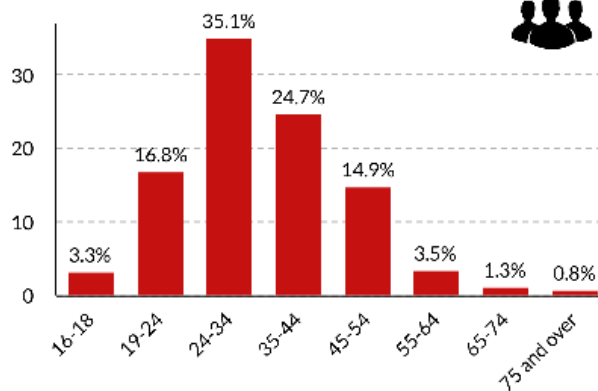
34% of successful referrals from 2020/21 were recorded as having a disability.

### Data Sources:

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

## Housing options beyond emergency accommodation

Domestic Abuse victims on housing register 20/21 by age



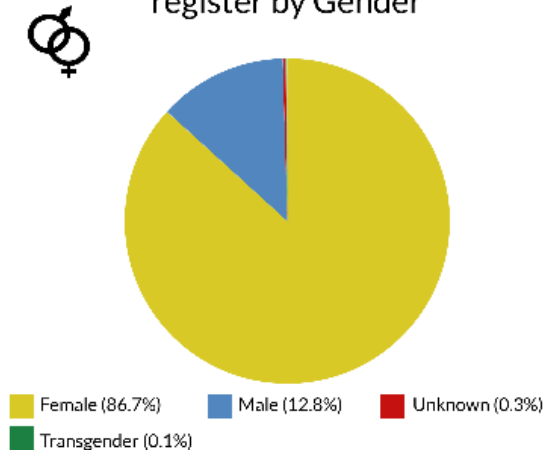
Note: this chart includes data of all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough districts except Huntingdon, this is due to data quality and limitations.

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

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

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

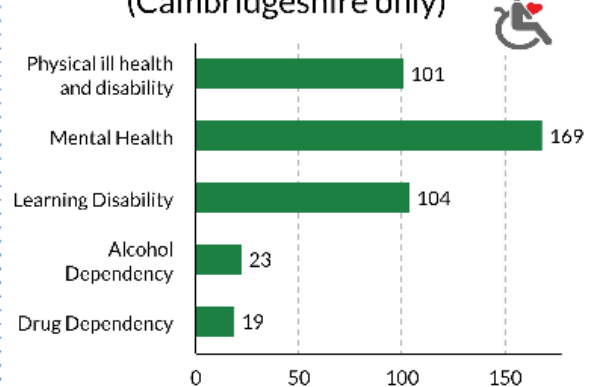
Victims of Domestic Abuse on housing register by Gender



### Data Sources:

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

Disability of those referred to refuge (Cambridgeshire only)



## Key recommendations

### Increasing support/services for specific groups of residents:

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

Limitations of the report: inconsistent data across agencies.

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## Appendix C: Source – Key dates

23rd March 2020

[Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus \(COVID-19\): 23 March 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-s-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-23-march-2020)

15th June 2020 – Non-essential retail reopens.

[Prime Minister sets out timeline for retail to reopen in June - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-sets-out-timeline-for-retail-to-reopen-in-june-15-june-2020)

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

[PM announces easing of lockdown restrictions: 23 June 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-announces-easing-of-lockdown-restrictions-23-june-2020)

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

[Covid-19 local alert levels: Three-tier system for England - House of Lords Library \(parliament.uk\)](https://www.parliament.uk/news-and-analysis/2020/october/14/covid-19-local-alert-levels-three-tier-system-for-england)

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

[Prime Minister announces new national restrictions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-announces-new-national-restrictions-5-november-2020)

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

[403 | The Institute for Government](https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/news/403-the-institute-for-government)

6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021

[Prime Minister announces national lockdown - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-announces-national-lockdown-6-january-2021)

29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

[COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021 \(Summary\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary)

