



# **Community Safety Strategic Assessment:**

**Fenland**

**2024**

**Version 1.1**

The Policy and Insight Team (PIT) is a multi-disciplinary team that fulfils the research function for Cambridgeshire County Council. The team continues to take on a range of work commissioned by other public sector bodies within both Cambridgeshire and beyond.

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# Table of Contents

<b>Document Details</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>1. Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>1.1. Summary of Key Findings</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>1.2. Recommendations</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>2. Introduction</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>2.1. National</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>2.2. Economic Context</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>3. Crime Overview</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>4. Acquisitive Crime</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>4.1. Summary</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>4.2. National Context</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>4.3. Fenland Acquisitive Crime</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>4.4. Shoplifting</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>4.5. Burglary</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>4.6. Vehicle Crime</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>4.7. Other Theft</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>5. Scams, Fraud and Cyber Crime</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>5.1. Summary</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>5.2. National Context</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>5.3. Local Trend</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>6. Violence Against the Person</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>6.1. Summary</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>6.2. Overview</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>6.3. Knife Crime</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>7. Sexual offences</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>7.1. Summary</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>7.2. National Trend</b> .....	<b>31</b>

7.3.	Local Trend.....	31
7.4.	Victim Profile .....	33
8.	Domestic Abuse.....	34
8.1.	Summary.....	34
8.2.	Domestic Abuse Trends .....	35
8.3.	DA Crime Types .....	36
8.4.	Victim Profile .....	37
8.5.	Domestic Homicide Reviews .....	38
9.	Exploitation and Vulnerability.....	39
9.1.	Summary.....	39
9.2.	County Lines and Modern Slavery .....	39
9.3.	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) .....	42
10.	Substance Misuse.....	44
10.1.	Summary.....	44
10.2.	National Trends.....	45
10.3.	Fenland Community Safety Survey.....	46
10.4.	Local Trends.....	46
10.5.	Police Recorded Drug Offences .....	48
10.6.	Treatment Services.....	49
11.	Offending .....	50
11.1.	Summary.....	50
11.2.	Probation Cohort Profile .....	51
11.3.	Youth Offending Service (YOS) Cohort Profile .....	52
12.	Crimes that impact the community .....	54
12.1.	Summary.....	54
12.2.	ASB .....	55
12.3.	Deliberate Fires .....	58
12.4.	Public Order .....	59
12.5.	Hate Crime .....	60

<b>13. Geographic analysis</b> .....	<b>62</b>
<b>13.1. Total Crime</b> .....	<b>62</b>
<b>13.2. Acquisitive crime</b> .....	<b>63</b>
<b>13.3. ASB</b> .....	<b>65</b>
<b>13.4. Deliberate Fires</b> .....	<b>67</b>
<b>13.5. Public Order</b> .....	<b>68</b>
<b>14. Glossary</b> .....	<b>70</b>
<b>Appendix A: Technical Notes</b> .....	<b>75</b>
<b>A.1. Census 2021</b> .....	<b>75</b>
<b>A.2. Crime Rates</b> .....	<b>75</b>
<b>A.3. CSEW Data</b> .....	<b>75</b>
<b>A.4. Fraud Offences</b> .....	<b>76</b>
<b>A.5. Theft Offences</b> .....	<b>76</b>
<b>Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes</b> .....	<b>76</b>
<b>Appendix C: Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough Community Safety Countywide Agreement 2022-2025</b> .....	<b>78</b>
<b>Appendix D: UK Economic Updates</b> .....	<b>79</b>
<b>Appendix E: CSP OPCC Activity Review</b> .....	<b>81</b>
<b>Appendix F: Appendix Tables</b> .....	<b>86</b>
<b>References</b> .....	<b>87</b>

# 1. Executive Summary

## 1.1. Summary of Key Findings

Despite a very small reduction in the number of offences in Fenland over the last year, the district remains 15% higher than the pre-pandemic year (2019). This was higher than other districts in the county. Fenland remains the district with the highest rate of crime.

The economic picture for Fenland remains challenging, given the higher rate of universal credit claimants and possible future economic instability.

Violence remains a concern for Fenland and should be considered a priority area for the CSP. Violent offences continue to account for the largest proportion of crime. It has also recorded increases year on year in recent years. Fenland is the only district not to record any decrease in total Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences. Whilst some of this increase can be attributed to increased reporting and recording, it highlights the need for violence reduction to continue to be a focus for the partnership. Fenland had the highest rate per 1000 population for VAP offences compared to the other districts. With the added emphasis on serious violence nationally, the CSP should continue to build its knowledge of the causes and pattern of violence across the district.

In 2023/24 the CSP commissioned a deep dive into violence and public order, as a result of recommendations in the 2022/23 annual strategic assessment. This deep dive report provided detailed analysis by violence sub-type, including geographical analysis and victim and offender demographics.

Acquisitive crime has changed little in Fenland between 2022 and 2023 (-1%). In contrast, national figures for police recorded "all theft offences" (which includes all categories of acquisitive offences except for robbery) increased by 9% between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE September). Of acquisitive crime, 'other theft' accounted for the most acquisitive offences in Fenland in 2023, followed by shoplifting (34% and 23% respectively). Decreases in burglary resulting from the pandemic period appear to have been sustained, with 2023 counts remaining 39% below 2019 levels.

Whilst locally reported numbers for offences of scams, fraud and cybercrime remain low due to under-reporting, it is an area of increasing concern. The monthly average number of cybercrimes has increased substantially for Fenland. Based on the CSEW reports a synthetic estimate for Fenland gives an estimate of 5000 victims of fraud in the latest year.

