

# **Community Safety Strategic Assessment:**

## **South Cambridgeshire**

### **2022/23**

### **Version 1.0**

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# 1. Executive Summary

## 1.1. Summary of Key Findings

South Cambridgeshire remains a relatively low crime area, with the lowest overall crime rate of all districts in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

There have been some substantial increases in a few crime types locally, in particular, violence and public order. Some of these may be relating to an increasingly challenging economic climate, others by easing of restrictions after Covid-19 measures, and of course increases can be seen where increased reporting/improved recording occurs. It is likely that 2023 will be another challenging year for some, linked to economic instability and health impacts from the last 3 years (including mental health).

Acquisitive crime types have broadly seen decreases in prevalence since 2019, with catalytic converter theft being a notable exception where increases have been observed. Catalytic converter theft has known links with serious organised acquisitive crime.

Long-term shifts have occurred in the types of crimes being recorded in South Cambridgeshire between 2017 and 2022 (see section 4). Violence against the person and public order now account for a larger share of total crime whilst burglary and theft account for a smaller share.

A number of high harm crime types have shown increases in South Cambridgeshire since 2019, including hate crime, child sexual exploitation, sexual offences and knife crime. All of these offence types are associated with underreporting and as such increases seen in South Cambridgeshire are from a low base and the true scale remains unclear.

## 1.2. Recommendations

### 1.2.1. Priorities 2023/24

It is recommended that the partnership retain the current priority 1 in order to continue the targeting of resources at the areas of the district with the highest need.

#### **Priority 1: Priority areas continue to be driven by data whilst also being informed by professional judgement**

For the upcoming year it is recommended that a review is completed on existing working practices underpinning the selection of priority areas and directing CSP activities in these locations. The aim of the review should be to explore methods of enhancing effectiveness, for example, potential implementation of newly available technology to automatise basic place-based data analysis and free up analytical capacity for more in-depth analysis in response to emerging issues either by place or thematic topic.

Specific recommendations for the review:

- Cambridgeshire County Council Research Team to complete a review of the quarterly data analysis process, to include:
  - frequency of review periods
  - data sources and analysis tools used
  - method of reporting findings to the Tasking & Co-ordination Group for selection of priority areas

Any amendments to be agreed by the Tasking & Co-ordination Group in June 2023 for implementation at the next review. A paper should be circulated to the CSP Board following agreement for information.

It is recommended that the partnership slightly amend its existing priority 2 (Protect those vulnerable to high harm) to focus on emerging concerns. The new wording recommended for 2023/34 is:

#### **Priority 2: Protecting those vulnerable to abuse, harassment and violence**

The CSP should consider exploring the victim/ offender profiles and geographic spread of the following issues and consider where overlapping aspects of vulnerability would benefit from a more co-ordinated partnership approach.

- Children and young people – CSE and county lines
- Violence
- Public order
- Hate crime

## 1.2.2. Full Recommendations List

A complete list of the recommendations contained within this document is presented in the table below, broken down by the priority they align with where possible.

**Table 1: Recommendations for 2023/24**

| <b>Priority</b>  | <b>No.</b> | <b>Recommendations for 2023/24</b>  |
|--|------------|---|
| <b>Priority 1:</b><br><br><b>Priority areas continue to be driven by data whilst also being informed by professional judgement</b> | 1.1        | Cambridgeshire County Council Research Team to complete a review of the quarterly data analysis process   |
|  | 1.2        | The review of the data matrix working processes should consider the inclusion of violence indicators  |
|  | 1.3        | ASB incidents and deliberate fires should continue to form part of the data review matrix to ensure emerging areas of concern are picked up and that work tackling ASB/deliberate fire setting is continued in current priority areas.                            |
| <b>Priority 2:</b><br><br><b>Protecting those vulnerable to abuse, harassment and violence</b>                                     | 2.1        | The partnership should commission a more in-depth review of violence, in order to better understand this sustained increase.  |
|  | 2.2        | Given that public order can affect communities more generally than just individual victims, it would be worth the partnership requesting a more detailed analysis of these crimes, the areas affected and overlaps with other community safety issues.            |
|  | 2.3        | The CSP should utilise the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Needs Assessment to gain a more detailed understanding of these issues within South Cambridgeshire.   |
|  | 2.4        | The partnership should use the latest Census data to consider whether particular cohorts are more present in the district now than previously.  |
| <b>Additional recommendations</b>  | 3.1        | Receiving additional data and information from the High Harms Board (or thematic partnerships lead at force level) to enable to the partnership to effectively prioritise emerging issues.  |
|  | 3.2        | The CSP should consider its role in raising and maintaining community awareness in relation to fraud, scams and cybercrime. In addition to prevention, higher levels of awareness could potentially lead to increases in reporting and victims accessing support. |

| Priority | No. | Recommendations for 2023/24   |
|----------|-----|---|
|          | 3.3 | In order to address the data gap regarding reoffending the CSP should consider what insights can be drawn from probation services and other key agencies locally as to levels of offending and concerns regarding offenders in the local area.  |
|          | 3.4 | It is <b>not</b> recommended that the partnership focus a priority on all acquisitive crime. It is very low in South Cambridgeshire and has seen notable reductions. The partnership should link in with the police on serious organised crime in relation to catalytic converter thefts. |
|          | 3.5 | The CSP should utilise the upcoming Countywide Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment to gain a more detailed understanding of these issues within the South Cambridgeshire.   |

## 2. Introduction

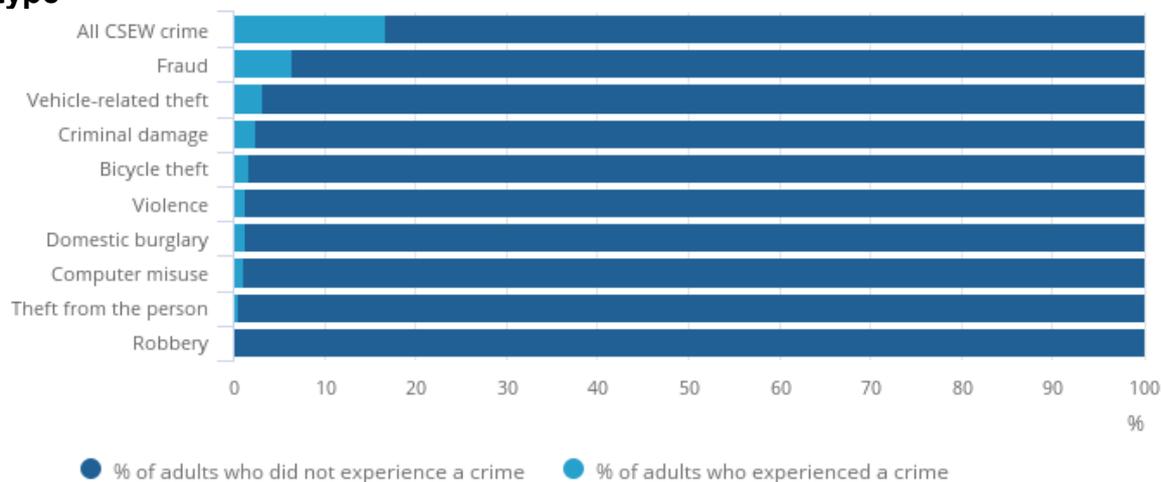
### 2.1. Understanding the Context

#### 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, 2023). *Note.* See technical notes in Appendix A.

#### 2.1.2. Countywide Changes

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

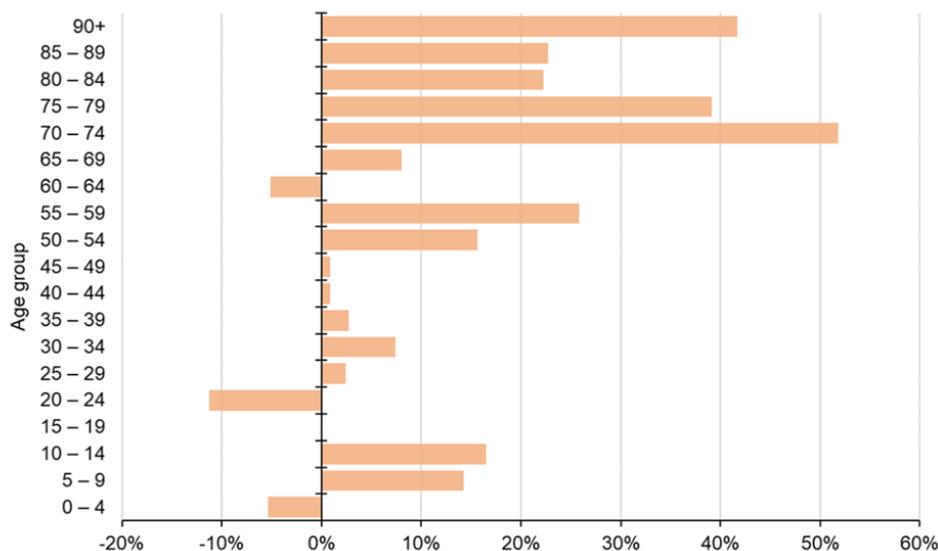
Delivery groups and countywide linkages alongside this aim to address other community safety issues.

From May 2022 a new Problem-Solving Co-ordinator funded by the OPCC, is being hosted by South Cambridgeshire District Council for a three-year term. This post replicated in some other districts in the County. The post holder can also bid into a OPCC community fund for local crime and disorder issues.

### 2.1.3. Demographic Changes

The demographics of the South Cambridgeshire district population are marginally older than the national average. Census 2021 data shows that while South Cambridgeshire has a higher proportion of the population that is economically active compared to the average for England, of those that are economically inactive, it also has a higher proportion who are retired. The overall findings of the latest Census show that population growth is slowing down compared to the growth seen between Census 2001 and 2011, yet South Cambridgeshire has seen population growth higher than both the England and East of England averages. However, this population growth is mainly being driven by increases in the population aged 50 years and over.

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



The proportion of the population identifying as White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British has reduced from 87.3% at Census 2011 to 79.6% at Census 2021, however this is still above both the Cambridgeshire (77.2%) and England (73.5%) Census 2021 average for this ethnic group. Increases were seen in the following ethnic groups:

**Table 2: Proportion of population in South Cambridgeshire by Ethnic Group, Census 2011 and 2021**

| Ethnic group  | Proportion of population: Census 2011 | Proportion of population: Census 2021 |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| White: Other  | 6.0%                                  | 9.4%                                  |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups                         | 1.7%                                  | 2.8%                                  |
| Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh                     | 3.7%                                  | 5.8%                                  |
| Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African | 0.9%                                  | 1.2%                                  |
| Other ethnic group                                      | 0.4%                                  | 1.1%                                  |

There was a small change in the percentage of households in which no one had English as a main language (increase from 2.5% in 2011 to 3.8% in 2021). The top three languages (after English) by number of residents aged 3 years and over in the latest census were Polish, Romanian and Spanish. French has dropped from second to ninth place since 2011 Census, and “All other Chinese” has dropped from third to 7<sup>th</sup> place.

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. South Cambridgeshire was joint with Cambridge for the lowest proportion of residents reporting as disabled under the Equality Act compared to other Cambridgeshire districts with 14.7%, compared to the county average of 16.2%. It is also lower than the East of England proportion at 16.6%, and the national proportion of 17.3%.

South Cambridgeshire has a larger percentage of people in lower (23.9%) and higher (23.5%) managerial, administrative and professional occupations than for England (with 19.9% and 13.2% respectively).

Key findings for South Cambridgeshire:

- South Cambridgeshire’s population has grown from 148,800 in Census 2011 to 162,000 in Census 2021; an increase of 8.9%.
- In contrast the increase in population between Census 2001 and 2011 was 14.3%.
- Population increases were seen across most wards in South Cambridgeshire, with the largest percentage increases seen in Longstanton (72%) and

Cambourne (43.4%). Minor decreases were seen in The Mordens, Balsham, Girton and Bar Hill. The largest decrease was in Bassingbourn (at -7.9%).

- In terms of the number of households within the district, South Cambridgeshire saw an increase of 11.7% from 2011 to 2021, a higher percentage increase compared to most other Cambridgeshire districts and was exceeded only by Cambridge City. This is also higher than the England increase of 6.2%, and the East of England increase of 8.5%.
- By broad age group, whilst there has been some increase in the population aged 20 to 64 years, and slightly more so in the population aged 0 to 19 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 70-74 (51.8%) years, 75-79 years (39.1%), and 90 and over (41.7%). Whilst there has been growth in the population aged 5-9 years (14.3%) and 10-14 years (16.5%), there has been a percentage decrease in the population aged 0-4 years (-5.4%). The biggest decrease however was in those aged 20-24 (-11.3%).

#### 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 10.1% 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, even with inflation peaking.

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

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

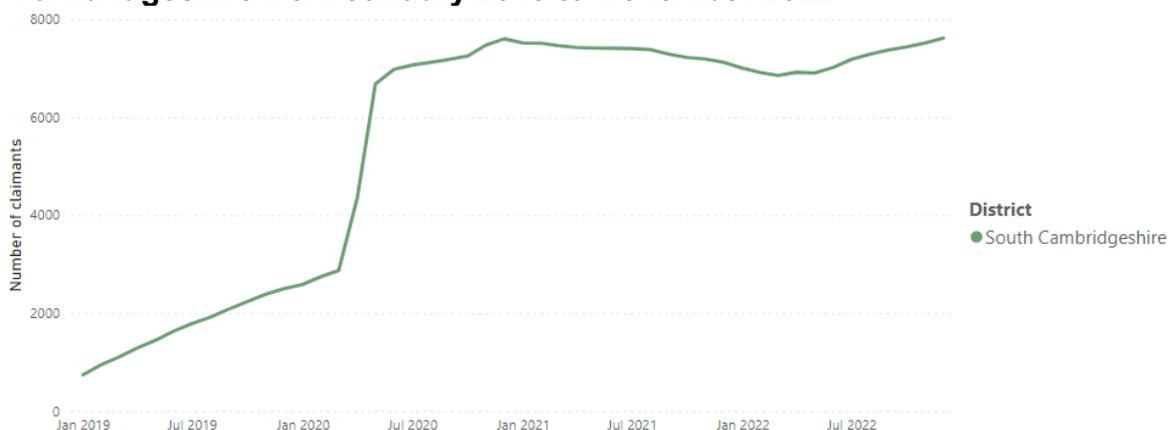
## Economic Context for South Cambridgeshire:

- Average (median) gross weekly pay decreased by 0.3% in 2022 compared to the previous year (ONS, 2022).
- Monthly universal credit claimants have increased by 8.8% from 7,003 in January 2022 to 7,617 in December 2022 (see Figure 3).
- Total number of food parcels distributed by the Trussell trust food bank in the 2022 financial year increased by 70% (The Trussell Trust, 2022).
- Private monthly rents (median) for South Cambridgeshire increased by 6.3% in the year ending September 2022 (ONS, 2022).

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 (Office for Budget Responsibility, 2022). Some government support has been announced which aims to minimise the impacts. This includes a household boost to assist with energy bills and a cost of living package which included the energy price guarantee. However, support is ending in 2023 for many of these announced measures and there are currently no announced replacements. There will be disproportionately higher impact on disposable income for those on lower income or in poverty.

The continuing impact of the cost of living crisis will place significant pressures on living standards and lower-income households throughout 2023.

**Figure 3: Monthly count of Universal Credit Claimants in South Cambridgeshire from January 2019 to November 2022**



## 3. Overview of CSP Activities

### 3.1. CSP Activities 2022/23

Funding from the OPCC for a project officer role has increased the CSP's resource for community engagement. Activities completed throughout the year include:

- Involvement in community groups in:
  - Cambourne
  - Orchard Park
  - Northstowe
  - Melbourn
  - Bassingbourn.
- Involvement in the partnership project addressing the Meldreth-Melbourn underpass.
- Hosting of partnership meetings for the public in response to reports of ASB in Cambourne and police surgeries/drop-ins in Linton, Sawston, and Melbourn.
- Attendance at community events such as Northstowe Day, the Orchard Park fiesta, and Cambourne's Christmas Market and Volunteer Fair.
- Linking in and supporting a range of meetings:
  - Parish and town councils; addressing their meetings in Cambourne and Northstowe.
  - Supported the Police and Crime Commissioner in public meetings in Cambourne.
  - Online councillor meetings throughout the District as well as hosting meetings with our own members and parish councillors to raise awareness of ways they can work with the CSP.
- The CSP has strengthened links with schools, specifically:
  - Roll out of the Cambs Against County Lines video resource within some areas of the district, roll out ongoing at the time of writing.
  - Increasing engagement with Problem Solving Groups, and through visits to schools to support targeted programs run with partners.
  - Supporting more schools to utilise the Firebreak course.
  - Working with partners in the delivery of Transforming Lives.
- Running awareness raising campaigns with parishes and partners on a variety of community safety issues including: graffiti and hate crime, inconsiderate parking, amplifying police messages around drink driving and catalytic converter thefts, supporting new speedwatch groups, and addressing cycling during darker months including hosting a safety event in Cambourne.
- Regular attendance at the Prevent Board and CTLP, CSE strategy group, the High Harms Board and the Community Safety Officers meetings on behalf of the partnership, to ensure good communications and partnership working.

- A mental health worker has been appointed by South Cambridgeshire District Council to address issues that are presenting by residents as a result of hoarding behaviours.

### 3.2. Summary of Quarterly Review Priority Areas

Quarterly data reviews have been completed throughout the year under Priority 1. Data reviews are completed by the Cambridgeshire County Council Research Team and presented at the T&CG meetings where partners have an opportunity to feed in any professional concerns. Final decisions relating to the adopting of new priority areas or discharging of existing areas are then made at the T&CG. A quarterly report is produced outlining headline data and recommended priority areas, along with a rationale for decision making.

A summary of areas which have featured on the priority list throughout the year is presented in Table 3 below. A range of work has been completed in these areas as outlined in section 3.1 above.

**Table 3: South Cambridgeshire Priority Areas 2022**

| <b>Review Date</b> | <b>Data Period</b>      | <b>Priority Areas</b>  |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| February 2022      | October – December 2021 | Histon & Impington (Orchard Park)<br>Melbourn<br>Cambourne                             |
| June 2022          | January – March 2022    | Histon & Impington (Orchard Park)<br>Melbourn<br>Cambourne                             |
| September 2022     | April – June 2022       | Histon & Impington (Orchard Park)<br>Melbourn<br>Longstanton (Northstowe)<br>Cambourne |
| December 2022      | July-September 2022     | Histon & Impington (Orchard Park)<br>Longstanton (Northstowe)<br>Cambourne             |

Additional areas which have been flagged via the quarterly review risk matrix but not adopted as priority areas include Swavesey, Milton & Waterbeach and Fen Ditton & Fulbourn. Additional analysis and longer-term monitoring has been completed for these locations and used alongside professional feedback to inform the decision making process around priority area status.

## 4. Crime Overview

South Cambridgeshire remains a low crime area with a crime rate of 47 offences per 1,000 population in 2022, the lowest of all districts in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

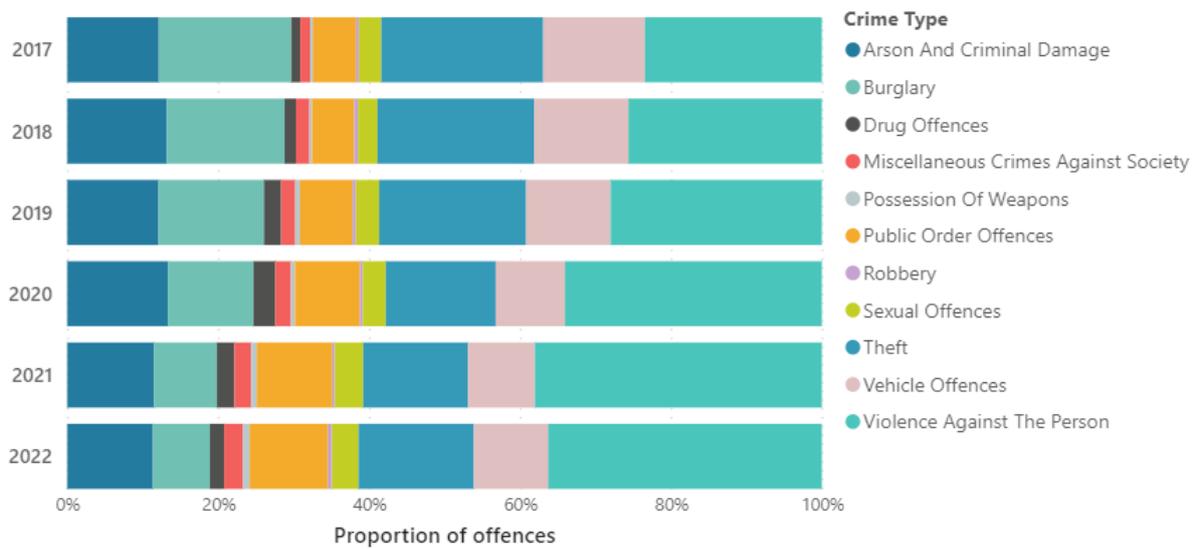
**Table 4: Total police recorded crime rate per 1,000 population, by district, 2022**

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

Total police recorded crime in South Cambridgeshire increased by 12% in 2022 compared to the previous year. This is likely in part linked to depressed offence figures during the national lockdown at the start of 2021. When comparing to the pre-pandemic year of 2019, the increase is a more modest 5%. There is notable variation between crime types, with violence against the person and public order driving the increases seen with an additional 724 and 286 offences recorded in 2022 respectively when compared to 2019. In contrast, high volume reductions have been seen for burglary and theft in the same time period.

The figure below shows longer-term patterns in the crime type breakdown in South Cambridgeshire going back to 2017. This illustrates a shift, with violence against the person accounting for a larger 'share' of all crime (36% in 2022 up from 23% in 2017). Public order has seen a steady increase in its share, up to 10% in 2022 (from 6%). Acquisitive crime has seen long-term reductions with burglary reducing from an 18% share of all crime to just 8%, and theft reducing from 21% to 15%.

