

# **Community Safety Strategic Assessment:**

**Fenland**

**2022/23**

**Version 1.1 Final**

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# 1. Executive Summary

## 1.1. Summary

This strategic assessment includes additional information for context provided by the 2021 Census results. Fenland's population has grown from 95,300 in Census 2011 to 102,500 in Census 2021; an increase of 7.6%. The demographics of the Fenland district population are slightly older than the national average with over 65's accounting for 22.8% of the population in Fenland in 2021. The cost of living crisis occurring nationally is outlined as well as factors that will likely continue to influence this in 2023.

This document has drawn upon local and national data and evidence where possible. The analysis has looked over four years rather than three where possible in order to understand where the Covid-19 pandemic and measures to tackle it might have affected crime and communities.

In terms of crime and disorder, Fenland had the second highest overall police recorded crime rate of the Cambridgeshire districts in 2022, at 80.7 offences per 1,000 population.

The share of all crime accounted for by violence against the person (VAP) increased to 40% in 2022 up from 33% in 2018. Public order offences saw steady increases accounting for 11% of all crime in 2022, up from 7% in 2019.

Most types of acquisitive crime have shown a decrease compared to the period before the Covid-19 lockdown (~2019), both at a national level, and within Fenland. Fenland mostly followed the national trend with regards to the types of acquisitive crime that account for the majority of acquisitive offences, namely "other theft", vehicle offences, and shoplifting offences. Where Fenland has bucked the national trend, is with burglary (larger decrease) and vehicle offences (17% increase in Fenland).

Local data on police recorded cybercrime shows year-on-year increases since 2019. However, this is likely not the complete picture due to underreporting and data availability for scams, fraud and cybercrime at a local level remains limited.

Police recorded violence shows an increase at both a national and local level. Total police recorded violence against the person in Fenland was 33% higher in 2022 when compared to 2019. Across sub-types, Fenland consistently appears to have some of the highest rates of police recorded violence against the person (VAP) in the county and has seen larger increases compared to the pre-Covid-19 lockdown period than national levels of police recorded violence.

Police recorded sexual offences in Fenland are 42% higher in 2022 when compared to 2019, which is above the increases observed nationally and in Cambridgeshire county as a whole. Reporting delays should be considered when interpreting trends as over a fifth of sexual offences recorded by police in Fenland in 2022 had occurred at least one year prior to reporting. For the subset of rape offences, this percentage is higher at 40% (above the percentage seen in national data). An upcoming Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Violence against Women and Girls needs assessment (commissioned by Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP)) may help to understand this in more detail for Fenland.

When comparing to the pre-pandemic period, Fenland has seen an increase in domestic abuse crimes and a contrasting reduction in domestic abuse incidents, reflecting national patterns. The Fenland rate of DA crimes per 1,000 population was 15.3 in 2022, above the overall Cambridgeshire county rate of 10.7. Fenland has consistently had the highest DA crime rate of all Cambridgeshire districts in the last four years.

Across issues relating to exploitation, namely County Lines, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation and Modern Slavery there remains risks in Fenland. These could be better understood locally, and intelligence gaps are likely. Fenland CSP is currently engaged with county level structures and efforts to tackle these high harm issues.

Police recorded ASB has been on a downward trajectory in Fenland in recent years, with the 2022 levels down by over a third on the pre-pandemic year of 2019. Analysis of non-police recorded ASB data and case studies highlighted the wide range of ASB issues within the community and the range of reporting routes available, with not all issues being reported to the police.

Local police recorded crime data shows year-on-year increases in public order offences in Fenland with 906 offences recorded in 2022, up by half (50%) since 2019. Cambridgeshire county saw a slightly lesser increase of 42% in the same timeframe.

Medworth ward accounts for a disproportionately high share of all crime at 16.6%. The next highest total crime shares were seen in March North (8.4%), March East (7.4%), March West (6.8%) and Waterlees Village (6.6%). Where ward level breakdowns of figures were appropriate to include in this assessment (to 2021 ward boundaries), the same wards were repeatedly highlighted across ASB, violence with injury offences, criminal damage offences, public order offences (as well as to a lesser extent deliberate fires).

There remain some data gaps that the partnership should consider how to address in the coming year, as included in the recommendations below.

## 1.1. Recommendations

A full list of recommendations is provided in Appendix G of this document. However, there are key themes that should be considered by the CSP as it sets priorities for the coming year:

1. The CSP should take steps to understand local patterns in **Violence Against the Person** and consider how this can be addressed in the CSP action plan.
2. The CSP should take steps to understand local patterns in Public Order offences and how they can be addressed in the CSP action plan.
3. There are key wards that were repeatedly highlighted in this assessment (namely Medworth, March North, March East, March West). Whilst there has been targeted work in Medworth (and the wider Wisbech area), the partnership should consider ways to understand what is driving issues affecting these particular wards. This will help effectively focus future work in those areas.

In addition, there are data gaps noted within this assessment which, once tackled, represent opportunities to enhance the work of the CSP going forward. These form further recommendations outlined below.

4. Improved recording of items stolen in shoplifting records could help the partnership identify where essential items are being stolen. This may help the partnership address possible unmet need or vulnerabilities due to the cost of living crisis.
5. More Fenland specific information is needed to further understand scams, fraud and cyber crime occurring in the local area. (The data currently available is only available at a higher geographic level).
6. Explore substance misuse activity locally via needle finds and drug paraphernalia find recording that takes place within the district.
7. Work to establish alignment of ASB incident data recording via Police, Fenland District Council Community Safety Team and Housing Providers. This would enable a more complete understanding of ASB issues in the district.
8. The CSP needs to consider what insights can be drawn from local probation services and other key agencies locally regarding re-offending. This will help understand the specific concerns regarding offenders in the local area to help tackle reoffending.



Finally, the partnership should note upcoming analysis and assessments to inform its work in the coming year, as listed below:

- Knife crime profile (Cambs Constabulary) (due to be completed 2023)
- Countywide Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment is due to be published in Spring 2023
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Violence against Women and Girls needs assessment (commissioned by Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) due to be completed 2023)
- Serious Violence Needs Assessment (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough)

## 2. Introduction

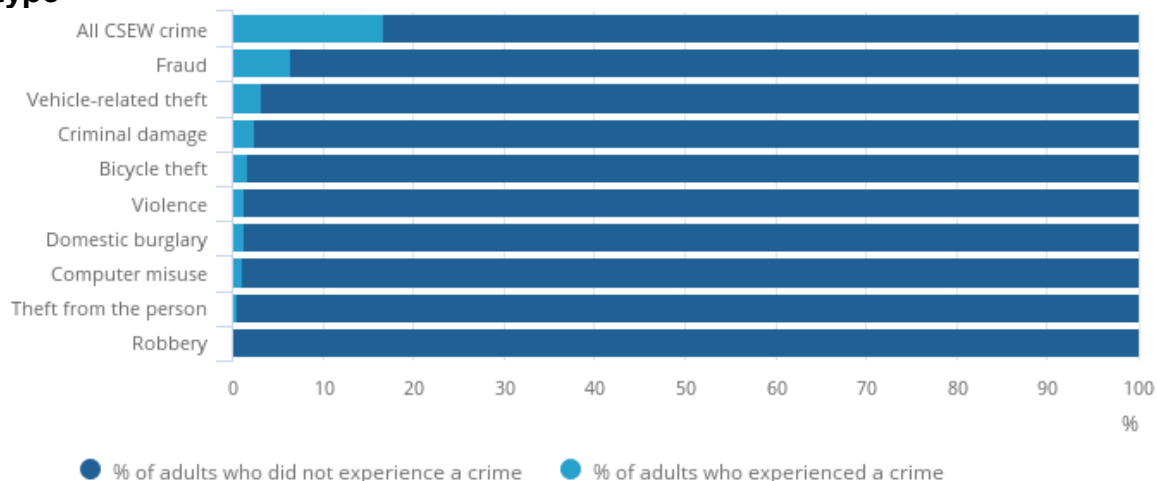
### 2.1. Understanding the Context

#### 2.1.1. National

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

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

**Figure 1: Proportion of adult victims who have experienced a crime, by crime type**



*Source:* Figure 2 in CSEW report for YE September 2022 (Office for National Statistics, 2023b). *Note.* See technical notes in Appendix C.

#### 2.1.2. Countywide

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

- Drug Strategy
- Serious Violence
- Violence Against Women and Girls

- Serious & Organised Crime

Delivery groups and countywide linkages alongside this aim to address other community safety issues. A structure chart for this can be found in the Appendix A of this document.

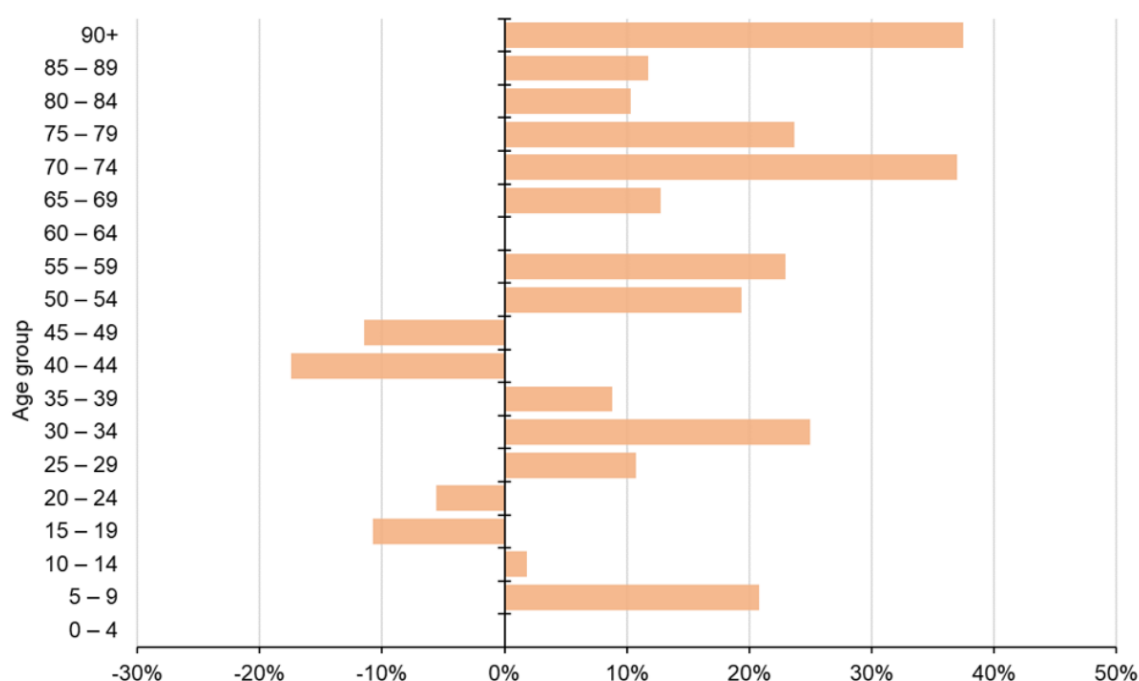
### 2.1.3. Demography Update

#### **Population size and age**

Fenland's population has grown from 95,300 in Census 2011 to 102,500 in Census 2021; an increase of 7.6%. In contrast the increase in population between Census 2001 and 2011 was 14.1%.

The demographics of the Fenland district population are slightly older than the national average. Census 2021 data shows that over 65's account for 22.8% of the population in Fenland, compared to the national average of 18.4%. By broad age group, whilst there has been some increase in the population aged 0 to 19 years, and slightly more so in the population aged 20 to 64 years, the most substantial increase has been in the population aged 65 years and over. The more detailed age breakdown shows particularly high percentage growth for the population aged 90 and over (37.5%), and 70-74 years (37.0%). There has been growth in the population aged 5-9 years (20.8%) and 10-14 years (1.8%), but no change in those aged 0-4, and decreases in those aged 15 to 19 (-10.7%). The biggest percentage decrease was in the population aged 40-44 years (-17.4%) (See Figure 2) (Office for National Statistics, 2022b).

**Figure 2: Percentage change in Fenland population from Census 2011 to 2021 by age group**



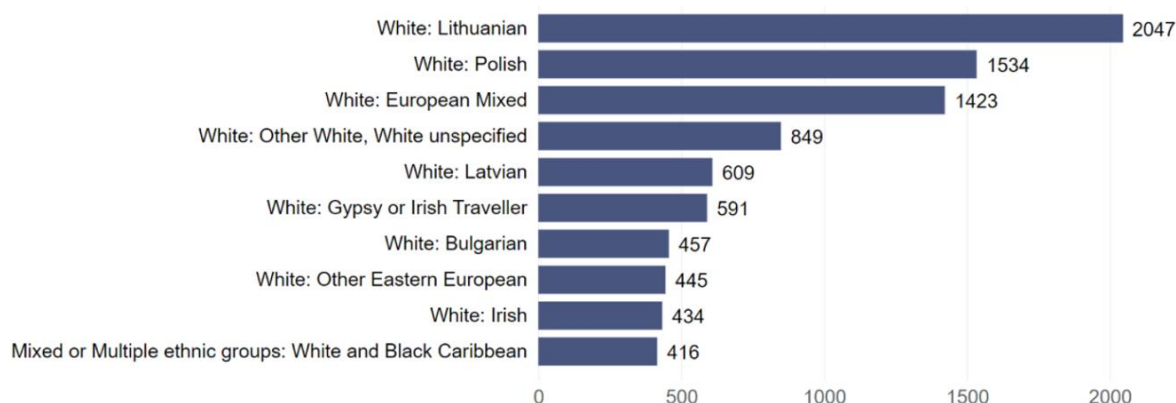
Source: Office for National Statistics (2022b)

### **Ethnicity, language, and religion**

Fenland remains less ethnically diverse than Cambridgeshire but more so than 10 years ago. The proportion of the population identifying as White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, or British has reduced from 90.4% at Census 2011 to 85.9% at Census 2021. Compared to Cambridgeshire (77.2%) and England (73.5%) Census 2021 average for this ethnic group (Cambridgeshire Insight, 2022a).

In Census 2021, the most common ethnic groups in Fenland after white English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, or British were White: Lithuanian; White Polish; and White European Mixed (see Figure 3) (Cambridgeshire Insight, 2022a).

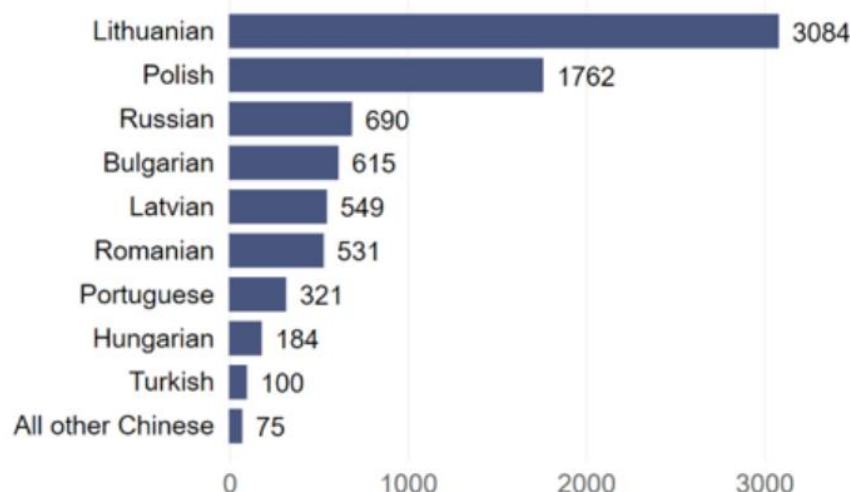
**Figure 3: Top 10 ethnic groups in Fenland by population Census 2021, excluding White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, or British**



Source: Cambridgeshire Insight (2022a)

There was a small change in the percentage of households in which no one had English as a main language (increase from 3.8% in 2011 to 5.6% in 2021). The most common languages (after English) by number of residents aged 3 years and over in the latest census were Lithuanian (which moved from second place in 2011 to first place) and Polish (which moved from first place to second place). The top 10 languages in Census 2021 are shown in Figure 4 (Cambridgeshire Insight, 2022a).

**Figure 4: Census 2021 top 10 main languages in Fenland excluding English**



Source: Cambridgeshire Insight (2022a)

In line with the national trend fewer people identified as Christian than in 2011 and the largest increase was those that stated they had no religion (Cambridgeshire Insight, 2022a).

## **Socioeconomic status and economic activity**

The latest census indicated that Fenland has a higher proportion of people in lower socioeconomic status positions than other Cambridgeshire districts, and the national average. Fenland had a higher percentage of people who were long term unemployed than other districts in Cambridgeshire, although it was only marginally higher than the national average. Fenland had a larger percentage of people in routine and semi-routine occupations compared to other Cambridgeshire districts and the national average. Additionally, Fenland had a lower percentage of people in lower and higher managerial, administrative, and professional occupations. However, the majority of economic inactivity in Fenland was due to retirement at 63%, down from 67.5% in 2011; this is higher than the national percentage of 54.9% (Cambridgeshire Insight, 2022b).

## **Disability**

A fifth (20.3%) of Fenland residents that responded to Census 2021 reported being disabled under the Equality Act. This was the highest of any Cambridgeshire districts (Cambridgeshire average 16.2%) and higher than both the East of England proportion at 16.6%, and the national figure of 17.3% (Cambridgeshire Insight, 2023).

### **2.1.4. Economic Context**

2022 was unprecedented for UK living standards and those on low income due to record level inflation. The Resolution Foundation reports that inflation reached its highest level in 41 years to 11% in October 2022. It has since fallen to 9.2% in January 2023. Indicators such as this alongside the recent fall in wholesale energy prices suggest we could be over the worst. However, the outlook is still very much uncertain due to volatility in the markets and the Ukrainian crisis. In the medium term, the cost of living crisis unfortunately shows few signs of slowing down any time soon even with inflation peaking.

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

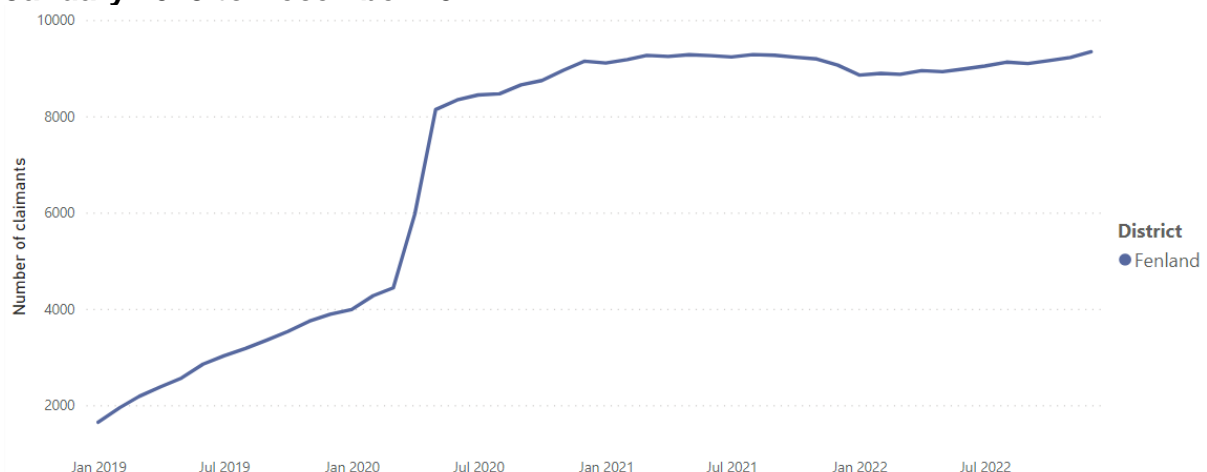
- Food inflation - inputs into the production of food, drinks and tobacco increased by 19.8% in the 12 months to January 2023 (Office for National Statistics, 2023d).
- Wages and benefits are rising slower than inflation with real term wage growth adjusted to inflation falling. Real wage growth is not expected to return until the end of 2027 (Resolution Foundation, 2023).
- Fuel prices: petrol and diesel prices have continuously fallen since record highs in July 2022. However, prices are still higher than seen in 2021.

- Mortgage interest rates have continued to rise resulting in higher mortgage repayments and the fall in house prices (Office for National Statistics, 2023c).
- Annual change in gross weekly pay decreased by 8% in 2022 (Office for National Statistics, 2022a).
- Monthly universal claimants in Fenland have increased by 5.5% from 8,857 in January 2022 to 9,341 in December 2022 (see Figure 5).
- Total number of food parcels distributed by the Trussell trust food bank in the 2022 financial year fell by 25.17% (The Trussell Trust, 2022).
- Private monthly rents for Fenland increased by 2.96% in the year ending September 2022 (Office for National Statistics, 2022h).

For Fenland district, all of the above takes place in the context of having some of the most relatively deprived areas within Cambridgeshire (and nationally) prior to the cost of living crisis (as highlighted by both the 2015 and 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation) (Cambridgeshire Insight, 2019a; 2019b). In terms of community safety, economic hardship and deprivation are acknowledged as increasing the likelihood of victimisation as well as exploitation.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) reports that household disposal income will fall by 4.3% in 2022/23, the largest fall in a single year since records began in 1956 (OBR, 2022). Some government support has been announced which aims to minimise the impacts. This includes a household boost to assist with energy bills and a cost of living package which included the energy price guarantee. However, even with the support, the continuing impact of the cost of living crisis will place significant pressures on living standards and lower-income households throughout 2023.

**Figure 5: Trend in the monthly count of universal claimants in Fenland from January 2019 to December 2022**



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

### 3. Overview of CSP Activities

The current Strategic Priorities for Fenland CSP are as follows.

- Keeping communities safe.
- Putting communities first.
- Crime prevention.

Community engagement forms a regular part of the CSP's activity. In 2022/23 this has included in person community engagement sessions at different locations in the district, including more rural areas (details of which are outlined in the action plan, Appendix C).

Community issues disclosed via this engagement have included:

- Highway matters (subsequently reported to CCC by FDC officers).
- Drug concerns/ activity.
- Speeding.
- Use of E-Scooters.
- Rubbish and unkept properties.
- Noise disturbances.
- Planning regulations.
- Hare coursing.
- Dog fouling.
- Parking issues.

An online survey has been carried out at regular intervals to provide an opportunity to highlight concerns of those living in (and visiting) Fenland in relation to crime or disorder in the area. A recurrent theme was respondents feeling less safe in Wisbech. The CSP agreed to set up a working group called Safer Wisbech in response to this as well as further survey work carried out within Wisbech specifically.

A successful bid for input from the Safer Streets Fund (a central government fund for interventions aimed at tackling neighbourhood crime, anti-social behaviour and VAWG, improving the safety of public spaces) took place in 2022. This has enabled additional work within the Wisbech area, operating in parallel to the Safer Wisbech working group.

In November 2022 a ASB Coordinator was recruited; this post is funded by the Central Government grant from Safer Streets 4. This post will encompass engagement work and links with Wisbech Neighbourhood Policing Team and the FDC Community Safety team to monitor and identify emerging perpetrators, trends etc.



An update to the CSP action plan has been included in Appendix C of this document with further details of CSP activity.

In brief it should be noted that the following issues have been targeted by the current CSP action plan:

- Domestic Abuse.
- Community Engagement.
- Hate Crime.
- Prevent.
- Scams and Cyber Crime.
- Safer Wisbech (now a working group as outlined above).
- Child Criminal Exploitation (Support the preventative work within the County CCE Board delivery plan 22/23).
- Shoplifting.
- Safer Streets 4.

The regular online community safety survey run by the CSP has recently closed (in March 2023) and results are due to be shared shortly.

## 4. Crime Overview

Fenland had the second highest overall crime rate of the Cambridgeshire districts in 2022, at 80.7 offences per 1,000 population.

**Table 1: Total police recorded crime rate per 1,000 population, by district, 2022**

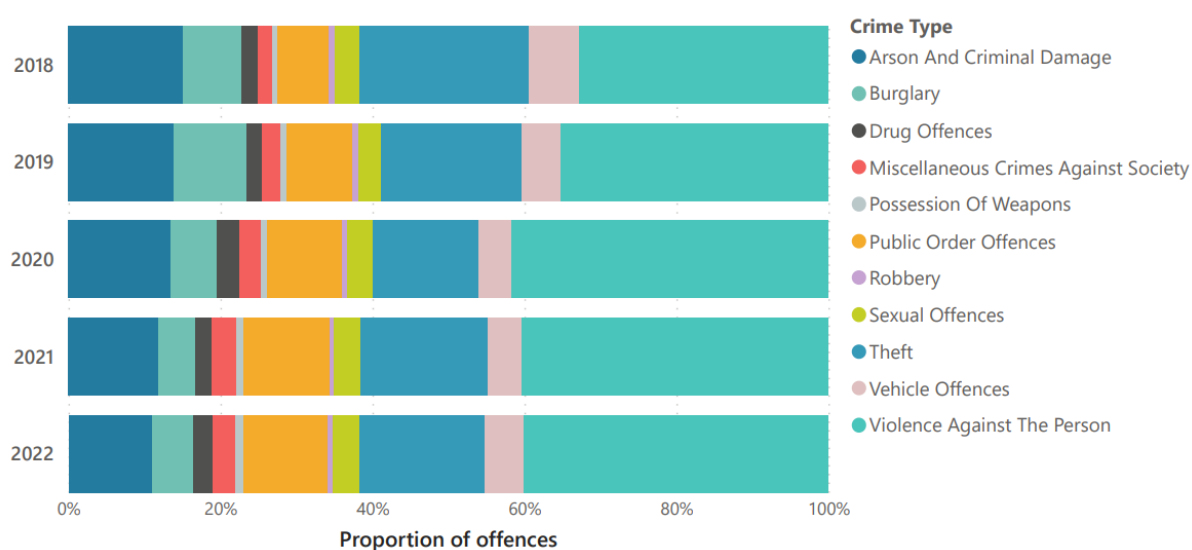
District	Total crime rate per 1,000 population
Cambridge	97.6
<b>Fenland</b>	<b>80.7</b>
Huntingdonshire	59.0
East Cambridgeshire	49.1
South Cambridgeshire	47.1

Total recorded crime increased slightly in 2022, up 3% on the previous year. Looking at monthly offence counts for the last three years shows that, in line with national data, offence levels in Fenland were depressed during periods of national lockdowns. Offence counts then increased between April – July 2021 following the easing of restrictions. In 2022 offence levels have stabilised above pre-pandemic levels, with the total offence count for 2022 17% higher than 2019.

Figure 6 below shows longer-term patterns in the crime type breakdown in Fenland going back to 2018. This illustrates a shift, with increases in violence against the person and public order and reductions in theft and arson & criminal damage.