Sexual offences in Fenland continued the increase in 2023, contrasting the decrease seen in other Cambridgeshire districts and national figures in the last year. The 2023 count exceeded 2019 by 61% in Fenland, compared to 19% countywide. Locally

there is no clear answer as to the reason for the increase, previous national increases in police recorded sexual offences have been attributed to improvements in reporting and police recording practices (ONS, 2024a).

Data for 2023 showed that the volume of offences remained higher than the pre-pandemic period (increase of 12%). DA offences were predominantly VAP offences showing the substantial overlap violent crimes have with other important vulnerabilities.

The true prevalence of modern slavery and exploitation in Fenland is hard to gauge due to the high level of under-reporting and resources needed to investigate and combat it. The data available underlines the seriousness of these crimes and the risk of harm to victims. The national and local data highlights the risk to children, including the increase in child-on-child offences. The local police data for Fenland has a lower number of offences for both modern slavery and Child Sexual CSE in 2023 than the previous year.

Findings from the Fenland Community Safety Survey indicated that drug dealing was the most common concern amongst respondents (Fenland District Council, February to March 2024). As well as the harm that illegal drug activity can cause through its association with violence (NCA, 2020), it should also be noted that Fenland has a relatively high rate of drug related deaths compared to other Cambridgeshire districts, as well as a high rate of alcohol related hospital admissions and deaths (according to data for financial year 2021/22) (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Public Health Intelligence Team, 2023a).

Data sharing to enable the analysis of adult and young offenders remains limited. In particular greater understanding of the needs and potential interventions to reduce re-offending for the local Fenland cohorts would be beneficial. The overall picture of offender profile for adults known to probation remains similar. However, the most recent cohort of young offenders known to YOS showed a large increase in the number of female offenders in Fenland.

Whilst some offending has high visibility to the community it does not all come with equal risk of harm. ASB, public order offences and deliberate fires have all shown a reduction in the latest year locally. Deliberate fires which can carry a serious risk of injury have been decreasing over the longer term nationally.

Hate crime also saw a reduction compared to last year. The medium-term trend had been year on year increases. As this is an often under-reported crime this decrease may not represent a true reduction but a drop in reporting or recording. Hate crime has the potential to have a high impact not just on an individual victim but the wider community.

## 1.2. Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the CSP utilise the findings in this report and the countywide serious violence needs assessment to inform targeted action to tackle violence, with a particular focus on serious violence within the district.
2. It is not recommended that acquisitive crime is adopted as a priority at this time.
3. With the national and countywide picture in mind, the CSP should continue partnership activity to tackle the issues of fraud, scams and cybercrime in the upcoming year.
4. It is recommended that the CSP utilise the findings of the Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment, alongside the analysis presented in this assessment, to work with the County Partnership to develop appropriate actions in Fenland to tackle both domestic abuse and sexual offences.
5. Raising awareness of the signs of modern slavery and exploitation of children and adults and how to report locally would likely increase the engagement from the public and increase intelligence gathered locally.
6. Data on adult and young offenders could be further developed in order for the CSP to identify where further activity might enable further reductions in crime and disorder.
7. It is recommended that the CSP consider how it can engage with residents in order to gain a greater understanding of peoples experience of hate crime and gain a better understanding of the local picture.
8. The board meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 included discussion of local substance misuse, including the findings and community concern outlined in this document. The CSP has determined that working with the countywide delivery group to carry out local targeted activity, would help to reduce the impact of the issues described in this document.

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1. National

#### 2.1.1. Crime Survey for England and Wales

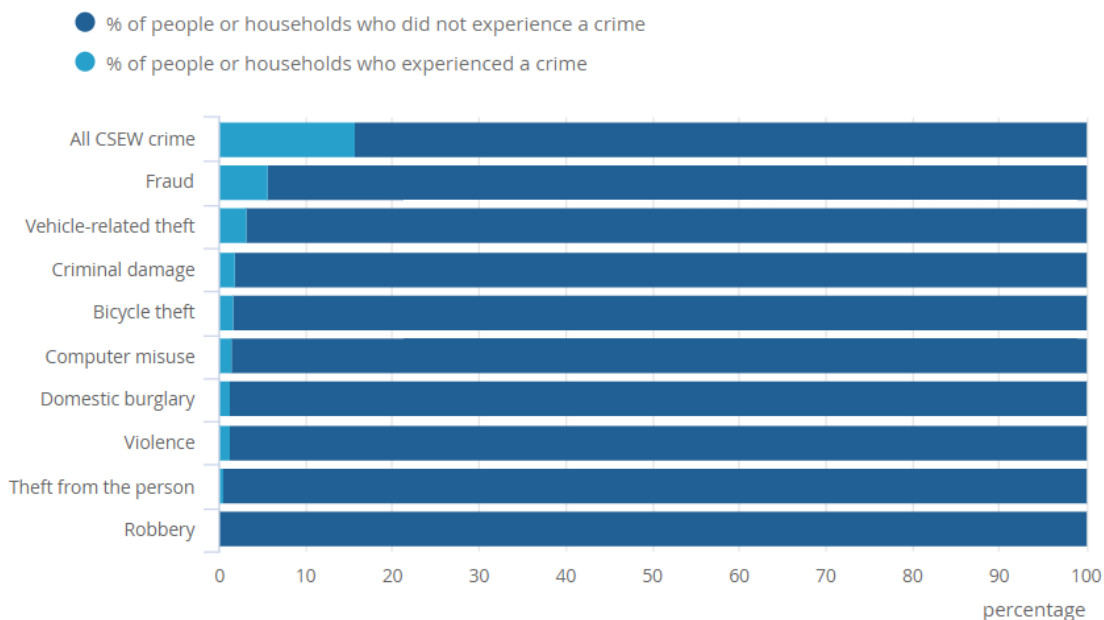
As noted by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) figures for the year ending September 2022 and 2023 should be interpreted with caution due to lower numbers See Appendix A: Technical Notes.