**Figure 4: Proportion of offences in South Cambridgeshire by crime type, 2017 to 2022**



## 5. Acquisitive Crime

### 5.1. Summary and Recommendations

Most types of acquisitive crime (see definition in technical notes, Appendix A) have shown a decrease compared to the period before the Covid-19 lockdown (~2019), both at a national level, and within South Cambridgeshire. South Cambridgeshire 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 residential burglary, but saw a lower proportion of shoplifting offences.

Where South Cambridgeshire has bucked the national trend is for burglary. 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 South Cambridgeshire saw a larger decrease, driven primarily by decreases in residential burglary.

Rates for residential burglary, vehicle crime, and other theft in South Cambridgeshire are lower than national rates.

The decreases seen for vehicle crime and “other theft” offences during 2020 and 2021, were followed by increases in 2022; but not yet reaching levels seen in 2019. Yearly increases in catalytic converter theft have been seen since 2019, with South Cambridgeshire showing the second highest number of thefts in the county after Cambridge City.

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

- Changes in work pattern - For some sectors of employment there has been a substantial increase in hybrid or homeworking. In line with the national trend, Census 2021 indicated that South Cambridgeshire saw a 36 point increase in the percentage of people homeworking since Census 2011 (Cambridgeshire Insight, n.d.).
- Public transport issues – Post-covid changes to public transport in Cambridgeshire where a number of reductions in bus services are attributed to the reduction in passenger numbers.
- Cost of living crisis – Increased costs associated with fuel (domestic and commercial), food, utilities and clothing have resulted in pressures on families across the country.

What is currently unclear is the duration or extent of these impacts locally. Further research would be needed to determine the extent to which the decrease in residential burglary in South Cambridgeshire are linked with the above factors. As detailed in the introduction, data suggests that deprivation may be increasing in South Cambridgeshire; for example, the spike in benefits claimants from March 2020 in South Cambridgeshire (see Figure 3), 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; Rufrancos, et al., 2013).

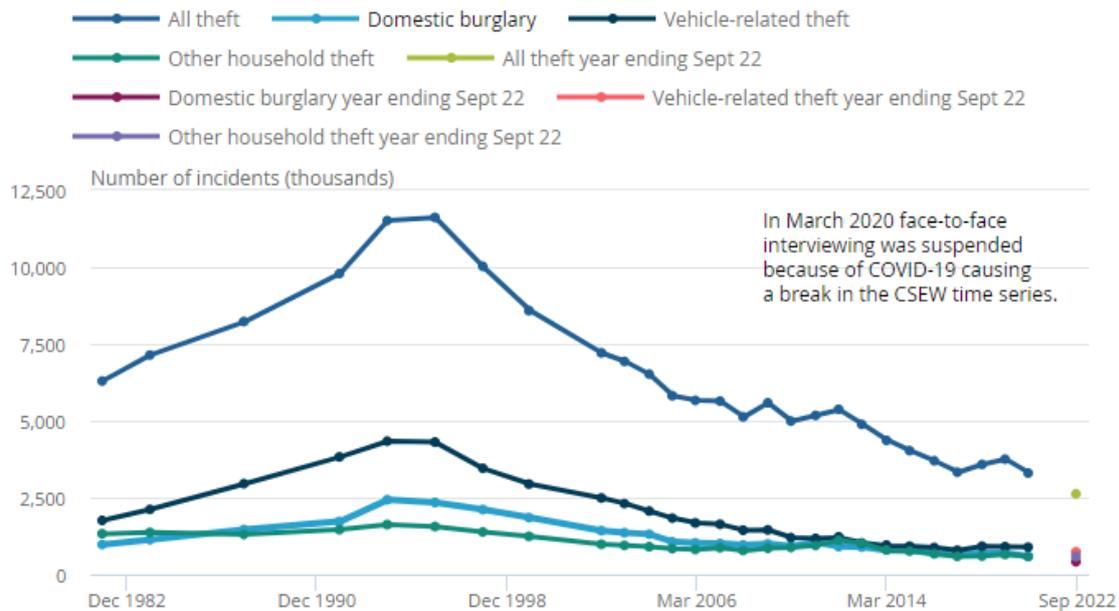
**Recommendation: It is not recommended that the partnership focus a priority on all acquisitive crime. It is very low in South Cambridgeshire and has seen notable reductions. The partnership should link in with the police on serious organised crime in relation to catalytic converter theft.**

## 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, 2023) (CSEW use of the term theft is a subset of acquisitive crimes as recorded by the police, see Appendix A).

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

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



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

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

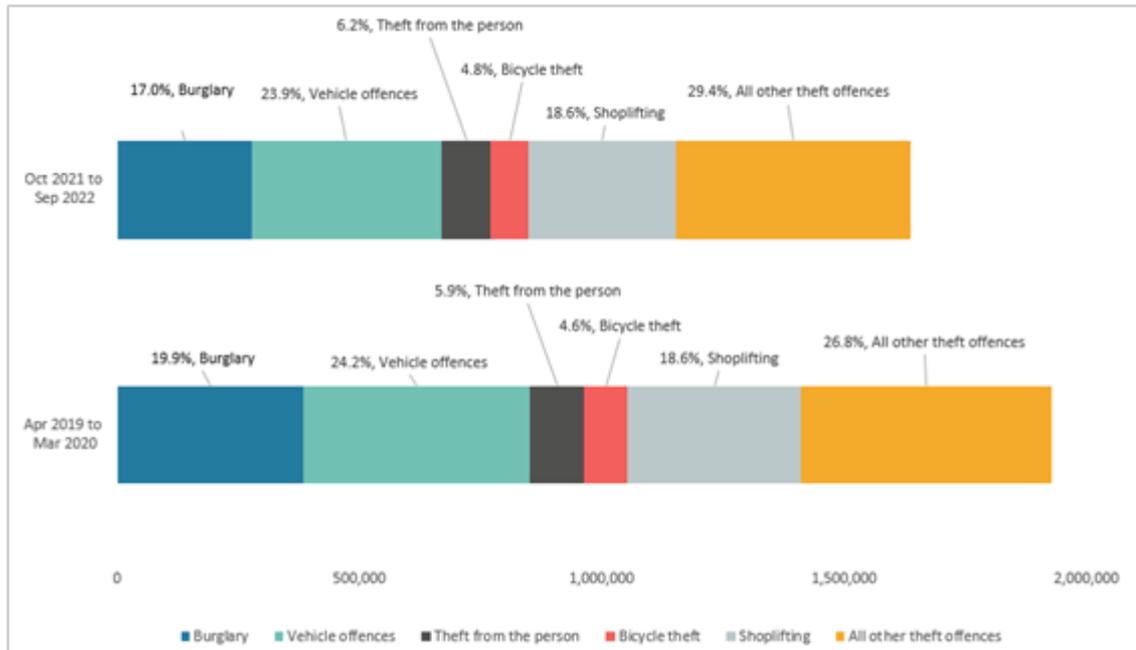
Following the national reductions seen during the pandemic (Office for National Statistics, 2022), police recorded acquisitive crime has increased since restrictions related to the third national lockdown were lifted (Office for National Statistics, 2023). A 20% national increase in acquisitive crime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

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

acquisitive offences in 2019 and 2022 were “all other theft”; vehicle offences; shoplifting and burglary.

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



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

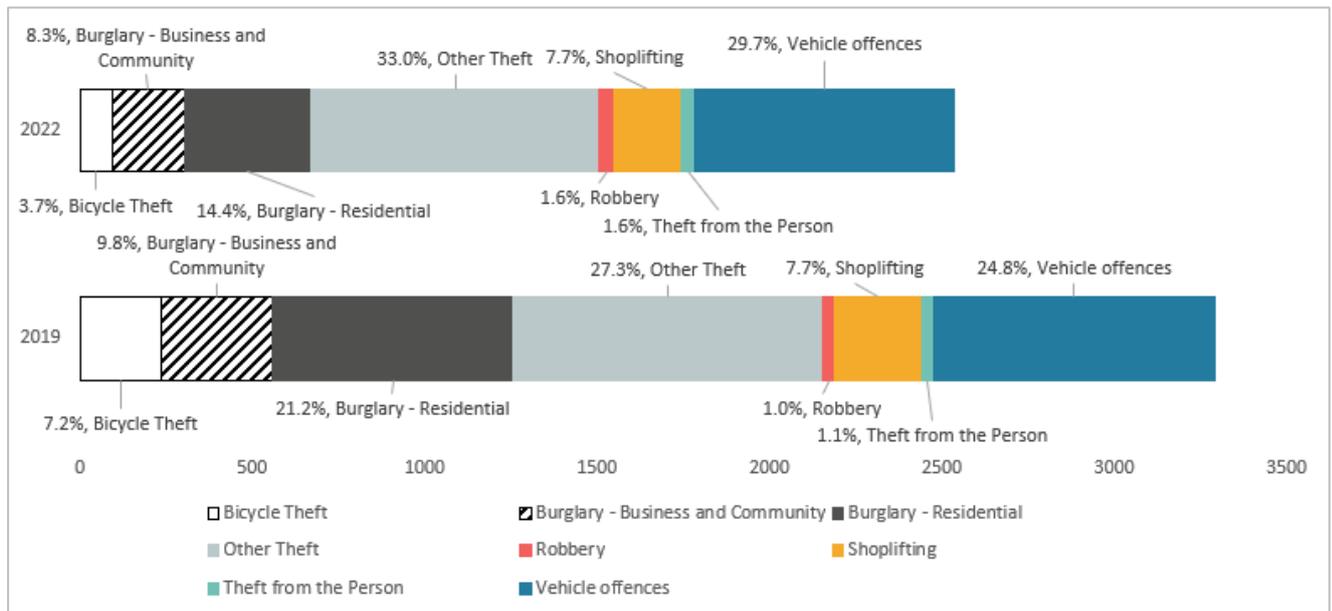
### 5.3. South Cambridgeshire Acquisitive Crime Types

The overall number of acquisitive offences in South Cambridgeshire decreased between 2019 and 2022 by 23%. In 2019, the categories that accounted for the largest share of acquisitive offences in South Cambridgeshire were “other theft” with 27.3%, vehicle offences with 24.8%, and residential burglary at 21.2%. These same categories accounted for the largest share of offences in 2022. Between 2019 and 2022:

- The share of residential burglary decreased from 21.2% to 14.4% and decreased in number by 47.7%.
- The share of “Other theft” offences increased from 27.3% to 33%, but decreased in number by 60.6%.
- The share of vehicle offences increased from 24.8% to 29.7% but decreased in number by 7.8%.

These changes did not affect the main offence types in 2022, which remained Other theft (with 33%), vehicle offences (with 29.7%), and residential burglary (14.4%).

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

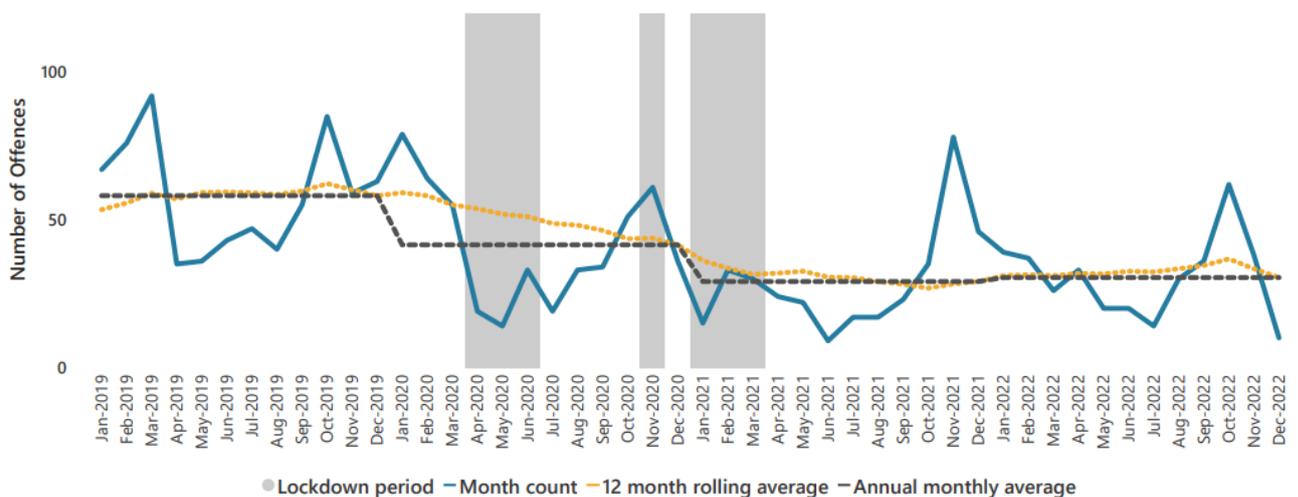


### 5.4. Residential Burglary

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, 2023). As shown in Figure 8, the count of residential burglary offences in South Cambridgeshire has shown a decrease of 47.7% between 2019 and 2022.

The rate of residential burglary offences in South Cambridgeshire in 2022 (YE December) of 5.4 per 1000 households is lower than the national rate (YE September) of 6.1 per 1000 households.

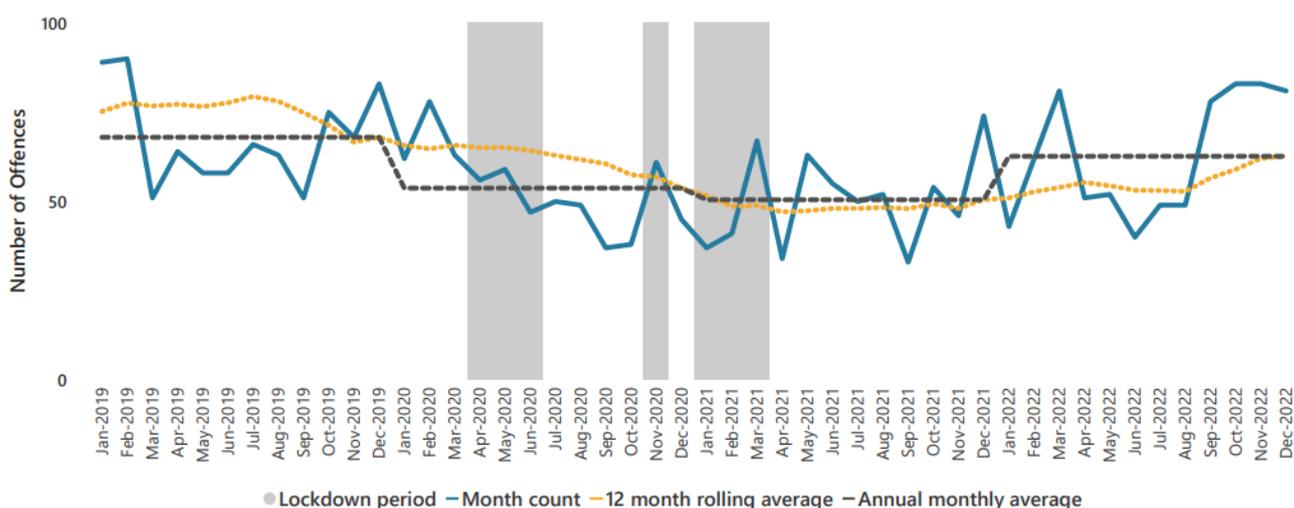
**Figure 8: Trend in residential burglary offences in South Cambridgeshire from January 2019 to December 2022**



## 5.5. Vehicle Crime

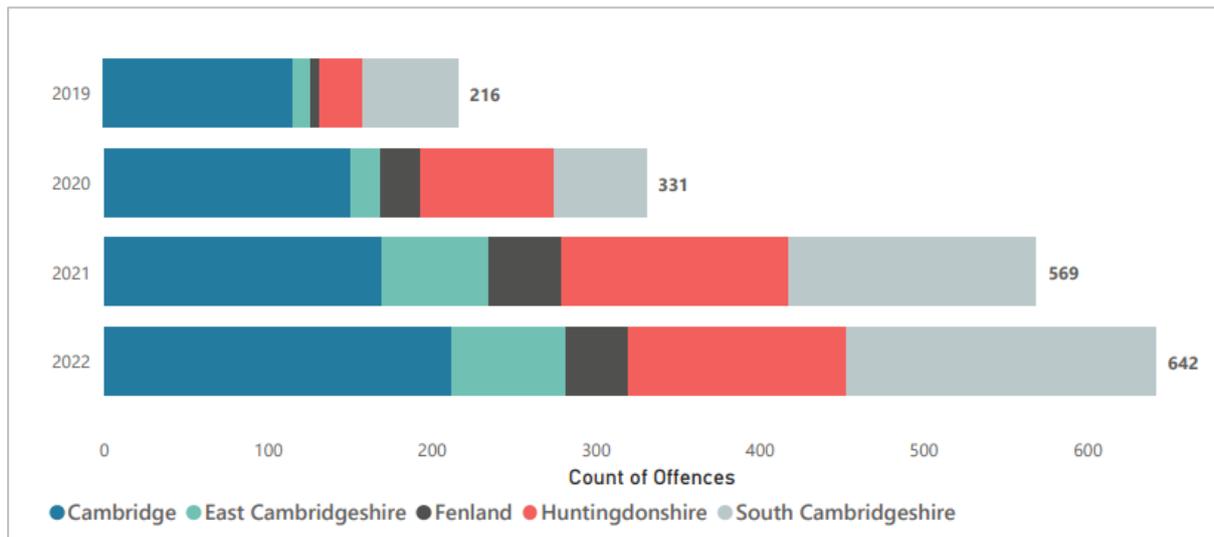
The national count of police recorded vehicle offences decreased by 16.1% from YE March 2020 to YE September 2022 (Office for National Statistics, 2023). In South Cambridgeshire, vehicle crime showed yearly decreases between 2019 and 2021, increasing again in 2022, but not yet reaching levels seen in 2019. In 2022, vehicle crime remained 7.8% lower than seen in 2019. The rate of vehicle offences in 2022 in South Cambridgeshire (YE December) was 4.6 per 1000 population, lower than the national rate (YE September) of 6.6 per 1000 population (Office for National Statistics, 2023).

**Figure 9: Monthly trend in vehicle offences in South Cambridgeshire from January 2019 to December 2022**



Despite this overall decrease in vehicle crime, as shown in Figure 10, 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. South Cambridgeshire saw a 226% increase in catalytic converter theft between 2019 and 2022 (from 58 in 2019 to 189 in 2022), and accounts for a larger proportion of catalytic converter theft in the county than Huntingdonshire, East Cambridgeshire, and Fenland, but less than Cambridge City. South Cambridgeshire accounted for 26.9% of catalytic converter theft offences in 2019, and 29.4% in 2022 (See Table 10 in Appendix B full breakdown of figures from 2019 to 2022 across districts).

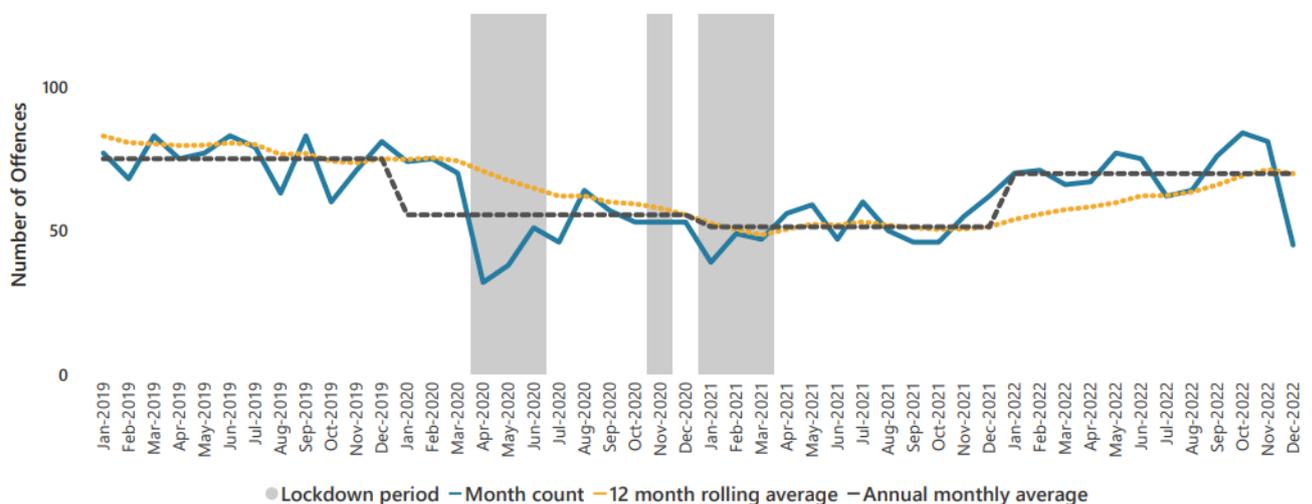
**Figure 10: Trend and share of catalytic converter theft from 2019 to 2022 in Cambridgeshire districts**



### 5.6. Other Theft

The national rate of police recorded “all other theft” offences showed a slight decrease 6.8% from YE March 2020 to YE September 2022 (Office for National Statistics, 2023). Whilst this category accounted for the largest share of acquisitive offences in South Cambridgeshire, as shown in Figure 11, the count of other theft offences showed a yearly decrease until 2021, increasing again in 2022, but not yet reaching levels seen in 2019. In 2022, “other theft” offences remained 6.9% lower than seen in 2019. The rate for “other theft” offences in 2022 in South Cambridgeshire (YE December) was 5.2 per 1000 population, lower than the national (YE September) rate of 8.1 per 1000 population (Office for National Statistics, 2023).