The share of all crime accounted for by violence against the person increased to 40% in 2022 up from 33% in 2018. Public order saw steady increases accounting for 11% of all crime in 2022, up from 7% in 2019. The proportion of theft offences reduced from 22% in 2019 to 16% in 2022. Arson & criminal damage saw a slightly lesser decrease from 15% in 2022 to 11% in 2022.

**Figure 6: Proportion of offences in Fenland by crime type, 2018 to 2022**



Police recorded offences in 2022 were also mapped to Fenland wards. This highlights that Medworth ward accounts for a disproportionately high share off all crime at 16.6%. The next highest total crime shares were seen in March North (8.4%), March East (7.4%), March West (6.8%) and Waterlees Village (6.6%). (A full table of offence counts by ward is included in Appendix B).

## 5. Acquisitive Crime

### 5.1. Summary and Recommendations

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

Where Fenland has bucked the national trend, is with burglary and vehicle offences.

At a national level the share of acquisitive offences accounted for by burglary decreased only slightly since the period before the covid-19 lockdown (~2019), but Fenland saw a larger decrease in the share accounted for by burglary; driven by a larger percentage decrease in residential burglary offences in Fenland.

Whereas vehicle offences decreased at a national level, vehicle offences within Fenland saw an increase of 17.6%. Catalytic converter theft, which has known links with serious organised acquisitive crime, has been increasing across all districts in Cambridgeshire between 2019 and 2022. Due to initial low numbers of catalytic

converter thefts in Fenland, Fenland saw the largest percentage increase in Cambridgeshire. Despite this increase, the number of catalytic converter thefts in Fenland remains lower than the other districts.

Other theft offences in Fenland in 2022 were 17.1% higher than 2019, in contrast to the slight decrease seen in police recorded other thefts at the national level. Despite this increase, the rate for Fenland (at 7.7 per 1000 population) remains slightly lower than the national rate of 8.1 per 1000 population.

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

- Impact of covid-19 – medium and longer term impacts are not yet fully understood.
- Changes in work pattern - For some sectors of employment there has been a substantial increase in hybrid or homeworking. In line with the national trend (albeit to a lesser degree), Census 2021 indicated that Fenland saw a 15 point increase in the percentage of people homeworking since Census 2011 (Cambridgeshire Insight, n.d.).
- Cost of living crisis – Increased costs associated with fuel (domestic and commercial), food, utilities and clothing have resulted in pressures on families across the country.

What is currently unclear is the duration or extent of these impacts locally. Further research would be needed to determine the extent to which above factors are linked with the decrease in residential burglary, the increase in vehicle crime, or the increase in other theft. As detailed in the introduction, data suggests that deprivation may be increasing in Fenland; for example, the spike in benefits claimants from March 2020 in Fenland (see Figure 5), and the decrease in weekly pay. This is pertinent to community safety as socio-economic variables such as deprivation and inequality have been linked to levels of criminal behaviour (Krohn, 1976; Mishra & Novakowski, 2016; Rufranco, et al., 2013)

Shoplifting has featured as a key topic within the partnership action plan in the most recent year. Specific analysis of shoplifting led to information being provided to inform work, including retailer engagement. This research has identified a need for improved reporting and recording of items stolen in order to better understand the issue.

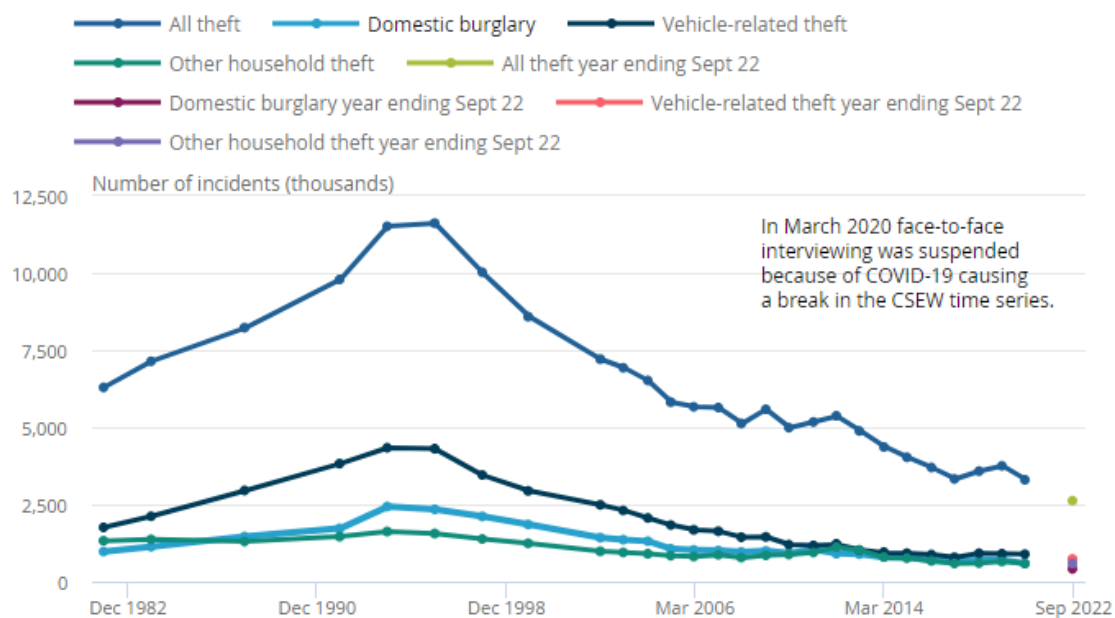
**Recommendation: In the context of the factors influencing acquisitive crime outlined above, finding a way to improve recording of items stolen in shoplifting offences could help the partnership identify where essential items are being stolen. This may help the partnership address possible unmet need or vulnerabilities due to the cost of living crisis.**

## 5.2. National Context

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

The data for the CSEW for the year ending (YE) September 2022, indicated that there was a statistically significant decrease in theft of 20% compared to pre-covid-19 pandemic levels (for the YE March 2020) This decrease was reflected across most sub-types. These decreases follow long terms trends seen in theft offences as recorded by the CSEW (see Figure 7)

**Figure 7: CSEW 2022 annual estimates for England and Wales showing long term reduction in theft offences**



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

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

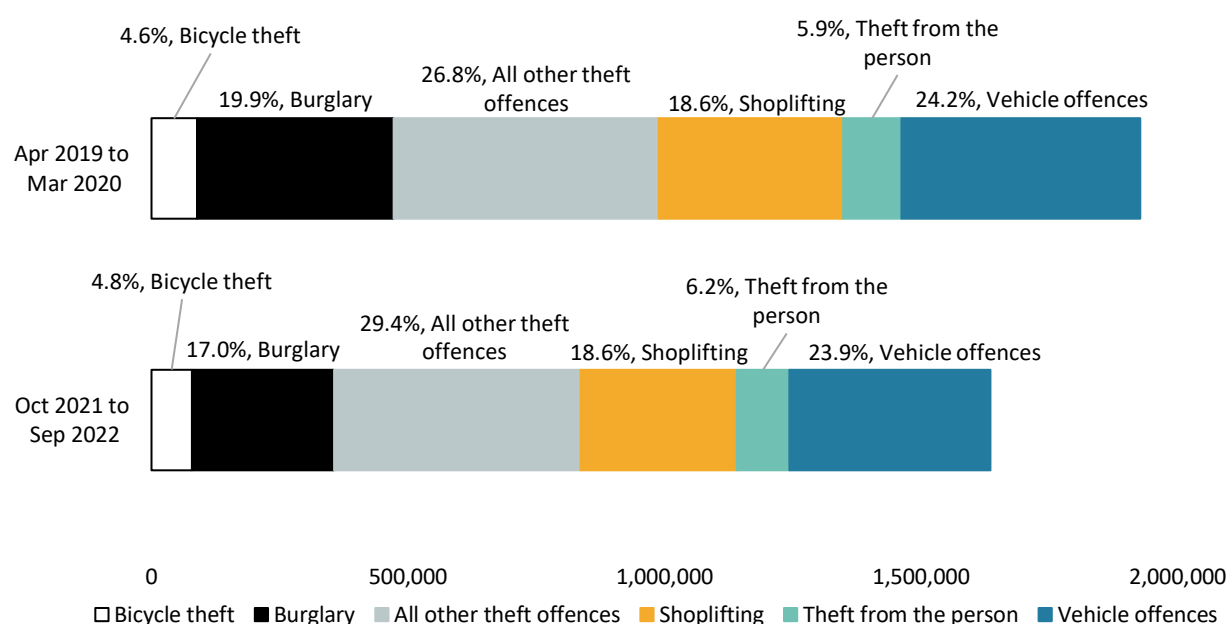
Following the national reductions seen during the pandemic (Office for National Statistics, 2022e), police recorded acquisitive crime has increased since restrictions related to the third national lockdown were lifted (Office for National Statistics, 2023b). A 20% national increase in acquisitive crime was seen for the year ending

(YE) September 2022 (1.4 million offences) compared to the YE September 2021 (1.6 million offences).

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

The proportions of each acquisitive offence type stayed relatively similar from YE March 2020 to YE September 2022 (see Figure 8). The biggest change was a minor decrease in the share accounted for by burglary, from 19.9% to 17% (with a decrease in number of 27.8%), followed by “all other offences” for which the share increased from 26.8% to 29.4% (with a decrease in number of 6.8%) (Office for National Statistics, 2023a). The categories that accounted for the majority of acquisitive offences in 2019 and 2022 were “all other theft”; vehicle offences; shoplifting and burglary.

**Figure 8: Share of theft offences subtypes for national police recorded acquisitive offences for the years ending March 2020 and September 2022**



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

### 5.3. Fenland Theft Offences

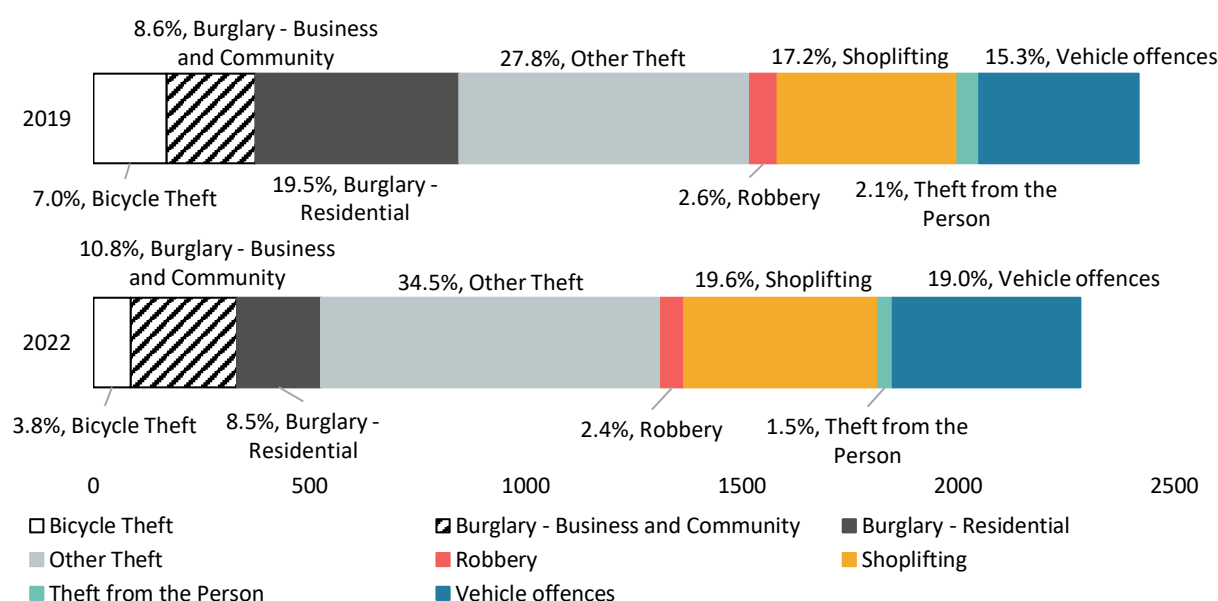
The overall number of acquisitive offences decreased between 2019 and 2022 by 5.6%. In 2019, the categories that accounted for the largest share of acquisitive

offences in Fenland were “other theft”, with 27.8%, residential burglary with 19.5%, and shoplifting with 17.2%. Between 2019 and 2022:

- The share of vehicle offences increased to 19%, and increased in number by 17.6% (+65 offences).
- The share of “other theft” offences increased to 34.5%, and increased in number by 17.1% (+115 offences).
- The share of residential burglary showed a large decrease from 19.5% of acquisitive offences in 2019 to 8.5% in 2022, and decreased in number by 58.8% (-277 offences).
- Theft from the person decreased from 2.1% of acquisitive offences to 1.5%, and decreased in number by a third (-17 offences).
- The share of shoplifting increased to 19.6%, and increased in number by 7.7% (+32 offences). A deep dive report into shoplifting in Fenland has already investigated this topic in depth.

These changes meant that the categories with the largest share of acquisitive offences in 2022 changed to “other theft”, shoplifting, and vehicle offences. This contrasts the national figures that saw relatively similar distributions of offences in 2019 and 222, although the largest categories were similar to that of Fenland, of “other theft”, vehicle offences, shoplifting, and burglary (a category including both residential and non-residential burglaries).

**Figure 9: Share of acquisitive crime sub-type in Fenland for 2019 and 2022**



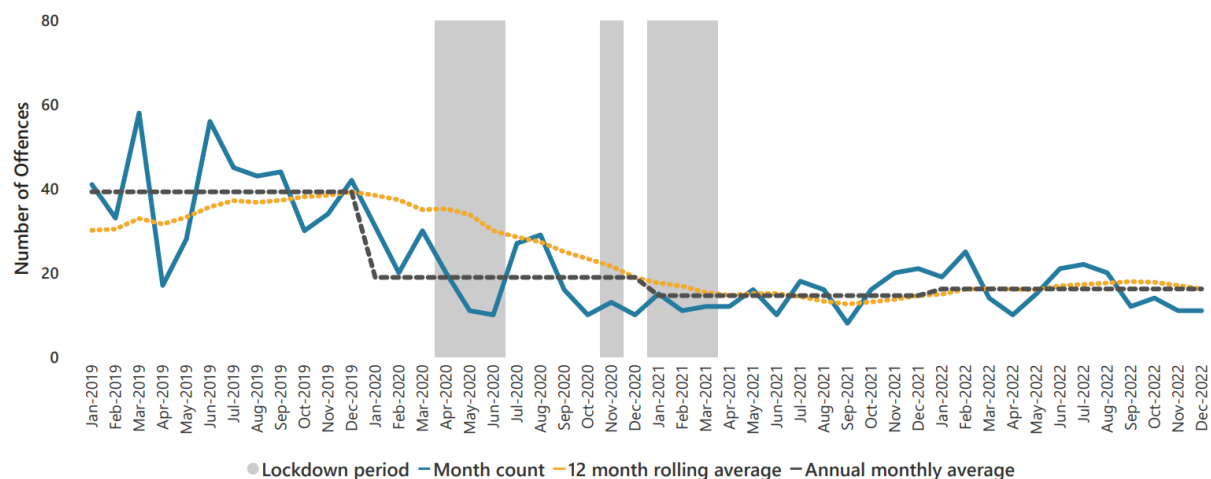
## 5.4. Residential Burglary

When considering changes in number of burglaries in Fenland, it should be noted that Fenland saw an increase in the number of households of 8.6% from 2011 to 2021, close to the East of England increase of 8.5%, but higher than the national increase of 6.2%.

The national count of police recorded residential burglary decreased by 28.5% between YE March 2020 to the YE September 2022 (Office for National Statistics, 2023a). As shown in Figure 10, the count of residential burglary offences in Fenland has shown a yearly decrease since 2019, with a decrease of 58.8% (-277 offences) from 2019 to 2022.

The rate of residential burglary offences in Fenland in 2022 (YE December) of 4.4 per 1000 households is lower than the national rate (YE September) of 6.1 per 1000 households.

**Figure 10: Trend in residential burglary offences in Fenland from January 2019 to December 2022**

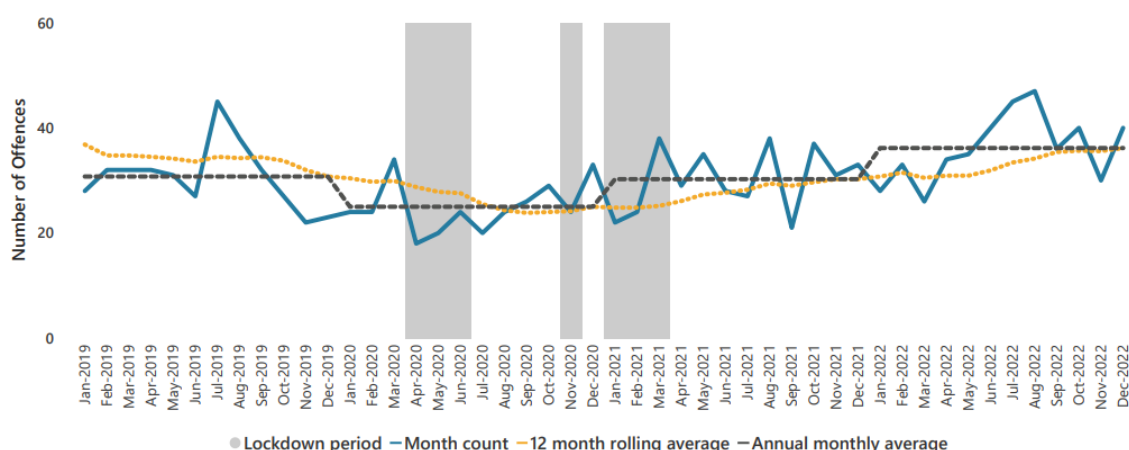


## 5.5. Vehicle Crime

The national count of police recorded vehicle offences decreased by 16.1% from YE March 2020 to YE September 2022 (Office for National Statistics, 2023b). However, as shown Figure 11, after an initial decrease in 2020, vehicle crime in Fenland then increased in 2021 and again in 2022, surpassing the levels seen in 2019. The number of vehicle crime offences in 2022 was 17.6% (+65 offences) higher than in 2019. The rate of vehicle offences in 2022 in Fenland (YE December) was 4.2 per 1000 population; lower than the national rate (YE September) of 6.6 per 1000 population (Office for National Statistics, 2023a).

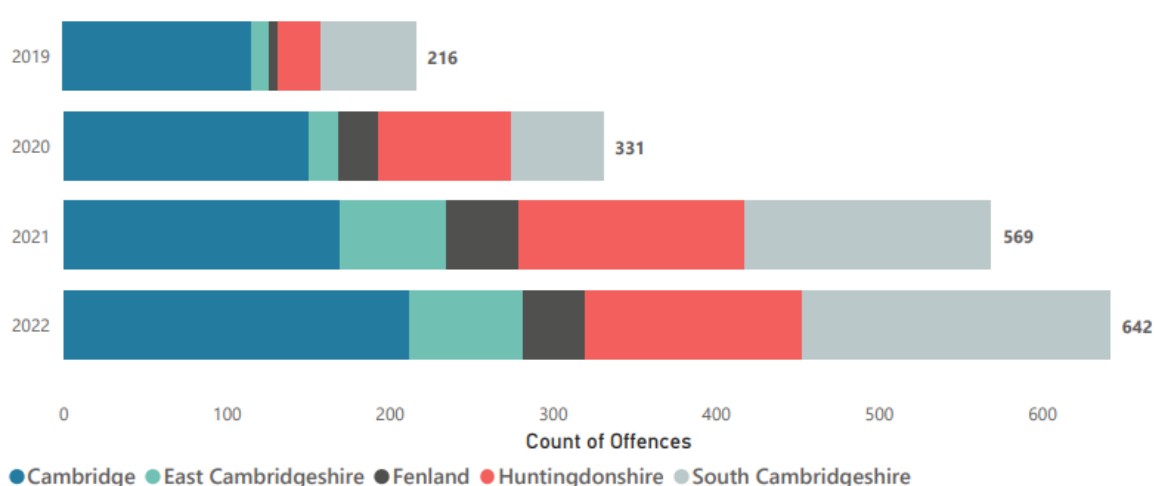


**Figure 11: Monthly trend in vehicle offences in Fenland from January 2019 to December 2022**



In-line with this overall increase in vehicle crime, as shown in Figure 12 and Table 8, catalytic converter theft has been increasing between 2019 and 2022. This increase is reflected across all districts within Cambridgeshire, with an overall increase of 197% from 2019 to 2022. Catalytic converter theft has acknowledged links to Serious Organised acquisitive crime affecting Cambridgeshire as a whole. Due to an initially very low number of offences in 2019, Fenland saw an increase of 660%, from 5 offences in 2019 to 38 in 2022. Fenland saw the largest % increase compared to other districts in the county, but accounts for the lowest number of offences, accounting for 5.9% of offences in 2022 (see Table 8 in Appendix D for a full breakdown of figures from 2019 to 2022 across districts).

**Figure 12: Trend and share of catalytic converter theft from 2019 to 2022 in Cambridgeshire districts**



## 5.6. Other Theft

The national count of police recorded “all other theft” offences showed a slight decrease 6.8% from YE March 2020 to YE September 2022 (Office for National Statistics, 2023b). Contrary to the national decrease, Fenland saw an overall increase between 2019 and 2022 of 17.1% (+115 offences). After an initial decrease in 2020, “other theft” offences increased in Fenland in 2021 and again in 2022; with an increase from 2019 to 2022 of 17.1% (+115 offences) (see Figure 57, Appendix E). The rate of “other theft” offences in 2022 in Fenland (YE December) was 7.7 per 1000 population; close to the national rate (YE September) of 8.1 per 1000 population.

## 6. Scams, Fraud and Cyber Crime

### 6.1. Summary and Recommendations

The true scale of scams and fraud carried out either online or in person is not known. This area has substantial underreporting locally and nationally. Local data on police recorded cybercrime shows year-on-year increases since 2019.

Offenders adapt their methods quickly as demonstrated by the scams carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fenland CSP has included cyber crime awareness as a specific element of the current action plan. This has featured in community engagement events and events aimed at professionals working in Fenland.

**Recommendation: This section of the assessment acknowledges there are data gaps in terms of more localised information. More Fenland specific information that is needed to further understand scams, fraud and cyber crime occurring in the local area.**

### 6.2. National Context

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

changing landscape is likely to make fraud, scams, and cybercrime an emerging/growing threat. Factors to be considered include:

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

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

"The effect of fraud on the UK is still huge, and the chance of becoming a victim of it is still far too high. It causes misery to victims, individuals, and businesses, and damages the national economy. It is estimated to be the type of crime that has the highest number of incidents committed in England and Wales. Adults are still more likely to be a victim of fraud than any other crime." (HMICFRS, 2021).

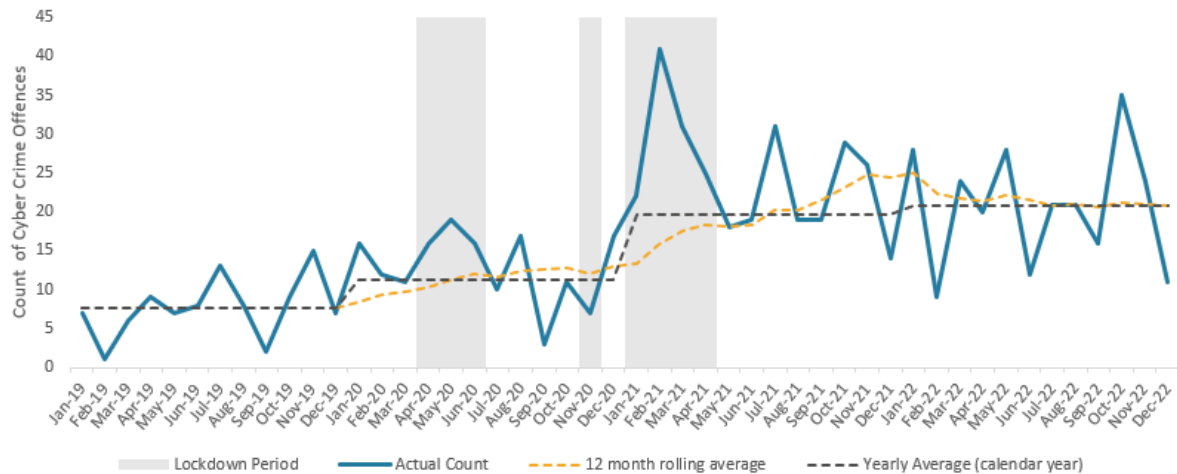
The CSEW showed that nationally there was a marked increase in fraud, scams, and cybercrime during the Covid-19 pandemic. Estimates for the year ending (YE) June 2022 showed levels had returned to pre-pandemic levels, indicating that these increases were specifically linked to the pandemic rather than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

### 6.3. Local Known Offences

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

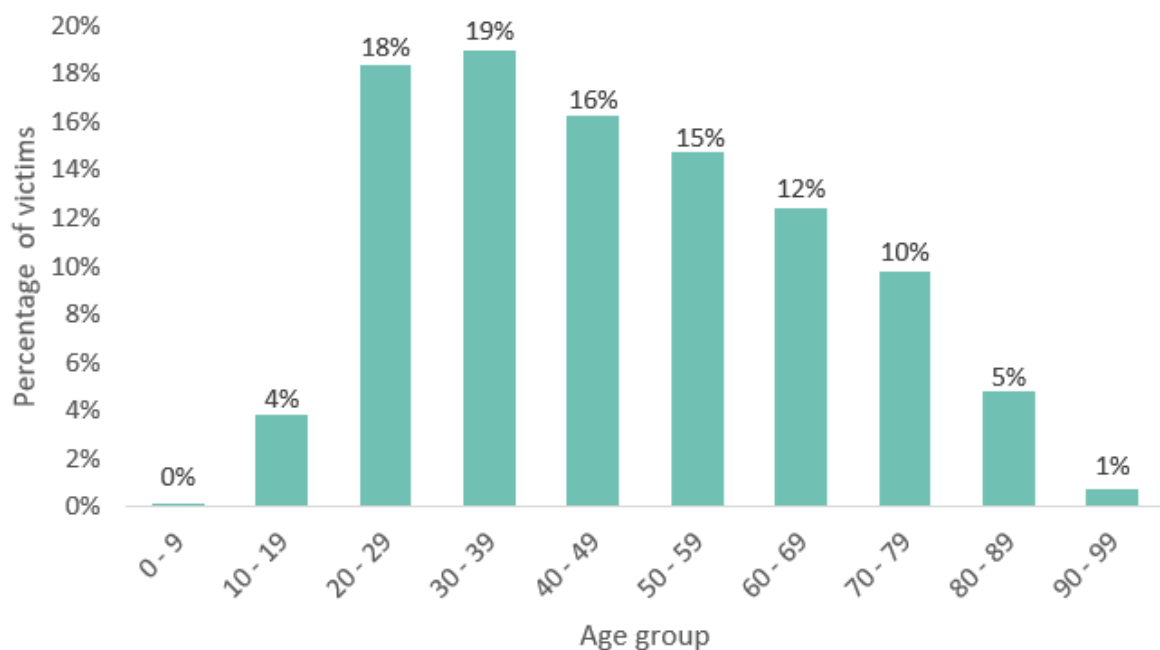
Police recorded cybercrime offences in Fenland have seen yearly increases since 2019; with the local count increasing from 92 in 2019 to 249 in 2022 (up 171%). The monthly and annual trend from 2019 to 2022 is shown in Figure 13. The numbers provided here are likely to also be impacted by underreporting and the true number of victims far higher.