Nationally, the vast majority of people are not victims of crime each year. According to estimates from the Crime survey for England and Wales (CSEW), approximately 84% of those aged 16 and over in England and Wales had not experienced any of



the surveyed crime types. The most common crime types reported in the CSEW were fraud (at 6% of people), or vehicle related theft (at 3%) (ONS, 2024a).

**Figure 1: Estimated proportion of people or households who have experienced a crime in England and Wales, by crime type, year ending September 2023**



Notes: Figure 2 in Crime Survey for England and Wales report for the year ending September 2023, showing the likelihood of being a victim of crime. See Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes (ONS, 2024a).

The long-term trend for crime according to the CSEW shows that crime has decreased since a peak in year ending (YE) December 1995 (see Figure 2). Although no data was available for the YE March 2021 due to lockdown restrictions, data for the YE September 2023 appears to show a continuation of these decreases.

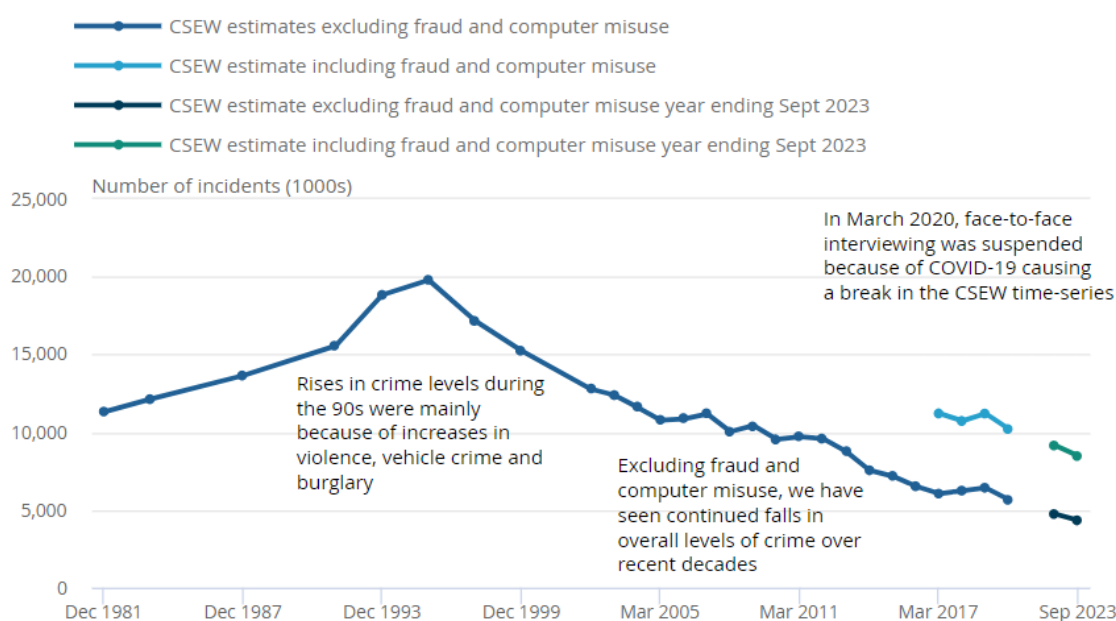
CSEW estimates suggested that 8.5 million offences were experienced by those aged 16+ in the YE September 2023; a (non-statistically significant) 7% reduction compared to the previous YE September 2022 (an estimated 9.1 million offences) (ONS, 2024b, p. A1), and a 17% reduction compared to the pre-pandemic YE March 2020 (an estimated 10.2 million offences) (ONS, 2024a).

Whilst the reduction between YE September 2022 and YE September 2023 was not significant, there were some notable variations for some types of crime, as shown in the table below.

**Table 1: Changes in crime counts in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)**

Crime type	Percentage change YE September 2022 to YE September 2023
Fraud (overall)	-13%
Fraud: Advance fee fraud	-33%
Fraud: Other Fraud	-40%
Computer misuse (overall)	+30%
Computer misuse: Unauthorised access to personal information	+36%
Criminal damage (overall)	-21%
Criminal damage: criminal damage to a vehicle	-30%

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales report for the year ending September 2023 (ONS, 2024a).

**Figure 2: Long term trend for annual crime estimates for England and Wales, from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, from 1981 (YE December) to 2023 (YE ending September)**

Source: Figure 1 in Crime Survey for England and Wales report for the year ending September 2023. See Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes.

### 2.1.2. Police

Contrary to the 7% reduction estimated in the CSEW data in the last year, police recorded crime in England and Wales saw little change, from 6.6 million crimes (YE September 2022) to 6.7 million crimes in the YE September 2023 (+1%) (ONS, 2024a).

Despite the little change seen overall, notable increases were seen in shoplifting offences, and fraud offences against businesses and other organisations (crimes which are not captured by the CSEW) (ONS, 2024a).

When looking at higher harm offences, a 9% decrease was seen in homicides, from 651 in YE September 2022, to 591 in YE September 2023. However, increases were seen in robbery (+12%); offences involving knives or sharp instruments (+5%), and firearm offences (+3%) (ONS, 2024a).

A 9% increase in “theft” offences (which includes all acquisitive offences except for robbery) (9%), was largely driven by the 32% increase in shoplifting. Vehicle offences also increased by 2%, with an 8% increase in theft of unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle (ONS, 2024a).

These increases in robbery and knife crimes did not exceed those seen in the pre-pandemic period, remaining below the year ending March 2020 by 12% and 5% respectively. The increase in theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle exceeded the YE March 2020 by 17% (ONS, 2024a).