**Figure 11: Monthly trend in other theft offences in South Cambridgeshire from January 2019 to December 2022**



## 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.

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

### 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

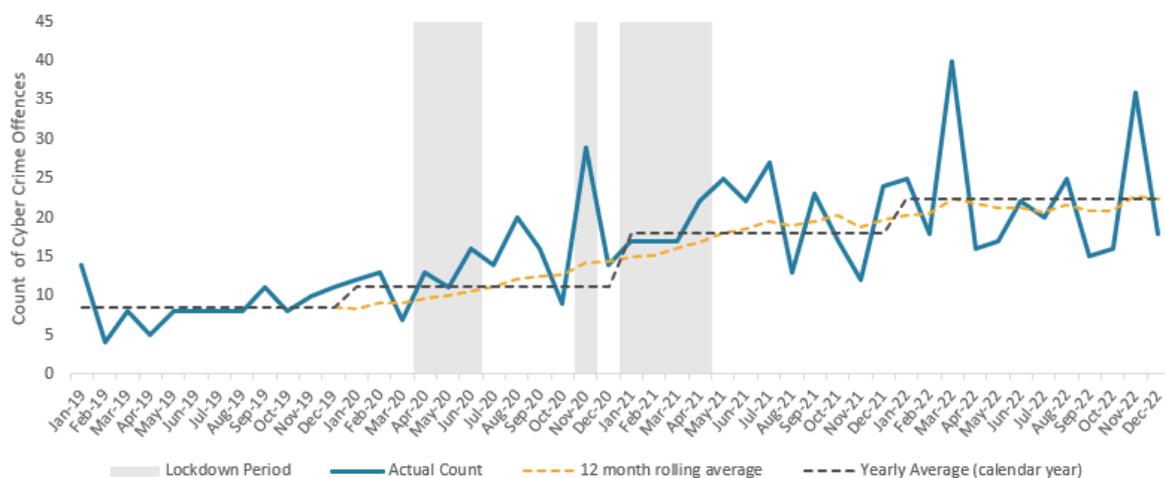
highest number of incidents committed in England and Wales. Adults are still more likely to be a victims of fraud than any other crime.” (HMICFRS, 2021).

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

### 6.3. Local Known Offences

Police recorded cybercrime offences in South Cambridgeshire have seen yearly increases since 2019; with the total count increasing from 103 incidents in 2019, to 268 in 2022 (up 160%). The monthly and annual trend from 2019 to 2022 is shown in Figure 12. The numbers provided here are likely to also be impacted by underreporting and the true number of victims far higher.

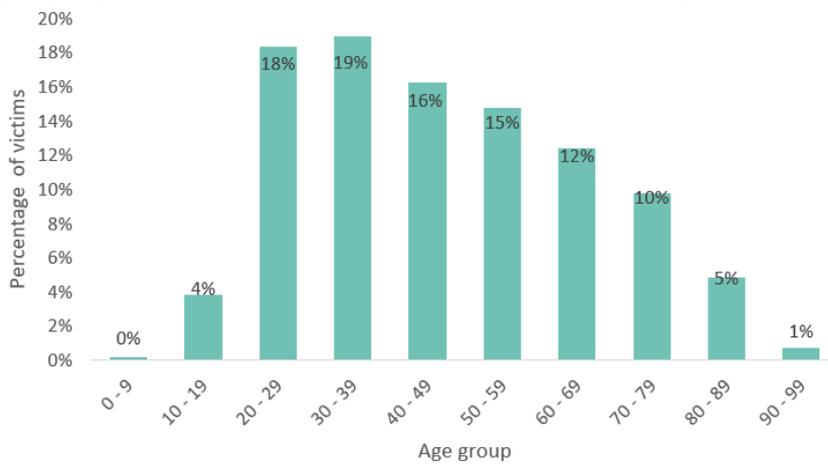
**Figure 12: Police recorded cybercrime offences in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2022**



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

Action fraud (2022) figures for the Cambridgeshire Constabulary area (district level data is not available) provides a breakdown of the demographics of individuals reporting fraud and cybercrime offences as shown in Figure 13 and Figure 14. 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 13: Action Fraud figures for individual victims of cybercrime and fraud by age group, Jan 2022 to Dec 2022, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough**



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

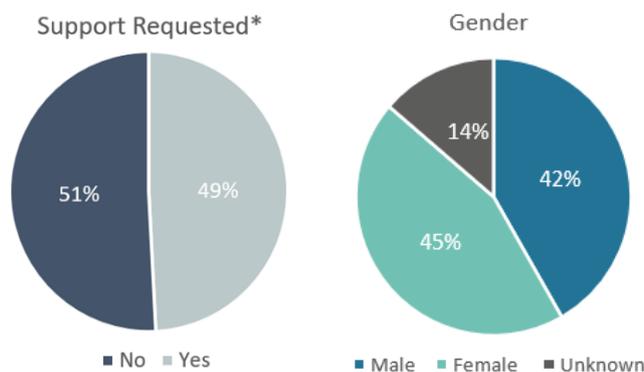


Figure 15 also shows the grouped crime codes according to the type of fraud committed. This is to give an indication of the kind of crimes the victims have experienced; Consumer fraud is a key crime group according to this data.

**Figure 15: 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

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

- Police recorded violence shows an increase at both a national and local level. Total police recorded violence against the person in South Cambridgeshire was 35% higher in 2022 when compared to 2019.
- The police recorded violence with injury rate for South Cambridgeshire is 3.4 per 1000 population, almost a third of the national rate of 9.7 per 1000 population.
- Local emergency department (ED) data indicates a decrease in violence related attendances between 2019 and 2022.
- Police recorded stalking and harassment has shown a larger percentage increase in South Cambridgeshire between 2019 and 2022 than at the national level; but the rate is low compared to the national rate, and to other districts within Cambridgeshire.
- Rates of police recorded violence against the person in South Cambridgeshire are the lowest district rates in the county.

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

Whilst health data is indicating a trend of decreasing levels of violence in Cambridgeshire, it is also worth noting the cost of living crisis as detailed in the introduction, and the indication from benefits data (see Figure 3) that levels of deprivation may be increasing. Socio-economic variables such as deprivation and inequality have known links with higher levels of recorded criminal behaviour, and interpersonal violence (Daly, et al., 2001; Kelly, 2000; Krohn, 1976; Mishra & Novakowski, 2016; Reilly, et al., 2023). Given also that violent offences account for a larger proportion of total crime in the district, we recommend that the CSP revisits the issue of violence within the year.

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

- **The partnership should commission a more in-depth review of violence, in order to better understand this sustained increase.**

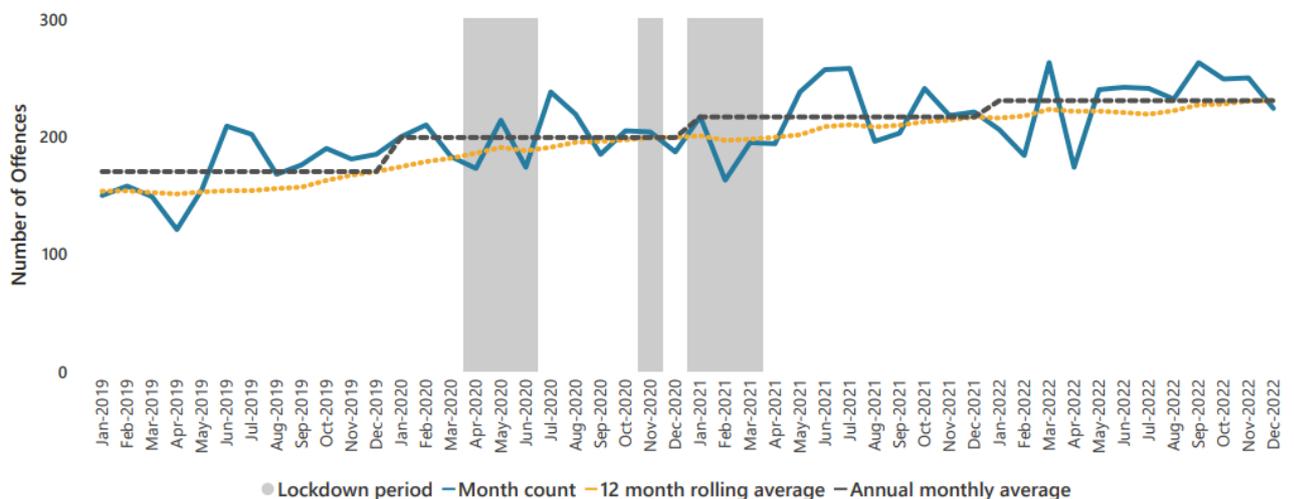
- The review of the data matrix working processes should consider the inclusion of violence indicators.

## 7.2. Trends Over Time

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 before the period before the coronavirus pandemic (for YE March 2020). Police recorded violent crime however showed increases over that same period, with a 20.8% increase in violence against the person (VAP) (Office for National Statistics, 2023).

The CSEW data is not available at district level so it is not possible to test whether the national trend is also seen locally. South Cambridgeshire saw a larger increase in police recorded VAP offences between 2020 and 2022 of 35.4%. As shown in Figure 16, VAP offences have seen yearly increases between 2019 and 2022, with peaks occurring shortly after the first and third lockdown.

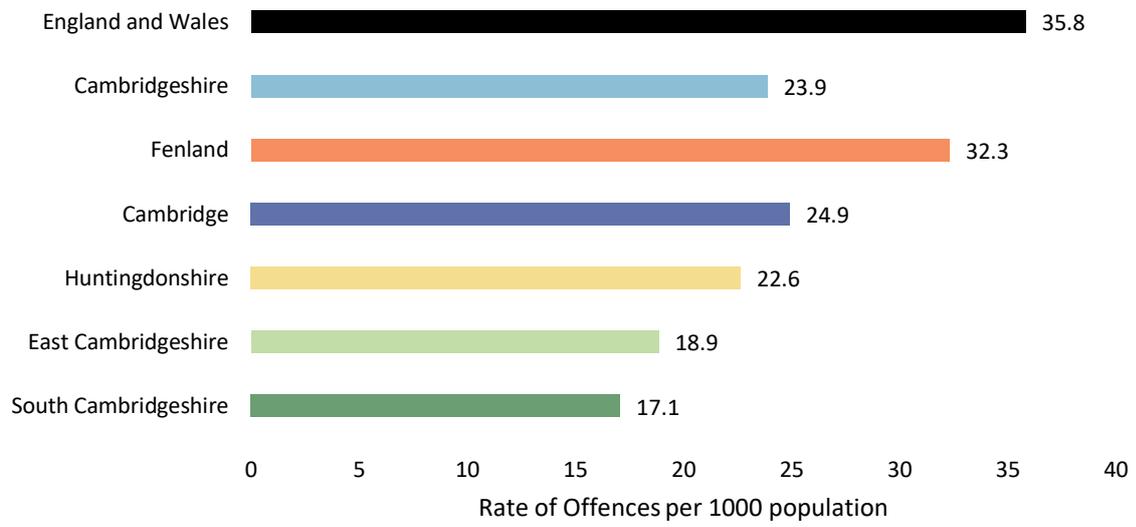
**Figure 16: Trend in Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences in South Cambridgeshire from January 2019 to December 2022**



Despite the larger percentage increase in the count of VAP offences compared to national VAP offence counts, the rate for VAP in South Cambridgeshire in 2022 (YE December) remained considerably lower than the national rate (YE September), with 17.1 per 1000 population; compared to the national rate of 35.8 per 1000 population.

As shown in Figure 17, the rate of VAP offences in South Cambridgeshire has the lowest district rate in the county.

**Figure 17: Rate of Violence Against the Person (VAP) in South Cambridgeshire compared to district, county and national rates**

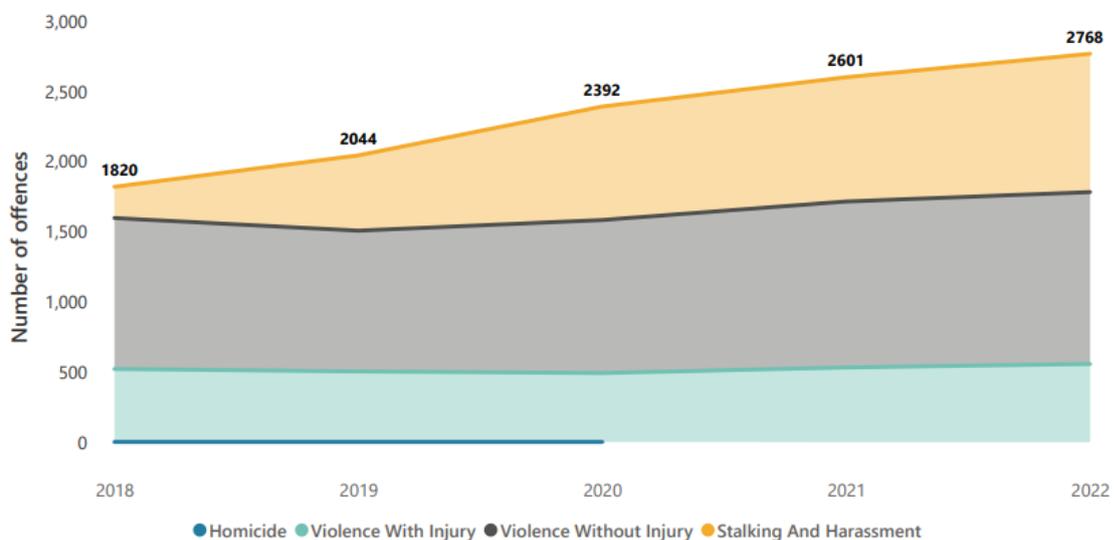


### 7.3. South Cambridgeshire Violent Crime Types

The VAP crime group is broken down into 4 crime sub-types; homicide, violence with injury, violence without injury, and stalking and harassment. As shown in Figure 18, the biggest change was in stalking and harassment, for which the share took a sharp increase between 2018 and 2020, after which much smaller annual increases were seen, and the share between sub-types of VAP offences stayed relatively stable.

Violence without injury accounted for the largest proportion of VAP offences in both 2019 (49.1%), and 2022 (44.3%). Homicide offences are rare, with one offence committed in 2018 and one in 2020.

**Figure 18: Trends in Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences sub-types in South Cambridgeshire 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 (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, 2023). 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 across this period (ONS, 2022).

Estimates from the CSEW for 2022 (year ending September) indicated that 11% of adults (age 16+) had experienced harassment within the last 12 months. More women than men report experiencing harassment within the last 12 months, (i.e. 21% women compared to 13% of men). With the largest difference in being in experiences of sexual harassment; with 15% of women experiencing sexual harassment within the last 6 months, compared to 4% of men (Office for National Statistics, 2023).

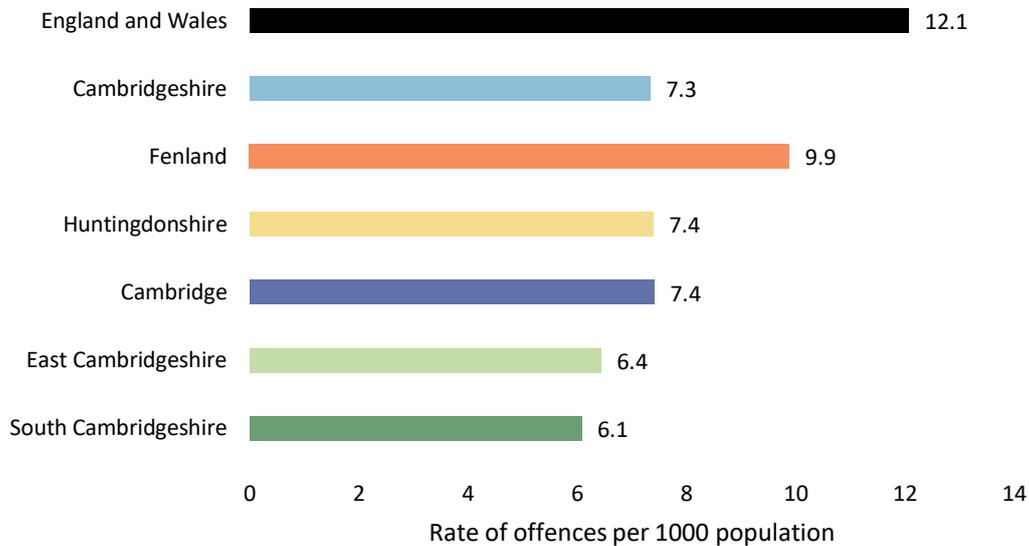
### 7.4.2. South Cambridgeshire

In South Cambridgeshire, the share of VAP offences accounted for by stalking and harassment increased from 12.3% in 2018, to 33.8% in 2020, after which smaller annual increases were seen, reaching 35.6% in 2022.

Between 2019 and 2022 (YE December), the count of stalking and harassment offences increased by 83.6% in South Cambridgeshire; the largest increase in the county, and larger than the national increase of 45%.

Despite this large increase, the rate of stalking and harassment offences in South Cambridgeshire is the lowest district rate in the county, at 6.1 per 1000 population; close to half the national rate of 12.1 per 1000 population (Office for National Statistics, 2023) (see Figure 19).

**Figure 19: Rates of police recorded stalking and harassment in South Cambridgeshire compared with National, county and district rates**

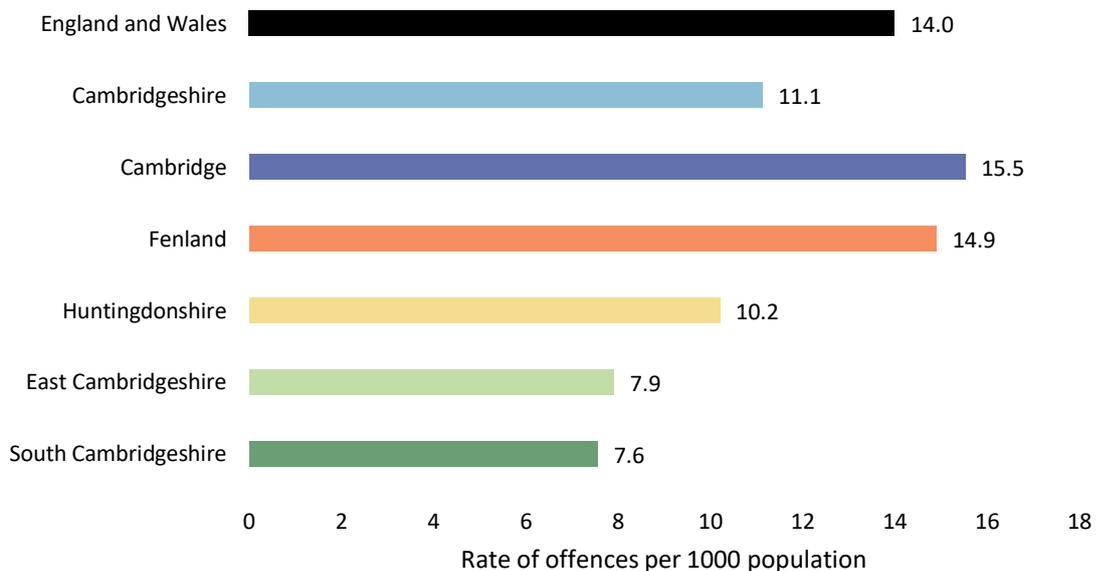


### 7.5. Violence Without Injury

Violence without injury accounted for the largest share of VAP offences in South Cambridgeshire in both 2019 (with 49.1%) and 2022 (with 44.3%), and increased in number between 2019 and 2022 (YE December) by 22.1%. This increase was higher than the national increase of 14.2%.

Despite this increase, the rate in 2022 was the second lowest district rate in the county at 7.6 per 1000 population and is almost half the national rate of 14.0 per 1000 population (see Figure 20).

**Figure 20: Rate of police recorded Violence Without Injury Offences in South Cambridgeshire compared with district, county and national rates**



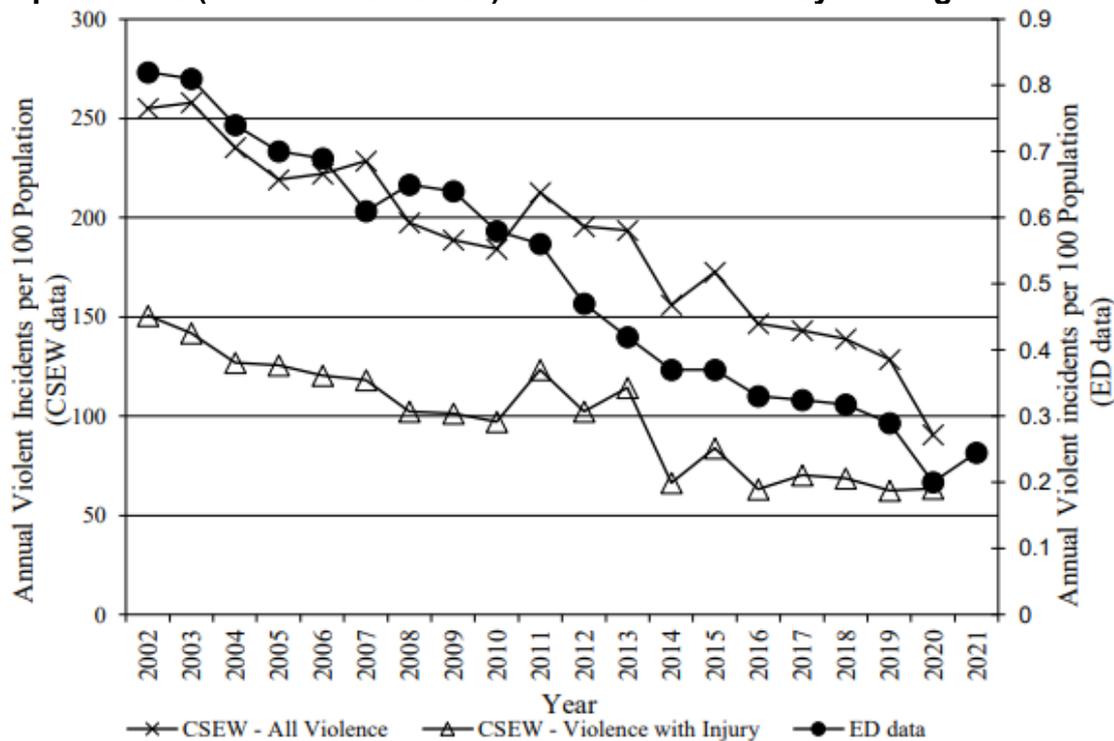
## 7.1. Violence With Injury

### 7.1.1. 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, 2023).

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 21) (Sivarajasingham, et al., 2022).