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



Action fraud figures for the Cambridgeshire Constabulary area (district level data is not available) provides a breakdown of the demographics of individuals reporting fraud and cybercrime offences as shown below (Action Fraud, 2022). The majority of victims were age 20-69, however the gender of victims (where known) was relatively equally split. 51% of victims did not request support when they reported the fraud.

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



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

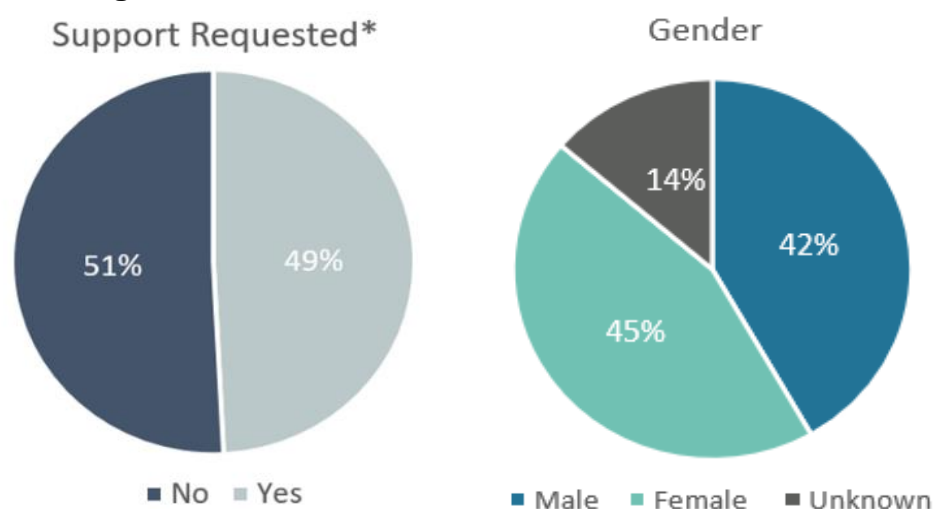


Figure 16 below also shows the grouped crime codes according to the type of fraud committed. This is to give an indication of the kind of crimes the victims have experienced; consumer fraud is a key crime group according to this data.

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



## 7. Violence

### 7.1. Summary and Recommendations

Police recorded violence shows an increase at both a national and local level. Total police recorded violence against the person in Fenland was 33% higher in 2022 when compared to 2019.

Across sub-types, Fenland consistently appears to have some of the highest rates of police recorded violence against the person (VAP) in the county and has seen larger increases compared to the pre-Covid-19 lockdown period than national levels of police recorded violence. Nonetheless, most types of VAP in Fenland have lower rates than national rates, with the exception of violence without injury, which is higher. **The partnership will need more information to understand and respond to the increases in Violence Against the Person seen locally.**

The rate of stalking and harassment offences in Fenland is the highest Cambridgeshire at 9.9 per 1000 population, but is lower than the national average of 12.1 per 1000 population. This is distinct for Fenland, but more information would be needed to understand what is driving this.

The police recorded violence with injury rate for Fenland is the highest in the county with 7.5 per 1000 population, but is lower than the national rate of 9.7 per 1000 population.

**Violence with injury data from Emergency Departments and healthcare providers covering the Fenland area is not currently available for analysis. This remains a data gap for the Fenland area. It is recommended that this data gap is addressed, which may be feasible via the Serious Violence work taking place at a county level.**

2022 saw a lower total volume of crime with a knife/ sharp instrument marker in Fenland (also a marginally lower percentage of total crime at 1.7% compared to 2.1% in the previous year). It should be noted that police activity can influence knife crime figures, for example, recording of possession offences resulting from police activity to tackle knife crime. CSP activity in relation to knife crime (i.e. sessions in schools) **could provide valuable insights to the partnership on this issue. It is recommended that this is reflected upon alongside an upcoming knife crime profile planned by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.**

Police recorded sexual offences in Fenland are 42% higher in 2022 when compared to 2019, which is above the increases observed nationally and in Cambridgeshire county as a whole. Increased reporting and improved police recording have likely

played a role in the increases, however, the extent to which a real-terms increase in victimisation may form part of the increase recently is currently unclear. Reporting delays should be considered when interpreting trends as over a fifth of sexual offences recorded by police in Fenland in 2022 had occurred at least one year prior to reporting. For the subset of rape offences, this percentage is higher at 40%, above the percentage seen in national data.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) is due to complete a needs assessment in 2023. **It is recommended that the CSP should utilise this assessment to gain a more detailed understanding of sexual offences within Fenland.**

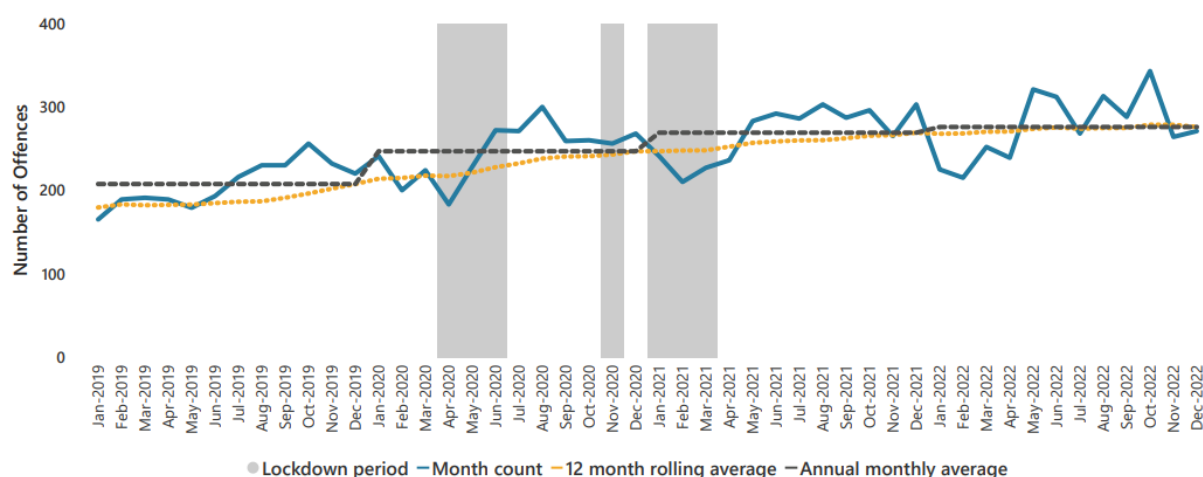
Finally it is worth noting the cost of living crisis as detailed in the introduction, and the indication from benefits data (see Figure 5) that levels of deprivation may be increasing. Socioeconomic variables such as deprivation and inequality have known links with higher levels of recorded criminal behaviour, and interpersonal violence (Daly, et al., 2001; Kelly, 2000; Krohn, 1976; Mishra & Novakowski, 2016; Reilly, et al., 2023).

## 7.2. Trends in Fenland

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

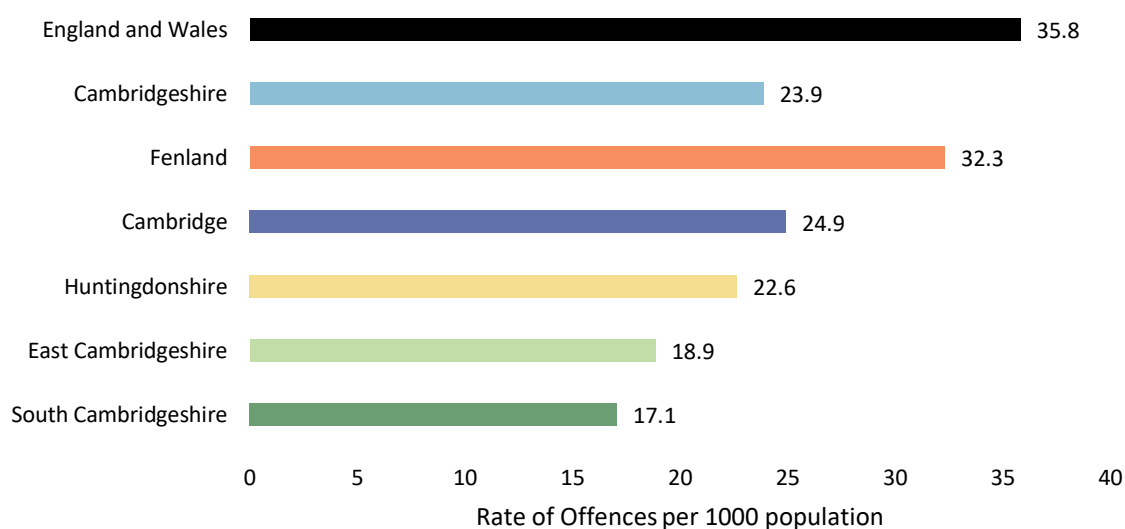
The CSEW data is not available at district level so it is not possible to test whether the national trend is also seen locally. Fenland saw a larger increase in police recorded VAP of 33% between 2019 and 2022, with peaks occurring shortly after the first and third national lockdown.

**Figure 17: Trend in Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences in Fenland from January 2019 to December 2022**



As shown in Figure 18, the rate of VAP offences in Fenland has the highest district rate in the county at 32.3 per 1000 population. However, despite the large percentage increase in Fenland, and high rate compared to other Cambridgeshire districts, the rate is lower than the national rate of 35.8 per 1000 population.

**Figure 18: Rate of Violence Against the Person (VAP) in Fenland compared to district, county and national rates**



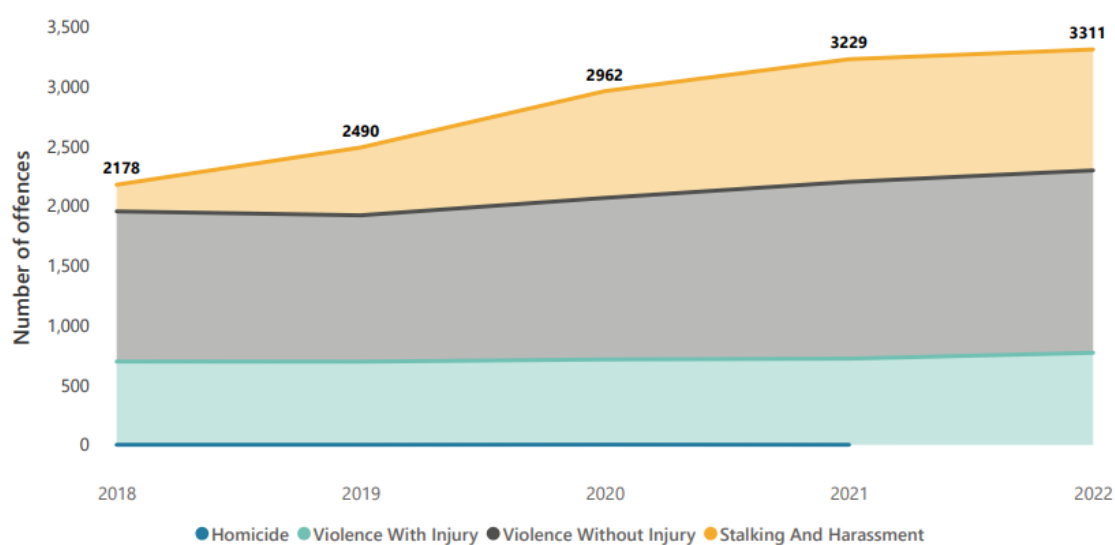
### 7.3. Fenland Violent Crime Types

The VAP crime group is broken down into 4 crime sub-types: homicide, violence with injury, violence without injury, and stalking and harassment. As shown in Figure 19, the biggest change was in stalking and harassment. The share of stalking and harassment offences took a sharp increase between 2018 and 2020. The share of offences across crime types stayed relatively stable between 2020 and 2022.



Violence without injury accounted for the largest proportion of VAP offences in both 2019 and 2022. Homicide offences are rare, with only 1 offence seen in 2018, 2019, and 2021, and 2 offences in 2020. No homicide offences were recorded in 2022. Domestic homicides in the district are specifically covered within the Domestic Abuse section of this report.

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



## 7.4. Stalking and Harassment

### 7.4.1. National Context

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

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

Estimates from the CSEW for 2022 (YE September) indicated that 11% of adults (age 16+) had experienced harassment within the last 12 months. More women than men report experiencing harassment within the last 12 months, (i.e. 21% women

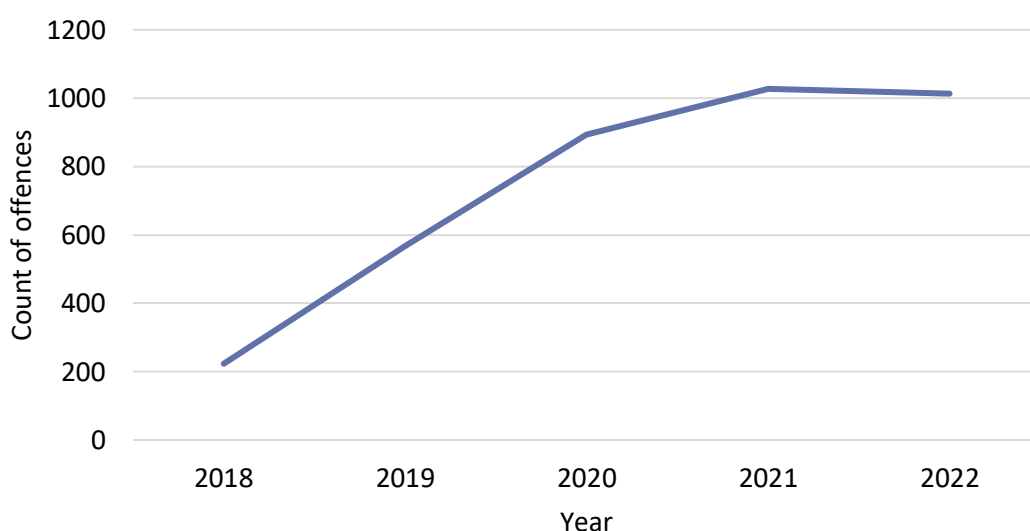
compared to 13% of men). With the largest difference in being in experiences of sexual harassment; with 15% of women experiencing sexual harassment within the last 6 months, compared to 4% of men (Office for National Statistics, 2023b).

### 7.4.2. Fenland Stalking and Harassment

In Fenland, VAP offences rose dramatically between 2018 and 2021, but staying relatively stable in 2022 showing a marginal decrease).

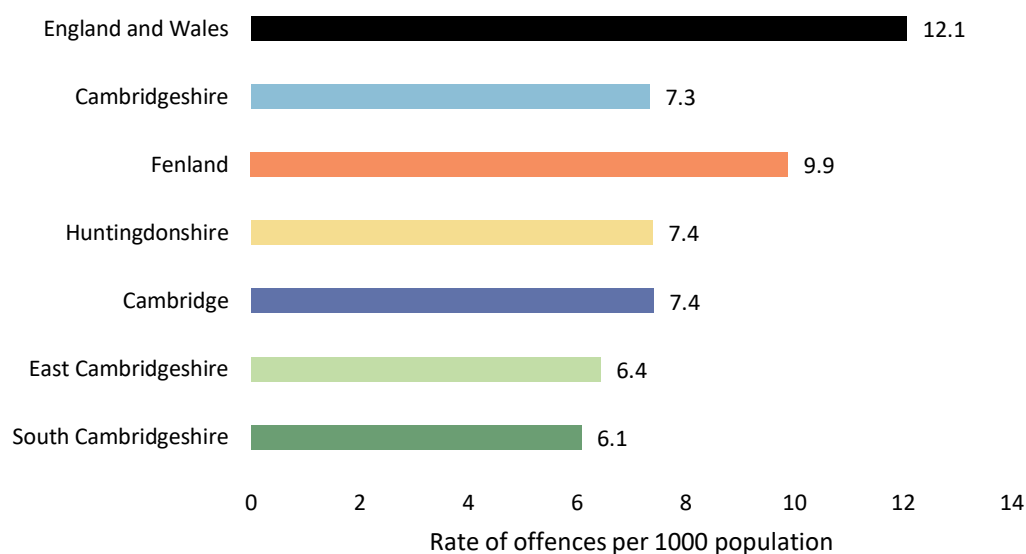
Between 2019 and 2022 (YE December), the count of stalking and harassment offences increased by 78.3% (from 568 to 1013), higher than the Cambridgeshire increase of 69.4%, and the national increase of 45%. This increase was reflected in the share of VAP offences accounted for by stalking and harassment, which increased from 10.2% of VAP offences in 2018, to almost a third (at 30.6%) in 2022.

**Figure 20: Trend in stalking and harassment offences in Fenland from 2018 to 2022**



The rate of stalking and harassment offences in Fenland is the highest in the county and 9.9 per 1000 population, but is lower than the national average of 12.1 per 1000 population (Office for National Statistics, 2023a) (see 21 below). This is distinct for Fenland, but more information would be needed to understand what is driving this.

**Figure 21: Rates of police recorded stalking and harassment in Fenland compared with National, county and district rates**

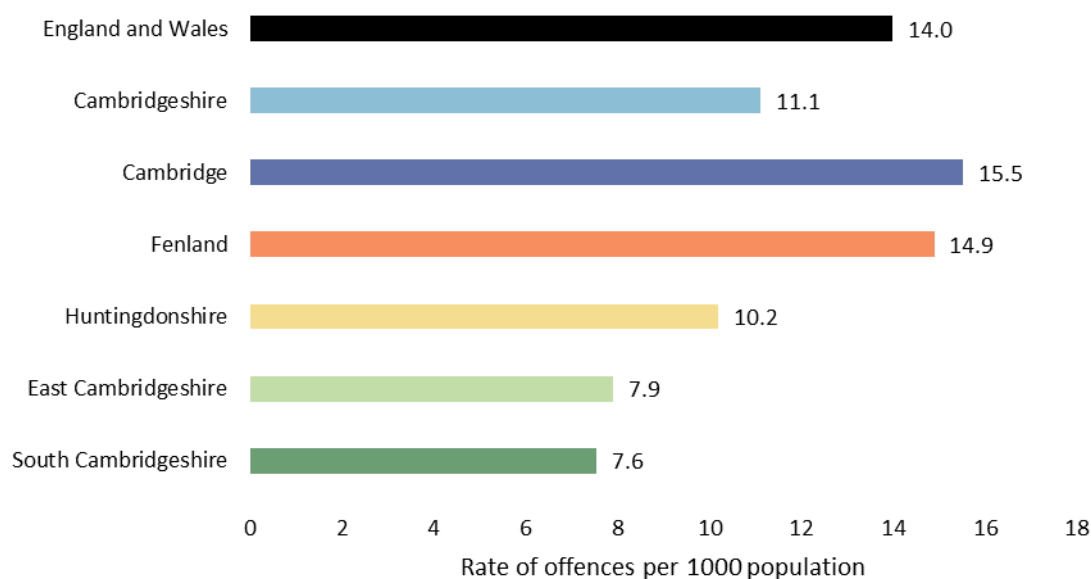


## 7.5. Violence Without Injury

Violence without injury accounted for the largest share of VAP offences in Fenland in both 2019 (with 49.2%) and 2022 (with 46.1%), and increased in number between 2019 and 2022 (YE December) by 24.7% (from 1225, to 1527, +302 offences). This increase was higher than the national increase of 14.2%, and was the largest percentage increase seen amongst the Cambridgeshire districts.

The rate of police recorded violence without injury in Fenland of 14.9 per 1000 population is the second highest district rate in Cambridgeshire, and is higher than the national rate of 14.0 per 1000 population (see Figure 22).

**Figure 22: Rate of police recorded Violence Without Injury Offences in Fenland compared with district, county, and national rates**



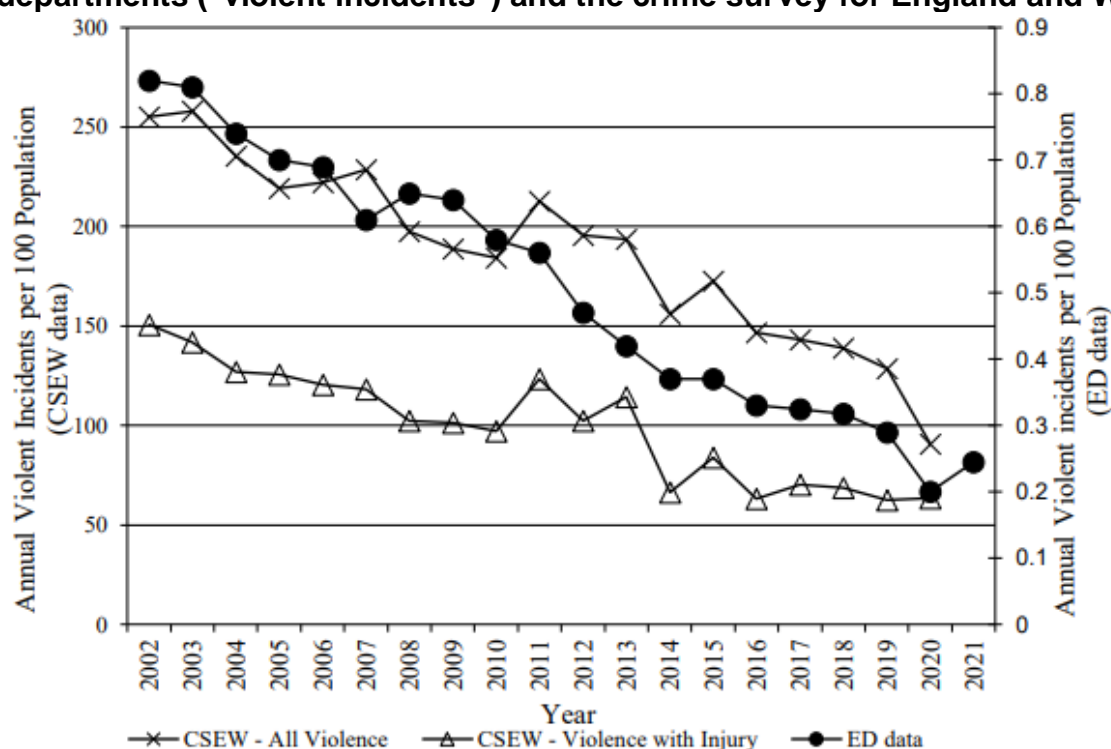
## 7.6. Violence With Injury

### 7.6.1. National Context

Nationally, police recorded violence with injury increased by 7.4% in 2022 (YE September) compared to the period before the pandemic (YE March 2020) (Office for National Statistics, 2023b).

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

**Figure 23: National trends in violence related attendances to emergency departments ("violent incidents") and the crime survey for England and Wales**



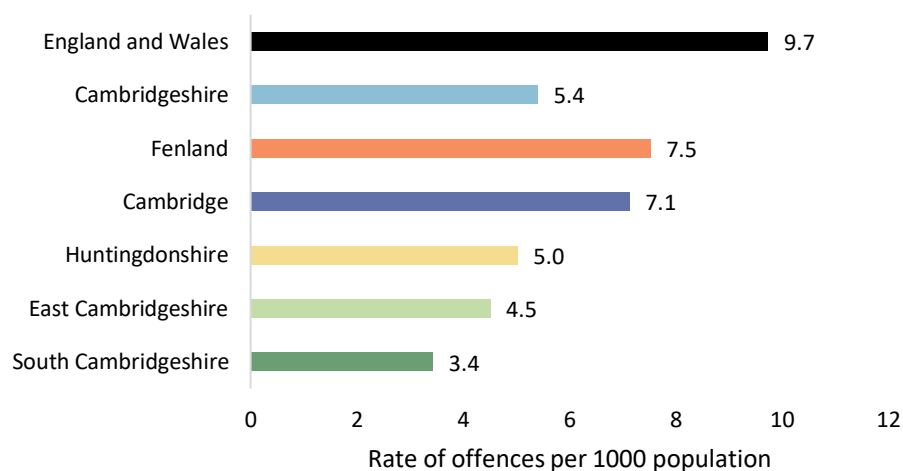
Source: Figure is from the 2021 NVSN report (Sivarajasingham, et al., 2022, p. 15)

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

### 7.6.2. Fenland Police Recorded Violence with Injury

Fenland saw an increase in police recorded violence with injury between 2019 and 2022 (YE December) of 10.8% (from 696 to 771, +75 offences), compared to 7.4% nationally. The rate of violence with injury offences in Fenland is the highest in the county with 7.5 per 1000 population, but is lower than the national rate of 9.7 per 1000 population (see Figure 24).

**Figure 24: Rate of police recorded Violence with Injury offences in Fenland compared with national, county, and district rates**



The most common sub-type of violence with injury across all Cambridgeshire districts was Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), which accounted for 78% of police recorded violence with injury in Fenland in 2022.

### 7.6.3. Geographical Distribution in Fenland

Police recorded data on violence with injury offences, and data recorded by the East of England Ambulance Service on assault-related ambulance call outs, can both provide an indication of where violence with injury is occurring within the local area.

As shown in Figure 25, Police recorded data shows high counts of violence with injury in Medworth and March North, East and West wards.

Some changes were seen in ward counts between 2019 and 2022. Whilst Medworth remained the ward with the highest number of offences in 2022, it has seen a decrease of 27.5% since 2019. Wards within March remained the highest after Medworth, with little change seen in March West, and a higher increase seen in March North (as shown in

**Table 2).** Bassenhally and Roman Bank saw large increases between 2019 and 2022, but remained lower than Medworth and March wards. Decreases were seen in some wards, with the largest percentage decrease seen in the Doddington & Wimblington ward from an already low 19 offences in 2019 to 10 offences in 2022.