**Table 2: Change in police recorded crimes in England and Wales**

<b>Crime type</b>	<b>Percentage change YE September 2022 to YE September 2023</b>	<b>Percentage change YE March 2020 to YE September 2023</b>
Homicides	-9%	-18%
Robbery	+12%	-12%
Offences involving knives or sharp instruments	+5%	-5%
Offences involving firearms	+3%	-
Theft (overall)	+9%	-8%
Shoplifting	+32%	+12%
Vehicle Offences	+2%	-15%
Theft of unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle	+8%	+17%

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales report for the year ending September 2023 (ONS, 2024a; ONS, 2024b, p. A4a).

Notes: Figures for offences involving knives or sharp instruments exclude Greater Manchester Police and Devon and Cornwall Police. Figures for offences involving firearms exclude Devon and Cornwall Police.

## 2.2. Economic Context

Whilst some improvements in economic indicators were seen in the UK in 2022/23, there remain some significant challenges ahead that will be expected to affect living standards.

October 2022 saw what was estimated to be the highest inflation in over 40 years, reaching a CPIH (Consumer Price Index including owner occupiers' housing costs; 12 month) rate of 9.6% (ONS, 2023a). Inflation has seen decreases since, with August 2023 seeing the lowest rate since March 2022, with a CPIH of 6.3%, and a CPI (Consumer Price Index) of 6.7% (see Figure 52). OOH (Owner Occupiers Housing costs) however has seen continuing increases since August 2020 when it was 1.1%, reaching 5.0% by September 2023.

The cost-of-living is causing concern for many, with increases in the cost of essentials like food, gas, and electricity, although improvements have been seen in fuel costs compared to last year (see Appendix D: UK Economic Updates). As reported by the Resolution Foundation, as well as decreases in inflation, rises in bank rates are expected to end soon at a rate of between 5.5 and 6%, but the full impact of increases are still to come. The cost of new private rents is rising which is expected to affect future average rental costs, and increases in repayments are expected for those remortgaging their properties. These increases in interest rates are predicted to slow economic growth; and contribute to increases in unemployment, which has increased from 3.5% in 2022 to 4.2% by the time of the Resolution Foundation's Summer Update in September (2023). Unemployment is projected to reach 4.6% by the first quarter of 2023 (The Resolution Foundation, 2023)

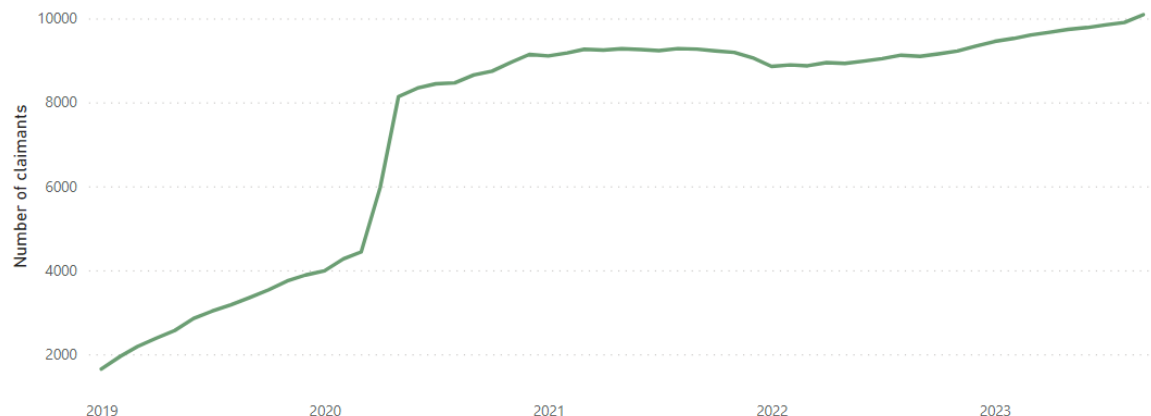
### **Economic Context for Fenland:**

The economic challenges seen in the UK have also been reflected in Fenland:

- 16.9% of the 16-64 population were on Universal Credit as of December 2023. This is higher than the County average of 10.1%.
- The total number of Universal credit claimants in December 2023 was 12.9% higher than seen in December 2022 (DWP, n.d.).
- Average (median) gross weekly pay increased from £513.70 in 2022, to £577.30 in 2023 (+12.4%); the second largest annual percentage increase in the county, but remaining the lowest median income (£132 lower than Cambridge City, which has the highest median income) (ONS, 2022a; ONS, 2023b).
- Despite the number of food parcel distribution centres in Fenland decreasing from 5 to 3 between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE March), Fenland saw the largest percentage increase in food parcels distributed by the Trussell trust food bank in the county, at 86%. At 8.8 thousand parcels, Fenland distributed the second largest district total of food parcels in the County (The Trussell Trust, 2023).
- Average (median) private monthly rent in Fenland increased by 6.2% in the year ending September 2023 compared to the previous year, from £695 to £738 (ONS, 2022b, p. 2.7; ONS, 2023c, p. 2.7). This percentage increase is

the second highest district increase behind South Cambridgeshire (8.6%). The County average increase was 6.1%.

**Figure 3: Monthly trend in Universal Credit Claimants in Fenland, from January 2019 to September 2023**



### 3. Crime Overview

Following the increases in police recorded crime in Fenland in recent years, 2023 saw a marginal decrease from 2022 (-2%), remaining 15% above the pre-pandemic year (2019) count. This is the largest percentage increase since 2019 in the county (with a countywide increase of 4%). Fenland also has a relatively high rate of police recorded offences compared to other districts in the county, at 79.2 per 1000 population (compared to the countywide rate of 68.1 per 1000 population).

The most notable change over the last 7 years has been an increase in VAP offences. VAP accounted for the majority of offences in 2023 (41%), followed by theft (18%), and “arson and criminal damage” (11%). However, “arson and criminal damage” has been incrementally decreasing over the last 7 years in both volume, and proportion of all offences.