**Figure 21: 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

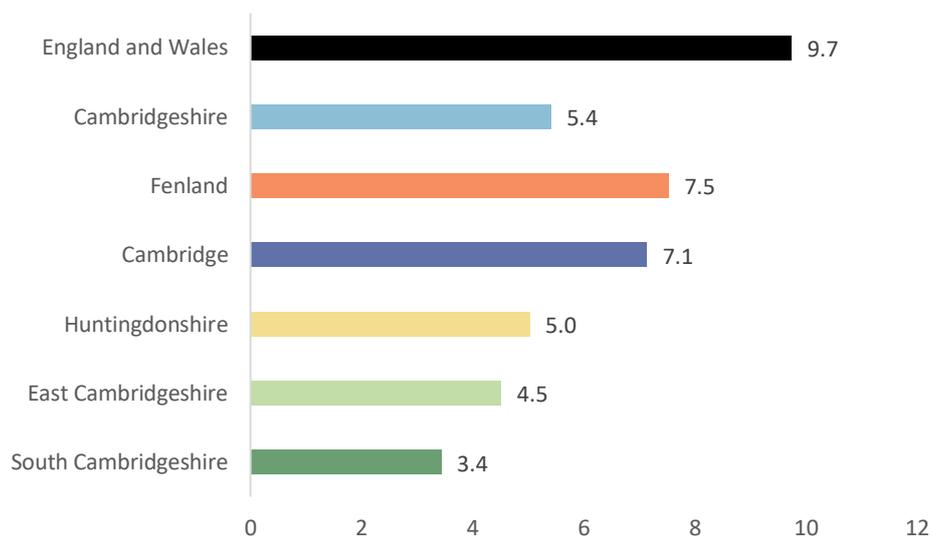
pre-pandemic levels (Sivarajasingham, et al., 2022). The NVSN report for 2022 has not yet been released.

### 7.1.2. South Cambridgeshire Violence with Injury

South Cambridgeshire saw a larger increase of 10.5%. Despite this increase, South Cambridgeshire has the second lowest count of violence with injury offences. The rate of violence with injury offences in South Cambridgeshire is the lowest in the county with 3.4 per 1000 population, and is almost a third of the national rate of 9.7 per 1000 population (see Figure 22).

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

**Figure 22: Rate of police recorded Violence with Injury offences in South Cambridgeshire compared with national, county, and district rates**



The most common sub-type of violence with injury across all districts was Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), which accounted for 68.7% of police recorded violence with injury in South Cambridgeshire in 2022.

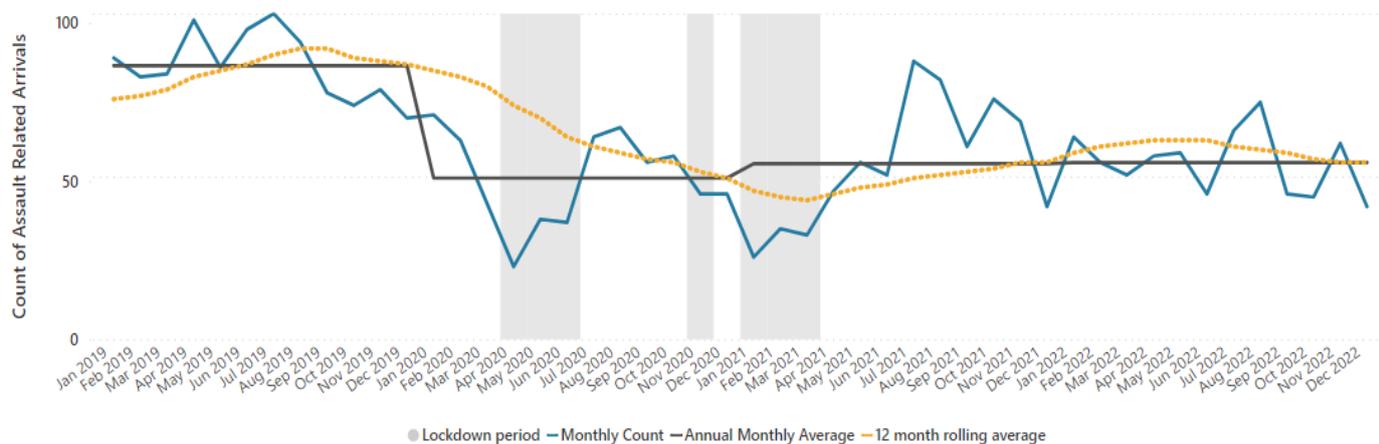
Data on assault related emergency department (ED) attendances at Addenbrooke's hospital can indicate local trends of violence with injury. However, it should be noted that the assaults may not have taken place in South Cambridgeshire, and the patients will not necessarily reside in South Cambridgeshire.

Similar to national estimates of ED attendances by the NSVN, assault related attendances at Addenbrooke's ED were lower during the lockdown periods, and thereafter increased (see Figure 23). The higher levels in 2022 (with an average of 55.9 per month) did not reach that seen in 2019 (an average of 86.6 per month), but are more similar to the average levels seen in 2016 (average of 58.6 per month).

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

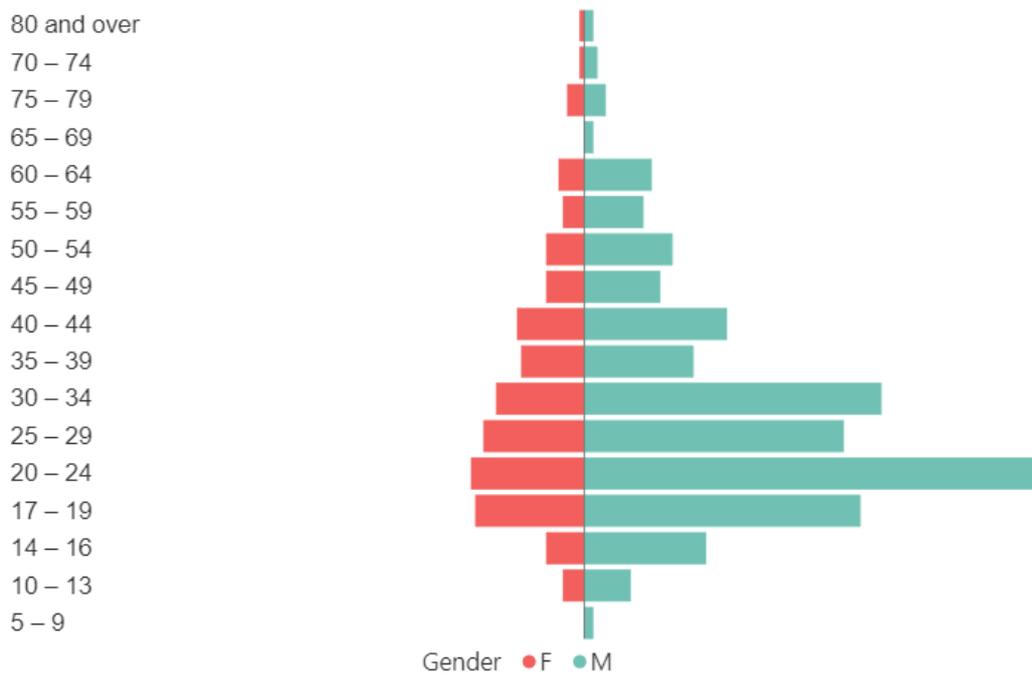
The monthly trend of assault related ED attendances at Addenbrooke’s Hospital from January 2019 to December 2022 is shown in Figure 23.

**Figure 23: Monthly attendances for assault seen at Addenbrooke's Emergency Department for the period January 2019 to December 2022**



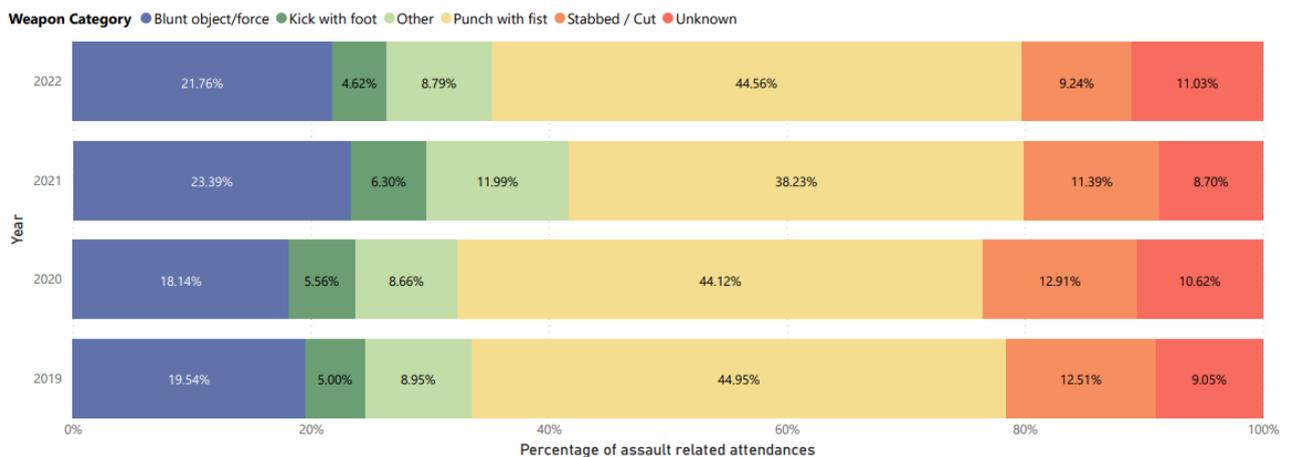
The NVSN data for 2021, which showed that males aged 18-30 accounted for the majority of violence related emergency department attendances. Local data showed that males aged 20-24 accounted for the largest share of violence related ED attendances at Addenbrooke’s Hospital in 2022, as shown in Figure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

**Figure 24: Gender and age breakdown of violence related Emergency Department (ED) attendances at Addenbrooke's Hospital in 2022**



As shown in Figure 25, the most common weapons used between 2019 and 2022 have stayed relatively stable, with the most common being punch with fist at 44.6% in 2022, followed by blunt object/force with 21.8%. Stabbed / cut accounted for 9.2% of ED attendances at Addenbrooke's.

**Figure 25: Weapons used for violence related Emergency Department (ED) attendances at Addenbrooke's Hospital between 2019 and 2022**



As shown in the heat table in Figure 26, the most common day of arrival was Saturday, which accounted for 23.6% of assault related ED arrivals. Higher levels were seen in the very early hours of the morning, with another peak in early afternoon. The month with the highest number of assault related ED arrivals was August with a count of 75.

**Figure 26: Heat table showing the time and day of assault related arrivals at Addenbrooke's Emergency Department (ED)**

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

### 7.1.3. Geographic Distribution in South Cambridgeshire

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

The latest local data by the East of England Ambulance Service shows a low level of assault related call outs with 64 recorded in South Cambridgeshire in 2022, consistent with the level from 2019 (65 call outs). It should be considered that operational challenges affecting the availability of ambulances recently may have had an impact on the level of assault related callouts recorded and may be linked to a drop seen in 2021.

Geographical analysis of the location of callouts showed Orchard Park (within Histon & Impington ward) to be the main hotspot in 2022 with seven call outs recorded in the year. At a ward level Milton & Waterbeach had the highest count with 9 call outs, these incidents were spread in the ward across both Milton and Waterbeach villages.

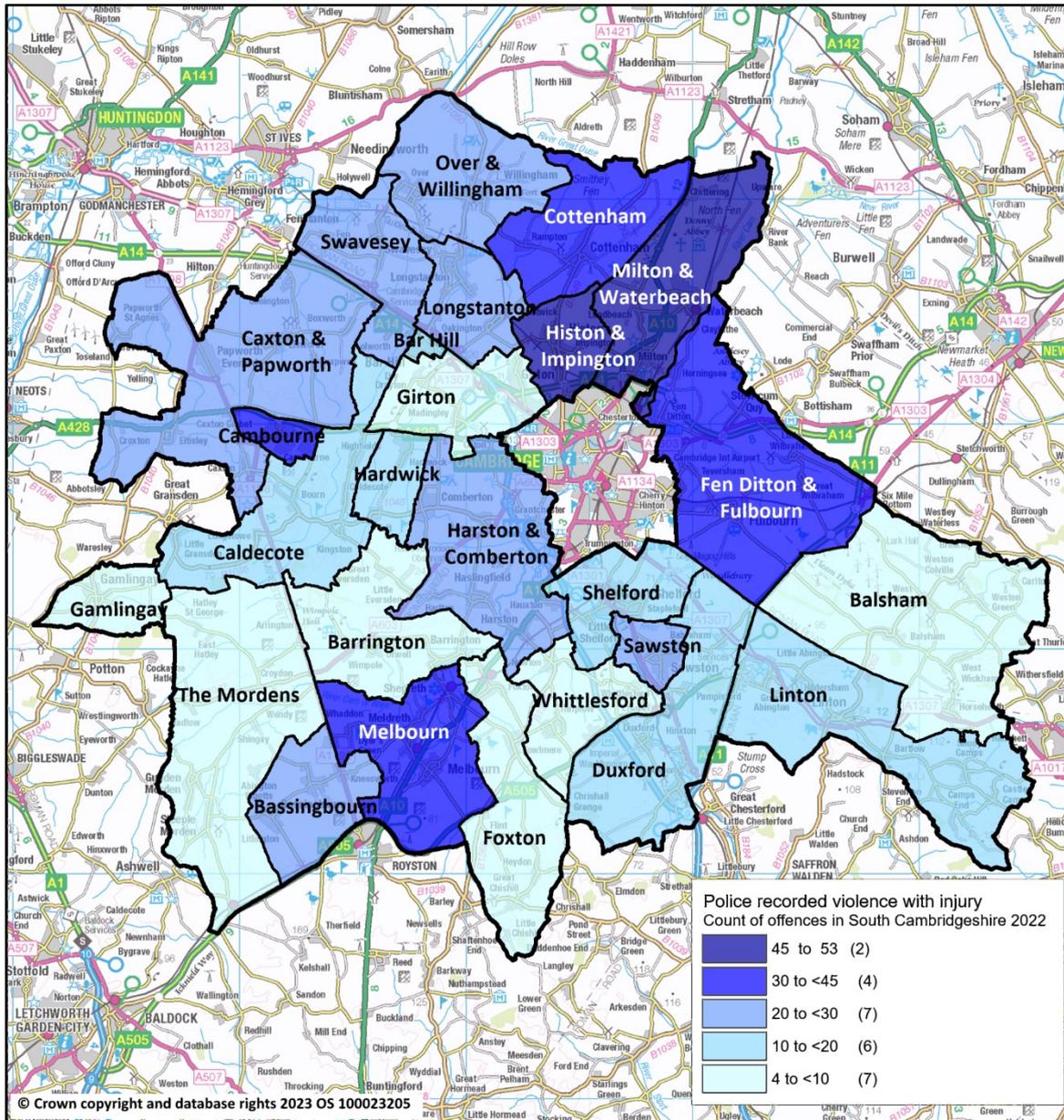
Police recorded data shows a similar pattern, with Histon & Impington and Milton & Waterbeach wards seeing the highest levels of violence with injury in 2022 (as shown in Table 5 and Figure 27). Several wards saw their figures double, or close to double in size, including Swavesey; Longstanton. Population growth in Northstowe should be considered when interpreting the increase seen in Longstanton ward. Harston & Comberton; Hardwick & Girton ward saw this same increase, but remain relatively low. The biggest decreases were in the Moderns, Linton, Balsham, and Gamlingay wards, which saw their counts decrease by more than half.

**Table 5: The count and percentage change in police recorded violence with injury offences in South Cambridgeshire wards in 2019 and 2022**

| Ward                  | 2019 | 2022 | % Change |
|-----------------------|------|------|----------|
| Histon & Impington    | 44   | 53   | 20.5%    |
| Milton & Waterbeach   | 32   | 52   | 62.5%    |
| Cambourne             | 44   | 44   | 0.0%     |
| Fen Ditton & Fulbourn | 48   | 43   | -10.4%   |
| Cottenham             | 21   | 33   | 57.1%    |
| Melbourn              | 38   | 30   | -21.1%   |
| Harston & Comberton   | 15   | 28   | 86.7%    |
| Bassingbourn          | 38   | 27   | -28.9%   |
| Caxton & Papworth     | 27   | 25   | -7.4%    |
| Longstanton           | 12   | 24   | 100.0%   |
| Sawston               | 18   | 24   | 33.3%    |
| Over & Willingham     | 14   | 20   | 42.9%    |
| Swavesey              | 9    | 20   | 122.2%   |
| Shelford              | 14   | 18   | 28.6%    |
| Duxford               | 17   | 17   | 0.0%     |
| Caldecote             | 13   | 16   | 23.1%    |
| Bar Hill              | 9    | 15   | 66.7%    |
| Hardwick              | 7    | 13   | 85.7%    |
| Linton                | 27   | 12   | -55.6%   |
| Girton                | 5    | 9    | 80.0%    |
| Foxton                | 7    | 8    | 14.3%    |
| Gamlingay             | 15   | 7    | -53.3%   |
| Balsham               | 11   | 5    | -54.5%   |
| Barrington            | <5   | 5    | 25.0%    |
| Whittlesford          | <5   | 5    | 25.0%    |
| The Mordens           | 11   | <5   | -63.6%   |

*Note.* Darker shades indicate larger numbers.

**Figure 27: Police recorded violence with injury in South Cambridgeshire wards in 2022**

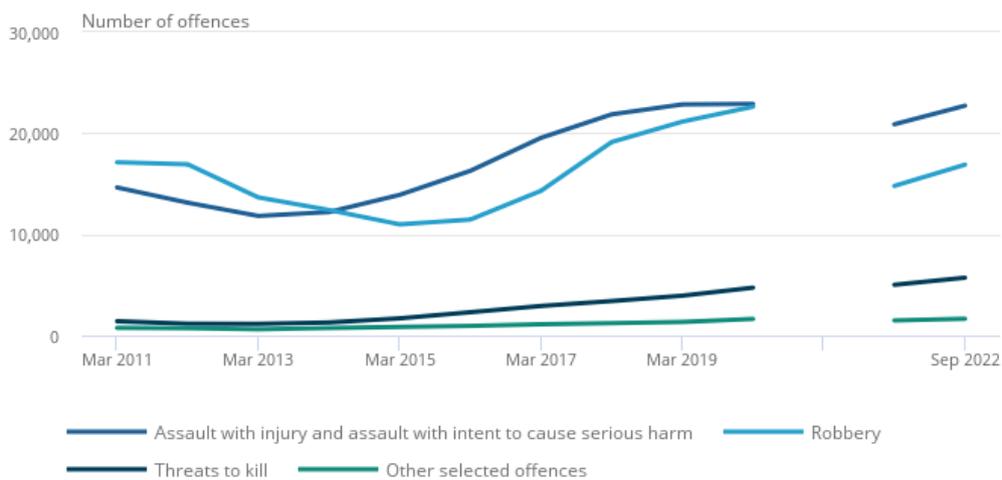


## 7.2. Knife crime

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 below).

**Figure 28: Knife-enabled crime recorded by the police in England and Wales.**  
**Source: (Office for National Statistics, 2023)**

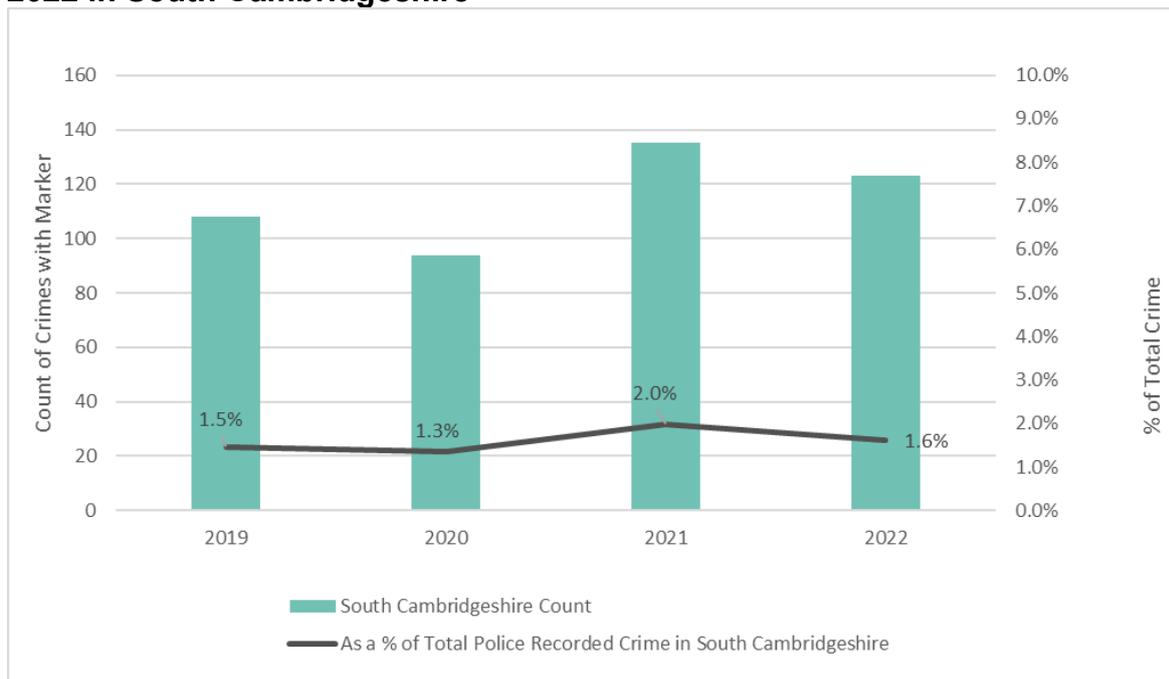
Figure 5: Knife-enabled crime recorded by the police remained lower than pre-coronavirus pandemic levels, but increased by 11% in the last year  
England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police), year ending March 2011 to year ending September 2022



Source: Home Office – Police recorded crime

In South Cambridgeshire the volume of police recorded crime that involves knives is very low. And it should be noted that police activity can influence knife crime figures, for example, recording of possession offences resulting from police activity to tackle knife crime. As the figures are low they have been displayed as annual counts and the percentage of the total crime count for the district. Knife crime has consistently accounted for between 1%-2% of all crime in South Cambridgeshire in the last four years.