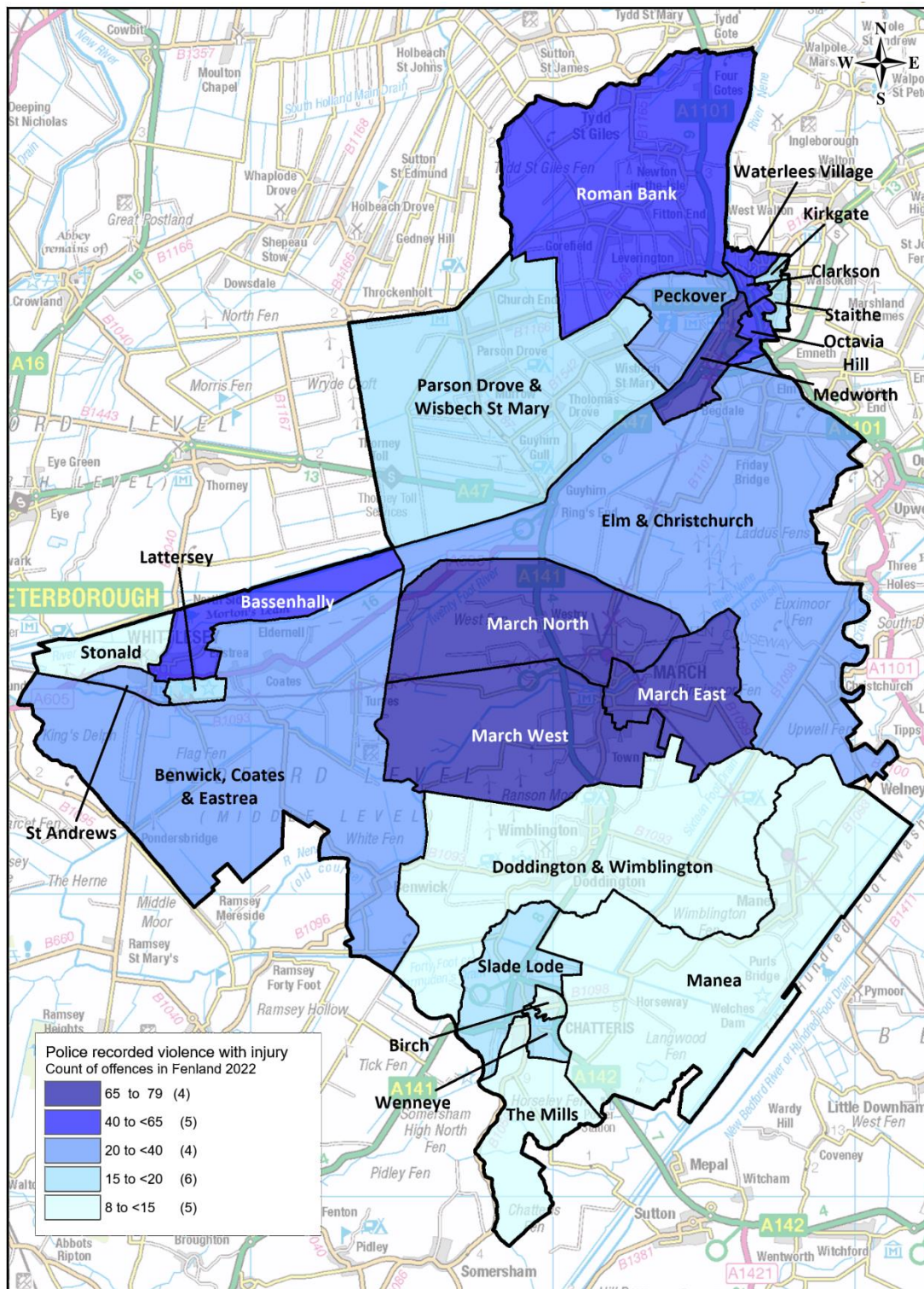
**Table 2: The count and percentage change in police recorded violence with injury offences in Fenland wards in 2019 and 2022**

Ward	2019	2022	% Change
Medworth	109	79	-27.5%
March East	59	69	16.9%
March North	46	67	45.7%
March West	64	67	4.7%
Waterlees Village	39	51	30.8%
Clarkson	36	49	36.1%
Octavia Hill	41	48	17.1%
Bassenhally	22	43	95.5%
Roman Bank	22	41	86.4%
Peckover	30	35	16.7%
Elm & Christchurch	37	26	-29.7%
St Andrews	19	23	21.1%
Benwick, Coates & Eastrea	16	21	31.3%
Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary	22	18	-18.2%
Kirkgate	12	17	41.7%
Staithe	15	17	13.3%
Slade Lode	20	16	-20.0%
Lattersey	17	15	-11.8%
Wenneye	16	15	-6.3%
Manea	11	13	18.2%
Birch	10	12	20.0%
Stonald	8	11	37.5%
Doddington & Wimblington	19	10	-47.4%
The Mills	6	8	33.3%

Note. Darker shades indicate larger numbers.



**Figure 25: Police recorded violence with injury in Fenland wards 2022**



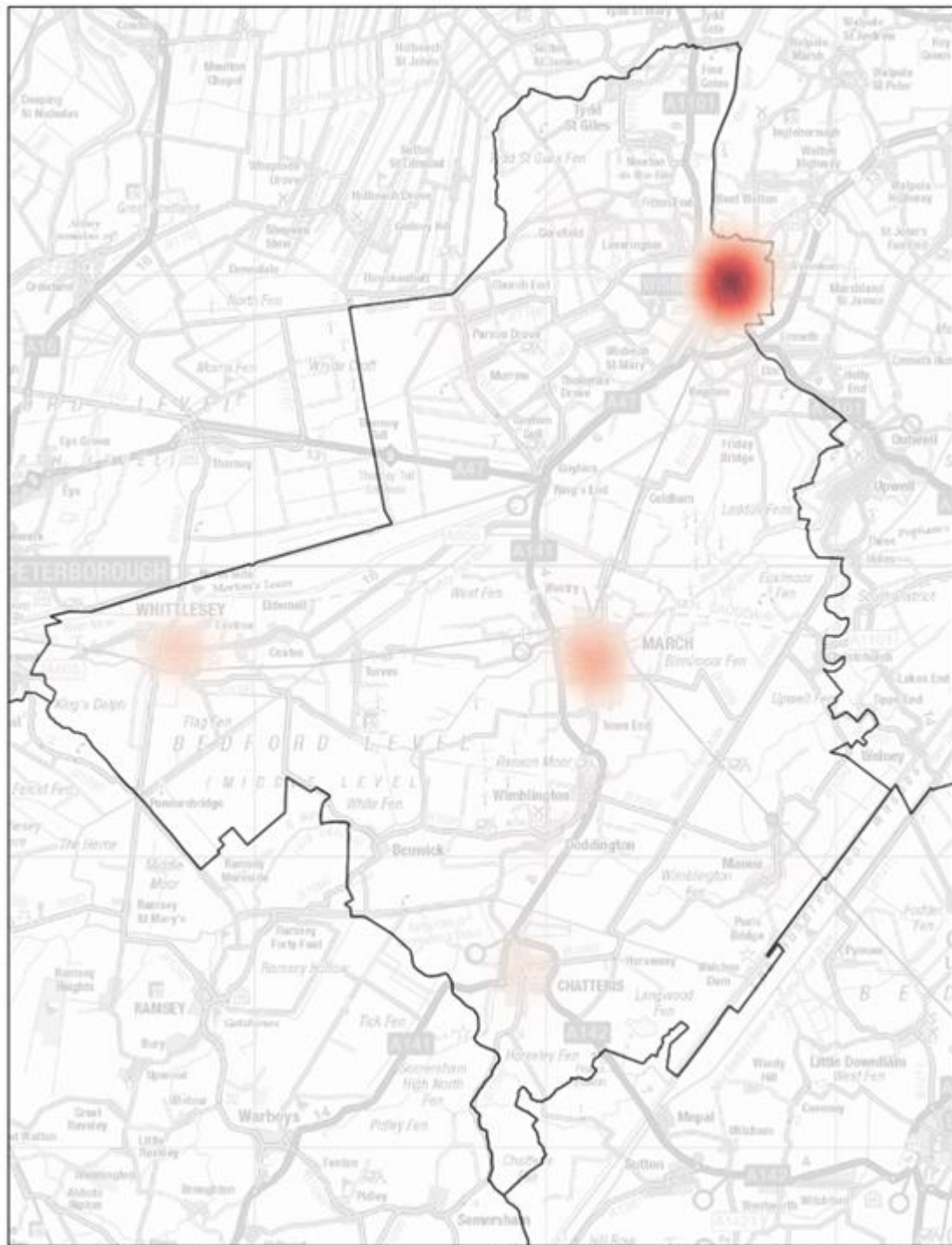
The latest local data by the East of England Ambulance Service shows a low level of assault related callouts with 88 in 2022, down from 152 in 2019 (a 42.1% decrease). This decrease contrasts the increase seen in police recorded violence with injury, but should be treated with caution due to the overall low numbers of assault related

callouts, and the operational challenges being experienced by the ambulance service.

As shown in Figure 26, Wisbech had the highest number of assault related ambulance callouts between 2019 and 2022, with a total of 258 incidents over the 4 year period. Other hotspots included March (with 90 incidents) and Whittlesey (with 50 incidents). Chatteris had a lower number of recorded incidents at 26.

A breakdown of the assault related ambulance callouts by ward showed a similar pattern to police data on violence with injury, with the highest counts seen in Medworth. Medworth saw 102 assault related callouts between 2019 and 2022, accounting for 20.9% of all callouts in Fenland. However, contrary to the police data, which saw high counts across March East, March North, and March West Wards, ambulance callout data saw that the next highest counts were in March West, Octavia Hill, Waterlees Village, and Clarkson. Table 3 shows a full breakdown of the figures, including the annual average in each ward.

**Figure 26: Locations of assault related ambulance callouts in Fenland between 2019 to 2022**



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**Table 3: The total count and annual average assault related ambulance callouts in Fenland wards between 2019 and 2022**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Total callouts 2019-2022</b>	<b>Annual average 2019-2022</b>
Medworth	102	25.5
March West	43	10.8
Octavia Hill	43	10.8
Waterlees Village	41	10.3
Clarkson	41	10.3
March East	31	7.8
Bassenhally	22	5.5
March North	22	5.5
Peckover	21	5.3
Lattersey	16	<5
Roman Bank	12	<5
Staithe	12	<5
Elm & Christchurch	11	<5
Slade Lode	11	<5
St Andrews	10	<5
Kirkgate	9	<5
Doddington & Wimblington	8	<5
Manea	6	<5
Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary	6	<5
Benwick, Coates & Eastrea	5	<5
Birch	5	<5
The Mills	5	<5
Wenneye	5	<5
Stonald	<5	<5

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. This remains a data gap for the Fenland area. There may be opportunity to address this gap via the Serious Violence work taking place at County level in response to the Serious Violence Duty which came into effect in 2022.

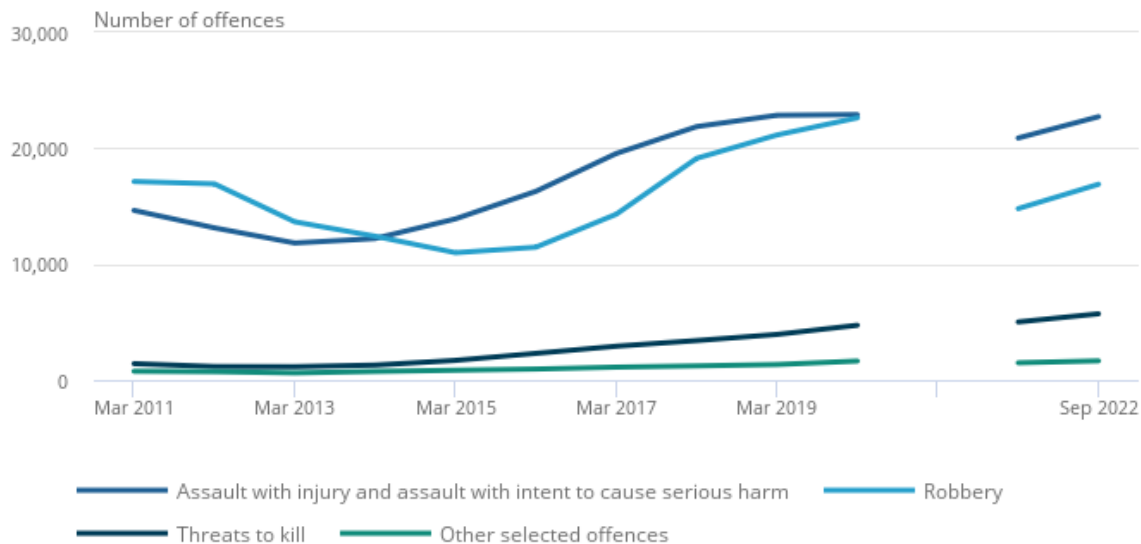
Regardless of the data gaps outlined here, the current available data does show persistent locations for violence with injury such as Medworth ward.



## 7.7. Knife Crime

Nationally police recorded knife-enabled crime remains below pre-pandemic levels, however, there has been an increase of 11% from the year ending September 2021 to the year ending September 2022 (see Figure 27).

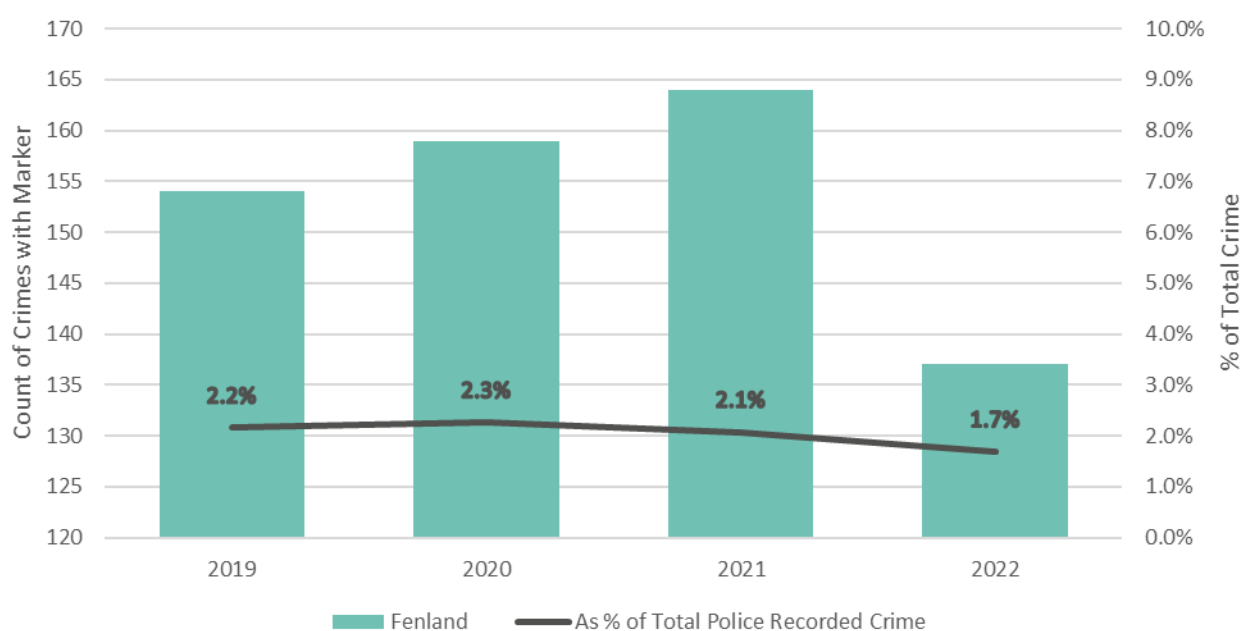
**Figure 27: Knife-enabled crime recorded by the police in England and Wales**



Source: Figure 5 in CSEW report for year ending September (Office for National Statistics, 2023b)

As the figures are low they have been displayed as annual counts and the percentage of the total crime count for the district. 2022 saw a lower total volume of crime with a knife/ sharp instrument marker in Fenland (also a marginally lower percentage of total crime at 1.7% compared to 2.1 in the previous year). It should be noted that police activity can influence knife crime figures, for example, recording of possession offences resulting from police activity to tackle knife crime.

**Figure 28: Police Recorded Crime in Fenland with a Knife/Sharp Instrument marker 2019 to 2022 (year ending December)**



Source: CADET

Cambridgeshire Constabulary previously produced a knife crime profile based on analysis of data from 01 January 2020 to 31 March 2021 (as reference in the last annual strategic assessment). This highlighted relatively high knife crime related harm in Medworth ward. An update to that analysis is due to be completed in 2023 and the CSP would be advised to reflect on findings from this in due course.

Recent CSP activity has included Knife Crime presentations delivered to local academies. This has included involvement of the newly introduced Fenland Safer Schools Officer within Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

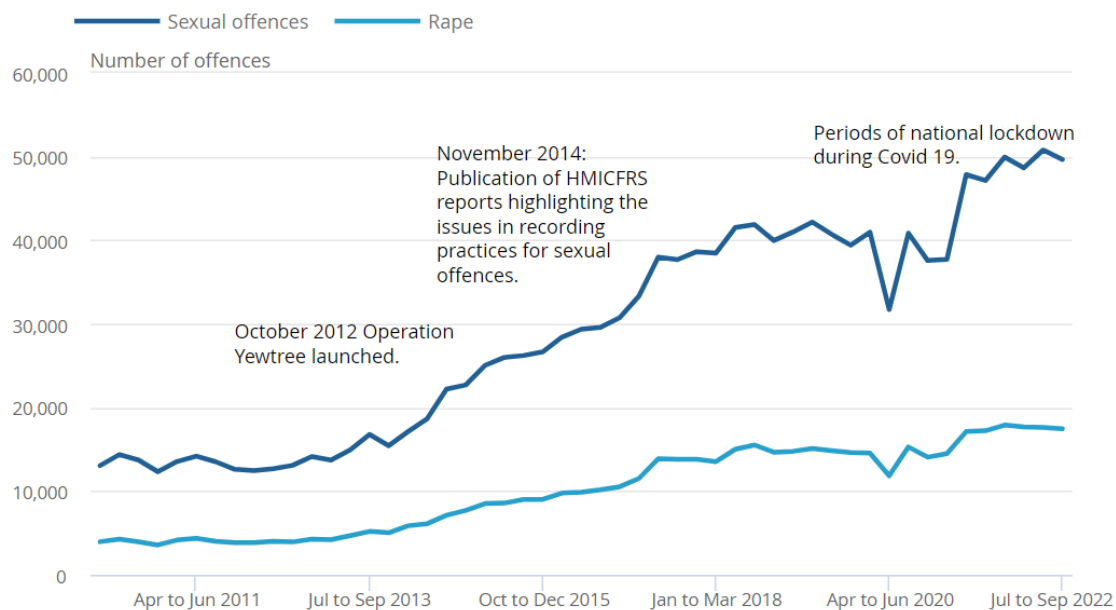
**Recommendation: Any feedback gathered from the knife crime sessions in schools to date could provide valuable insights to the partnership on this issue. This could be reflected upon alongside the above outlined knife crime profile.**

## 7.8. Sexual Offences

National police recorded crime data shows long-term increases in the number of sexual offences over the last decade as illustrated in Figure 29.

**Figure 29: Police recorded sexual offences, England & Wales**

England and Wales quarterly data from January 2010 to September 2022



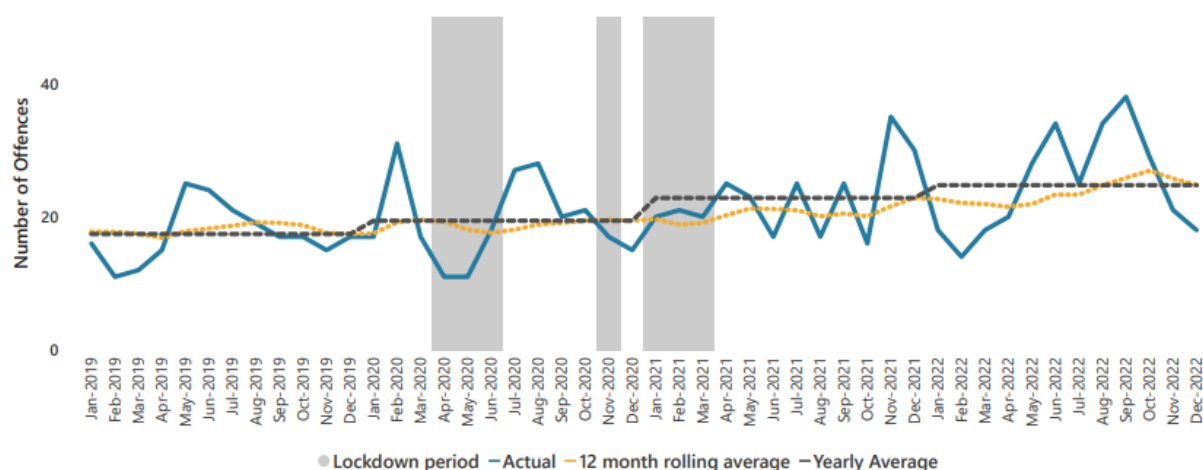
Source: Figure 8 in CSEW report for year ending September (Office for National Statistics, 2023b)

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

Sexual offences are historically associated with non-reporting. CSEW estimates indicate that, prior to the pandemic, fewer than one in six victims of rape or assault by penetration reported the crime to the police. Increases in reporting and recording of sexual offences is likely to have played a significant role in the increases observed, with key impacting factors including; high profile incidents such as the Jimmy Saville scandal and the MeToo movement, media coverage, campaigns on people's willingness to report incidents to the police and reports highlighting issues in police recording practices (Office for National Statistics, 2023b). Whilst increased reporting and improved recording are influencing factors, it is not known the extent to which real terms increases in the number of victims may form a part of this trend.

Local offence counts for Fenland show a higher level of increase than seen nationally, with a 42% increase in the number of sexual offences recorded in 2022 compared to 2019. This increase is also above that seen for Cambridgeshire during the same period where offences were up 23% overall. The chart below illustrates that overall there have been steady year-on-year increases in the total volume of sexual offences recorded in Fenland since 2019.

**Figure 30: Police recorded sexual offences in Fenland, January 2019 - December 2022**

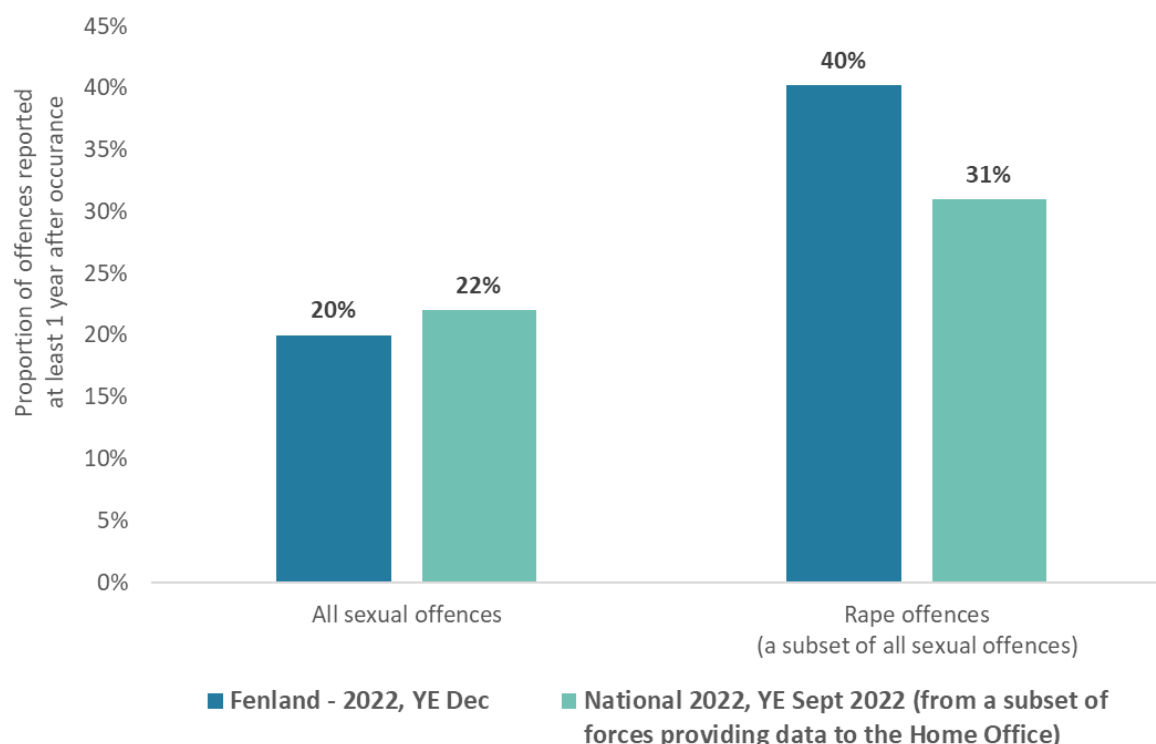


Rape accounted for just under a third of sexual offences (31%) recorded in Fenland in 2022. This proportion is in line with the breakdown seen in Cambridgeshire as a whole (29%) and just below the national proportion (35% in the year ending September 2022). 22% of sexual offences recorded in Fenland in 2022 were marked as domestic abuse related, increasing markedly to 47% for rape offences.

A fifth (20%) of all Fenland sexual offences recorded by the police in 2022 had an offence start date which was at least one year prior to the date the crime was recorded. 10% of offences had occurred at least five years prior to the offence being recorded. When looking specifically at rape offences, the proportion of reported crimes which had occurred more than a year before is higher at 40%. National data (from a subset of forces supplying data to the Home Office) showed a similar proportion for all sexual offences (22% recorded in the year ending September 2022 having occurred over a year before), whilst the proportion for rape offences was 31%, slightly lower than the proportion for Fenland as illustrated in **Error! Reference source not found.** (Office for National Statistics, 2023b).



**Figure 31: Proportion of all police recorded sexual offences and rape offences which were reported at least one year after the offence occurred, Fenland (year ending December 2022) and nationally (year ending September 2022)**



**Recommendation: The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) is due to complete a needs assessment in 2023. The CSP should utilise this publication to gain a more detailed understanding of sexual offences within Fenland.**

## 8. Domestic Abuse

### 8.1. Summary and Recommendations

A slightly different approach to analysing Domestic Abuse (DA) data has been trialled in this assessment. This has enabled better comparison with national data and provided a clearer picture of the scale of DA within Fenland for the partnership. When comparing to the pre-pandemic period, Fenland has seen an increase in domestic abuse crimes and a contrasting reduction in domestic abuse incidents, reflecting national patterns. The Fenland rate of DA crimes per 1,000 population was 15.3 in 2022, above the overall Cambridgeshire county rate of 10.7. Fenland has consistently had the highest DA crime rate of all Cambridgeshire districts in the last four years.

**It is recommended that the CSP should utilise the upcoming Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) needs**

**assessment to build on the findings presented in this strategic assessment and to gain a more comprehensive understanding of DA-related issues within Fenland.**

## **8.2. DA Data Methodology**

When conducting analysis to understand DA, the Research Team at Cambridgeshire County Council uses a wide range of sources including the results from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) to inform the scale and nature of problem. However, the CSEW results are not published at a low enough geography for CSPs to have a local picture. Therefore, it is the police data that is most relied on to provide an understanding of the scale and trend locally.