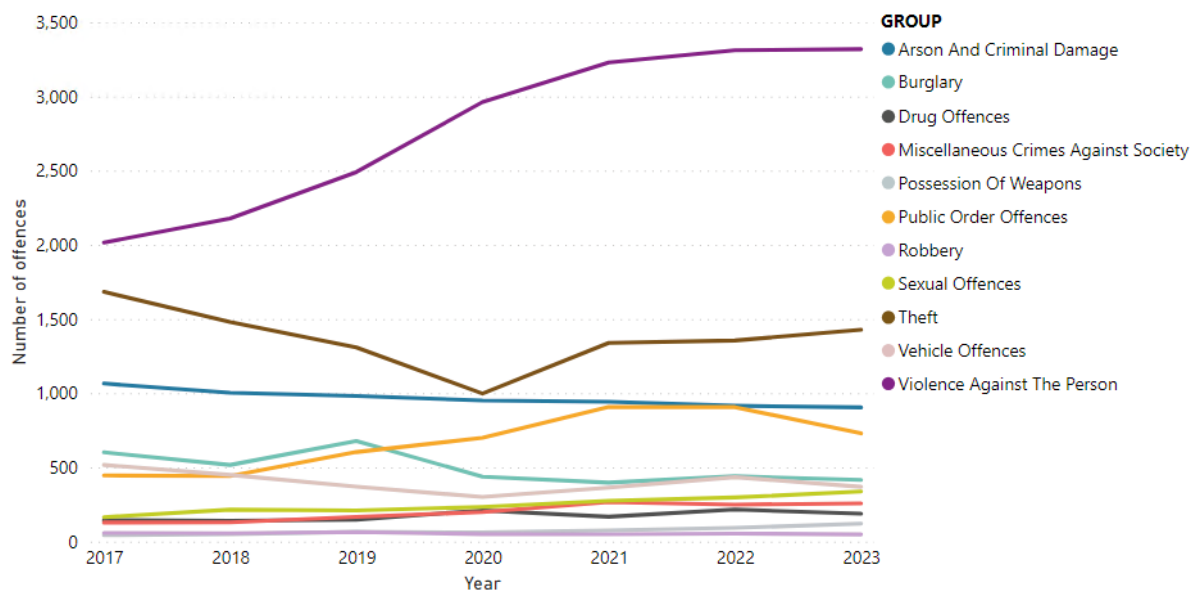
The decrease in overall crime in the last year was not reflected in VAP offences which, after the trend of increasing offences, saw little change in 2023. This means that VAP’s share of offences continued its increasing trend, from 29% of all Fenland offences in 2017 (2015 offences), to 35% in 2019 (2490 offences), to 41% in 2023 (3319 offences).

The volume and share of theft offences has increased since the dip in 2020, and despite a 9% increase in volume between 2019 and 2023 (+119 offences), the proportion of offences accounted for by theft was the same (18%).

Following a trend of increasing offences, public order offences saw a 20% decrease since 2022 (-177 offences), representing the largest volume change in the last year.

The most notable decrease since pre-pandemic year 2019, was a 39% decrease in Burglary (-263 offences).

**Figure 4: Count of offences in Fenland by crime type, 2017 to 2023**



## 4. Acquisitive Crime

### 4.1. Summary

Fenland saw little change in acquisitive crime between 2022 and 2023 (-1%). In contrast, national figures for police recorded “all theft offences” (which includes all categories of acquisitive offences except for robbery) increased by 9% between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE September).

Key findings for acquisitive crime in Fenland include:

- Other theft (34%) accounted for the most acquisitive offences in Fenland in 2023, followed by shoplifting (23%).
- The most notable increase was shoplifting, which increased by 17% in the last year, exceeding pre-pandemic (2019) levels by 25%.
  - This is less than the overall county increase of 51% in the last year, and 38% since 2019.
- The primary hotspot for shoplifting in 2023 was the Horsefair/Market Place area in Wisbech (see section 13.2 for geographic analysis).
- Wisbech recycling centre was a hotspot for “other theft” offences in 2023, accounting for 32% of “other theft” offences in Fenland in 2023 (11% of all acquisitive offences in Fenland) (see section 13.2 for geographic analysis). The CSP is aware of this problem location and have taken actions to

intervene. The activity remains ongoing and involves a number of partners and private landowners.

- Whilst vehicle crime has decreased in the last year, matching 2019 levels, there has been a shift in the types of offences, with an increased proportion of “theft of vehicle” type offence since 2019.
- Decreases in burglary resulting from the pandemic period appear to have been sustained, with 2023 counts remaining 39% below 2019 levels.
  - The decrease since 2019 was primarily driven by changes in residential burglary, but the 6% decrease in the last year was driven more by changes in business and community burglary.