**Figure 29: Police recorded knife/sharp instrument crime between 2019 and 2022 in South Cambridgeshire**



Cambridgeshire Constabulary produced a knife crime profile in 2022, the profile did not flag any South Cambridgeshire wards in the top wards for knife crime volume or harm. The profile did, however, highlight one LSOA within South Cambridgeshire (bordering Cambridge City) as producing a high level of knife-crime related harm.

### 7.3. Sexual offences

#### 7.3.1. Summary and Recommendations

The number of police recorded sexual offences has risen in South Cambridgeshire in the last three years, up 19% in 2022 compared to 2019. This falls under the backdrop of long-term increases observed nationally, with substantial increases seen since 2021. Increased reporting and improved police recording have played a role in the increases, however the extent to which a real terms increase in victimisation may form part of the increase recently is currently unclear. Reporting delays should be considered when interpreting trends as over a third (37%) of sexual offences recorded by police in South Cambridgeshire in 2022 had occurred at least one year prior to reporting.

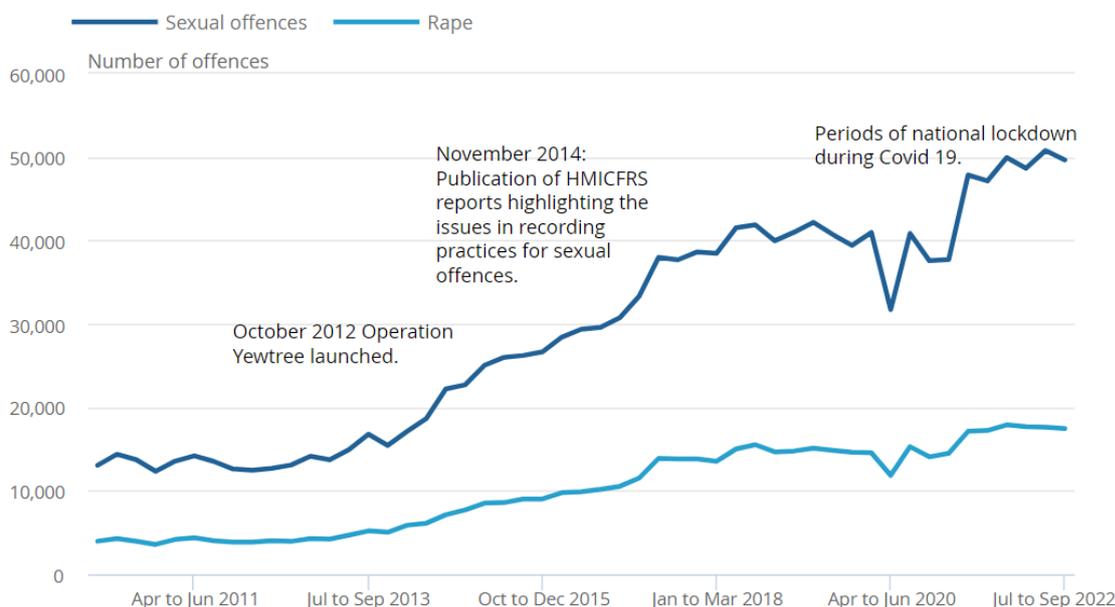
The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) is due to complete a needs assessment in 2023.

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

### 7.3.2. Trends over time

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

England and Wales quarterly data from January 2010 to September 2022

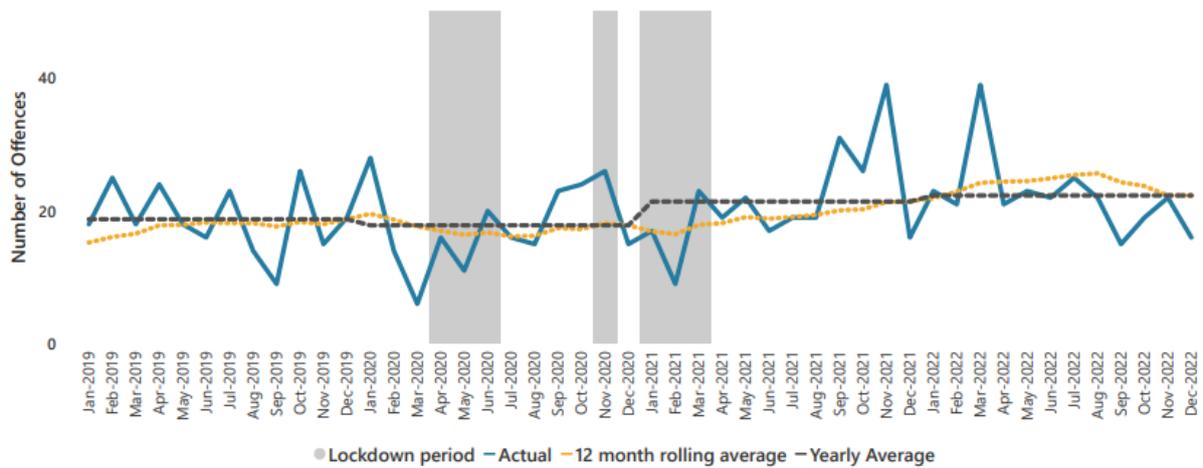


The latest national data for the year ending September 2022 showed the highest annual offence count ever recorded in England & Wales, up 22% compared to the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020. The number of sexual offences recorded was lower during periods of national lockdowns, but substantial increases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

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 (ONS, 2022). 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 South Cambridgeshire reflect the pattern of increase seen nationally, with a 19% increase in the number of sexual offences recorded in 2022 compared to 2019. The chart below illustrates an overall upward trend in sexual offences, although there was a slight dip in 2020 likely linked to depressed offence counts during the first national lockdown. There have been notable monthly variations with spikes seen in November 2021 and March 2022 followed by lower monthly counts throughout the remainder of 2022.

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



Rape accounted for just under a third of sexual offences (31%) recorded in South Cambridgeshire in 2022. This proportion has been fairly consistent over time and 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). 19% of sexual offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire in 2022 were marked as domestic abuse related, increasing markedly to 43% for rape offences.

Over a third (37%) of all South Cambridgeshire 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. This is higher than the proportion for Cambridgeshire as a whole (26%) and nationally (from a subset of forces supplying data to the Home Office) at 22% (Office for National Statistics, 2023). When looking specifically at rape offences in South Cambridgeshire in 2022, just under half (48%) of reported offences had occurred a year or more before being recorded.

## 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 and nature of DA within South Cambridgeshire for the partnership. The number of DA crimes has increased in South Cambridgeshire since 2019 whilst DA incidents (which did not result in a crime being recorded) have remained relatively stable. This reflects patterns observed nationwide, believed to be linked to improved police recording. DA-related violence against the person offences increased by a fifth in 2022 when comparing to the pre-pandemic year of 2019. Growth in stalking and harassment offences has driven the

overall increase in DA related VAP, with a 68% increase seen between 2019 and 2020. Stalking and harassment accounted for a quarter of all DA related offences in South Cambridgeshire in 2022.

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

**Recommendation: 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 South Cambridgeshire.**

## 8.2. DA Data Methodology

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

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

One of the many data issues faced in the past is that of double counting. Where incidents have resulted in a crime or crimes also being recorded 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.

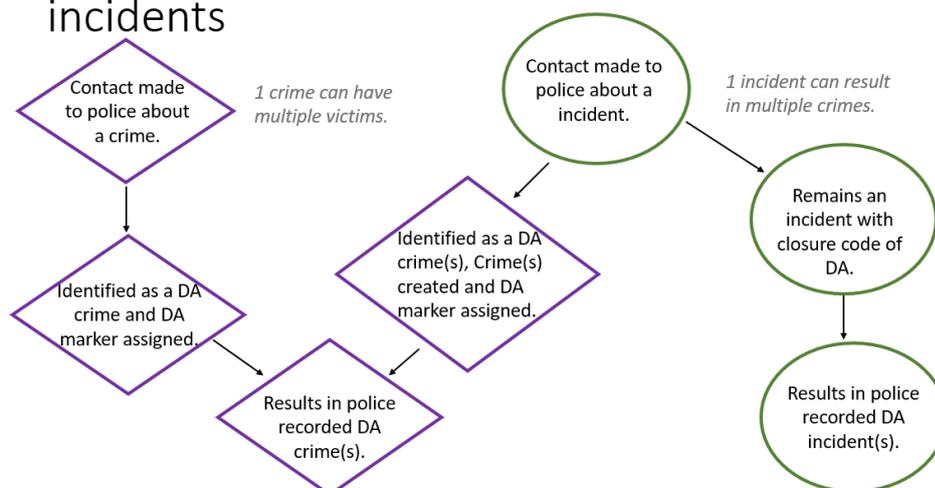
This year the Research Team has worked to develop a methodology with the local data with the aim of replicating nationally released data for comparison purposes. This experimental statistic still requires some quality assurance and is going to key partners for discussion. This methodology aims to present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

### **Methodology Notes**

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

**Figure 31: 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 moderate increase from 53% of incidents resulting in a crime or crimes being recorded in 2019 to 57% in 2022. This is slightly below the national proportion of incidents that were crimed (61%) (Office for National Statistics, 2022).

**Table 6: DA incidents and crimes recorded in South Cambridgeshire, 2019-2022**

|   | 2019       | 2020       | 2021       | 2022       |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total Incidents                                   | 1,382      | 1,547      | 1,558      | 1,501      |
| Incidents that result in a crime being recorded   | 738        | 916        | 888        | 855        |
| Incidents that remain as incident only            | 644        | 631        | 670        | 646        |
| <b>Proportion of Incidents that were 'crimed'</b> | <b>53%</b> | <b>59%</b> | <b>57%</b> | <b>57%</b> |

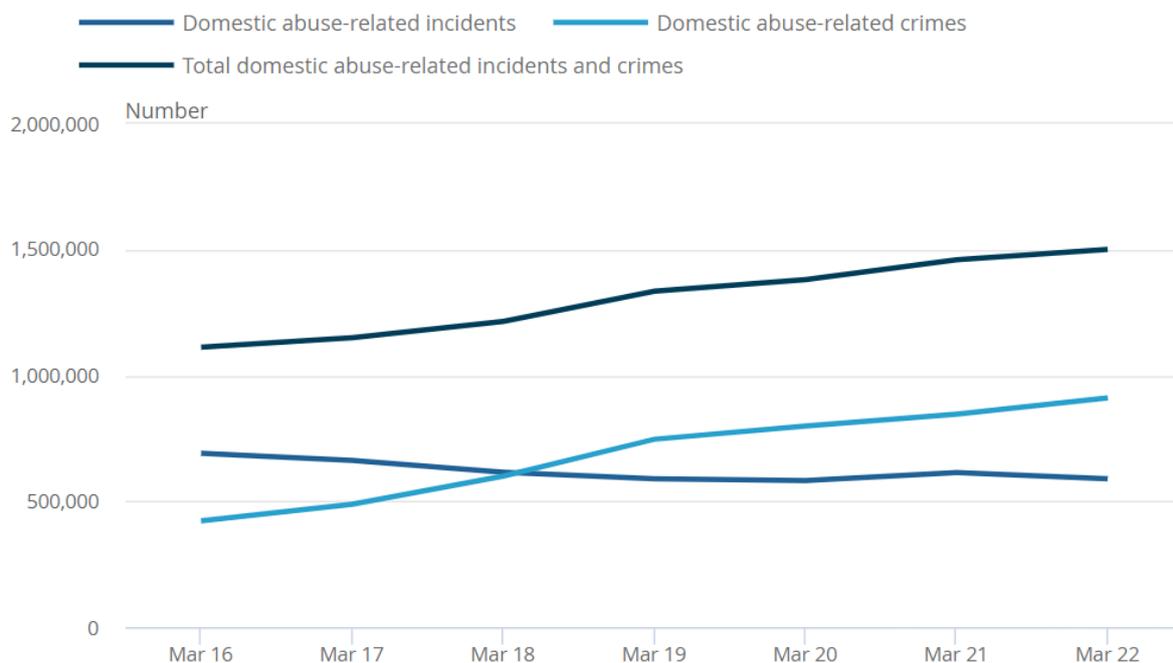
### 8.3. DA Trends

The latest national DA prevalence estimates available are for the year ending March 2022, after face-to-face interviews resumed for the CSEW in October 2021. It should be noted that these estimates are not badged as national statistics due to the

reduced data collection period and lower responses rates. These estimates showed 5% of adults (aged 16 and over) having experienced domestic abuse in the last year. Time series analysis of the CSEW estimates shows no significant change in the prevalence of domestic abuse in recent years, including from prior to the Covid-19 pandemic (Office for National Statistics, 2022).

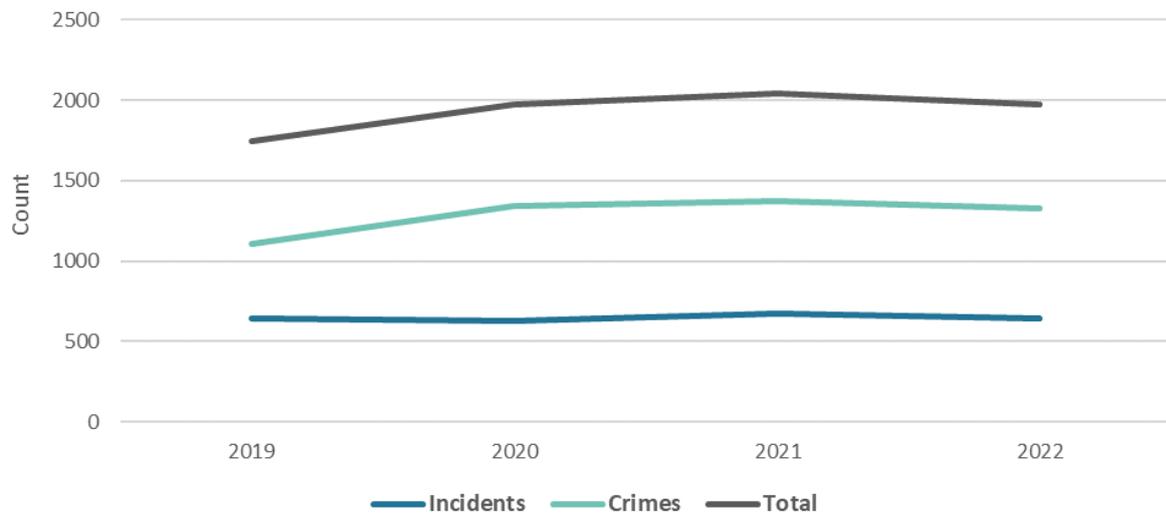
National police recorded figures show the number of crimes exceeding the number of police recorded incidents from March 2018 onwards (see figure below). There has been a continued increase in police recorded domestic abuse crimes, whilst domestic abuse-related incidents have now decreased to pre-pandemic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

**Figure 32: Number of domestic abuse-related incidents recorded by police, England and Wales, year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2022**  
**Source: (Office for National Statistics, 2022)**



Local police recorded data for the past 4 years is presented in the figure below. The South Cambridgeshire pattern broadly reflects the national picture whereby the number of DA crimes has increased since 2019 and the number of incidents has remained stable. The total number of crimes has since remained higher than incidents through to the latest review period. Whilst the total number of DA crimes recorded in South Cambridgeshire in 2022 was 20% higher than that recorded in 2019, levels have remained relatively stable in the latest two-year period. This differs from the national pattern where increases have been seen year-on-year.

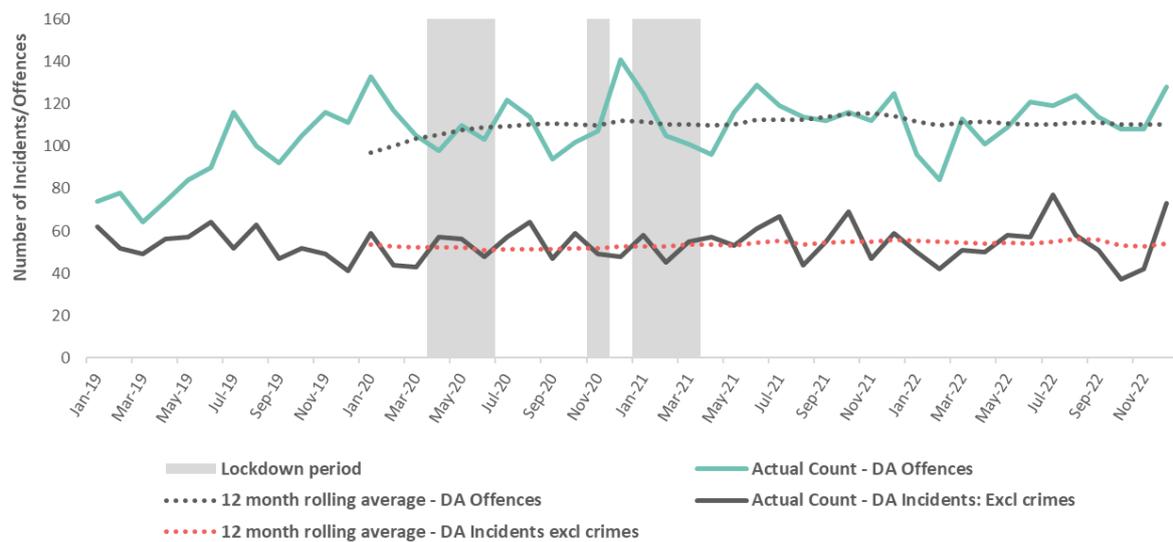
**Figure 33: Police recorded DA crimes and incidents in South Cambridgeshire, 2019 - 2022**



An alternative way of looking at the figures is to examine the crimes and incidents together. Of the total crimes and incidents (i.e. those incidents that did not result in crime(s) being recorded) in 2022, 67% are crimes. This is an increase from 63% for 2019.

Analysing the data on a monthly basis (as seen in the figure below) shows that incident levels have remained stable in South Cambridgeshire 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 34: Monthly police recorded DA incidents and Crimes, South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 to December 2022**



## 8.4. DA Crime Types

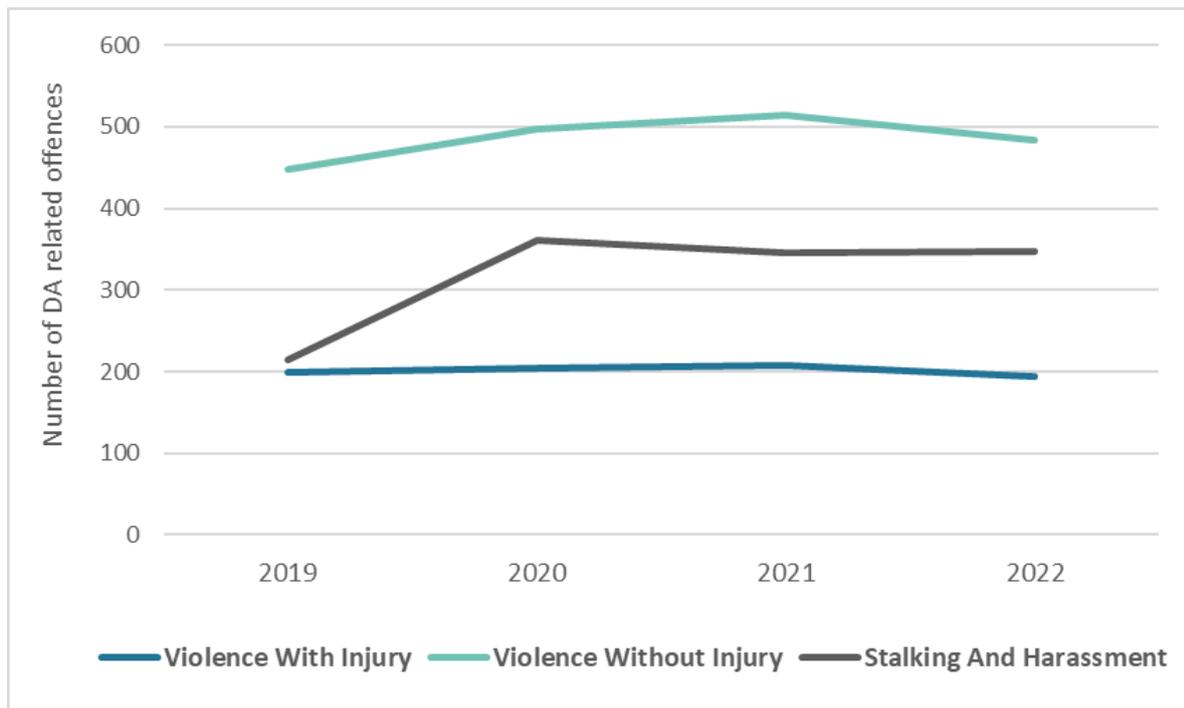
All crimes can have a DA marker applied to them. In South Cambridgeshire, 17% of all crime recorded in 2022 was domestic abuse related. This proportion has ranged from between 15% and 20% during the past 4 years.