## Appendix D: Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)	Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person' (Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 and Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011). Source: <a href="#">What is antisocial behaviour?   Metropolitan Police</a>
Acquisitive Crime	Acquisitive crime is defined as an offence where the offender derives material gain from the crime. Examples include, shoplifting, burglary, theft, and robbery. Source: <a href="#">Microsoft Word - Item 6 - Quarterly Performance Update 30 June 16 Glossary (westyorkshire-pcp.gov.uk)</a>
ASB categories: personal, environmental and nuisance	3 ASB categories: Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group. Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings. Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community. Source: <a href="#">What is antisocial behaviour?   Metropolitan Police</a>
Accidental Fires	Where the motive for the fire is thought to be accidental or is unknown.
Arson	The criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property.
Catalytic converters	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. Source: <a href="#">Catalytic converter theft   Metropolitan Police</a>
Child Sexual Exploitation	"...where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology". Source: <a href="#">Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>

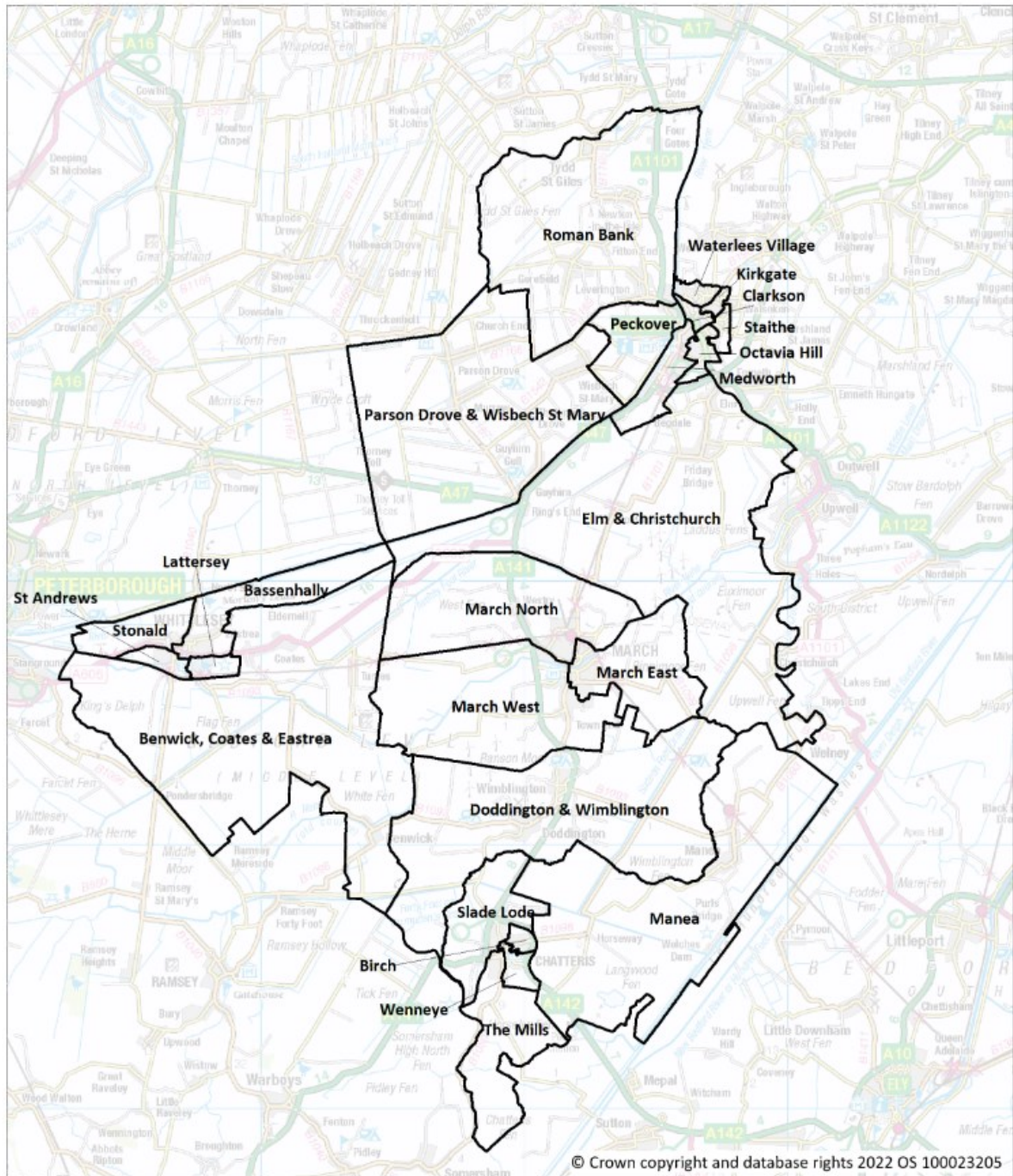
Coercive Control	Act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim. Source: <a href="#">Coercive control - Womens Aid</a>
County Lines	A term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.
Deliberate Fires	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.
Dip sample	Methodology for examining data. A suitable proportion of records from a specified period are sampled (ideally at random) and then reports are read in detail to ascertain if there are common themes across those records.
Domestic Abuse Crime	Domestic Abuse Crime is not limited to specific offences. Any police recorded crime can be flagged as Domestic Abuse related and as such would be counted as a ‘Domestic Abuse Crime’.
Domestic Abuse Incident	A (police recorded) report of a domestic incident, which occurs in either a public or private place. Recording such incidents enables data to capture those incidents where the circumstances do not amount to a notifiable crime i.e., not all domestic abuse incidents result in a crime being recorded. Source: <a href="#">National standard for incident recording counting rules - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Domestic Homicide Review	When a person is murdered in the context of domestic violence or abuse, a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is usually carried out. The responsibility for DHR's sits with the relevant district Community Safety Partnership (part of the District Council). The Community Safety Partnership will commission an independent Chair and Author for the DHR and organize a panel of appropriate professionals (membership dependent on the case). Source: <a href="#">Welcome to Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership (cambsdasv.org.uk)</a>
Geofencing	Geofencing is a technology that uses GPS to create a virtual geographic boundary, enabling software to trigger a response when a mobile device enters or leaves a particular area. When a scooter goes beyond a certain