**It is not recommended that acquisitive crime is adopted as a priority at this time.**

## 4.2. National Context

### **Crime Survey for England & Wales**

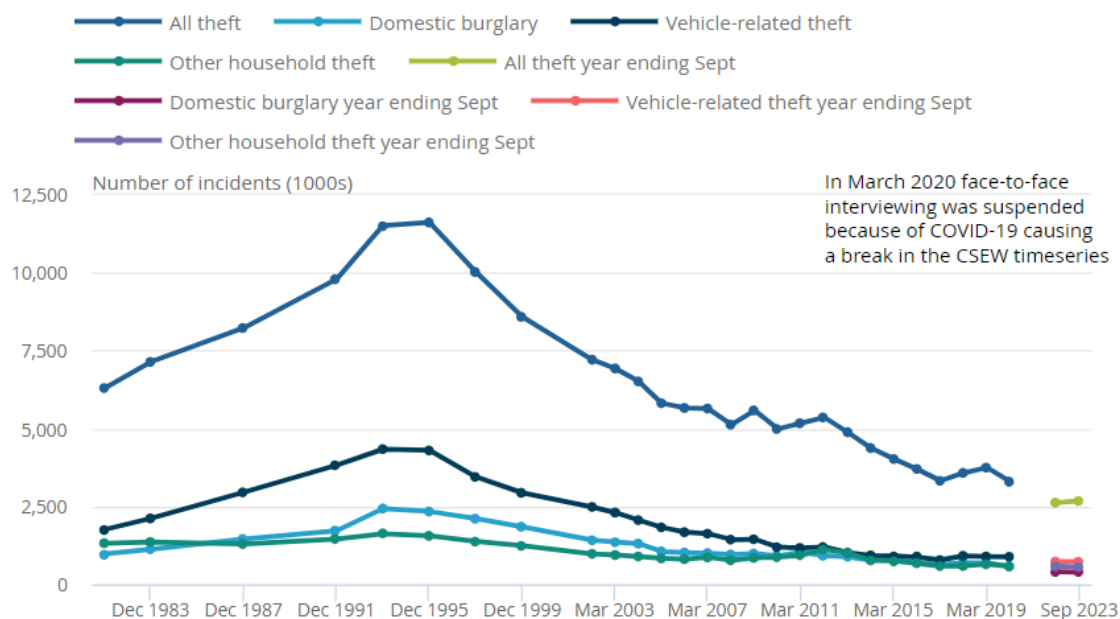
The latest Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) release for the year ending September 2023 estimated 2.7 million incidents of acquisitive crime (referred to as “theft” by CSEW, including theft offences, burglary, and vehicle offences). This was not significantly different from the previous year, but represents a 19% decrease compared to pre-pandemic year ending March 2020 (3.3 million theft offences). This decrease was seen across estimates for most sub-categories, including “other theft of personal property” (23%); domestic burglary (31%); vehicle related theft (18%); and bicycle theft (23%) (ONS, 2024a).

Despite the lack of overall change in vehicle related theft, theft of vehicle incidents increased by almost half (48%) compared to the year ending (YE) September 2022 (ONS, 2024a).

There were an estimated 1.5 million incidents of “neighbourhood crime” (which includes robbery, theft from the person, domestic burglary, and vehicle theft (Home Office, 2021)) in the YE September 2023. This was similar to the previous year, but represents a 22% decrease since the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020 (ONS, 2024a).

This decrease since the pre-pandemic period forms part of the pattern of long-term reductions in theft (see Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Long term annual estimates of theft offences from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), from the year ending December 1981 to the year ending September 2023**



Source: Figure 7 in the Crime Survey for England and Wales, year ending September 2023 (ONS, 2024a). See Figure technical notes Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes.

### Police recorded crime

In contrast to CSEW figures, police recorded acquisitive crime (“theft”, which includes all categories of acquisitive offences except for robbery) increased by 9% in 2023 compared to the previous year, reaching 1.8 million offences. This was said by ONS to be primarily driven by shoplifting offences, which increased by 32%, but also reflected increases in theft from the person (+18%), and smaller increases in other theft, and vehicle offences (ONS, 2024a).

Despite this increase in police recorded acquisitive crime, numbers remained 8% below the 1.9 million offences seen in the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020. This decrease was reflected across most sub-categories, most notably in Burglary (-29%), and vehicle offences (-15%). However, whilst most sub-categories decreased, shoplifting (+12%), theft from the person (+6%), and theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle (+17%) all saw increases (ONS, 2024a).

A 12% increase in robbery (reaching 79,091 offences), compared to the year ending September 2022, did not exceed pre-pandemic levels, with numbers remaining 12% below that seen in the YE March 2020 (which saw 90,187 offences) (ONS, 2024a).



## 4.3. Fenland Acquisitive Crime

### 4.3.1. Acquisitive crime by group

In contrast to the national increase in police recorded “all theft offences” over the last year (YE September), Fenland saw little change in acquisitive crime between 2022 and 2023 (-1%).

Burglary decreased slightly in the last year, representing a 39% decrease since pre-pandemic year 2019 (-263 offences), larger than the national decrease of 29% (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a).

As shown in Table 3, smaller changes were seen in other acquisitive crime types in Fenland.

**Table 3: Change in acquisitive crime from 2019 to 2023, by crime group**

<b>Crime type</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2019-2023 change (%)</b>	<b>2022-2023 change (%)</b>
Burglary	678	437	397	440	415	-263 (-39%)	-25 (-6%)
Robbery	64	50	49	54	48	-16 (-25%)	-6 (-11%)
Theft	1308	997	1339	1355	1427	+119 (+9%)	+72 (+5%)
Vehicle Offences	369	300	363	434	369	0 (0%)	-65 (-15%)
All acquisitive	2419	1784	2148	2283	2259	-160 (-7%)	-24 (-1%)

### 4.3.2. Acquisitive crime by sub-group

The share of acquisitive offences by sub-group is shown in Table 4 below. ‘Other theft’ offences accounted for the most acquisitive offences in Fenland in 2023 (34%), followed by shoplifting (23%, up from 20% the previous year).

**Table 4: Percentage share of acquisitive offences in Fenland in 2023, by crime sub-group**

<b>Crime type</b>	<b>Percentage share</b>
Other Theft	34%
Shoplifting	23%
Burglary - Business And Community	10%
Residential Burglary	8%
Theft Or Unauthorised Taking Of A Motor Vehicle	8%
Theft From A Vehicle	6%
Bicycle Theft	4%
Theft From The Person	2%
Robbery Of Personal Property	2%
Interfering With A Motor Vehicle	1%
Aggravated Vehicle Taking	<1%
Robbery Of Business Property	<1%
<b>All acquisitive</b>	<b>100%</b>

The changes in acquisitive offences by sub-type in the last year, and since the pre-pandemic year 2019, are shown in Figure 6 and Figure 7.