Previously the Team has reported on police recorded domestic abuse (DA) crime and incident data separately. Neither are considered official statistics due to the limitations in the recording practices for this data.

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

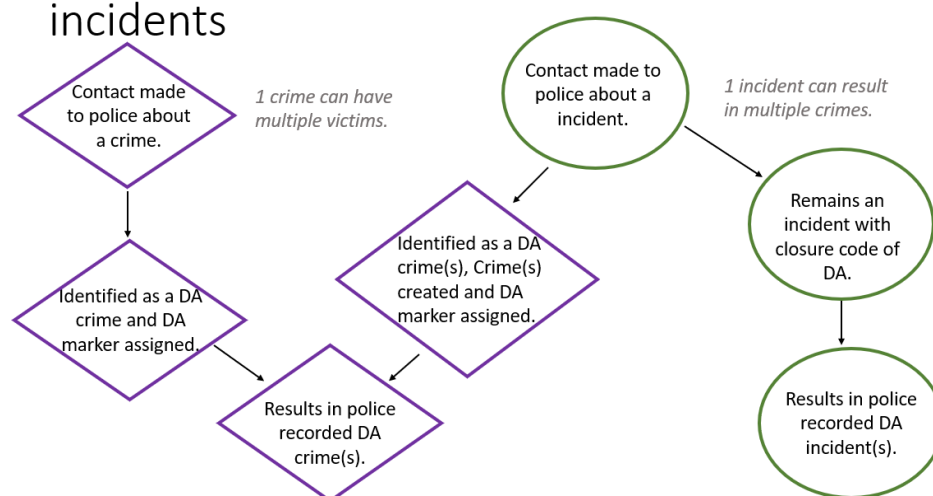
This year the Team has worked to develop a methodology using the local data with the aim of replicating nationally released data for comparison purposes. This experimental statistic still requires some quality assurance and is going to key partners for discussion. This methodology aims to present the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

### **Methodology Notes**

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

**Figure 32: Flow of police recording – DA Crimes and DA incidents**

Domestic abuse police recorded crimes and incidents



## Limitations

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

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

The result of analysing the data in this way is shown in the table below. It shows the improvement in recording crimes brought to the police attention initially as incidents. The overall change is a notable increase from 46% of incidents resulting in a crime or crimes being recorded in 2019 to 55% in 2022. This is slightly below the national proportion of incidents that were ‘crimed’ (61%) (Office for National Statistics, 2022f).

**Table 4: DA incidents and crimes recorded in Fenland, 2019-2022**

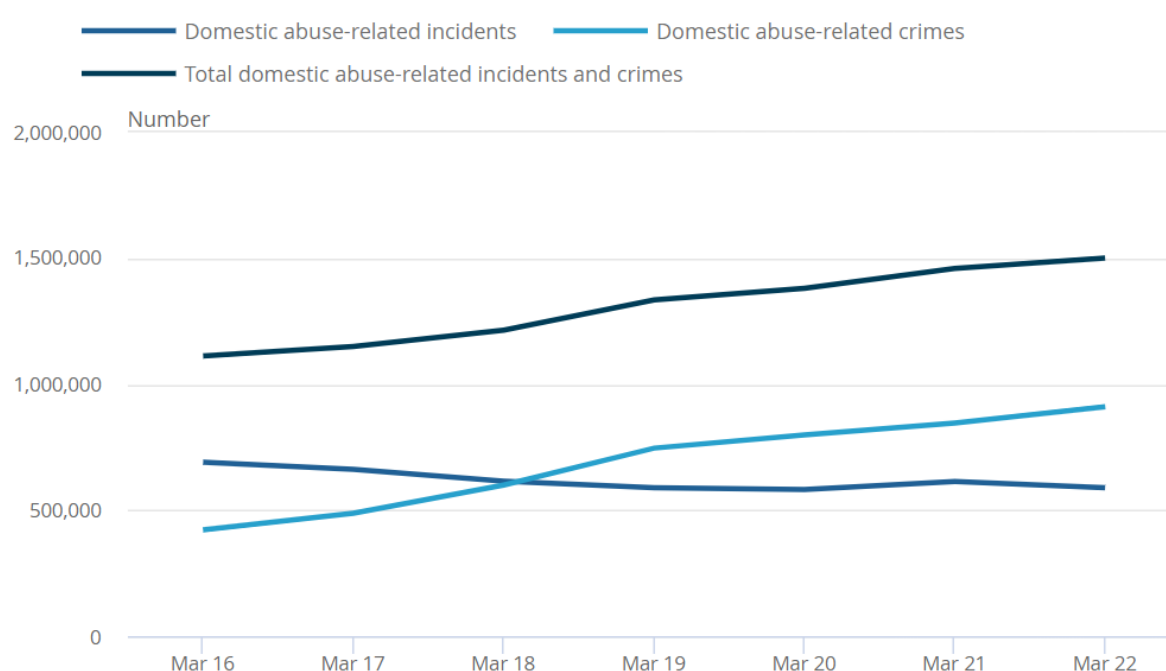
Incident category	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Incidents	1,930	2,010	2,013	1,867
Incidents that result in a crime being recorded	896	1,113	1,088	1,026
Incidents that remain as incident only	1034	897	925	841
<b>Proportion of Incidents that were ‘crimed’</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>55%</b>

The latest DA prevalence estimates available are for the year ending March 2022, after face-to-face interviews resumed for the CSEW in October 2021. It should be noted that these estimates are not badged as national statistics due to the reduced data collection period and lower responses rates. These estimates showed 5% of adults (aged 16 and over) having experienced domestic abuse in the last year. Time

series analysis of the CSEW estimates shows no significant change in the prevalence of domestic abuse in recent years, including from prior to the Covid-19 pandemic (Office for National Statistics, 2022f).

National police recorded figures show the number of crimes exceeding the number of police recorded incidents from March 2018 onwards (see Figure 33). There has been a continued increase in police recorded domestic abuse crimes, whilst domestic abuse-related incidents have now decreased to pre-pandemic levels nationally (Office for National Statistics, 2022f). As prevalence estimates have remained stable, the increase seen in crimes is likely due to improved recording as well as potentially increased reporting.

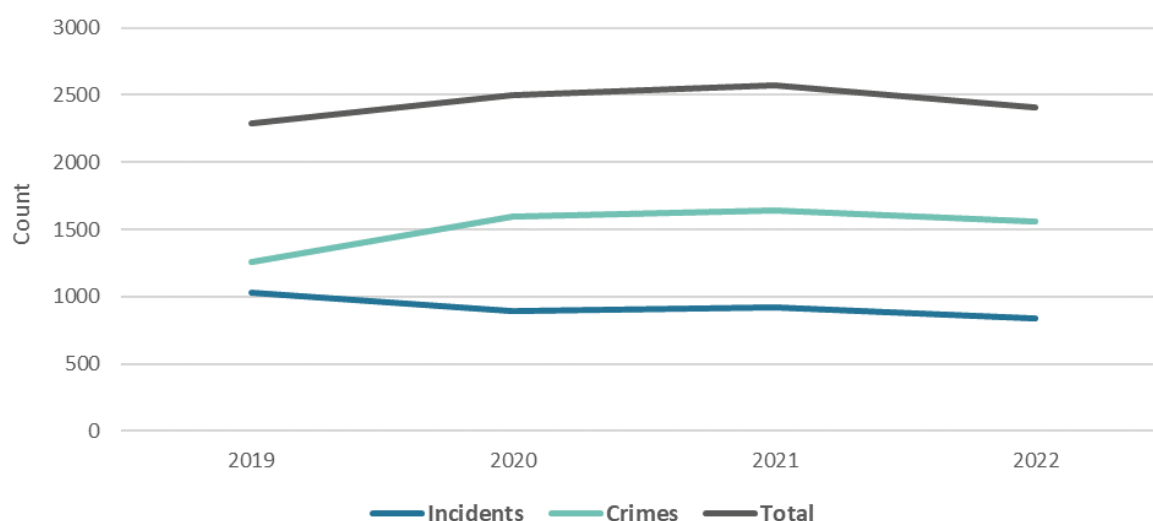
**Figure 33: Number of domestic abuse-related incidents recorded by police, England and Wales, year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2022**



Source: Figure 5 in Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2022 (Office for National Statistics, 2022i)

Local police recorded data for the past 4 years is presented in Figure 34. Fenland has seen an increase in the number of DA offences since 2019 whilst the number of incidents has decreased, reflecting the overall national picture. The total number of crimes have since remained higher than incidents through to the latest review period. Whilst the total number of DA crimes recorded in Fenland in 2022 was 24% higher than that recorded in 2019, levels have since remained relatively stable from 2020 to 2022. This differs from the national pattern where increases have been seen year-on-year.

**Figure 34: Police recorded DA crimes and incidents in Fenland, 2019 - 2022**

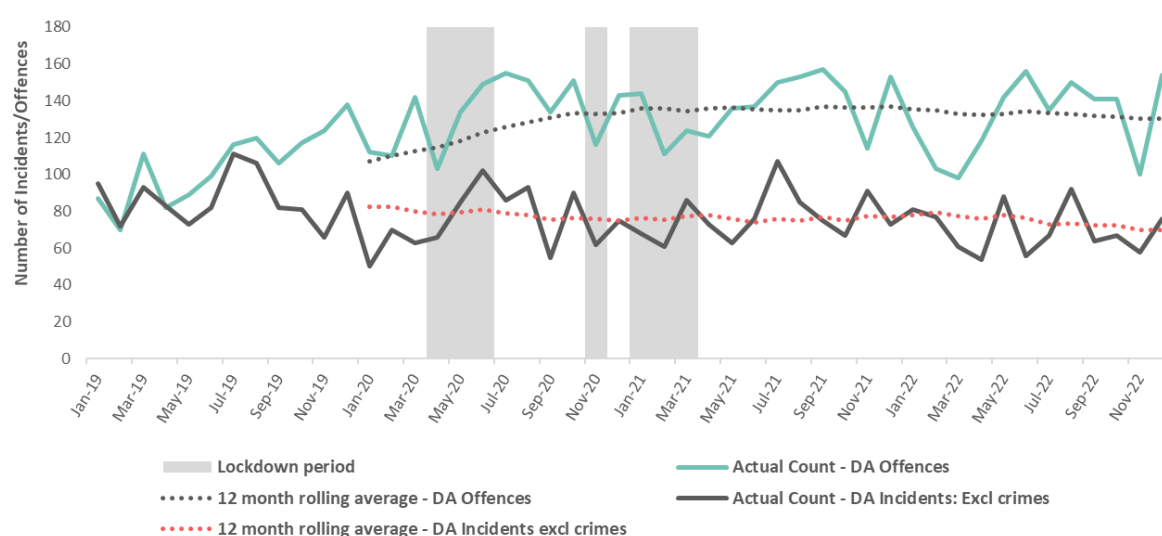


The Fenland rate of DA crimes per 1,000 population was 15.3 in 2022, above the overall Cambridgeshire county rate of 10.7. Fenland has consistently had the highest DA crime rate of all Cambridgeshire districts in the last four years.

An alternative way of looking at the figures is to examine the crimes and incidents together. Of the total crimes and incidents (i.e. those incidents that did not result in crime(s) being recorded) in 2022, 65% are crimes. This is a marked increase from 55% in 2019.

Analysing the data on a monthly basis (as seen in Figure 35) shows that incident levels have remained stable in Fenland during the past three years. There have been more monthly fluctuations in the levels of DA related crimes, but the 12-month rolling average has stabilised in 2021 and 2022.

**Figure 35: Monthly police recorded DA incidents and Crimes, Fenland, January 2019 to December 2022**



### 8.3. DA Crime Types

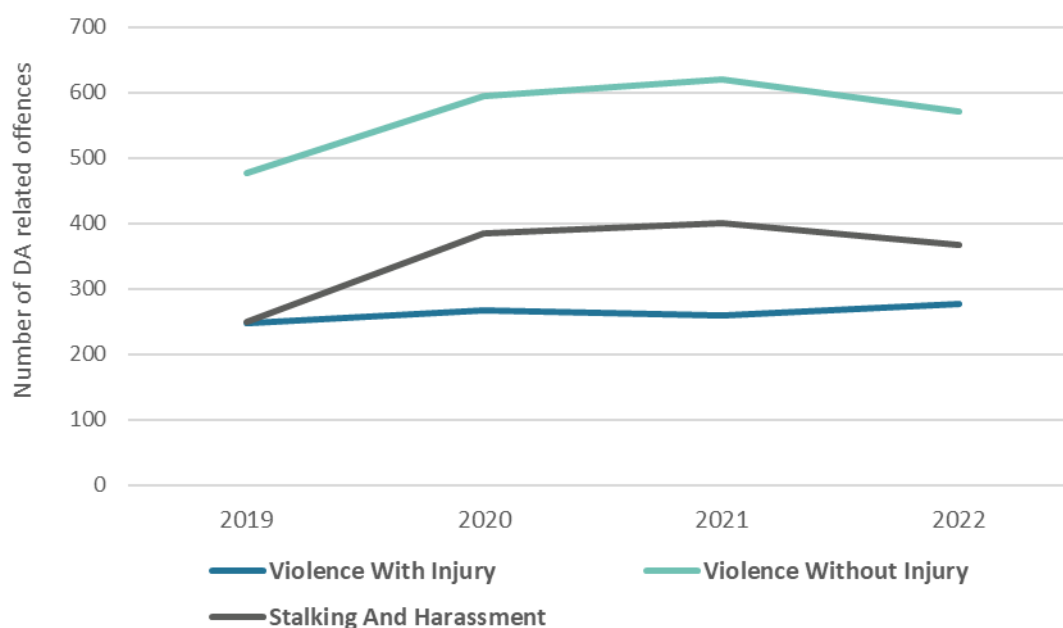
All crimes can have a DA marker applied to them. In Fenland, 19% of all crime recorded in 2022 was domestic abuse related. This proportion has been consistent in the recent years.

As in previous years violent offences account for the majority of police recorded DA crimes. In 2022 over three quarters (78%) of DA crimes recorded in East Cambridgeshire were Violence Against the Person category offences. This figure has remained consistent since 2019. The remaining 22% of DA related offences were split across 9 different crime types, with the next highest proportions being arson and criminal damage (8.1%), public order offences (4.2%) and sexual offences (4.2%).

Total DA-related violence against the person offences increased by a quarter in the last year when comparing to the pre-pandemic period, increasing from 973 offences in 2019 to 1,213 offences in 2022. DA-related arson and criminal damage and sexual offences saw higher proportional increases during this same comparison period, but based on lower numbers overall. Arson and criminal damage increased 34% to 127 offences in 2022 and sexual offences increased 33% to 65 offences in 2022. This reflects the overall trend for sexual offences outlined in [section 7.8](#), with non-DA related sexual offences up by 45% between 2019-2022.

Exploring the DA related violence against the person offences by sub-type shows differing patterns over time, as illustrated in Figure 36. Violence without injury and stalking and harassment both increased notably in 2020 before plateauing in 2021 and reducing slightly in 2022. Violence with injury offences have remained stable over time, increasing just slightly in this 4-year period. The marked increase in stalking and harassment seen in 2020 (up 54% on the previous year to 385 offences) is likely linked to changes in Home Office counting rules introduced in April 2020 (Office for National Statistics, 2022f). As a result of these increases, stalking and harassment accounted for nearly a quarter (23%) of all domestic abuse related offences recorded in Fenland in 2022, this is in line with the proportion seen nationally in the year ending March 2022 (25%) (Office for National Statistics, 2022f).

**Figure 36: Police recorded DA-related violence against the person offences by sub-type, Fenland, 2019-2022\***



\*Homicide is excluded from the chart as there was only 1 offence in this sub-type in this 4 year period.

Two new specific offence types relevant to DA have been introduced in recent years. The offence of engaging in controlling or coercive behaviour was introduced in 2015 and more recently an offence type of non-fatal strangulation was introduced under the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Ministry of Justice, 2022a). In 2022, 56 coercive control offences were recorded in Fenland, a slight reduction on the previous year where 67 offences were recorded. Since 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022, when the offence of non-fatal strangulation came into force, there have been 27 DA related offences recorded in Fenland.

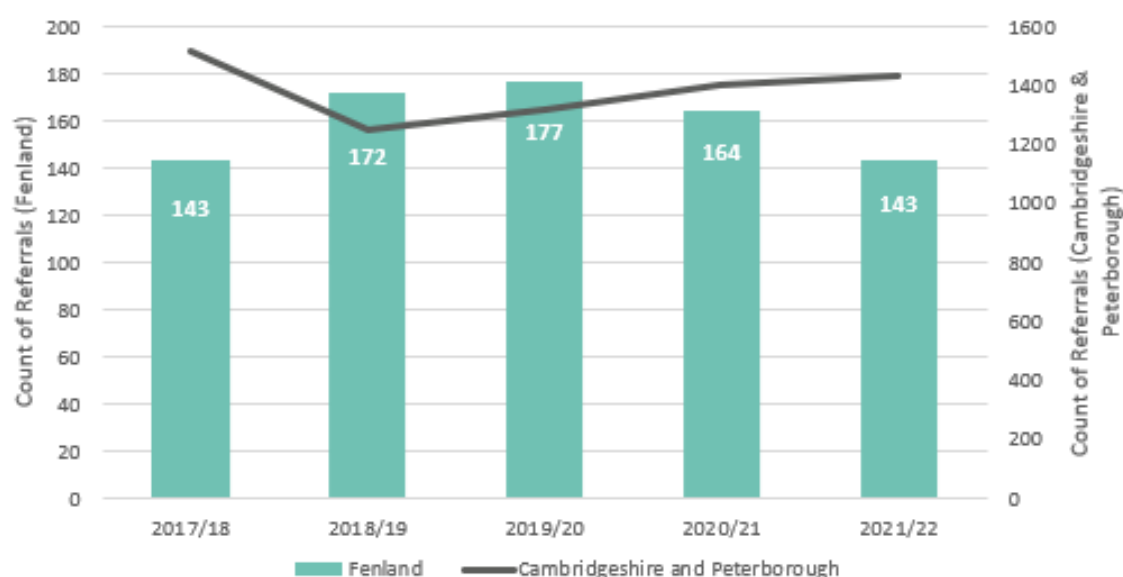
## 8.4. Local Services

Cambridgeshire County Council manages the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Service which states in the 2021/22 annual report.

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

Figure 37 below shows the number of referrals received by the service for Fenland residents annually between 2017/18 to 2021/22 (financial year). Referrals in Fenland rose between 2017 and 2019 but have since fallen in the last 2 years which is contrary to the rise seen in the wider county. The service is threshold based and fluctuations in referrals should not be seen as an indication of changing levels of domestic abuse but rather a reflection on service capacity and demand at any given time.

**Figure 37: Referrals to IDVA service for Fenland residents by financial year, 2017 to 2022**



## 8.5. Domestic Homicides

The completion of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) is a statutory requirement of the CSP. A countywide approach to DHRs was adopted for Cambridgeshire in 2021.

At the time of writing there are three Domestic Homicide Review's (DHR's) in progress for Fenland relating to two deaths in 2021 and one death in 2022. One of these DHRs is due to be re-submitted to the Home Office in March 2023.

Additionally, there is one further DHR for Fenland, relating to a death in 2022 which has recently commenced. When published, Domestic Homicide reports can be accessed via the Fenland District Council Website: [Domestic Homicide Review - Fenland District Council](#).



## 9. Exploitation and Vulnerability

### 9.1. Summary and Recommendations

There are various crimes associated with County Lines as outlined in this document and it remains a risk area for Fenland. **It is recommended that feedback gathered from County Lines awareness sessions is an opportunity for the CSP to develop further insights on this issue and perceptions of it in Fenland.** There is also overlapping work taking place with a focus on CCE and CSE outlined later in this document.

Constabulary-wide Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) crimes have seen a year on year increase since 2018. Police recorded CSE in Fenland has also increased over this period. Further data sources are needed to build a more comprehensive strategic picture of Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) in Fenland and Cambridgeshire as a whole.

Whilst the volume of Modern Slavery offences recorded in Fenland remains low, this is upon the backdrop of an increase in indicators of modern slavery at a national level. The risk of modern slavery in the context of Fenland remains evident.

Hate crimes are typically under-reported and as such there are limitations in the conclusions that can be drawn from police recorded data, however, the data does show a notable increase in hate crimes recorded in Fenland since 2019. Public order and violence against the person consistently account for the largest share of offences with a hate crime marker in Fenland, in line with countywide and national patterns. The true scale of hate crime remains hidden and there is some difficulty through administrative data sets to gain a real understanding of the impact on communities. At the time of writing the Cambridgeshire County Council Research Team does not have access to data on the motivating factors linked to hate crimes. Further analysis of additional data fields and sources would enable a more complete understanding of the current picture of hate crime in Fenland, in particular the extent to which different groups are being victimised.

## 9.2. County Lines

County Lines refers to a model of offending whereby gangs and organised crime groups move drugs into supply areas within the UK via the exploitation of vulnerable individuals. These individuals are recruited and coerced into the drug supply chain (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).

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

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

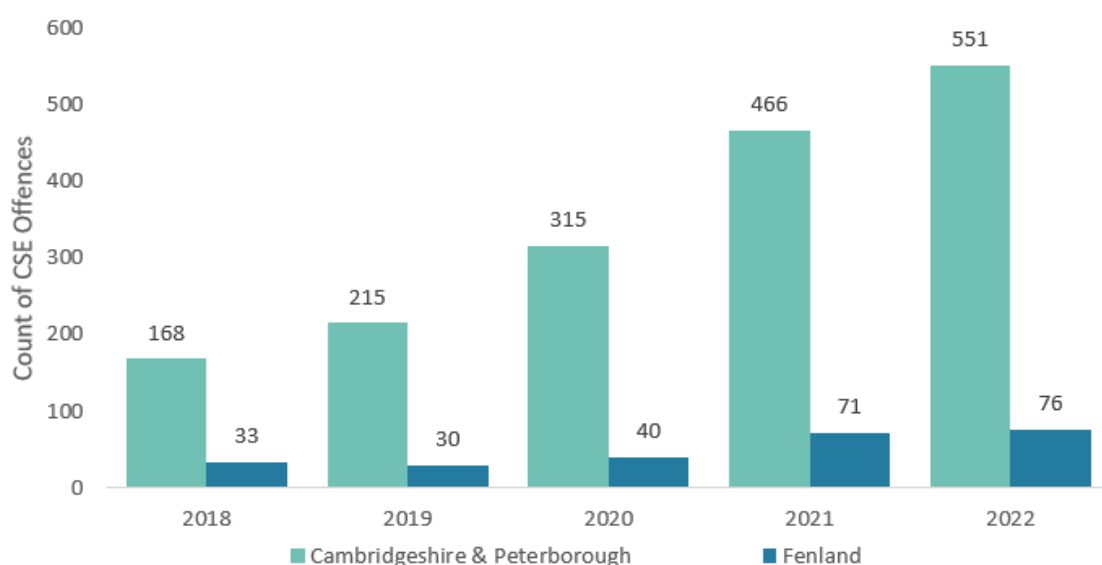
Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis of Serious Organised Crime (completed in 2022) highlighted at risk youth as disproportionately represented in Fenland compared to other districts. As such the risk of harm from county lines is increased. Specifically this is in relation to disadvantaged backgrounds, those in care and those who repeatedly go missing.

In terms of specific work regarding County Lines, the CSP has been working to roll out the Against County Lines sessions in local schools. **Feedback gathered from these sessions is an opportunity for the CSP to develop further insights on this issue and perceptions of it in Fenland.** There is also overlapping work taking place with a focus on CCE and CSE outlined in the following section of this document.

### 9.3. Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation

Constabulary-wide Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) crimes have seen a year on year increase since 2018. Police recorded CSE in Fenland has increased since 2018, as shown in Figure 38. However, the volume increase is less marked than in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole.

**Figure 38: Police recorded CSE yearly from 2018 to 2021 (year ending December) in Fenland**



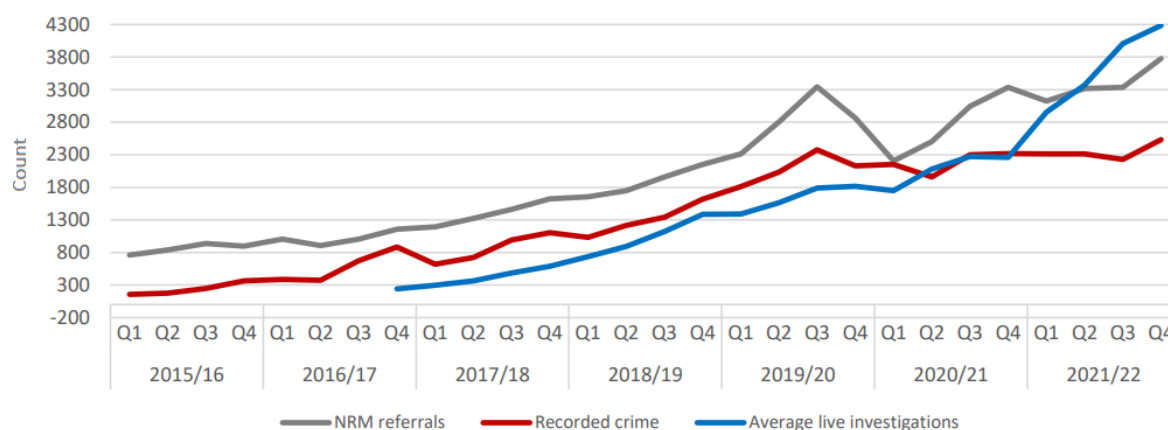
Further data sources are needed to build a more comprehensive strategic picture of Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) in Fenland and Cambridgeshire as a whole. Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis noted a likely intelligence gap regarding CCE/ CSE in Fenland. This is in light of the assessment that Fenland has a relatively larger cohort of potentially vulnerable young people compared to other parts of Cambridgeshire. The CSP could have a role to support efforts in tackling this intelligence gap and could seek input from the County level leads as to what the CSP can do to improve upon this gap.

In response to other findings by Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Fenland CSP has acknowledged the risks around CSE/ CCE in the area and responded. For example there are current efforts to link the CSP with care homes locally. More broadly the CSP is engaged with the County level Child Criminal Exploitation delivery plan, incorporating items from this into the CSP action plan (as outlined in Appendix C).

## 9.4. Modern Slavery

Nationally the level of recorded Modern Slavery crime, 'Live investigations into modern slavery' and National Referral Mechanism Referrals reduced in the early stages of the pandemic. However, post pandemic Modern Slavery has reverted to an increasing trend, as shown in Figure 39.