As in previous years, violent offences account for the majority of police recorded DA crimes. In 2022 over three quarters (77%) of DA crimes recorded in South Cambridgeshire were violence against the person category offences. This figure has remained consistent since 2019. The remaining 23% of DA related offences were split across 10 different crime types, with the next highest proportions being arson and criminal damage (7.8%), public order offences (4.2%) and sexual offences (3.9%).

Total DA-related violence against the person offences increased by 19% in 2022 when comparing to the pre-pandemic year of 2019, increasing from 861 offences in 2019 to 1,026 offences in 2022. DA-related arson and criminal damage and public order offences saw higher proportional increases during this same comparison period, but based on lower numbers overall. Arson and criminal damage increased 26% to 103 offences in 2022 and public order increased 28% to 55 offences in 2022.

Exploring the DA related violence against the person offences by sub-type shows differing patterns over time, as illustrated in the figure below. Violence without injury has consistently been the main sub-type and has seen a slight increase since 2019. Violence with injury offences have remained stable over time at around 200 offences per year. In 2020 stalking and harassment saw a sharp increase in offences compared to the previous year, up 68% from 215 to 361 offences. This increase is likely linked to changes in Home Office counting rules introduced in April 2020 (Home Office, 2023). This increase has been sustained in the last two years and as a result stalking and harassment accounted for a quarter (26%) of all domestic abuse related offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire in 2022. This is in line with the proportion seen nationally in the year ending March 2022 (25%) (Office for National Statistics, 2022).

**Figure 35: Police recorded DA-related violence against the person offences by sub-type, South Cambridgeshire, 2019-2022**



The specific offence type of engaging in controlling or coercive behaviour was introduced in 2015. In 2022, 57 coercive control offences were recorded in South Cambridgeshire, a reduction on the previous year where 71 offences were recorded.

## 8.5. Domestic Homicide Reviews

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

South Cambridgeshire has eight DHRs in total going back a number of years. One of these is complete and has been published and one has been terminated with approval from the Home Office. The stage of each DHR at the time of writing is outlined below:

1. Approaching re-submission to the Home Office
2. Completed and published
3. Terminating with agreement from the Home Office
4. Full DHR has been determined to be required by the Home Office, due to start imminently
5. In process
6. Completed and submitted to the Home Office – awaiting comments
7. In process
8. Due to start imminently.

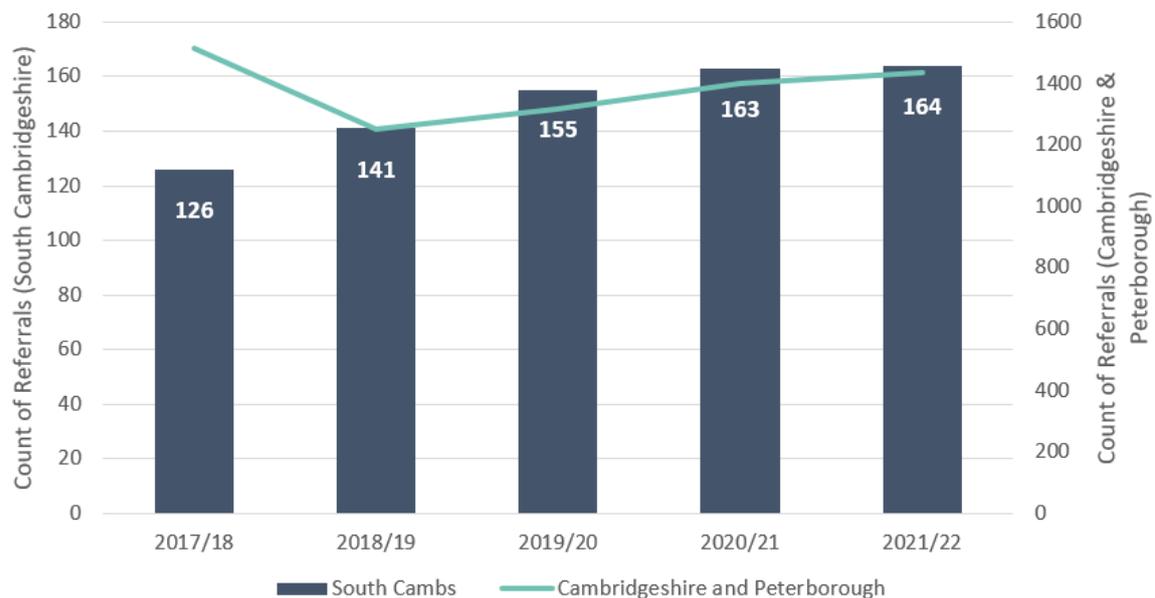
## 8.6. Local Services

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

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

The figure below shows the number of referrals received by the service for South Cambridgeshire residents annually between 2017/18 to 2021/22 (financial year). Referrals in South Cambridgeshire have risen each year between 2017 and 2022. 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 36: Referrals to IDVA service for South Cambridgeshire residents by financial year, 2017 to 2022**



## 9. Exploitation and vulnerability

### 9.1. Summary and Recommendations

Vulnerability is a broad umbrella term used to mean slightly different things in different contexts. Whilst it is right for the partnership to consider vulnerability there should be a shared agreement about the meaning in this context and the extent to

which being 'vulnerable' contributes to victimisation and exploitation. There are two ways of considering vulnerability in terms of crime and safety, the risk of an existing vulnerability being exploited (such as in the case of cuckooing) or where additional vulnerability is the result of being victimised or abused (e.g. self-harm as the result of abuse).

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

Age, gender, sexual orientation, race, existing exclusions from social, work or school environments are examples of vulnerabilities often considered in the context of community safety work. There are further sources of information including partner agencies that would also have access to data on vulnerability.

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

**Recommendation: The CSP should utilise the upcoming Countywide Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment to gain a more detailed understanding of these issues within the South Cambridgeshire**

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

## 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);

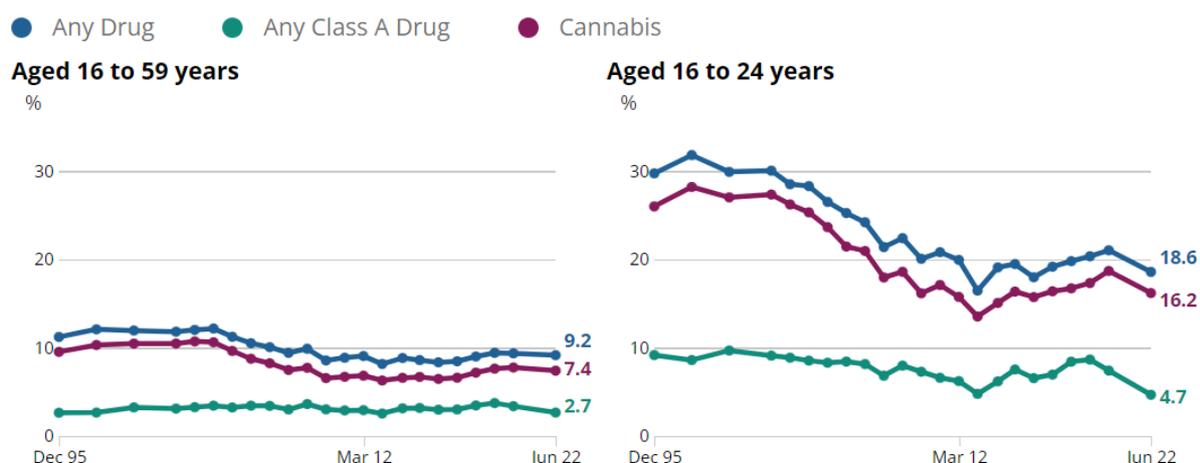
- Drug possession and supply
- Serious Violence
- Knife Crime
- Robbery and possession of offensive weapons
- Modern slavery and exploitation, including exploitation of young and/or vulnerable people.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis of Serious Organised Crime (completed in 2022) recommended that awareness raising takes place in South Cambridgeshire around County Lines related activity. This would aim to increase intelligence reporting levels in the local area so that the risk is better understood.

### 9.3. Substance Misuse

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

**Figure 37: 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**



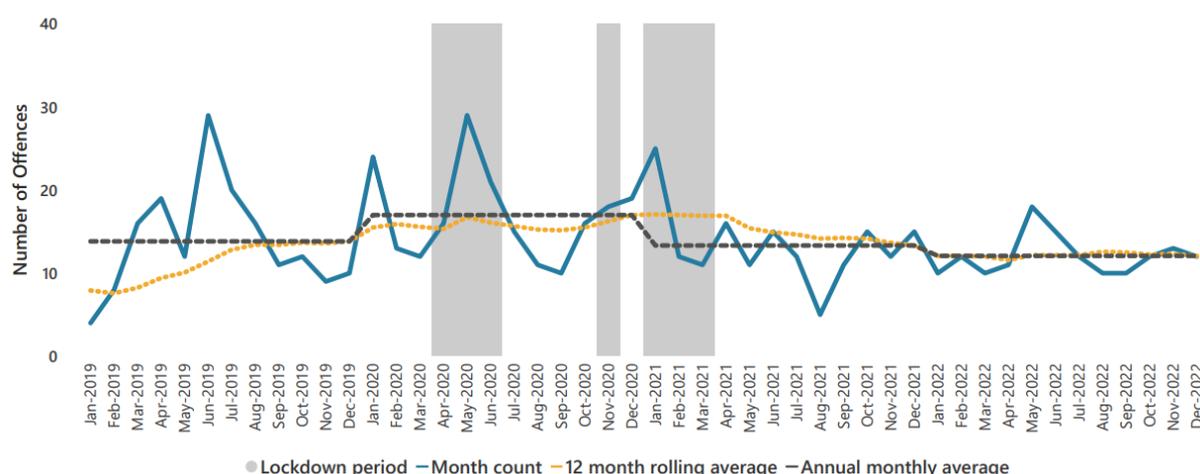
Source: (Office for National Statistics, 2023).

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, 2022). 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, 2023).

Local data shows consistently low levels of police recorded drug offences in South Cambridgeshire. In 2022 South Cambridgeshire had the second lowest rate of drug offences in the county (after East Cambridgeshire) with less than one offence (0.9) recorded per 1,000 population. A slightly higher level of offences was recorded in 2020 which was likely due to increased proactive policing activity during the first national lockdown (see figure below). Comparing 2022 to the pre-pandemic year of 2019 shows that drug offences are down by 13% in South Cambridgeshire, in contrast to Cambridgeshire County as a whole, where drug offences increased by 43% in the same period.

**Figure 38: Police recorded drug offences in South Cambridgeshire, 2019-2022**



The current provider of substance misuse services (for adults) in Cambridgeshire, Change Grow Live, provide a summary of residents in treatment by their resident district. In 2022 the majority of CGL (Change Grow Live) clients in South Cambridgeshire were in treatment for alcohol misuse (41%). A further 38% were in treatment for opiate misuse.

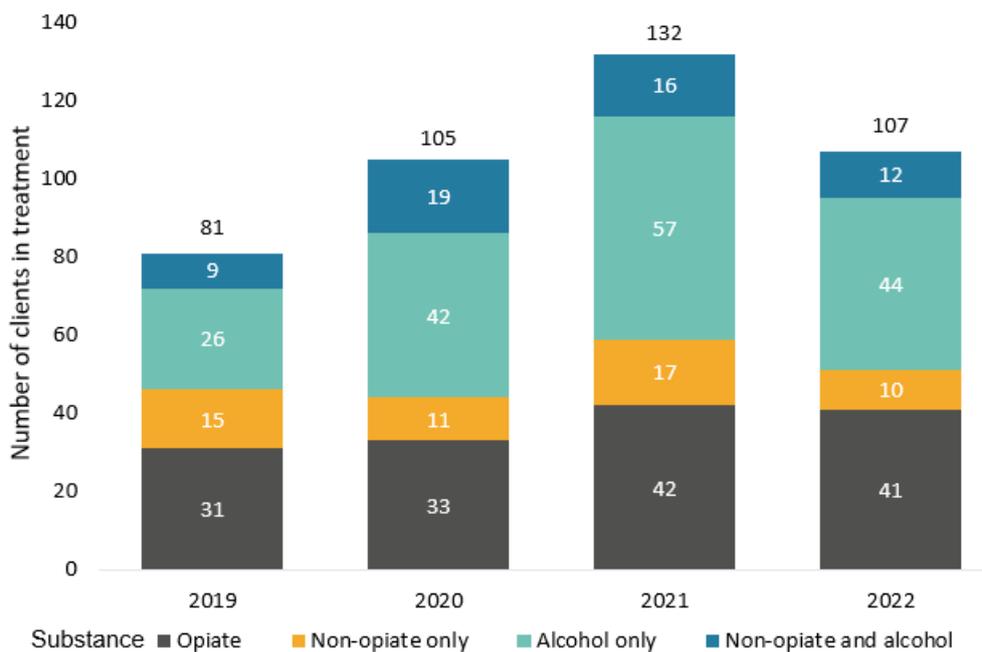
**Table 7: Client’s residents in South Cambridgeshire and in treatment or successfully completed treatment in the year ending December 2022. This does not reflect the location of the treatment service but the resident’s address (Source: Change Grow Live)**

| Clients grouped by Substance | Count of Clients | Percentage of total clients in treatment |
|------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Opiate                       | 41               | 38%                                      |
| Non-opiate only              | 10               | 9%                                       |

|                                      |     |      |
|--------------------------------------|-----|------|
| Alcohol only                         | 44  | 41%  |
| Non-opiate and alcohol               | 12  | 11%  |
| Total number of clients in treatment | 107 | 100% |
| Successful completions               | 33  | -    |

Comparing the year ending December 2022 with 2021, there has been a 19% decrease in the total number of clients in treatment.

**Figure 39: Clients in treatment in South Cambridgeshire by calendar year and Substance (Source: CGL)**

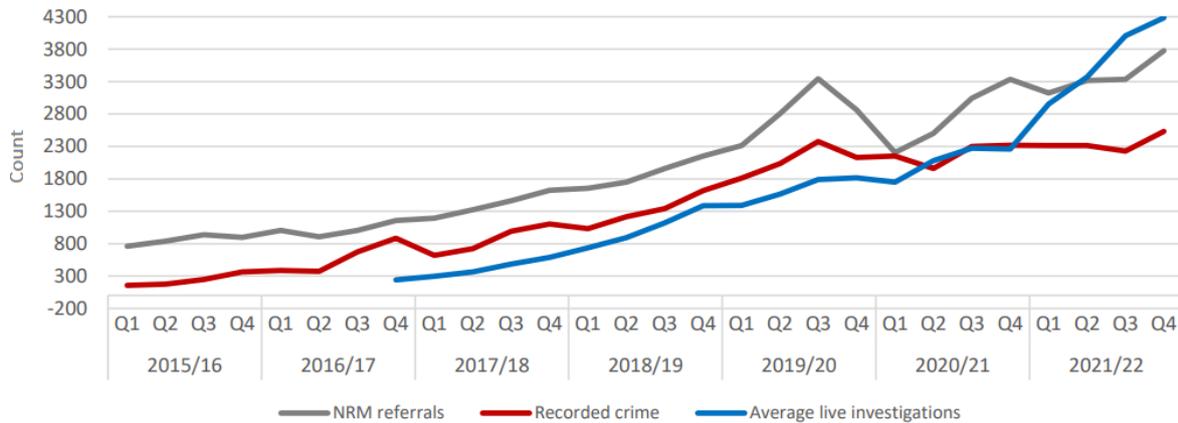


A Countywide Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment is due to be completed in Spring 2023. **The CSP should utilise the upcoming assessment to gain a more detailed understanding of these issues within the South Cambridgeshire**

#### 9.4. Modern Slavery

Nationally the level of recorded Modern Slavery crime, Live investigations into modern slavery and National Referral Mechanism Referrals did reduce in the early stages of the pandemic. However, a trend of increase has since continued, as shown in the figure below.

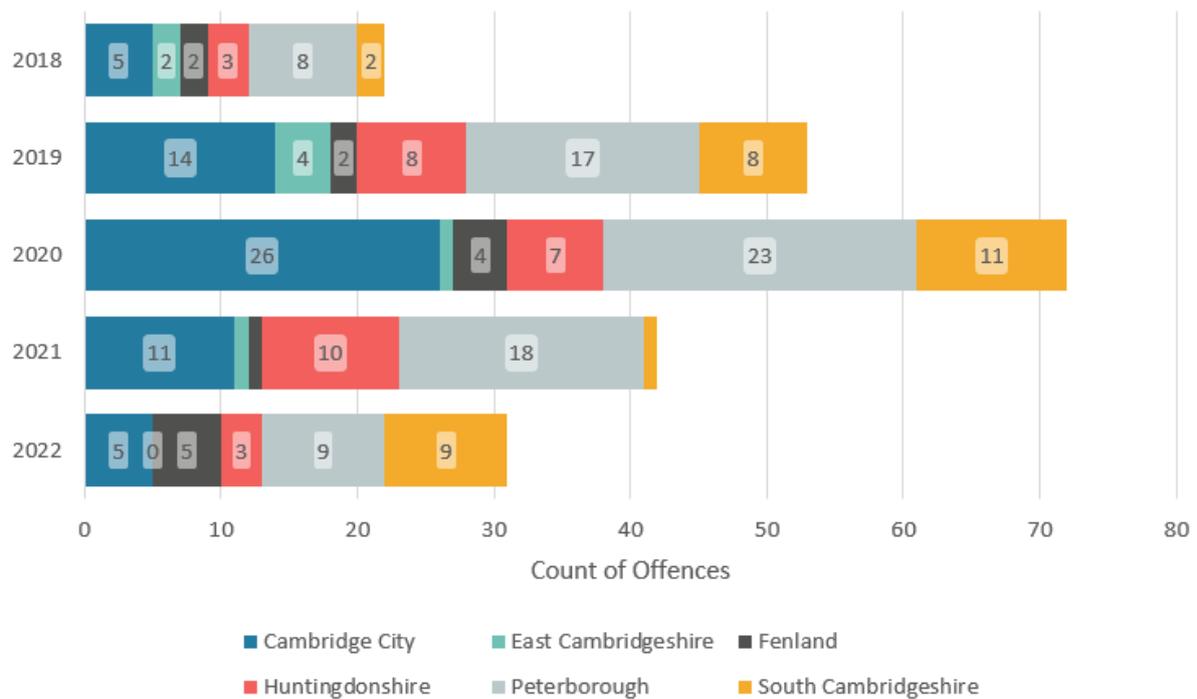
**Figure 40: Source: Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme Annual Report 2021- 2022**



Another impact of the pandemic is noted in the annual report of the [Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme \(policingslavery.co.uk\)](https://policingslavery.co.uk). 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 that 29% of modern slavery offences across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (year ending Sept 2022) were attributed to South Cambridgeshire (a total of 9 offences). This is substantially higher than in 2021 when there was only 1 offence. However, it should be noted that overall, the volume of Modern Slavery offences across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is considerably lower in the most recent year.

**Figure 41: Police Recorded Modern Slavery Offences by district, 2018 to 2022 (year ending December)**

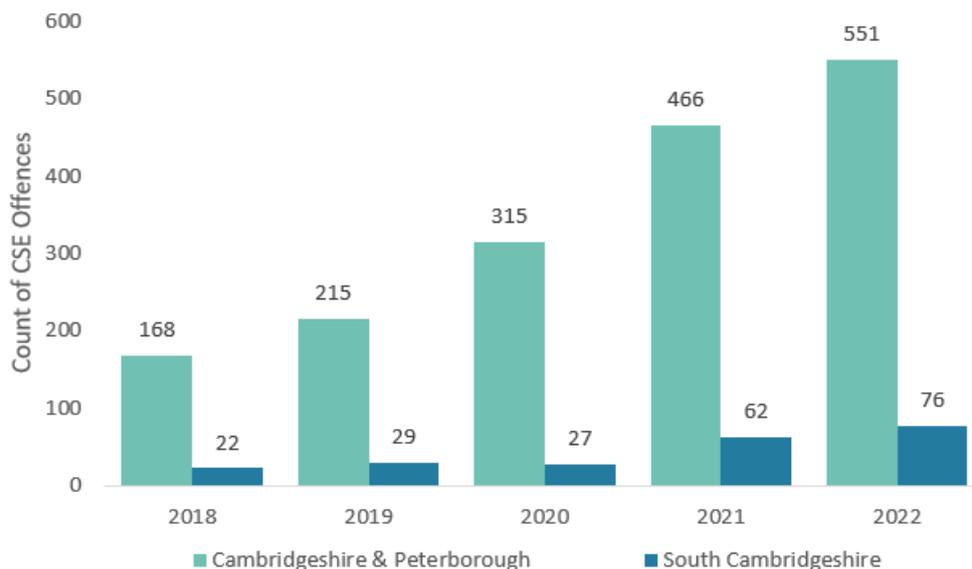


Nationally it is acknowledged that Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) involved in modern slavery are often involved in a number of exploitation types ('polycriminality'). Overlap between those involved with Modern slavery and sexual exploitation as well as money laundering and fraud have been seen in modern slavery investigations. Whilst the volume of specific Modern Slavery offences may be low compared to other offence types locally, the CSP needs to keep in mind the likely links to other crime for this high harm offence type.

## 9.5. Child Sexual Exploitation/Child Criminal Exploitation (CSE/CCE)

Constabulary-wide Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) crimes have seen a year on year increase since 2018. The total volume of CSE offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire was 76 in 2022, an increase from 62 in 2021. CSE is known to be an under reported issue so this is likely an underestimate of the scale of the issue. Further data sources are needed to build a more comprehensive picture of CSE and CCE in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire a whole.

**Figure 42: Police recorded CSE Yearly from 2018 to 2021 (year ending December) in South Cambridgeshire**



## 9.6. Hate Crime

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

The CSEW has not released estimates on hate crime since 2020, owing to the suspension of face-to-face interviewing during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, current hate crime victimisation prevalence levels in England & Wales are unknown. National police recorded data can provide an indication of police demand relating to hate crimes and highlights a long-term increase in offences recorded. This upward trend is likely to be predominantly driven by improvements by police forces in both the identification of what constitutes a hate crime, and recording of hate crimes. However, it is not possible to accurately quantify this, and real 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, 2022).