The 9% increase in the last year (YE September), was said by ONS to be primarily driven by increases in shoplifting (ONS, 2024a). Shoplifting was also the biggest volume change in acquisitive offences in Fenland, increasing by 17% (+74 offences), exceeding the pre-pandemic count by 25% (+106 offences).

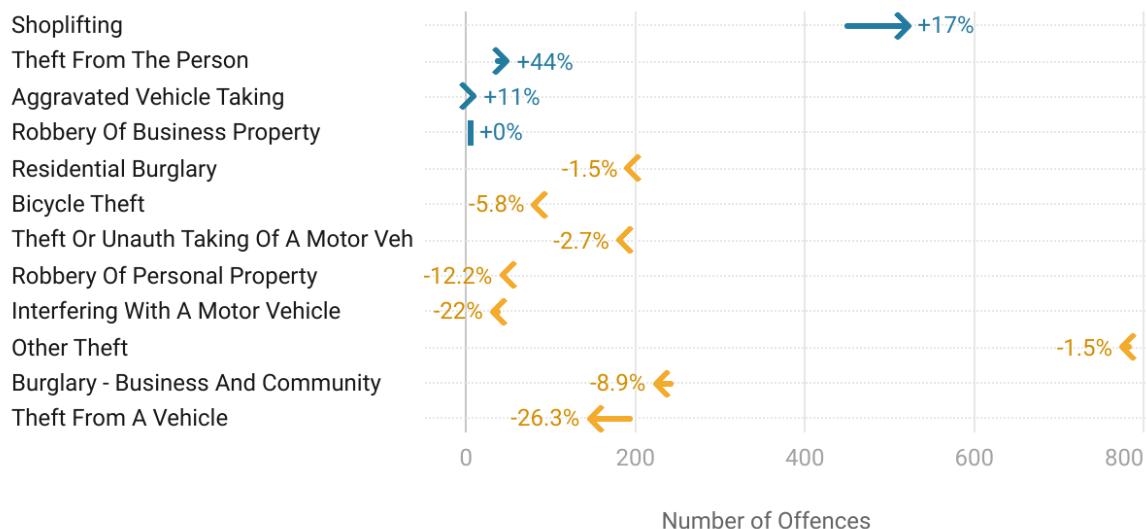
The next biggest volume change in the last year was a 26% decrease in “theft from a vehicle” offences (-52 offences). Despite the overall levels of vehicle crime in 2023 matching 2019 levels, there has been a notable increase in “theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle” offences since 2019 (+62%, +69 offences since 2019).

Despite the small decreases in “other theft” and “theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle” between 2022 and 2023, they remain above the pre-pandemic (2019) count (+103 offences, +69 offences respectively).

Residential burglary has maintained the lower numbers seen during the pandemic period, remaining 59% lower than 2019 (-280 offences).

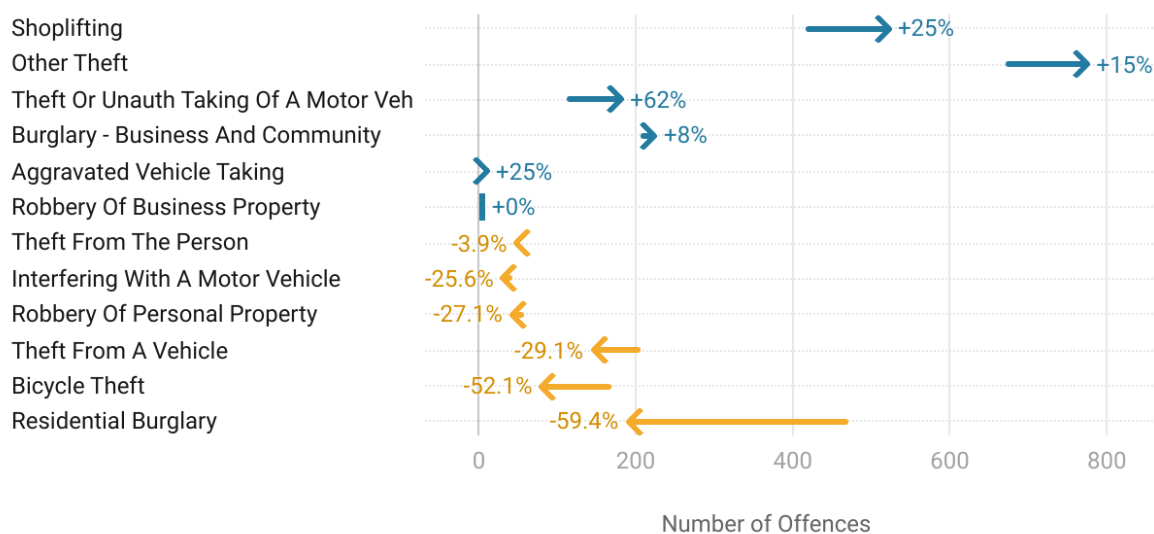
Further details on shoplifting, burglary, and other theft are shown in the following sections.