**Figure 39: Modern slavery victim identification and investigations**

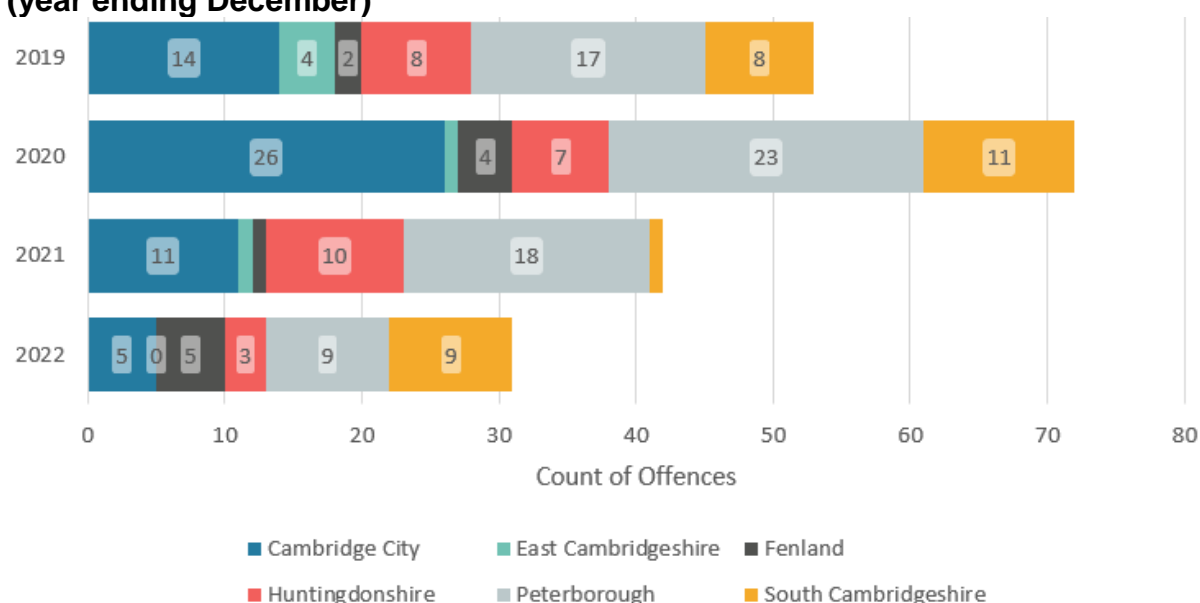


Source: Chart 1 in Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme (MSOICP) Annual Report 2021- 2022 (2022).

Another impact of the pandemic is noted in the annual report of the Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme (MSOICP, 2022). There is still a backlog of cases in the criminal justice system (e.g. the Crown Courts) that has the potential to increase victim and witness attrition rates.

Local police recorded crime figures show a low count of Modern Slavery offences recorded in Fenland for the last 4 years (less than 5 each year). The extent to which these figures may be impacted by the backlog of cases is not clear. This is however likely to be an underrepresentation of the issue of Modern Slavery within Fenland.

**Figure 40: Police Recorded Modern Slavery Offences by district, 2019 to 2022 (year ending December)**



Nationally it is acknowledged that Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) involved in modern slavery are often involved in a number of exploitation types ('polycriminality'). Overlap between those involved with Modern slavery and sexual exploitation as well as money laundering and fraud have been seen in modern slavery investigations.

Research has found evidence of large scale accommodation (e.g. hostels and hotels) for asylum seekers being targeted by those seeking to exploit them. Recently the allocation of accommodation for asylum seekers to such locations has taken place at short notice across the country (UNHCR, 2022).

This has been acknowledged as a risk in the context of Fenland in particular where there have been long standing concerns around Modern Slavery. This risk was outlined in the recent high court case seeking to stop the use of hotels to accommodate asylum seekers within the Fenland area (Fenland District Council, 2022). Multiagency work continues at CSP level to address Modern Slavery via Operation Pheasant and the CSP is engaged with County level work to tackle this issue alongside other forms of exploitation. Cambridgeshire Constabulary has recommended that the CSP participate in intelligence led visits to sites of concern for Modern Slavery in the area.

## 9.5. Hate Crime

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

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

The latest national data shows a 26% increase in hate crimes recorded in the year ending (YE) March 2022 compared to the previous year, the largest year-on-year increase observed since the YE March 2017. The majority of hate crimes recorded in 2021/22 were racially motivated (70%), in line with previous years. Annual increases were seen for all five strands of hate crime (see table below), ranging from a 19% increase in race motivated hate crimes to a 56% increase in transgender motivated hate crimes. The extent to which these increases relate to improved recording or represent real terms increases is currently unclear and may vary between hate crime strands. The higher increases seen in 2021/22 may also relate to lower levels of crime in the previous year linked to the COVID-19 pandemic (Home Office, 2022b).

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

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

Source: Home Office (2022b)

[x] Denotes data is unavailable.

Fenland has seen an upward trend in police recorded hate crimes between 2019 and 2022, in line with Cambridgeshire as a whole. A total of 173 hate crimes were recorded in 2022, an increase of 86% compared to 2019. Caution needs to be taken in the interpretation of trends observed due to the low volume of offences and the possible impact of improved police recording.

Figure 41 displays the monthly count of police recorded hate crimes for 2019 – 2022 along with the 12-month rolling average and the annual monthly average. The annual monthly average number of hate crimes in 2022 was 14.4, however, there was notable variation from month to month, with a high of 23 offences in March 2022 and a low of 6 offences in December 2022. Analysis of the March 2022 hate crime records did not show any clear linked series, with a range of offences recorded.

**Figure 41: Police recorded Hate Crimes in Fenland, January 2019 - December 2022**

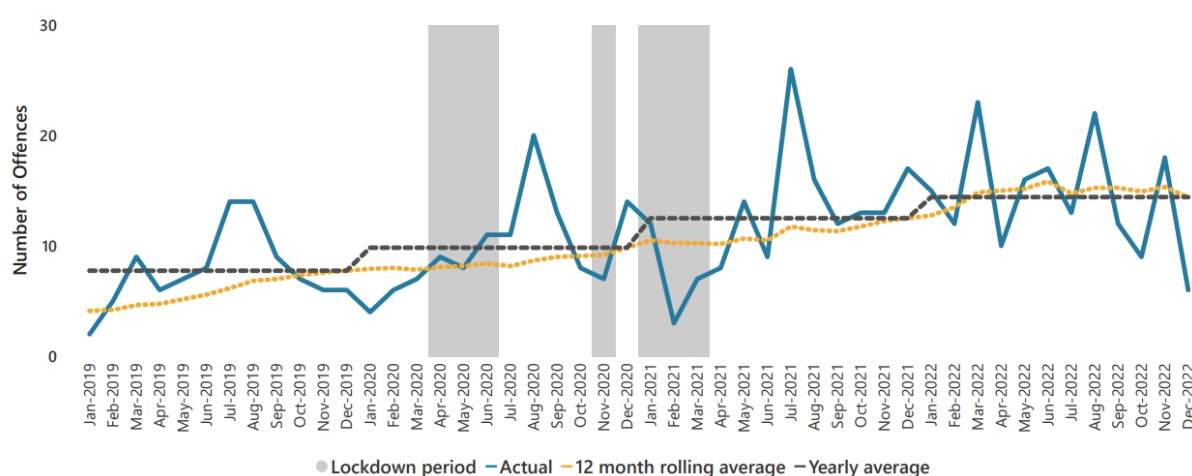
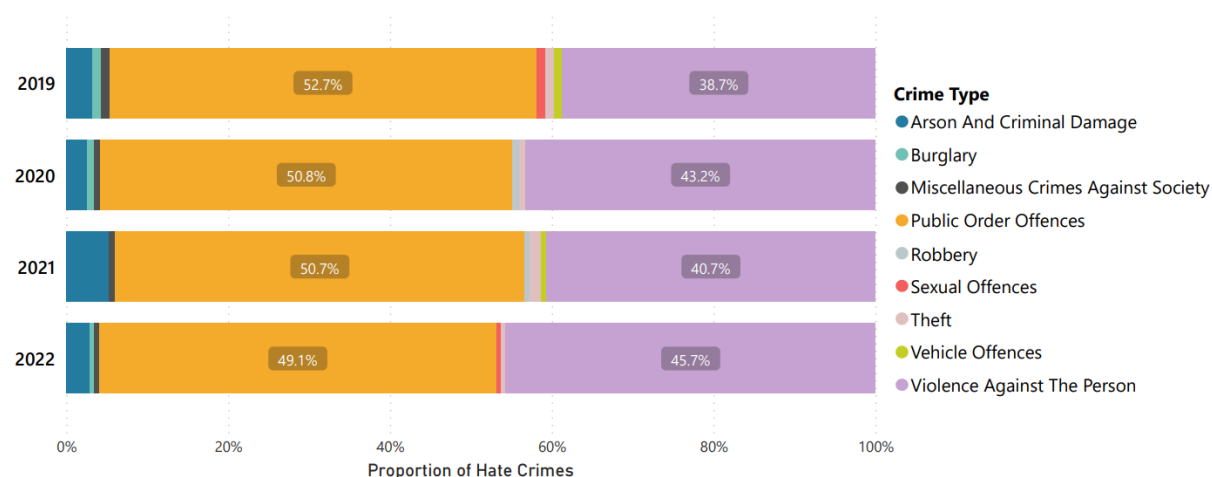


Figure 42 shows the offence type breakdown for all hate crimes recorded in Fenland in the last four years. Public order and violence against the person consistently account for the largest share of offences with a hate crime marker in Fenland, in line with countywide and national patterns. In 2022, these two offence types accounted for 95% of hate crimes recorded in Fenland. Since 2019 there has been a slight increase in the proportion of hate crimes that are violence against the person from 38.7% to 45.7%. Outside of these two main offence types, the remaining offences are split between 6 different crime types, highlighting the wide variety of offences which can be hate motivated.

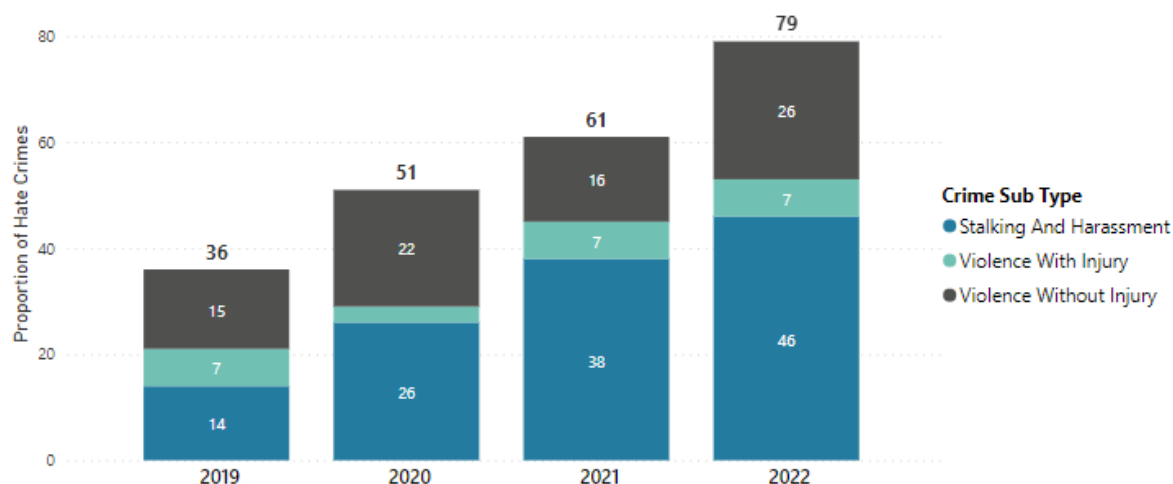
**Figure 42: Breakdown in offence type for hate crimes recorded in Fenland, 2019 - 2022**



The breakdown by sub-type for all Fenland violence against the person offences with a hate crime marker is displayed in Figure 43. Stalking & harassment hate crimes have increased most notably in this period, from 14 crimes in 2019 to 46 crimes in 2022. This sits within an overall increase in stalking and harassment offences as highlighted in the violence section. The proportional increase is greater for hate crimes, however, due to the low numbers involved caution needs to be applied in drawing conclusions from this.



**Figure 43: Police recorded violence against the person hate crimes in Fenland, by crime sub type, 2019 - 2022**



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

## 10. Environmental / Community

### 10.1. Summary and Recommendations

Police recorded ASB has been on a downward trajectory in Fenland in recent years, with the 2022 levels down by over a third on the pre-pandemic year of 2019. Geographical analysis showed ASB was more concentrated in certain wards with Medworth accounting for the highest share, albeit at a lower proportion than in 2019. The three March wards accounted for the next highest proportion of ASB, combined accounting for a quarter of Fenland ASB.

Analysis of non-police recorded ASB data and case studies highlighted the wide range of ASB issues within the community and the range of reporting routes available, with not all issues being reported to the police.

**It is recommended that work should be completed with Fenland District Council to explore how ASB incident data is recorded by the Community Safety Team and Housing Providers with a view to aligning with police recorded data where possible and establishing data sharing. This would**

**enable insights to be gleaned in future analysis which would help inform a more complete understanding of ASB issues in the district.**

Police recorded data (which can be driven by local policing activity) shows low levels of drug offences in Fenland, albeit that the number of offences is up on pre-pandemic levels. There have been year-on-year increases in the number of Fenland residents in treatment since 2019, up 26% in 2022 compared to 2019. There is an opportunity to better understand substance misuse activity locally via needle finds/ drug paraphernalia find recording in the Fenland area, which is currently being explored. A Countywide Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment is due to be published in Spring 2023.

**It is recommended that the CSP should utilise this assessment to gain a more detailed understanding of substance misuse issues within Fenland.**

Public order offences as recorded by the police are showing an overall increasing trend in Fenland (up 50% in 2022 compared to 2019) and now account for more of the total crimes recorded than in previous years. Public order is a broad offence category, but does include harassment, violence racially aggravated offences and offences marked as hate crimes. Geographical analysis highlighted Medworth, March East and March North wards for this offence type.

**Given that public order can affect communities more generally than just individual victims, it is recommended that the partnership requests a more detailed analysis of these crimes, the areas affected and overlaps with other community safety issues.**

## 10.2. ASB

### 10.2.1. Trends Over Time

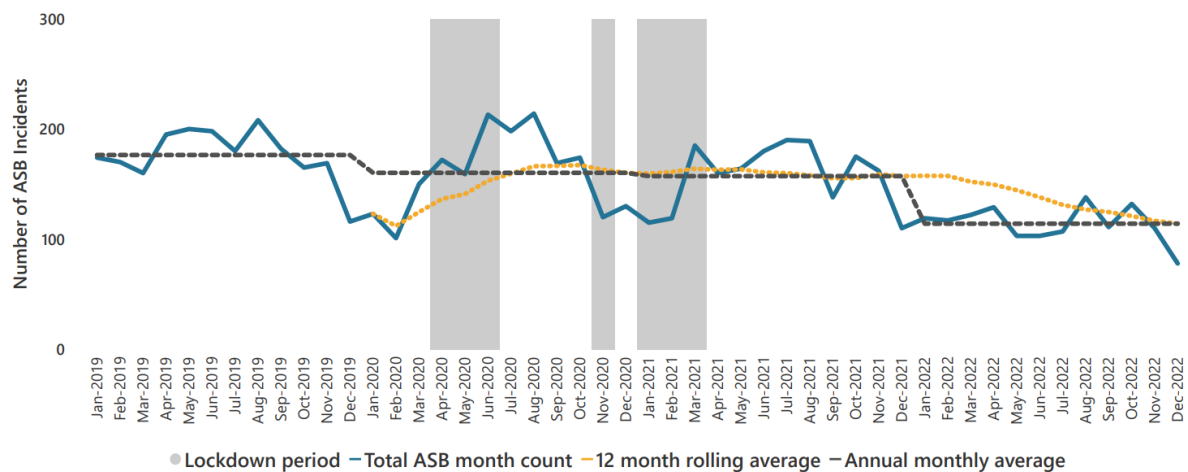
The most recent ONS report states there were 1.1 million police recorded ASB incidents in England and Wales in the year ending (YE) September 2022, down 21% from the pre-pandemic YE March 2020 where 1.4 million incidents were recorded (Office for National Statistics, 2023b).

Overall ASB levels are on a downward trajectory in Fenland, as illustrated in Figure 44. A total of 1,369 ASB incidents were recorded in 2022, down by over a third (35%) compared to the pre-pandemic year of 2019. This is a slightly higher reduction than that seen countywide in the same time period (29%).

Figure 44 displays the monthly count of total police recorded incidents in Fenland and shows a notable and consistent reduction in incident levels in 2022 compared to

the three preceding years. December 2022 saw the lowest monthly incident count at 78.

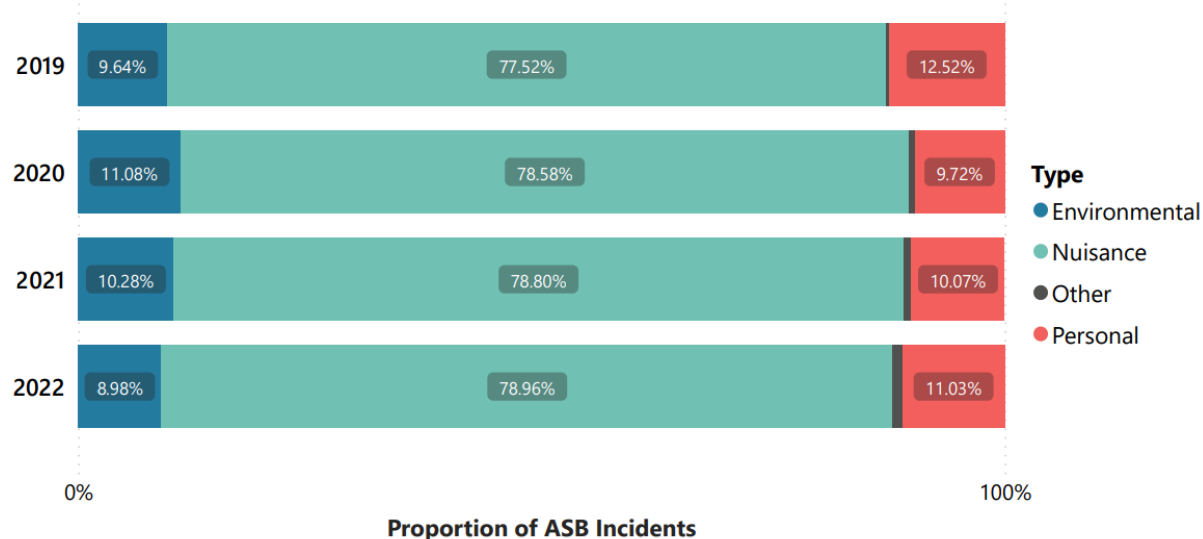
**Figure 44: Police recorded ASB incidents in Fenland, 2019 - 2022**



### 10.2.2. ASB Type

‘Nuisance’, which refers to incidents which impact on the local community in general, has consistently been the primary ASB type in recent years, accounting for over three quarters (78-79%) of ASB all incidents recorded in Fenland over the past four years. In 2022, 11% of ASB incidents were recorded as ‘Personal’. Of the 151 personal ASB incidents recorded in Fenland in 2022, half (49.7%) were classified as ‘standard risk’, 35.8% were ‘no risk’, with the remaining 14.6% ‘medium risk’. There was a slight increase in the proportion of medium risk incidents compared to 2021. No incidents were classified as ‘high risk’ between 2019-2022.

**Figure 45 : Breakdown in ASB incidents by type, Fenland, 2019-2022**



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

In Fenland 30% of all ASB incidents recorded in 2022 included a youth keyword, slightly above the proportion for Cambridgeshire county as a whole (24%). This breakdown has remained consistent in the last 4 years, ranging from between 28% and 30%. Monthly trend data shows youth related ASB has followed a similar pattern to non-youth related ASB over recent years. Youth related ASB incidents had a slightly lower proportion of environmental incidents (4%) and a slightly higher proportion of nuisance incidents (84%).

### 10.2.3. Geographical Analysis

The table below shows the ward count of ASB incidents and the proportion of total Fenland incidents occurring in each ward for 2019 and 2022. The wards which accounted for the highest proportion of ASB incidents in 2022 were: Medworth (13.4%), March East (10.9%), March West (7.5%) and March North (7.1%). The three March wards combined accounted for a quarter of all ASB (25.4%) in 2022 up from 17% in 2019. Medworth saw a reduction in the total ASB share from 2019.

**Table 6: Count of police recorded ASB incidents by ward (2021 boundaries) and percentage of ASB, Fenland 2019 and 2022**

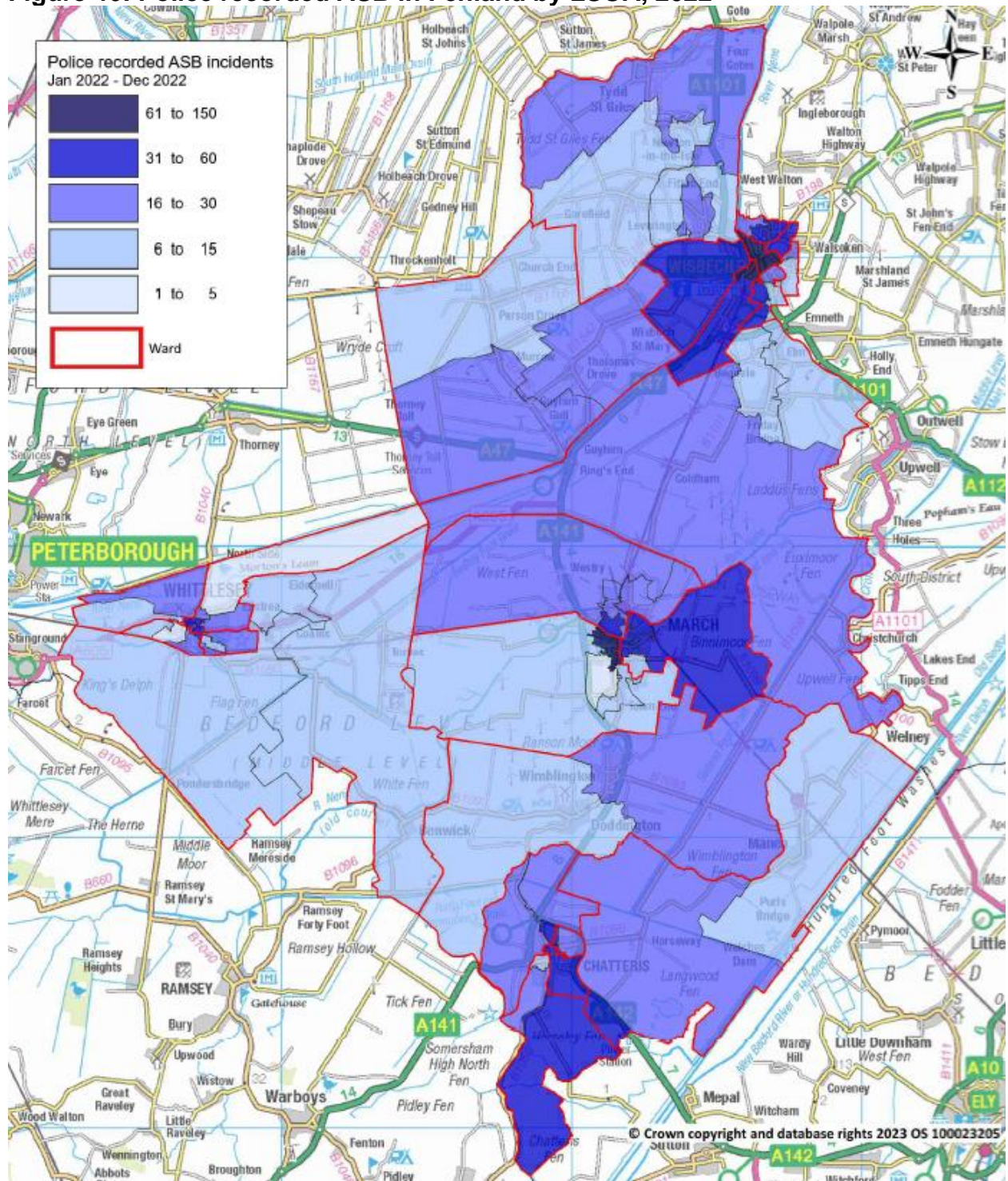
Ward	2019 Count	2019 %	2022 Count	2022 %
Bassenhally	65	3.1%	55	4.0%
Benwick, Coates & Eastrea	52	2.5%	36	2.6%
Birch	48	2.3%	19	1.4%
Clarkson	125	5.9%	69	5.0%
Doddington & Wimblington	50	2.4%	34	2.5%
Elm & Christchurch	55	2.6%	41	3.0%
Kirkgate	37	1.7%	39	2.8%
Lattersey	33	1.6%	29	2.1%
Manea	22	1.0%	15	1.1%
March East	124	5.9%	149	10.9%
March North	102	4.8%	97	7.1%
March West	135	6.4%	102	7.5%
Medworth	404	19.1%	184	13.4%
Octavia Hill	140	6.6%	60	4.4%
Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary	71	3.4%	48	3.5%
Peckover	105	5.0%	56	4.1%
Roman Bank	90	4.3%	68	5.0%
Slade Lode	84	4.0%	57	4.2%
St Andrews	48	2.3%	22	1.6%
Staithe	60	2.8%	32	2.3%
Stonald	19	0.9%	21	1.5%
The Mills	37	1.7%	26	1.9%
Waterlees Village	145	6.8%	83	6.1%
Wenneye	66	3.1%	27	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,117</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,369</b>	<b>100%</b>

Analysis has been conducted at the lower-level geography of LSOA to gain a more detailed picture of the spread of ASB in Fenland. There is notable geographic variation at this level, with just five of the 56 Fenland LSOA's accounting for 29% of all ASB incidents. An LSOA in the south of Wisbech (Fenland 003I) accounted for the highest share of all ASB incidents at 10.8%, albeit that this has reduced from 14.7% in 2019. The bordering LSOA Fenland 002A, also in Wisbech town, accounts for the next highest share of all ASB at 5.6%.

The thematic map below presents the annual count of ASB incidents (2022) for all LSOAs in Fenland. This highlights that there are higher levels of ASB in the market town areas with lower levels seen in the rural areas of the district.



**Figure 46: Police recorded ASB in Fenland by LSOA, 2022**



#### 10.2.4. Non-police Recorded ASB

Not all anti-social behaviour will be reported to the police and therefore it is important to explore non-police recorded ASB data, where possible, to gain a more complete understanding of ASB issues within a community. Fenland District Council and

housing providers within Fenland both record information on ASB reports and have shared data for inclusion in this assessment.