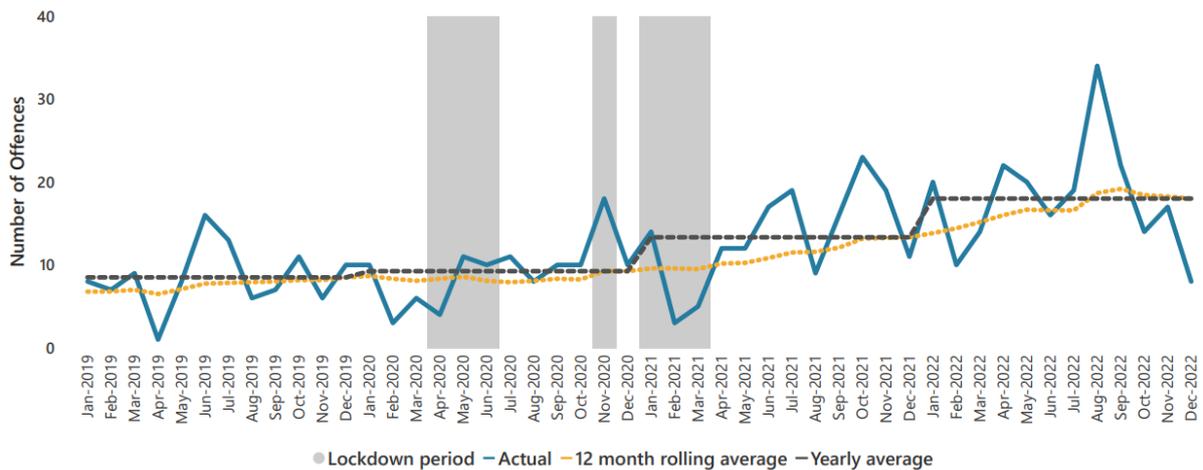
**Table 8: Table of police recorded hate crimes in England and Wales, Source: (Home Office, (2022))**

| 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%                         |

South Cambridgeshire has seen an upward trend in police recorded hate crimes between 2019 and 2021, in line with Cambridgeshire as a whole. In 2022 216 hate crimes were recorded in South Cambridgeshire, more than double to level recorded in 2019 (102 crimes). Caution needs to be taken in the interpretation of trends observed due to the low volume of offences and the impact of improved police recording. The figure below illustrates the extent of monthly variation in police recorded hate crime. There was a spike in offences in August 2022 followed by a

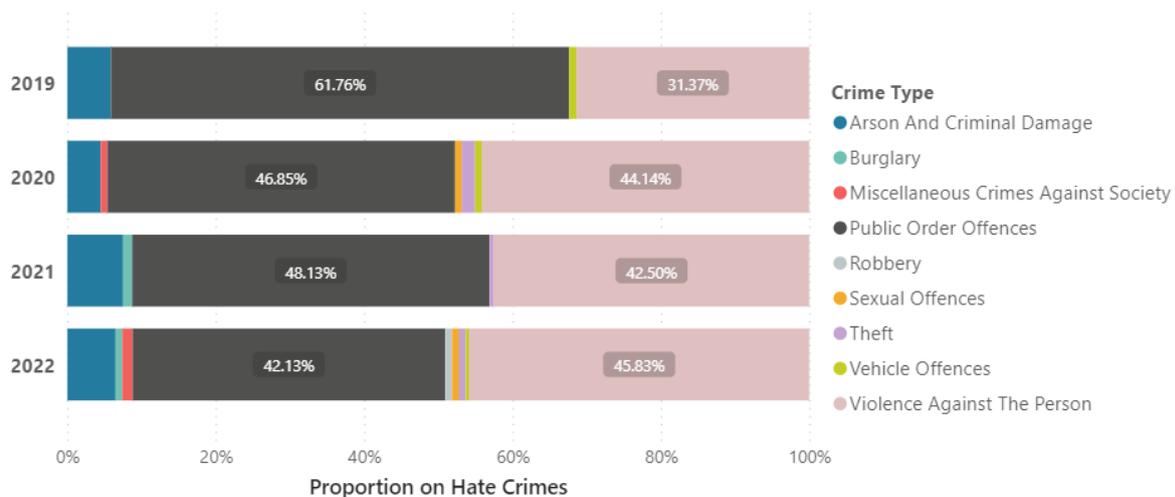
reduction. Analysis of the August 2022 offences did not show any linked series, however, there were five reports from a single incident at a healthcare residential unit where there had been multiple victims of the offence.

**Figure 43: Police recorded Hate Crimes in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 - December 2022**



The figure below shows the offence type breakdown for all hate crimes recorded in South Cambridgeshire in the last four years. Public order and violence against the person account for the largest share of offences with a hate crime marker in South Cambridgeshire, consistent with the national picture. There has been a shift over time in the breakdown between these two main crime types as illustrated in the figure below. The proportion of hate crimes that were public order reduced from 62% in 2019 to 42% in 2022. In contrast the proportion of violence against the person increased from 31% in 2019 to 46% in 2022.

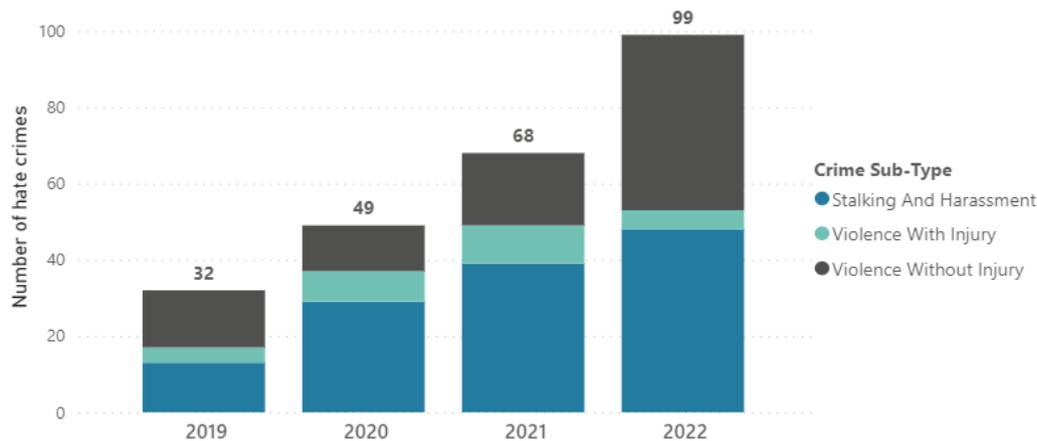
**Figure 44: Breakdown in crime type of police recorded Hate Crimes in South Cambridgeshire, 2019-2022**



The breakdown by sub-type for all South Cambridgeshire violence against the person offences with a hate crime marker is displayed in the figure below. Stalking &

harassment hate crimes have increase steadily over the last four years whilst violence without injury hate crimes increased in the latest year. Violence with injury hate crimes decreased seen in 2022 accounting for just 5% of all violence against the person hate crimes.

**Figure 45: Police recorded violence against the person hate crimes in South Cambridgeshire by offence 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 South Cambridgeshire, in particular the extent to which different groups are being victimised.

## 10. Environmental / Community

### 10.1. Summary and Recommendations

ASB is on a downward trajectory in South Cambridgeshire, in line with patterns seen countywide as well as nationally. ASB is currently monitored at a geographical level via quarterly data reviews. ASB hotspots are identified in quarterly data reports and wards with the highest ASB rates in the district are flagged as high risk which feeds into the selection of priority wards.

Fires in South Cambridgeshire recorded by the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue have increased since prior to the pandemic, whilst nationally levels have remained stable. However, when looking specifically at deliberate fires levels in South Cambridgeshire seen in 2022 are consistent with those seen in 2019. Locations within South Cambridgeshire which are a hotspots for deliberate fires are identified via the quarterly data reviews.

**Recommendation: ASB incidents and deliberate fires should continue to form part of the data review matrix to ensure emerging areas of concern are picked**

**up and that work tackling ASB/deliberate fire setting is continued in current priority areas.**

Public order offences as recorded by the police are showing an overall increasing trend in South Cambridgeshire 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. Analysis of a dip sample of offences within the South Cambridgeshire wards with the highest levels of public order offences showed a wide range of victims and the presence of some potentially high harm offences such as threats of violence (including in possession of a knife).

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

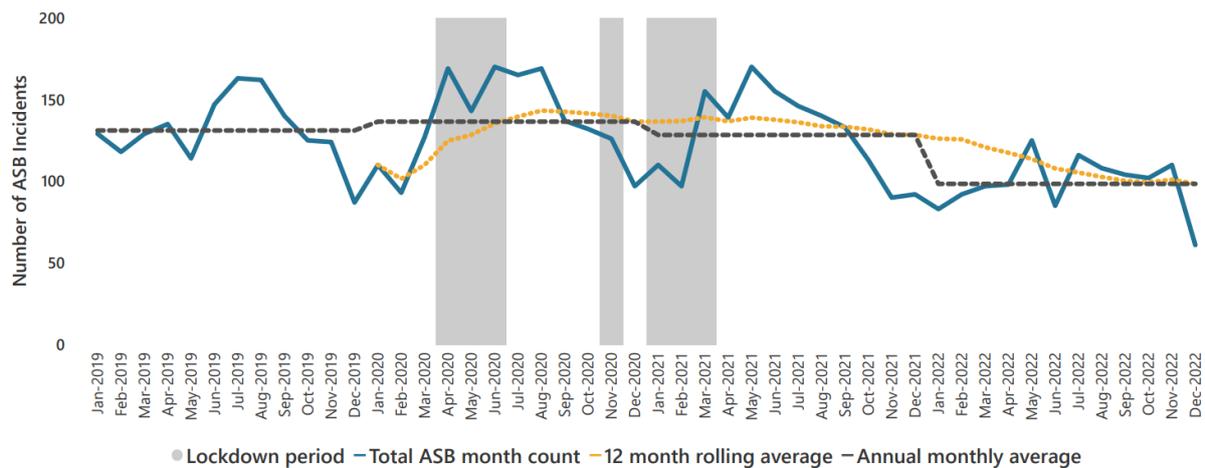
## 10.2. ASB

### 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, 2023). There was a spike in ASB recorded in 2021, attributed by the ONS to reports of Covid-19 restriction breaches recorded by the police as ASB.

Overall ASB levels are on a downward trajectory in South Cambridgeshire, as illustrated in the figure below. A total of 1,181 ASB incidents were recorded in 2022, down by a quarter (25%) compared to the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

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



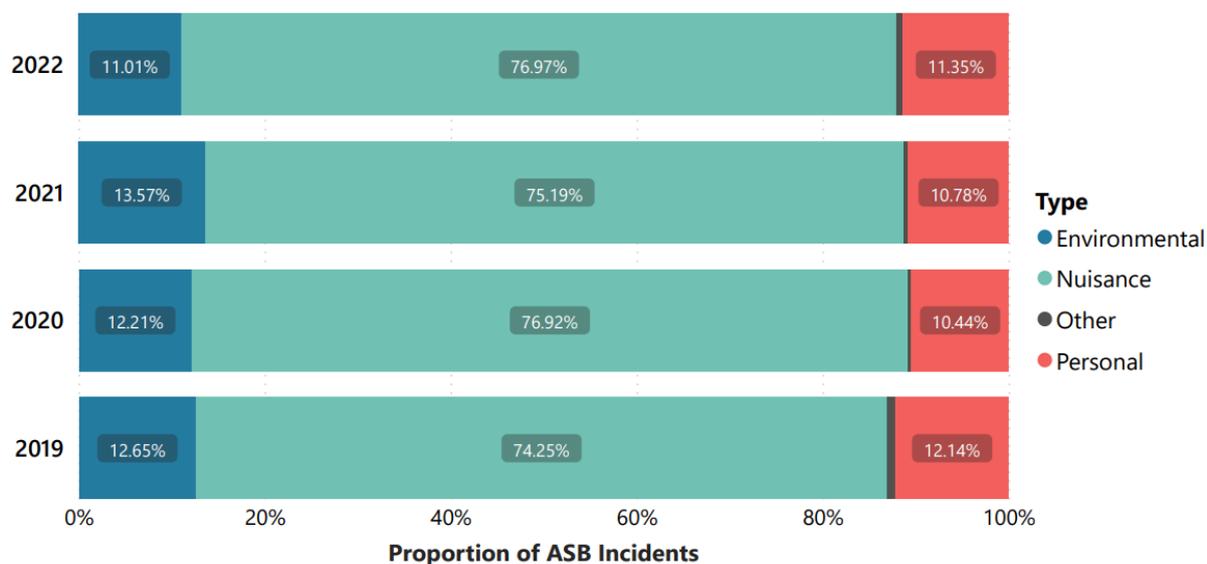
### 10.2.2. ASB Type

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 South Cambridgeshire 24% of all ASB incidents recorded in 2022 included a youth keyword, the same proportion as for Cambridgeshire county as a whole. This breakdown has remained consistent in the last 4 years, ranging from between 22% and 25%.

‘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 78% of ASB incidents recorded in South Cambridgeshire in 2022. The breakdown in ASB type has been fairly consistent over recent years as shown in the figure below. Comparing to the pre-pandemic year of 2019, the proportion of nuisance is just slightly up, with environmental and personal ASB both accounting for 11% in 2022. Personal ASB incidents are categorised by risk on a scale from ‘no risk’ to ‘high risk’. Of the 134 incidents recorded in South Cambridgeshire in 2022, just one was categorised as high risk and twelve were categorised as medium risk.

**Figure 47: Breakdown in ASB incidents by type, South Cambridgeshire, 2019-2022**



E-scooter usage has grown significantly in the UK in recent years. The law in relation to electric scooters (e-scooters) currently forbids scooters being ridden on a road or public footpath with the only exception being e-scooter trials. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority launched the Voi E-Scooter Trial in Cambridge City and Peterborough in October 2020, initially a 12-month trial. The trial has since been repeatedly extended with the latest extension in place until May 2024. The trial area primary covers Cambridge City but does extend into bordering areas of South Cambridgeshire.

Analysis has been completed on the police recorded ASB data to identify any local issues relating to e-scooters, whether part of the Voi trial or privately owned e-scooters. A keyword search showed there were just 9 incidents which contained an e-scooter keyword in 2022. Based on police recorded data it does not appear that e-scooters are a known area of concern within South Cambridgeshire currently.

### 10.2.3. Geographical analysis

The table below shows the ward count of ASB incidents and the proportion of total South Cambridgeshire incidents occurring in each ward for 2019 and 2022. The wards which accounted for the highest proportion of ASB incidents in 2022 were: Cambourne (12.6%), Milton & Waterbeach (10.2%), Histon & Impington (9.1%) and Fen Ditton & Fulbourn (8.6%). Comparing to the pre-pandemic year of 2019, the biggest changes to note are an increase in the total ASB share for Cambourne and Longstanton and a reduction in the ASB share for Milton & Waterbeach and Shelford.

**Table 9: Count of police recorded ASB incidents by ward (2021 boundaries) and percentage of ASB, South Cambridgeshire 2019 and 2022**

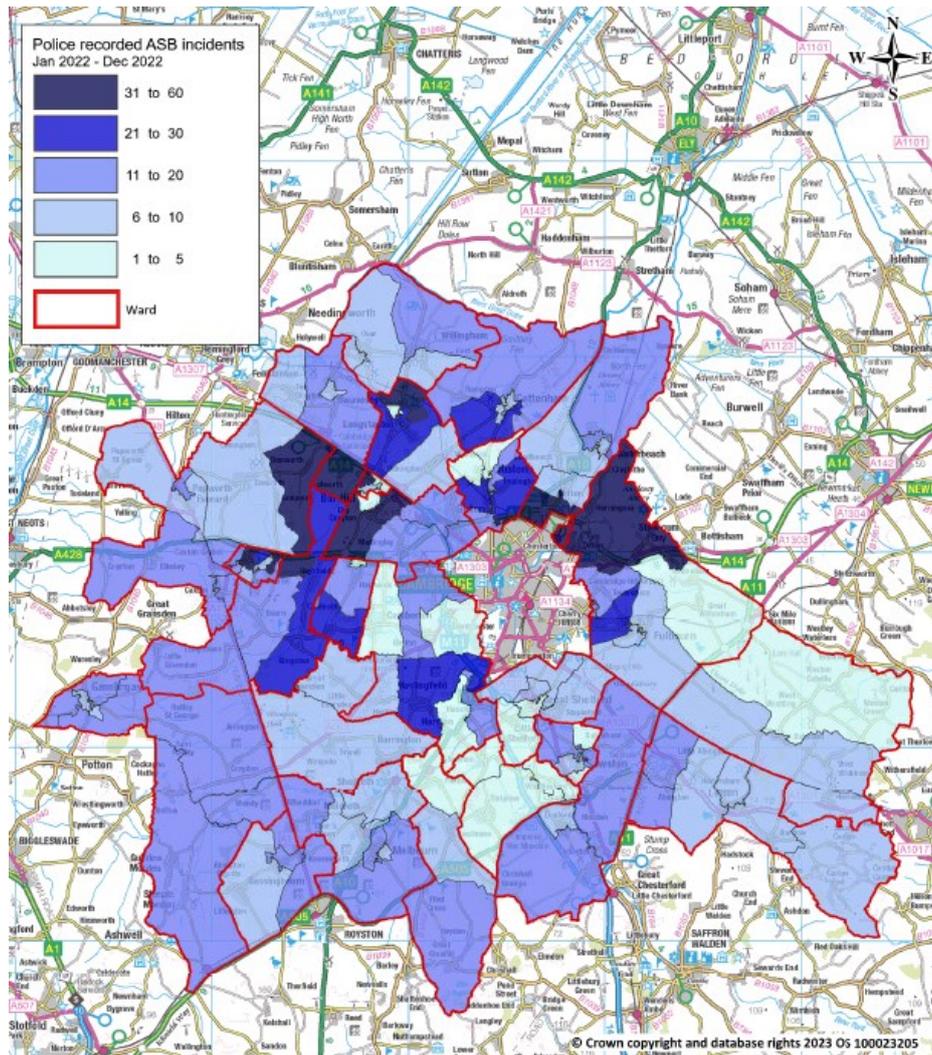
|  | 2019 | 2022 |
|--|------|------|
|  |      |      |

|                       | <b>Count</b> | <b>%</b>    | <b>Count</b> | <b>%</b>    |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Balsham               | 18           | 1.1%        | 12           | 1.0%        |
| Bar Hill              | 35           | 2.2%        | 23           | 1.9%        |
| Barrington            | 43           | 2.7%        | 11           | 0.9%        |
| Bassingbourn          | 35           | 2.2%        | 24           | 2.0%        |
| Caldecote             | 19           | 1.2%        | 23           | 1.9%        |
| Cambourne             | 136          | 8.6%        | 149          | 12.6%       |
| Caxton & Papworth     | 75           | 4.8%        | 49           | 4.1%        |
| Cottenham             | 63           | 4.0%        | 47           | 4.0%        |
| Duxford               | 23           | 1.5%        | 33           | 2.8%        |
| Fen Ditton & Fulbourn | 124          | 7.9%        | 101          | 8.6%        |
| Foxton                | 21           | 1.3%        | 17           | 1.4%        |
| Gamlingay             | 23           | 1.5%        | 18           | 1.5%        |
| Girton                | 34           | 2.2%        | 38           | 3.2%        |
| Hardwick              | 19           | 1.2%        | 16           | 1.4%        |
| Harston & Comberton   | 101          | 6.4%        | 63           | 5.3%        |
| Histon & Impington    | 131          | 8.3%        | 107          | 9.1%        |
| Linton                | 54           | 3.4%        | 36           | 3.0%        |
| Longstanton           | 65           | 4.1%        | 91           | 7.7%        |
| Melbourn              | 88           | 5.6%        | 51           | 4.3%        |
| Milton & Waterbeach   | 208          | 13.2%       | 120          | 10.2%       |
| Over & Willingham     | 68           | 4.3%        | 32           | 2.7%        |
| Sawston               | 45           | 2.9%        | 36           | 3.0%        |
| Shelford              | 76           | 4.8%        | 26           | 2.2%        |
| Swavesey              | 22           | 1.4%        | 26           | 2.2%        |
| The Mordens           | 23           | 1.5%        | 24           | 2.0%        |
| Whittlesford          | 24           | 1.5%        | 8            | 0.7%        |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>1573</b>  | <b>100%</b> | <b>1181</b>  | <b>100%</b> |

The thematic map below presents the annual count of ASB incidents (2022) at the lower-level geography of LSOA. This map illustrates that the LSOA's with the highest levels of ASB (over 30 incidents) are located in the following areas:

- The Cambridge City border area (within Histon & Impington, Milton & Waterbeach and Fen Ditton & Fulbourn wards)
- The Northstowe area of Longstanton ward
- Cambourne
- and a rural LSOA in the Bar Hill/Dry Drayton/Boxworth area.

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



Anti-social behaviour incidents are one of the indicators currently used in the quarterly data review matrix. As such ASB is examined geographically at regular intervals with hotspots highlighted via the T&CG meetings and quarterly reports. Work targeting ASB issues has been completed throughout the year within the priority areas where appropriate. ASB should continue to form part of the data matrix to allow the continuation of this work and to ensure emerging areas of concern are picked up.