	<p>boundary, the e-scooter's speed will reduce gradually. We do not stop the scooter's motor completely, because this could be dangerous for the rider. In a no-ride zone, the motor is slowed to 3mph (walking pace). It is not put to zero, because we want to make it easier for users to return the scooter back to the operating zone. Users can see their locations and operating zone in the in-app map.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk">E-Scooters FAQs - Combined Authority Transport (cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)</a></p>
Hate Crime	<p>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.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://hatecrime.campaign.gov.uk">Hate Crime (campaign.gov.uk)</a></p>
IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisers)	<p>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.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://independentdomesticviolenceadvocates.org.uk">Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) - Safer Futures</a></p>
Modern Slavery	<p>Modern slavery is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. It covers a wide range of abuse and exploitation including sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://modernslavery.met.police.uk">Modern slavery   Metropolitan Police</a></p>
National Referral Mechanism (for Modern slavery) (NRM)	<p>The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation. It encompasses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- human trafficking</li> <li>- slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour</li> </ul> <p>An individual could have been a victim of human trafficking and/or slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/national-referral-mechanism-guidance-adult-england-and-wales">National referral mechanism guidance: adult (England and Wales) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p>
Other Theft	<p>Other theft offences involve the theft of property which is not taken directly from a person or shop. Some</p>



	subcategories include; blackmail, theft by an employee, theft of mail, making off without payment etc.
Substance misuse: Opiate and Non-opiate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opiate – e.g., heroin</li> <li>• Non-opiate – e.g., cannabis, crack and ecstasy</li> </ul> Source: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/431211/adult-substance-misuse-treatment-statistics-2019-to-2020-report.pdf">Adult substance misuse treatment statistics 2019 to 2020: report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Substance misuse: Drug Paraphernalia	<p>"Drug paraphernalia" is a term, to denote any equipment, product or accessory that is intended or modified for making, using, or concealing drugs, typically for recreational purposes.</p> Source: <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drug_paraphernalia">Drug paraphernalia - Wikipedia</a>
TCSEW (Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales)	<p>The Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) became operational on the 20 May 2020. It was a replacement for the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) which was suspended on the 17 March 2020 because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Source: <a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/comparability-between-the-telephone-operated-crime-survey-for-england-and-wales-and-the-face-to-face-crime-survey-for-england-and-wales/2020-05-20">Comparability between the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales and the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Crime Survey for England and Wales is an important monitor of the extent of crime in England and Wales. It is used by the Government to evaluate and develop crime reduction policies as well as providing vital information about the changing levels of crime over the last 30 years. Source: <a href="https://www.csew.gov.uk/">Crime Survey for England &amp; Wales</a></li> </ul>

## Appendix E: Reference Ward map of Fenland



## Appendix F: Summary of Issues According to Harm

A diagram to support explanation of issues in Fenland according to harm, as identified in this strategic assessment. This diagram was included in the presentation of this strategic assessment to the Fenland CSP board in April 2022. The scale is indicative and purely intended to aid discussion of the issues identified in terms of harm and trends in Fenland.