### **Fenland District Council Recorded ASB**

Data recorded by the Community Safety Team at Fenland District Council has been shared for analysis in this assessment. Data is grouped by historic policing sectors and as such is not directly comparable with the police recorded data presented in this section. However, broadly the data shows a similar pattern with the highest number of calls recorded in Wisbech in the 2022/23 financial year. The next highest area was March. A caveat with this data is that initial reports to the community safety team may be re-routed elsewhere but will still feature within this data source. As such, robust conclusions cannot be drawn, however, this data source is indicative of a higher level of ASB related demand from the Wisbech and March area. Work to explore future data sharing which would enable analysis of the Fenland District Council ASB data alongside police recorded data at consistent geographies would help to provide a more robust understanding of ASB issues within the district.

Fenland District Council have also shared a number of ASB case studies which can be found in Appendix F. These case studies provide an indication to the range of issues which present to the community safety team. Issues included:

- Nuisance concerns relating to street drinking from residents and local businesses;
- Environment concerns relating to fly-tipping;
- Concerns relating to a neighbour with health and substance misuse issues who was causing nuisance/concern.

The three case studies also highlight the variation in the routes by which ASB issues come to the attention of the Community Safety Team with each report coming in via a different route. These ASB cases were identified by direct contact from a resident, contact via a district councillor with whom a constituent had raised concerns, observations from Fenland District Council's Street Scene team whose job it is to investigate incidents of environmental waste. One of these case studies noted that during investigation of the issues reported it was established that there had been no reports made to the police regarding the problems noted. This highlights the importance of utilising all available data sources in order to gain a more complete understanding of local ASB issues.

### **Housing Provider Recorded ASB**

Data on the number and type of ASB cases recorded since April 2019 were provided for analysis, however, caveats were noted which had significantly affected the recording of ASB in this time period. As such the figures are not included in this assessment but further work should be completed to establish data sharing for future

analysis. ASB case types do not align with the police recorded data, further work to better understand data recording and establish how to glean insights from the housing provider recording ASB alongside other available data sources would be beneficial for the CSP.

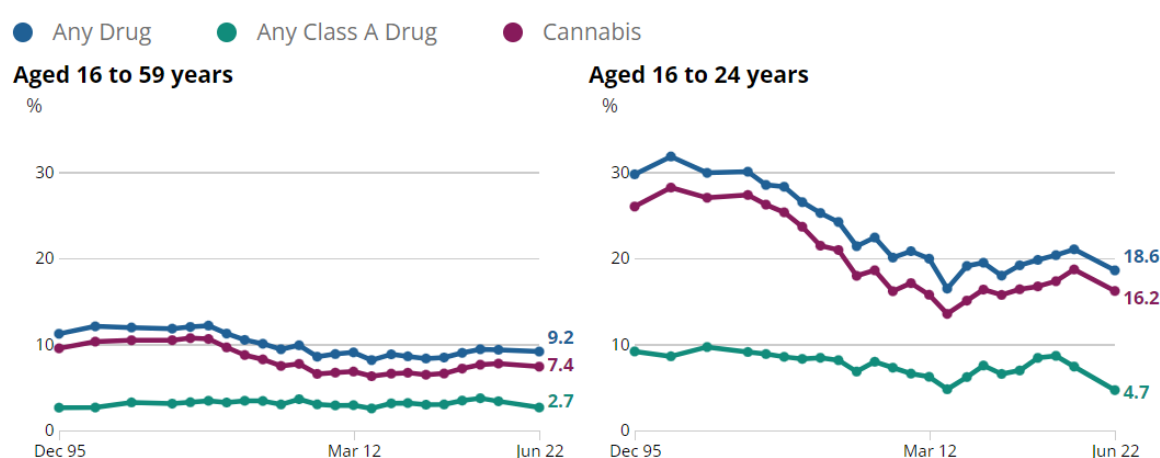
Some key ASB concerns noted for Fenland included:

- Domestic abuse and the severity of cases in communities
- The proportion of drug related reports
- The proportion of urgent high risk ASB type reports

### 10.3. Substance Misuse

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides a useful indicator of patterns in drug use within the population as typically much drug use will not come through on police recorded crime statistics. Long-term changes tracked by the CSEW show reductions in all drug use in recent years, with particularly large decreases for class A drug use by younger people (see Figure 47).

**Figure 47: Proportion of adults ages 16 to 59 years and 16 to 24 years reporting use of any drug, any Class A drug and cannabis in the last year, England and Wales, year ending December 1995 to year ending June 2022**



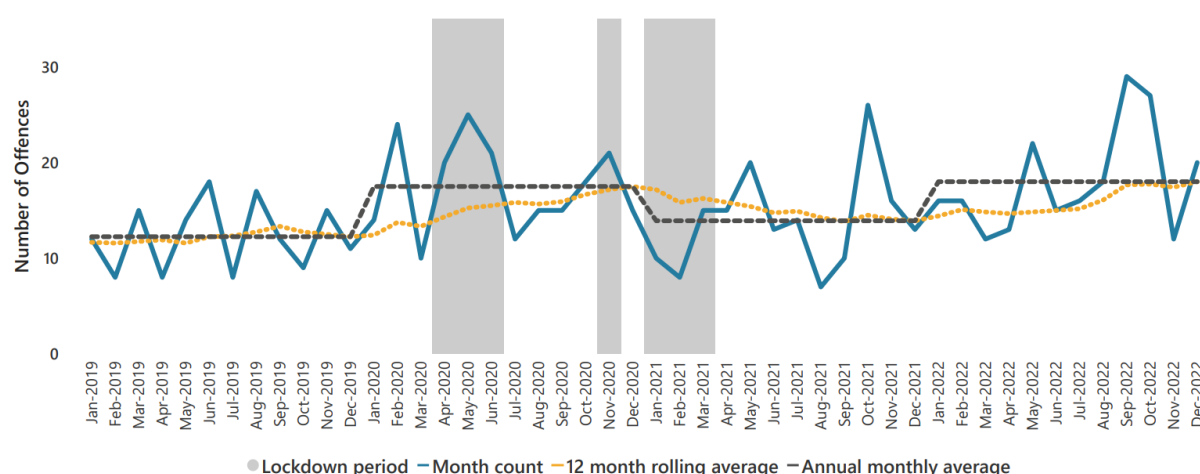
Source: Office for National Statistics (2022g)

The latest CSEW data on drug misuse shows 9% of adults (aged 16-59) reported having taken drugs in the latest year in the year ending June 2022, with no change noted from the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020. For adults aged 16-24 the percentage rises to 19% (Office for National Statistics, 2022g). Police recorded crime data shows a 4% reduction in all drug offences recorded in the year ending September 2022 compared with the year ending March 2020 (Office for National Statistics, 2023b).



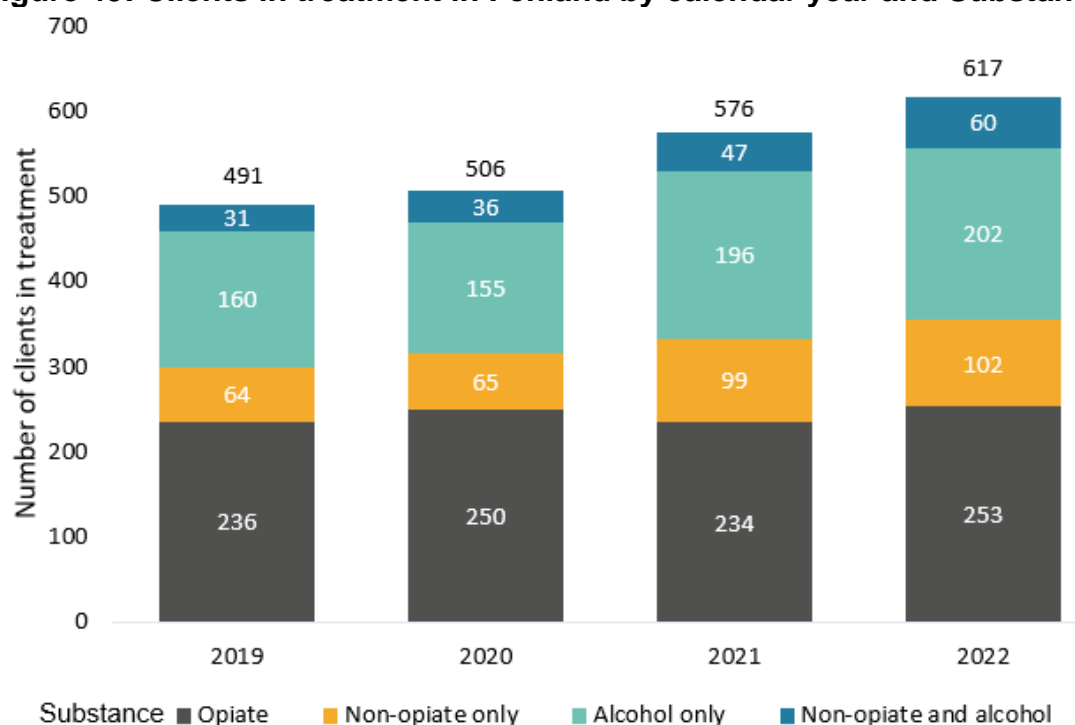
Local data shows consistently low levels of police recorded drug offences in Fenland. In 2022, the rate of police recorded drug offences was 2.1 offences per 1,000 population, higher than the rate seen in East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire, but slightly lower than the rates recorded in Cambridge City and Huntingdonshire. The four-year trend data for police recorded drug offences in Fenland is presented in Figure 48. In line with patterns seen nationally, there was a slight increase in drug offences recorded in 2020, likely linked to increased proactive policing activity during the first national lockdown. The level of drug offences then dropped in 2021 before increasing to 216 offences in 2022, 47% above the pre-pandemic levels recorded in 2019.

**Figure 48: Police recorded drug offences in Fenland, 2019-2022**



The current provider of substance misuse services (for adults) in Cambridgeshire is Change Grow Live (CGL). CGL has provided a summary of individuals in treatment by their resident district for inclusion in this assessment. In 2022, 617 people were recorded as in treatment, with 170 successful completions during the year. There have been year-on-year increases in the number of Fenland residents in treatment since 2019 with an overall increase of 26% in 2022 compared to 2019. In 2022, the majority of CGL (Change Grow Live) clients in Fenland were in treatment for Opiate misuse (41%). A further 33% were in treatment for Alcohol only.

**Figure 49: Clients in treatment in Fenland by calendar year and Substance**



Source: CGL

There is opportunity to better understand substance misuse activity locally via needle finds/ drug paraphernalia find recording. Clearing reported needle finds is currently a function of Fenland District Council. The Cambridgeshire Research group has carried out some initial scoping of what analysis is feasible with existing records and is seeking input from subject leads to support this in Fenland moving forward.

A Countywide Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment is due to be published in Spring 2023. **The CSP should utilise this assessment to gain a more detailed understanding of these issues within Fenland.**

## 10.4. Fire

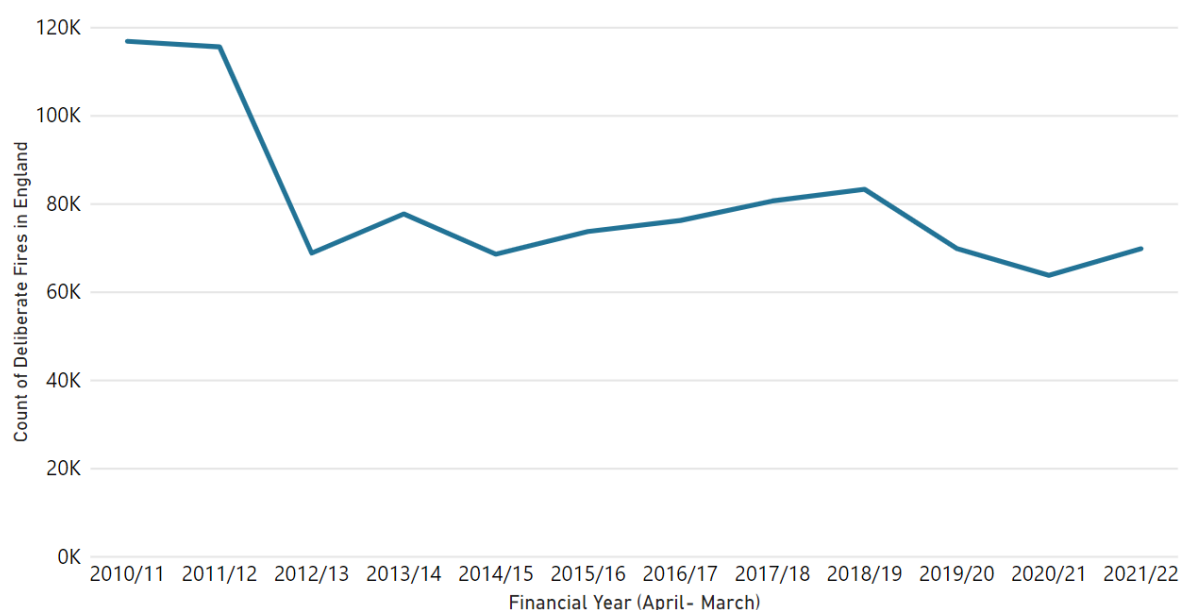
The national and local Fire Service data used in this section includes accidental, deliberate and fires where the cause was unknown. This document primarily focuses on deliberate fires as they represent the riskier behaviour.

National data from the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) (reported by year ending March) shows that the total number of fires attended in the 2021/22 was 152,629. This is 1% higher than seen in the previous year. However, total fires are still 16.5% less than before the pandemic in 2019/20 (Home Office, 2022a).

The national data has a delay in its release, so the full year is up to March 2022. Whereas local fire data goes up to the end of December 2022.

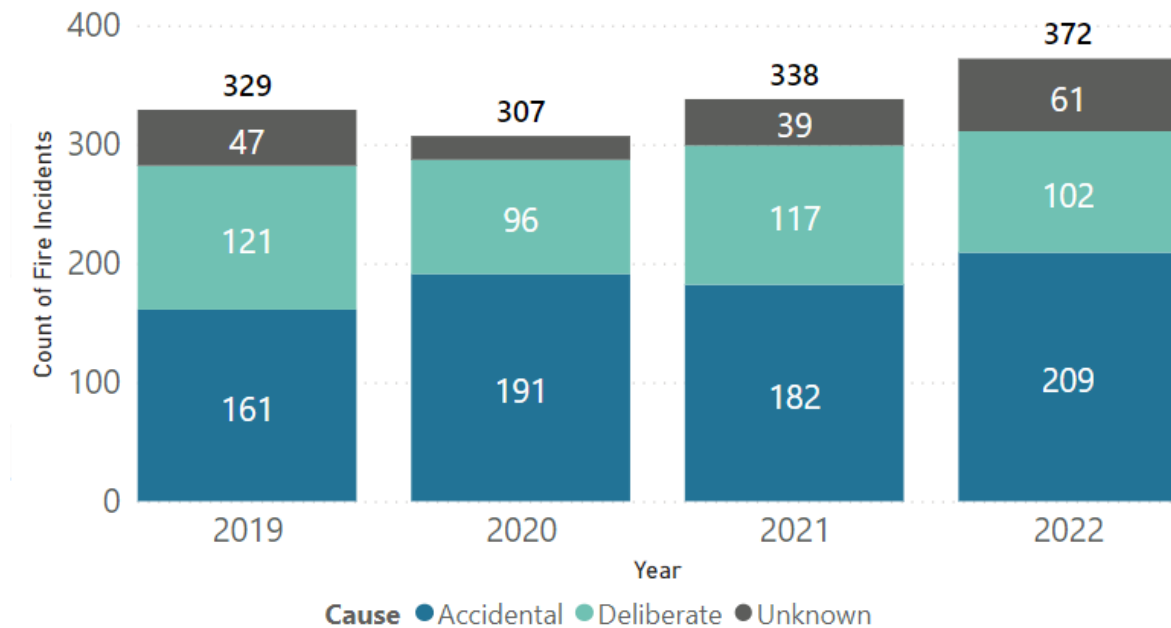
Below are the national figures for deliberate fires since 2011/12. Between 2020/21 and 2021/22 the number of deliberate fires attended increased by 10% to 69,782 but have remained stable since 2011.

**Figure 50: Deliberate fires attended by fires and rescue services in England between 2011 and 2022 (Year ending March)**



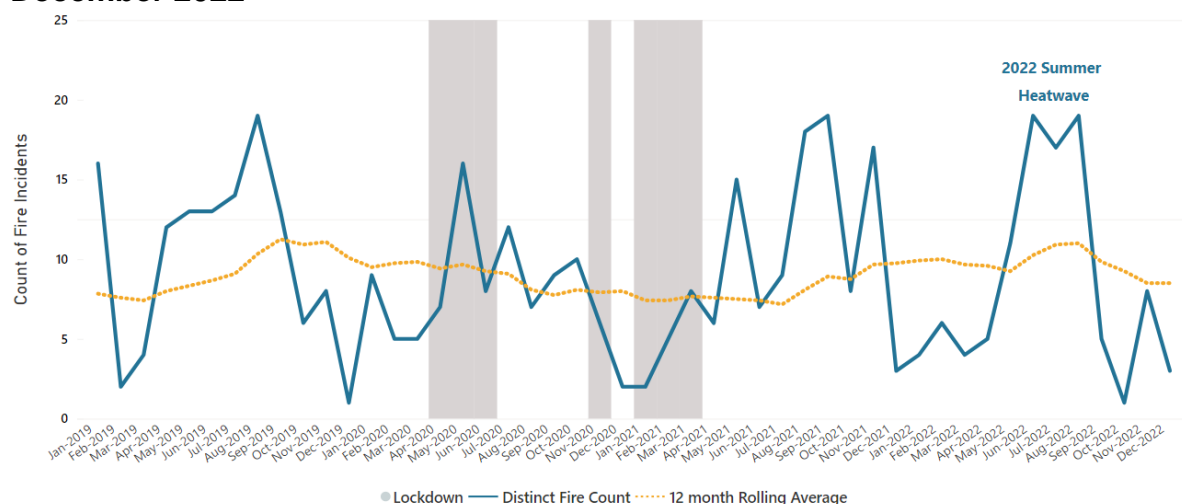
Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue service recorded 372 fires in Fenland in the 2022 calendar year. This is a 10.1% increase on 2021 figures of 338. Fenland accounted for 16.3% of the total fires in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and 17.6% of all deliberate fires in 2022.

**Figure 51: Count of Fires in Fenland by cause, 2019 – 2022 (Year ending December)**



The figure above (Figure 51) displays the number of fires in Fenland broken down by cause over the past four years. This shows there was a 12.8% decrease in deliberate fires from 117 in 2021 to 102 incidents in 2022. Of those incidents, the main property category recorded in 2022 was 'Outdoors' and 'Road Vehicle' at 54 and 22 respectively. This contrasts with 2021 where 64 were 'outdoors', and 19 for 'road vehicle'.

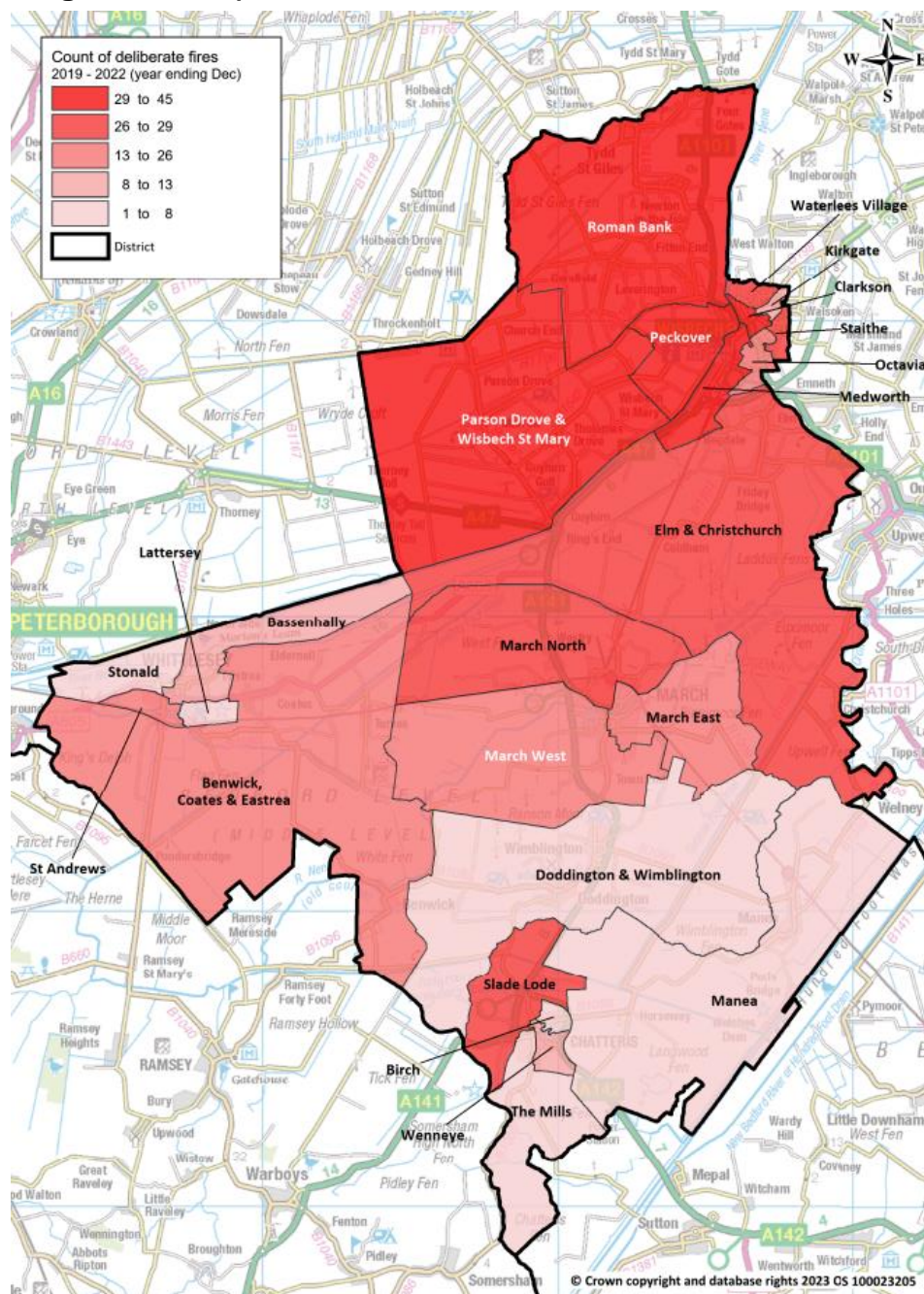
**Figure 52: Monthly rolling count of deliberate fires in Fenland, Jan 2020 – December 2022**



The monthly count of deliberate fires is displayed in the chart above (Figure 52) and shows that, following the third lockdown in 2021 there has been a steady increase in

Figure 53 below shows the total count of deliberate fires from 2019-2022 broken down by Fenland ward. A majority were recorded in the wards of Clarkson, Roman Bank, Medworth and Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary.

**Figure 53: Count of deliberate fires by Ward (2021) in Fenland, 2019 - 2022 (Year ending December)**



When assessing the changes in the volume of deliberate fire incidents in the last 3 years, the following areas saw the largest volume increases, albeit from a low base

Staithe ward in Wisbech saw an increase from 4 incidents in 2019 to 16 in 2022. Of those 16 fires, 9 were concentrated around the fields south of Sandy Lane, with all being categorised as ‘outdoor’ fires.

In March North 16 deliberate fire incidents were reported in the last year compared to 3 in 2019. However unlike in Staithe ward, the location of these incidents was not clearly focused on one part of the ward.

## 10.5. Criminal Damage

When comparing the rate of police recorded criminal damage offences across Cambridgeshire districts, Fenland has the highest rate in 2022 (as shown in the table below).

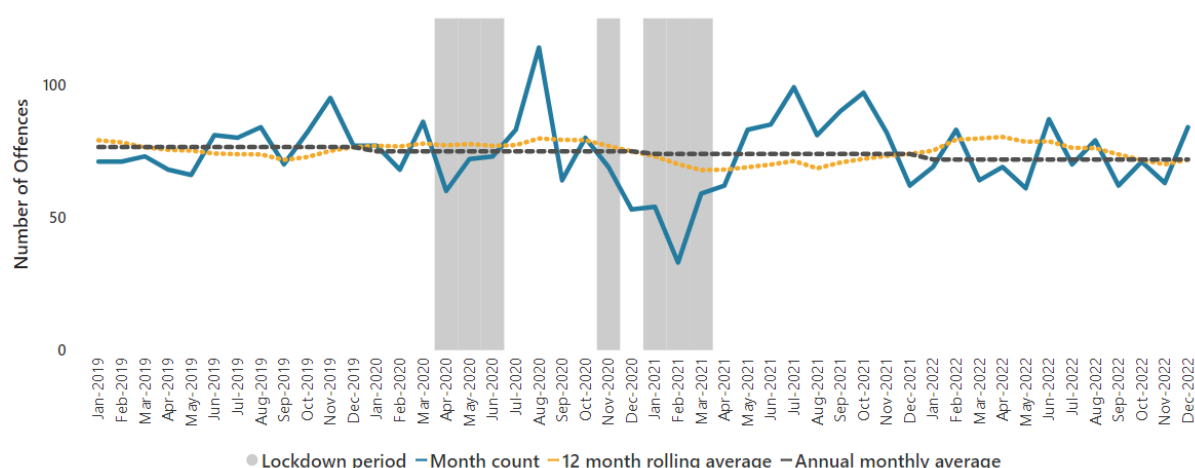
**Table 7: Criminal damage offence counts and rates per 1,000 population in 2022, by district**

District	Count of criminal damage offences 2022	Rate of criminal damage offences per 1,000 population
Cambridge	1,132	7.8
East Cambridgeshire	384	4.4
Fenland	862	8.4
Huntingdonshire	1,129	6.2
South Cambridgeshire	815	5.0

The annual monthly average count of criminal damage offences in Fenland has remained quite consistent since 2019, as shown in Figure 54 below. Some peaks in Summer months can also be observed, albeit these were less marked in 2022 than in summer 2021.