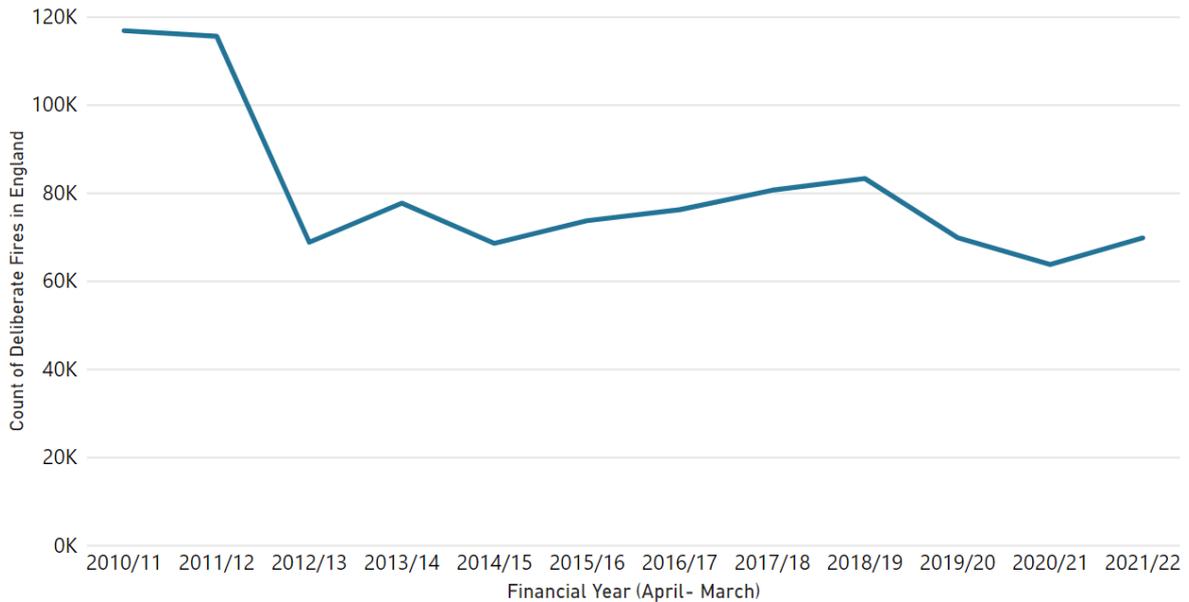
### 10.3. Deliberate Fires

The national and local Fire Service data used in this section includes accidental fires, deliberate fires, 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 for year ending [YE] March (the latest available data at the time of writing) 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 1% less than before the pandemic in 2019/20 (Home Office, 2022).

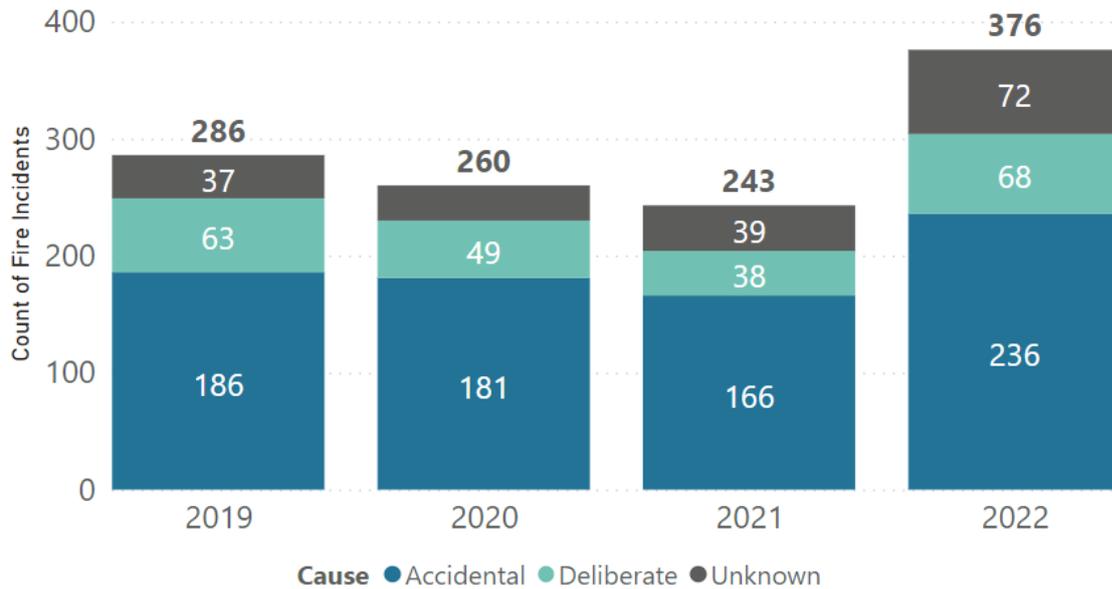
Below are the national figures for deliberate fires since 2011/12. Between 2020/21 and 2021/22 the number of deliberate fires attended increased by 10% to 69,782 but have remained relatively stable since the large decrease seen between 2011/12 and 2012/13 (YE March).

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



Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue service recorded 376 fires in South Cambridgeshire in the 2022 calendar year. This is a 54.7% increase on 2021 figures of 243. South Cambridgeshire accounted for 16.5% of the total fires in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and 11.8% of all deliberate fires in 2021/22.

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



The figure above displays the number of fires in South Cambridgeshire broken down by cause over the past four years. This shows a 79% increase in the number of deliberate fires recorded, from 38 in 2021, to 68 incidents in 2022. This is, however, in line levels seen prior to the pandemic. Deliberate fires accounted for 18% of all fires in 2022 compared to 16% in 2021. Accidental fires also increased by 42% over the same period.

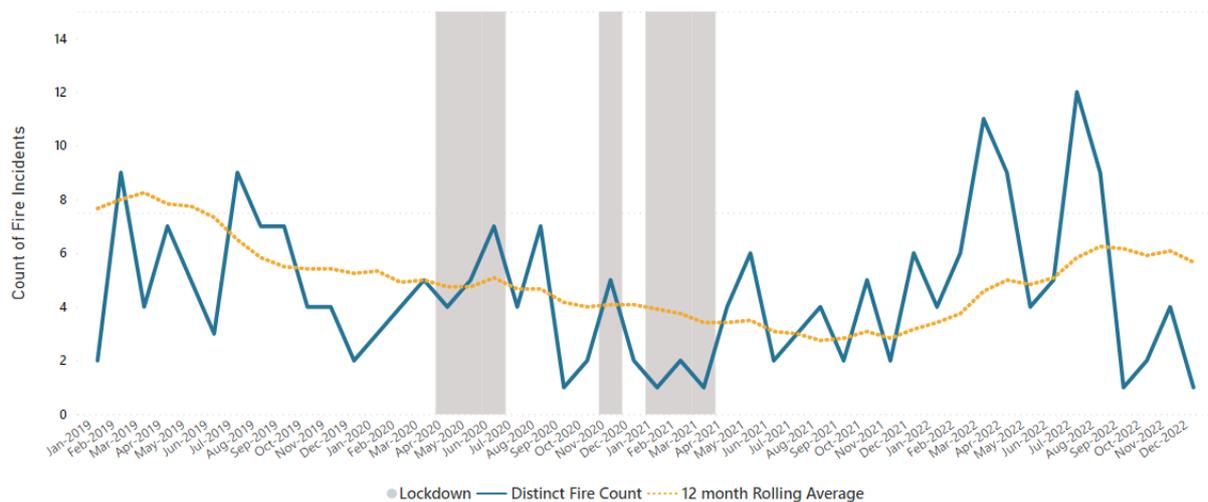
**Figure 51: Breakdown of deliberate fires in South Cambridgeshire, 2019 – 2022 (Year ending December)**



As detailed in the figure above, there has been a notable increase in both ‘deliberate – unknown owner’ and ‘deliberate – other property’ between 2021 and 2022.

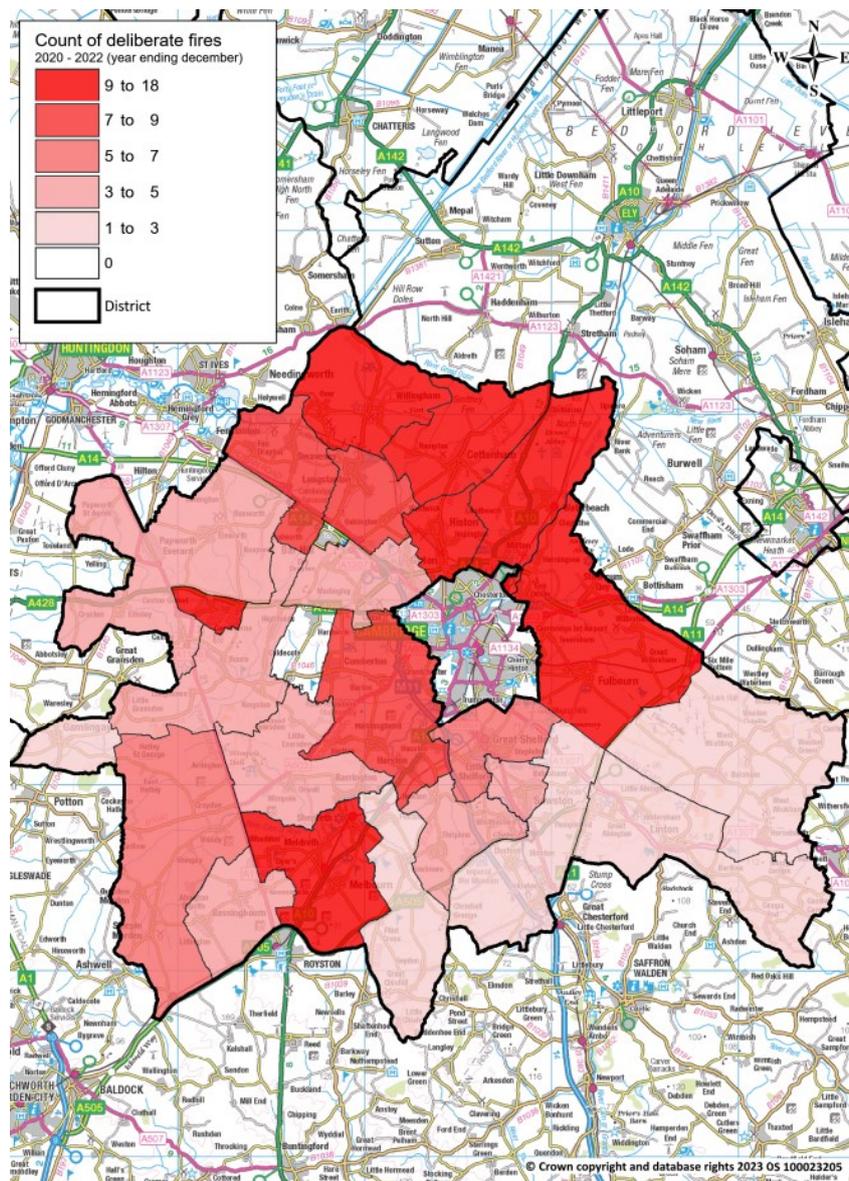
The largest group of deliberate fires in these categories were ‘outdoors’ and ‘road vehicle’ at 35 and 16 respectively. This contrasts with 2021 where only 19 were classified as ‘Outdoors’ and 10 for ‘Road Vehicle’. The large increase in ‘Outdoor’ fires is due to the summer heatwave between June and August. The Home Office notes that between 2021 and 2022, the number of outdoor primary fires and secondary fires attended by FRS in the East of England increased by 218% (Home Office, 2022). Furthermore, the Home Office also notes the lifting of lockdown at the beginning of 2021 also resulted in a large increase during 2022 as specific fire incident types like outdoor structures occurred less frequently.

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



The monthly count of deliberate fires is displayed in the chart above and shows that, following the third lockdown in 2021, there has been a steady increase in deliberate fires since the end of the last lockdown in April 2021. Notably, there were two spikes in March and August 2022 at 11 and 12 incidents respectively. The spike in March was driven by an increase in ‘Road Vehicle’ incidents, with 6 incidents in March 2022, compared to the previous year’s 0 incidents in this month. The spike in August was likely due to seasonal changes in fire incidents and the summer heatwave that caused an increase in outdoor deliberate fires. Since September 2022, the number of reported incidents has decreased to a range between 1 and 4. Which is when the UK saw 19% more rain than average (Met Office, 2022).

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



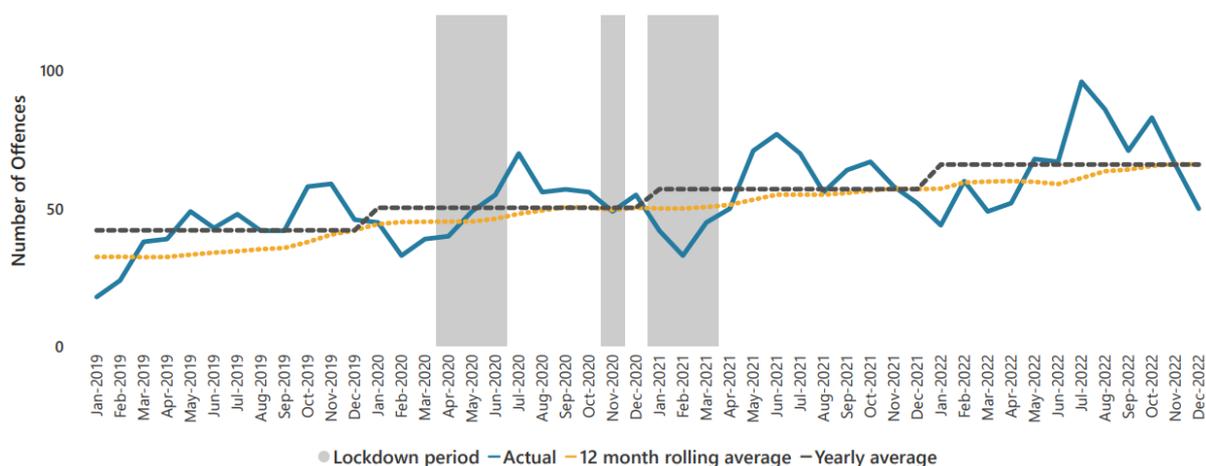
When comparing the number of deliberate fire incidents in the last 3 years, there have been some notable increases in specific South Cambridgeshire wards. Longstanton ward saw an increase from 0 incidents in 2020 to 8 in 2022. Four of those incidents were reported in the new town of Northstowe and all were outdoor fires. Another hotspot to note is Harston & Comberton ward which saw four deliberate fires all in proximity of the border with Trumpington.

Deliberate fires are one of the existing indicators in the data matrix used to identify high risk wards for prioritisation. This enables the identification of emerging hotspot areas and linking in with the Fire & Rescue Service representatives during data discussions at the T&CG meetings. This established process should continue into the next year.

## 10.4. 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 South Cambridgeshire with 792 offences recorded in 2022, up 57% since 2019. Cambridgeshire county saw a slightly lesser increase of 42% in the same timeframe.

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



The majority of public order offences recorded in 2022 were ‘Public fear, alarm or distress’ (84%). ‘Race or religious aggravated public fear, alarm or distress’ accounted for 8% (64 offences). Of the 792 public order offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire in 2022, 11% were marked as hate crimes. The remaining 60 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.

Geographical analysis showed the wards with the highest levels of public order offences in 2022 were: Milton & Waterbeach (10%), Cambourne (9%), Histon & Impington (9%) and Fen Ditton & Fulbourn (8%). All of these wards have either been on the priority wards list in the past year or have received additional analysis as part of the quarterly data reviews.

A dip sample analysis was completed on 30 ‘Public fear, alarm or distress’ offences recorded in these top four wards to give an indication of the type of crimes that are recorded under this category. Offences predominantly involved verbal abuse, threats (particularly of violence) or both. It was more common for the suspect to be unknown to the victim although there were some incidents when the suspect was known. Cases with unknown suspects included members of the public being targeted or individuals being targeted whilst at work (e.g. in a shop or hotel). Four out of the 30 offences involved threats of violence where the suspect had a knife, an indication of the potential for high harm offences to feature within the public order category.

## 11. Re-offending

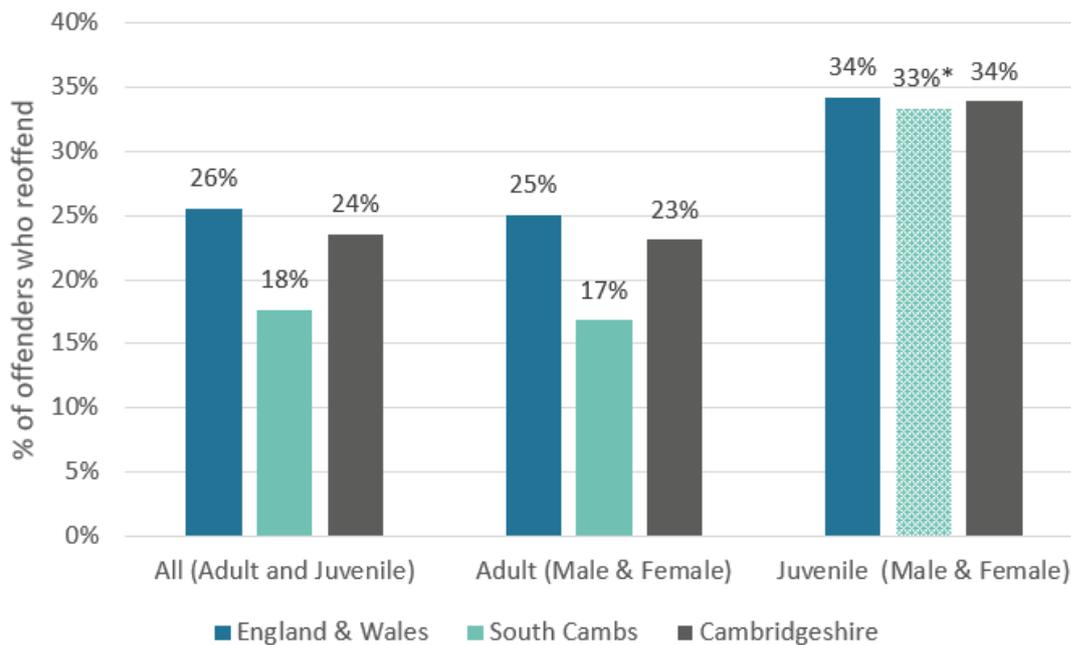
There is limited local data available on offenders and re-offending, however a Victim Offender and Suspects Needs Assessments (Commissioned by the OPCC) was published by Cambridgeshire Research Group in October 2020. This needs assessment aimed to provide an overview and profile of the available data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

Analysis of the Adult BeNCH CRC cohort (2020) highlighted the following in terms of reoffending:

- Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the most common re-offence was Violence.
- Finance and Accommodation needs were particularly prevalent among re-offenders residing in South Cambridgeshire with 45% of the cohort having a finance need and 21% having an accommodation need.
- Re-offenders who have No Fixed Abode are the most likely to re-offend 5 times or more with 65% having 5 or more re-offences compared to 38% in Cambridgeshire and 42% in Peterborough

Proven reoffending statistics are published by the Ministry of Justice on a quarterly basis, with some indicators published to Local Authority District level (Ministry of Justice, 2022). 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 South Cambridgeshire (April 2019 -March 2020) are outlined in the figure below. The geography here relates to the most recent known address recorded for each offender.

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



\*Highlighted figures have been calculated with a low base (<30 offenders) so should be treated as indicative only.

In South Cambridgeshire there was a total of 68 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 South Cambridgeshire compared to Cambridgeshire and England and Wales. There remains a data gap (both nationally and locally) as the national reoffending data is not providing the whole picture. As such the CSP needs to consider what insights can be drawn from probation services and other key agencies locally as to levels of offending and the concerns regarding offenders in the local area.

## Appendix A: Technical Notes

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

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

### 11.2. Census 2021

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

### 11.3. Crime Rates

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

### 11.4. Definitions of Acquisitive Crime and Theft Offences

**Acquisitive crime** in this document is defined as business burglary, residential burglary, vehicle offences, theft from the person, bicycle theft, shoplifting, and “all other theft offences”.

**Theft offences** in this document, when discussing figures from the CSEW is 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 (Office for National Statistics, 2022).

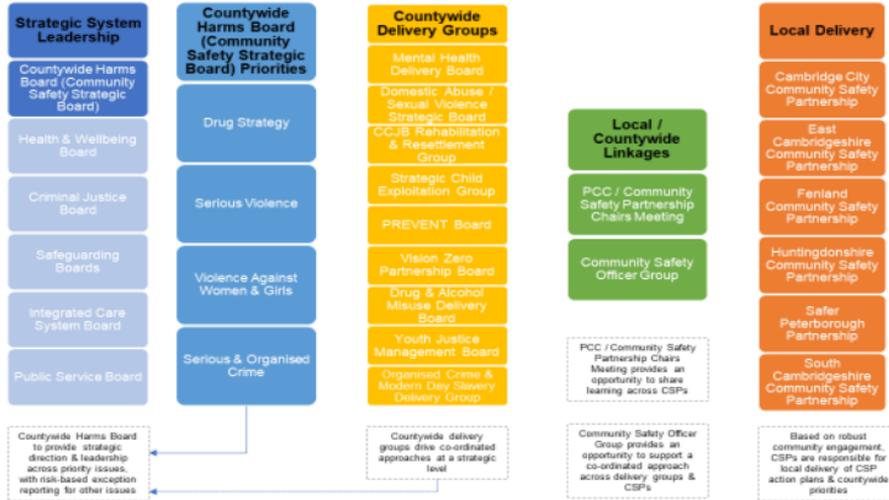
## Appendix B: Catalytic converter thefts table

**Table 10: Count and share of catalytic converter theft from 2019 to 2022 in Cambridgeshire districts**

| Districts                   | 2019 count | 2019 %      | 2020 count | 2020 %      | 2021 count | 2021 %      | 2022 count | 2022 %      |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| <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> | <b>100%</b> | <b>331</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>569</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>642</b> | <b>100%</b> |
|                             |            |             |            |             |            |             |            |             |

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

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Countywide Agreement 2022 - 25



This agreement is between the relevant Responsible Authorities and CSPs in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, including: Cambridges City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, Peterborough City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System and Fire & Rescue Service, The Probation Service.

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