**Figure 54: Police recorded criminal damage offences in Fenland, 2019-2022**



Geographical analysis of the data shows that these offences are concentrated in the following wards from 2019-2022:

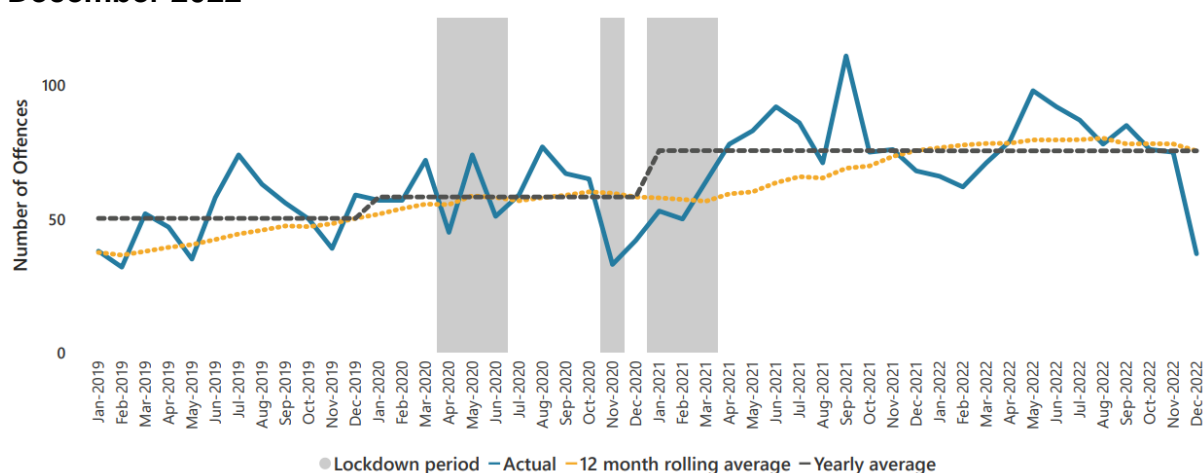
- Medworth (11.2% of criminal damage offences).
- Waterlees Village (7.8% of criminal damage offences).
- March East (7% of criminal damage offences).
- March West (7.9% of criminal damage offences).

## 10.6. Public Order

Public order offences is a wide category which refers to incidents of violence and/or intimidation committed by individuals or groups in public. Local police recorded crime data shows year-on-year increases in public order offences in Fenland with 906 offences recorded in 2022, up by half (50%) since 2019. Cambridgeshire county saw a slightly lesser increase of 42% in the same timeframe.

Figure 55 below displays monthly counts of public order offences in Fenland since January 2019. This shows that offences were depressed during the lockdown periods and peaked following the easing of restrictions in 2021. In 2022 the highest monthly counts were seen between May (98 offences) and July (87 offences). The number of offences dropped notably in December 2022 with just 35 offences recorded.

**Figure 55: Police recorded public order offences in Fenland, January 2019 - December 2022**



The majority of public order offences recorded in 2022 were 'Public fear, alarm or distress' (82%). 'Race or religious aggravated public fear, alarm or distress' accounted for 7% (59 offences). The remaining 107 offences recorded in 2022 fall under the broad category of 'other offences public order' which includes a range of offences such as affray, breach of a non-molestation order or causing a public nuisance. Of the 906 public order offences recorded in Fenland in 2022, 9% were marked as hate crimes.

Geographical analysis shows that Medworth ward accounted for the largest share of public order offences in 2022 at 15.3%. The next highest proportion of offences occurred in March East (8.5%) and March North (7.3%). The breakdown in offences by ward has remained fairly consistent over the past 4 years with the biggest change between 2019 and 2022 being a reduction in the proportion of offences in March West ward from 9.6% to 5.8% of all public order offences in Fenland.

## 11. Re-offending

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

There is limited local data available on offenders and re-offending, however a Victim Offender and Suspects Needs Assessments (Commissioned by the OPCC) was published by Cambridgeshire Research Group in October 2020. This needs assessment aimed to provide an overview and profile of the available data relating to



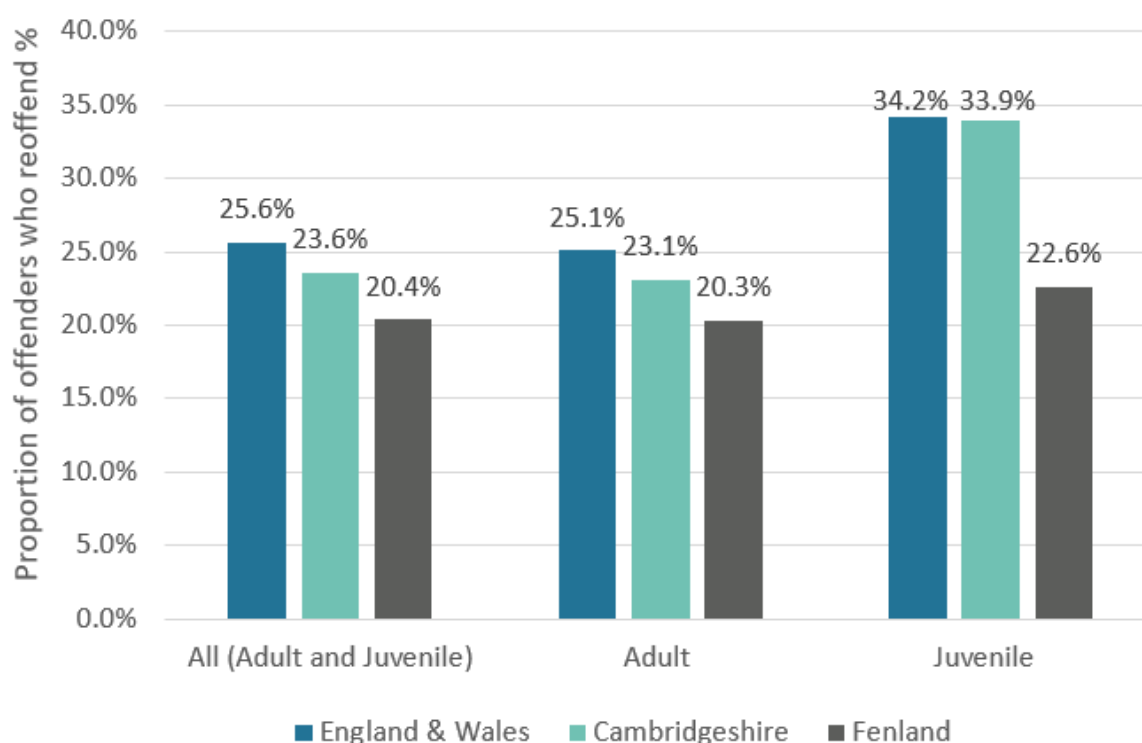
Victims, Offenders and Suspects in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (Cambridgeshire Insight, 2020).

Analysis of the Adult Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire (BeNCH) Community Rehabilitation Cohort (CRC) (2019) within the needs assessment highlighted the following in terms of reoffending:

- Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the most common re-offence was Violence.
- Re-offenders have a higher level of criminogenic need across all pathways, notably Attitudes to Offending, Lifestyle and Drugs Pathways.
- Re-offenders who have No Fixed Abode are the most likely to re-offend 5 times or more, with 65% having 5 or more re-offences, compared to 38% who reside in Cambridgeshire, and 42% in Peterborough.

Proven reoffending statistics are published by the Ministry of Justice on a quarterly basis, with some indicators published to Local Authority District level. The latest statistics published related to the October to December 2020 offender cohort. The coronavirus pandemic has generated a lot of volatility in reoffending figures due to the impact of court closures and delays, including the most recently published statistics (published October 2022). For this reason, the proven reoffending statistics prior to pandemic disruption for Fenland (April 2019 -March 2020) are outlined in Figure 56 below. The geography here relates to the most recent known address recorded for each offender.

**Figure 56: Proportion of offenders in Fenland who reoffend (%) April 2019 to March 2020**



Source: Ministry of Justice (2022b).

In Fenland there was a total of 122 adult reoffenders and 7 juvenile reoffenders in the April 2019 to March 2020 cohort analysed for these statistics. It is notable that the proportion of offenders who reoffend was lower for Fenland compared to Cambridgeshire and England and Wales, most notably for juvenile offenders. There remains a data gap as the national reoffending figures above cannot provide the whole picture. Insight from local offender services would be needed to understand fully what is happening with reoffending in Fenland specifically and for the partnership to tackle reoffending locally.

**Recommendation: The CSP needs to consider what insights can be drawn from local probation services and other key agencies locally regarding re-offending. This will help understand the specific concerns regarding offenders in the local area to help tackle reoffending.**

## 12. Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)</b>	“Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person' (Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 and Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011).” (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, n.d., a)
<b>Acquisitive Crime</b>	Acquisitive crime is a broad crime category, encompassing a wide range of offences, including burglary, robbery, theft and vehicle offences. In this document acquisitive crime is defined as business burglary, residential burglary, vehicle offences, theft from the person, bicycle theft, shoplifting, and “all other theft offences”.
<b>ASB categories: personal, environmental and nuisance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.</li> <li>• Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.</li> <li>• Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, n.d., a).</li> </ul>
<b>Accidental Fires</b>	Where the motive for the fire is thought to be accidental or is unknown.
<b>Arson</b>	The criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property.
<b>Catalytic converters</b>	“Catalytic converters are devices fitted to vehicle exhausts to reduce the amount of dangerous gases emitted. They are often targeted by thieves as they contain valuable metals and can be removed in less than a minute.” (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, n.d., b)
<b>CCE/CSE</b>	Child Criminal Exploitation/Child Sexual Exploitation

<b>Child Sexual Exploitation</b>	“...where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology”. (Department for Education, 2018)
<b>Coercive Control</b>	“...act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.” (Women's aid, n.d.)
<b>County Lines</b>	“A term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of ‘deal line’. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.” (Home Office, 2023a)
<b>CRG</b>	Cambridgeshire Research Group
<b>CSEW</b>	Crime Survey for England and Wales
<b>CSP</b>	Community Safety Partnership
<b>DASVP</b>	The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership
<b>Deliberate Fires</b>	“Where the motive was thought to be or suspected to be deliberate.” Whilst deliberate fires can include arson incidents, not all deliberate fires are arson (Home Office, 2023c).
<b>Domestic Abuse Crime</b>	Domestic Abuse Crime is not limited to specific offences. Any police recorded crime can be flagged as Domestic Abuse related and as such would be counted as a ‘Domestic Abuse Crime’.

<b>Domestic Abuse Incident</b>	“A (police recorded) report of a domestic incident, which occurs in either a public or private place.” Recording such incidents enables data to capture those incidents where the circumstances do not amount to a notifiable crime i.e., not all domestic abuse incidents result in a crime being recorded.” (Home Office, 2011, p. 19).
<b>Domestic Homicide Review</b>	“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).” (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough DASV Partnership, n.d.)
<b>ED</b>	Emergency Department
<b>FTE</b>	Full time equivalent
<b>FRS</b>	Fire and Rescue Service
<b>Hate Crime</b>	“A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone's: race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability. These aspects are known as 'protected characteristics'. A hate crime can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and damage to property. A hate incident is behaviour which isn't a crime but which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on the 5 protected characteristics.” (HM Government, n.d.)
<b>HMICFRS</b>	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services

<b>IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisers)</b>	“IDVAs provide emotional and practical advice, guidance and support to help you and your family to become and remain safe. They will seek ways to empower you to make positive safe choices and they will liaise with other professionals on your behalf. The support they provide could include help for you through a court process, help to access safe accommodation and advocate on your behalf.” (Safer Futures, n.d.).
<b>LSOA (Lower Super Output Area)</b>	An LSOA is a geographical area, usually comprising of between 400 to 1200 households, and a resident population of between 1000 and 3000 people (ONS, 2023a).
<b>MASH</b>	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
<b>MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference)</b>	Where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors <b>Invalid source specified..</b>
<b>Modern Slavery</b>	“Modern slavery is a complex crime that covers all forms of slavery, trafficking and exploitation. Trafficking includes transporting, recruiting or harbouring an individual with a view to them being exploited.” The 5 main types of exploitation that victims of modern slavery may experience are: labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting (ONS, 2020).

<b>National Referral Mechanism (for Modern slavery)</b>	“The National Referral Mechanism is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support”. Only staff at designated first responder organisations can make online NRM or Duty to Notify (DtN) referral. An NRM referral is made for those under 18, and for adults who have consented to be referred. A DtN referral is for those who have not consented to a NRM referral (Home Office; UK Visas and Immigration, 2022).
<b>NCA</b>	National Crime Agency
<b>ONS</b>	Office for National Statistics
<b>OPCC</b>	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
<b>Other Theft</b>	Other theft offences involve the theft of property which is not taking directly from a person or shop. Some subcategories include; blackmail, theft by an employee, theft of mail, making off without payment etc.
<b>Substance misuse: Opiate and Non-opiate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opiate – e.g., heroin</li> <li>• Non-opiate – e.g., cannabis, crack and ecstasy (Public Health England, 2020).</li> </ul>
<b>Theft offences</b>	In this document, when discussing figures from the CSEW, theft offences are defined as theft from the person, other theft of personal property, domestic burglary, vehicle theft, and other household theft. Household theft includes domestic burglary, vehicle theft, and other household theft (ONS, 2022b).
<b>Ward</b>	Wards (or electoral wards), are geographical areas used to elect local authority councillors (ONS, 2023a).
<b>YE (Year ending)</b>	The final month of the 12 month period measured.

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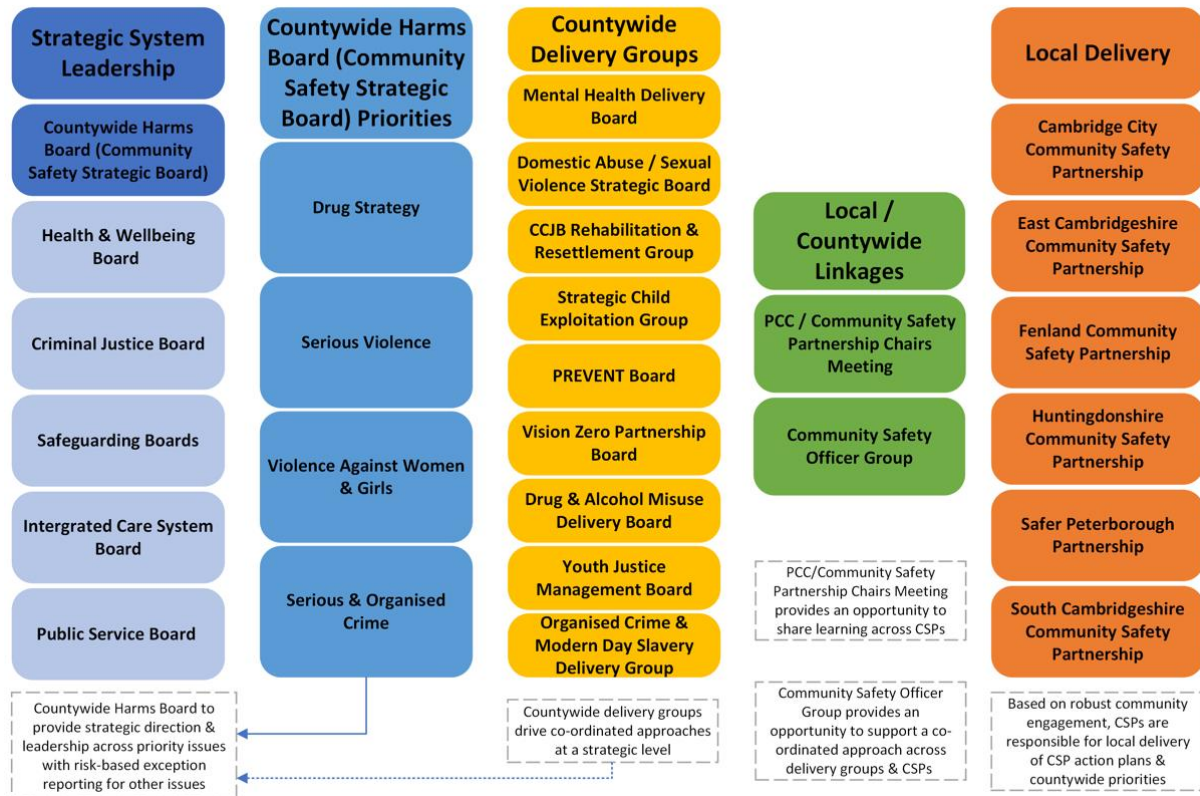
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# Appendix A: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Community Safety Countywide Agreement 2022-2025

## Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Countrywide Agreement 2022 - 25



## Appendix B: Total Police Recorded Crime in Fenland by Ward

	Count of offences 2022	Percentage of Fenland offences 2022
Bassenhally	327	4.0%
Benwick, Coates & Eastrea	245	3.0%
Birch	106	1.3%
Clarkson	391	4.7%
Doddington & Wimblington	198	2.4%
Elm & Christchurch	275	3.3%
Kirkgate	199	2.4%
Lattersey	192	2.3%
Manea	148	1.8%
March East	614	7.4%
March North	694	8.4%
March West	560	6.8%
Medworth	1,376	16.6%
Octavia Hill	473	5.7%
Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary	297	3.6%
Peckover	277	3.3%
Roman Bank	353	4.3%
Slade Lode	253	3.1%
St Andrews	146	1.8%
Staithe	212	2.6%
Stonald	155	1.9%
The Mills	82	1.0%
Waterlees Village	548	6.6%
Wenneye	148	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,269</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Appendix C: Technical Notes

### Proportion of Adult Victims who Have Experienced a Crime, by Crime Type

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

### Census 2021

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

### Crime Rates

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

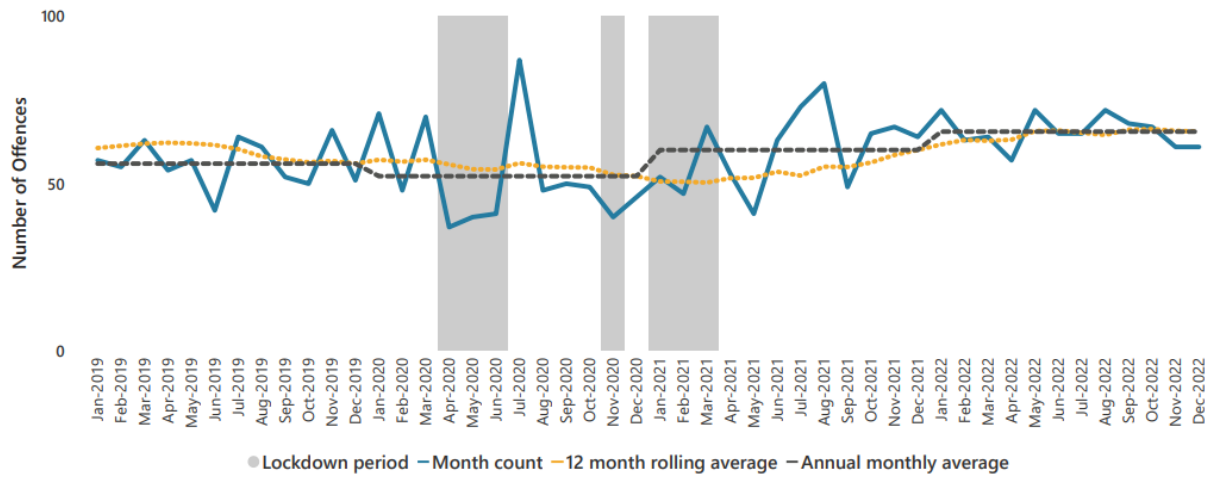
## Appendix D: Catalytic Converter Thefts Table

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

<b>Districts</b>	<b>2019 count</b>	<b>2019 %</b>	<b>2020 count</b>	<b>2020 %</b>	<b>2021 count</b>	<b>2021 %</b>	<b>2022 count</b>	<b>2022 %</b>
<b>Cambridge</b>	115	53.2%	150	45.3%	169	29.7%	212	33.0%
<b>South Cambridgeshire</b>	58	26.9%	57	17.2%	151	26.5%	189	29.4%
<b>Huntingdonshire</b>	27	12.5%	81	24.5%	139	24.4%	133	20.7%
<b>East Cambridgeshire</b>	11	5.1%	19	5.7%	66	11.6%	70	10.9%
<b>Fenland</b>	5	2.3%	24	7.3%	44	7.7%	38	5.9%
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>216</b>	100%	<b>331</b>	100%	<b>569</b>	100%	<b>642</b>	100%

## Appendix E: Monthly Trend in Other Theft Offences

**Figure 57: Monthly trend in other theft offences in Fenland from January 2019 to December 2022**



## Appendix F: ASB Case Studies from Fenland District Community Safety Team

### **Personal**

Contact through a District Councillor who had a constituent raise concern about a person who was a neighbour. The neighbour had a long-term head injury, substance abuse issues, lived alone, a parent who provided care but they were also causing nuisance and concern. Along with demand on public services such as ambulance and police.

Working alongside licensing officers from FDC and police a number of actions were agreed. This included looking at licensed premises, Taxi operators, and a joint visit to see the problem neighbour (alleged perpetrator).

FDC Community Safety and the Neighbourhood Police Team conducted a joint visit to the alleged perpetrator and during this both prevention and support were discussed. Importantly the alleged perpetrator gave consent for his parent/carer to be contacted and spoken to.

The parent/carer was contacted, and the situation discussed. This revealed the parent was themselves in their 80's and felt they needed support. With their consent contact was made with CGL substance abuse support and Adult Early Help. This allowed us to provide information and contact details to allow the parent to access appropriate support.

To date there has been no recurrence of the problems that prompted the initial contact by the constituent with their elected member.

### **Community Report**

Community report received by FDC Community Safety (FDC CS) from a resident regarding problems being experienced with a group of people who congregate around public benches, drink and become a nuisance. This was then followed by other complaints about the same issue from a couple of nearby business premises who also reported urination and defecation.

Follow up contact with the individual complainants provided more understanding of the problem and impact.

Contact with the local police team identified very little, if any, reporting of these problems to the police.

There was some difficulty encountered early on getting the resident to fully engage and use all available reporting options for the appropriate authorities. However, FDC

CS maintained contact with this person, listening to them and securing their available evidence.

FDC CS completed wider engagement of residents/businesses in the locality. A variety of responses were given including issues with begging and street drinking. Some were more concerned about the impact of the begging and some the street drinking. Some didn't have much to report. This was also taken as an opportunity to inform local stakeholders of the reporting options available.

Through the evidence gathering, it was suggested a ringleader for the street drinking and associated nuisance was an occupant of a nearby HMO.

The Neighbourhood Police Team completed a personal visit to the initial informant to get them to fully engage and consider using all reporting options.

This was then followed by a joint FDC CS and Neighbourhood Policing Team visit to the wider community with the intention of making people aware of what actions had been completed to date, the introduction and approach of Op Luscombe and to understand the current concerns. This provided reassurance but also gave the community a voice to feedback that the main issue was street begging by one individual, with street drinking related nuisance reducing but still having an impact.

There has also been discussion involving FDC's Homelessness Coordinator and Private Sector Housing Officer in relation to the street drinking group and the alleged ringleader.

The partnership discussions have led to two individuals being identified as appropriate for intervention through Op Luscombe, both individuals have been engaged through Op Luscombe and referred to the support hub.

Feedback from the original FDC informant indicates an improved situation in the locality and appears to have regained some confidence in public sector authorities. So much so, FDC have closed the ASB case in full consultation with the informant.

The informant was interviewed by BBC Radio Cambridgeshire on Thursday 20/10/22, about 1hr 50 minutes in at this link [Dotty McLeod - 25/10/2022 - BBC Sounds](#)

## **Community**

Fenland District Council's Street Scene team, whose job it is to investigate environmental waste offences, had noted a long-term fly-tipping problem in New Drove – a long road made up of residential and commercial units.

Most of the waste was in a ditch at the boundary of a private field. The council only has official responsibility to clear waste from public highways and its own land but wanted to tackle the issue.

Fenland District Council secured £1,450 from the PCC's Safer Communities Fund to clear waste from the site where there were also numerous reports of anti-social behaviour.

The council worked with the landowner to create a soil bund in front of the ditch to make vehicle access more difficult and help prevent future fly tipping in it, which is particularly challenging to clear. In the main, waste dumped at the site was household items and large bulky waste, such as carpet and fridges, along with construction waste.

Monitoring since the work was done in October 2022 shows a reduction in fly-tipping at the site. Further works are imminent to clear the opposite side of the field entrance and install signage to deter further fly-tipping.

Feedback from one resident has been very positive in respect of the quality-of-life improvement the work has had.

As a side note but linked to this problem, when removing some waste evidence was found which led Streetscene to issue a fixed penalty notice (£400), which was paid.



## Appendix G: List of Recommendations from this Strategic Assessment

The following list outlines all recommendations in this document.

- **Acquisitive crime – shoplifting:**
  - In the context of the factors influencing acquisitive crime outlined above, finding a way to improve recording of items stolen here could help the partnership identify where essential items are being stolen. This may help the partnership address possible unmet need or vulnerabilities due to the cost of living crisis.
- **Scams. Fraud and cyber crime:**
  - There are data gaps in terms of more localised information. More Fenland specific information that is needed to further understand scams, fraud and cyber crime occurring in the local area.
- **Violence:**
  - The partnership will need more information to understand and respond to the increases in Violence Against the Person seen locally.
  - Violence with injury data from Emergency Departments and healthcare providers covering the Fenland area is not currently available for analysis. This remains a data gap for the Fenland area.
  - It is recommended that this data gap is addressed, which may be feasible via the Serious Violence work taking place at a county level.
- **Knife crime:**
  - CSP activity in relation to knife crime (i.e. sessions in schools) could provide valuable insights to the partnership on this issue. It is recommended that this is reflected upon alongside an upcoming knife crime profile planned by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.
- **Sexual offences:**
  - The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) is due to complete a needs assessment in 2023. The CSP should utilise this publication to gain a more detailed understanding of sexual offences within Fenland.
- **Domestic abuse:**
  - The CSP should utilise Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) needs assessment to build on the findings presented in this strategic assessment and to gain a more comprehensive understanding of DA-related issues within Fenland.
- **County lines:**

- The CSP has been working to roll out the Against County Lines sessions in local schools. Feedback gathered from these sessions is an opportunity for the CSP to develop further insights on this issue and perceptions of it in Fenland.
- **Modern slavery:**
  - Cambridgeshire Constabulary has recommended that the CSP participate in intelligence led visits to sites of concern for Modern Slavery in the area.
- **CSE/ CCE:**
  - The CSP could have a role to support efforts in tackling this intelligence gap and could seek input from the County level leads as to what the CSP can do to improve upon this gap.
- **ASB:**
  - It is recommended that work should be completed with Fenland District Council to explore how ASB incident data is recorded by the Community Safety Team and Housing Providers with a view to aligning with police recorded data where possible and establishing data sharing. This would enable insights to be gleaned in future analysis which would help inform a more complete understanding of ASB issues in the district.
- **Substance misuse:**
  - There is opportunity to better understand substance misuse activity locally via needle finds/ drug paraphernalia find recording within the district.
  - A Countywide Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment is due to be published in Spring 2023. The CSP should utilise this assessment to gain a more detailed understanding of these issues within the Fenland.
- **Public order:**
  - Given that public order can affect communities more generally than just individual victims it would be worth the partnership requesting a more detailed analysis of these crimes, the areas affected and overlaps with other community safety issues.
- **Re-offending:**
  - The CSP needs to consider what insights can be drawn from local probation services and other key agencies locally regarding re-offending. This will help understand the specific concerns regarding offenders in the local area to help tackle reoffending.