**Figure 6: Change in number of acquisitive offences in Fenland between 2022 and 2023, by crime sub-type**



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**Figure 7: Change in number of acquisitive offences in Fenland between 2019 and 2023, by crime sub-type**



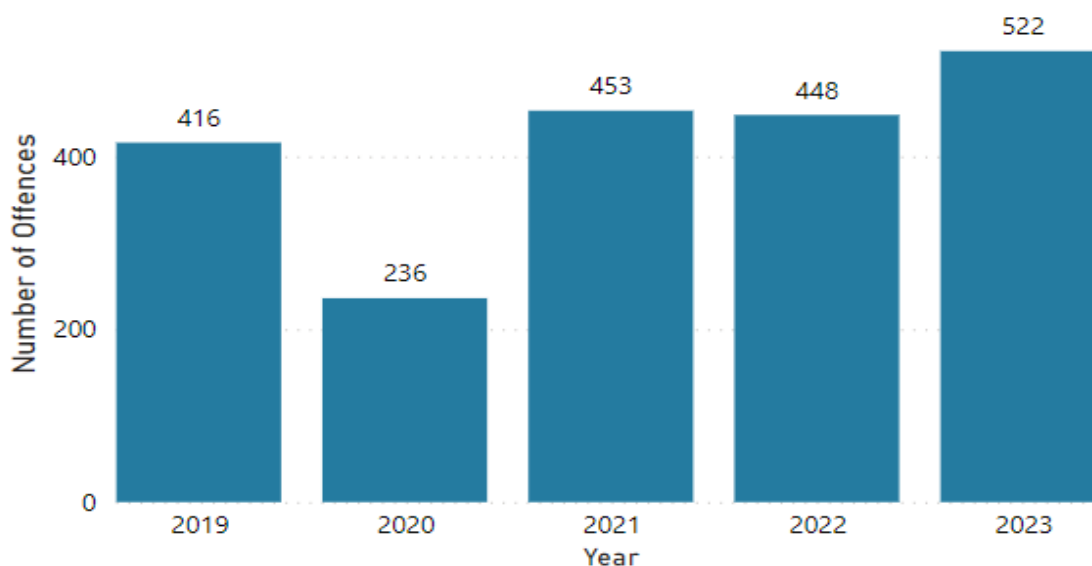
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#### 4.4. Shoplifting

Shoplifting offences accounted for 23% of acquisitive crime in Fenland in 2023. The count of shoplifting offences increased by 17% in the last year (+74 offences), more than the national 9% increase seen over a similar period. Fenland saw the second smallest percentage district increase in the county, with an overall county increase of 51%.

The count of shoplifting offences in Fenland in 2023 exceeded the pre-pandemic (2019) count by 25% (+106 offences); lower than the overall county increase of 38%.

**Figure 8: Annual trend in shoplifting offences in Fenland, 2019 to 2023**



## 4.5. Burglary

### 4.5.1. Burglary technical note

In April 2023 residential burglary was split into “Residential burglary-home” and “Residential burglary – unconnected build”. Examples of offences which would be classified under the new residential burglary – unconnected build would be sheds/outbuildings/garden offices which are within the residential property boundary but are not connected to the main home. Both of these sub-types have been included in the total for residential burglary figures for 2023 to ensure consistency with previous years and comparability with other crime counts for 2023. As this change was only introduced in April, there is not currently enough data to do separate analyses for the two new sub-types of residential burglary, however, this will be possible in the future.

### 4.5.2. Burglary analysis

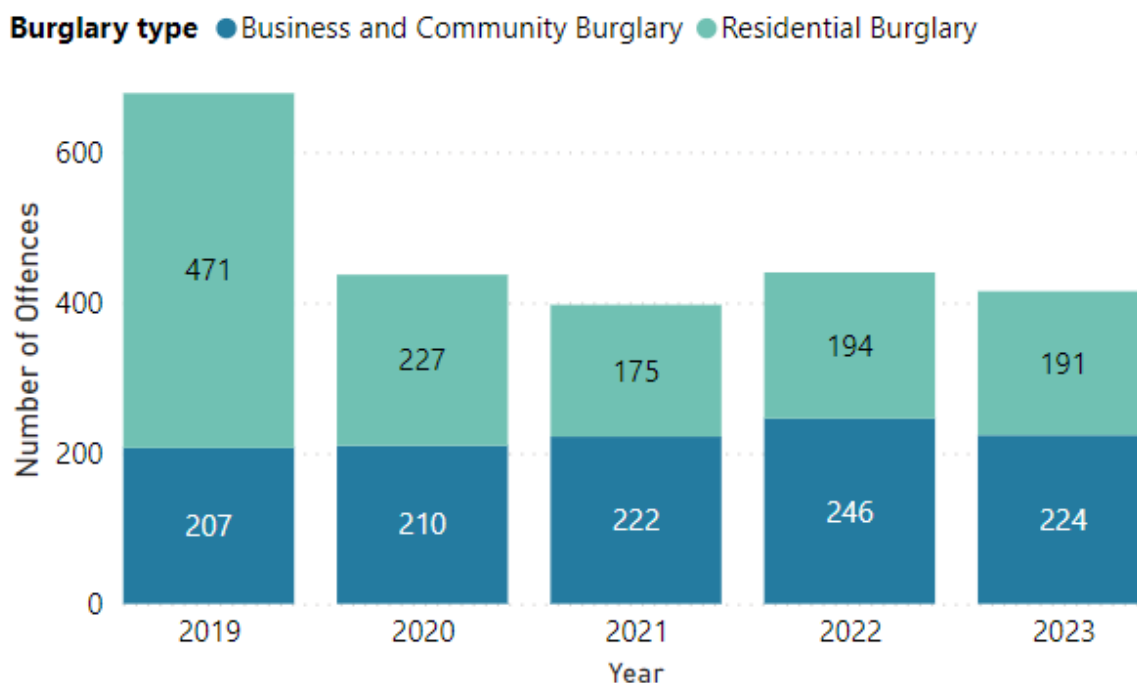
Countywide, there has been a 10% increase in burglary in the last year, driven primarily by a 17% increase in residential burglary, whereas national figures showed little change in the last year (-1%, YE September) (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a). Burglary in Fenland however, decreased by 6%.

The trend has shown minor variations since 2020, with 2023 figures representing a 39% decrease compared to pre-pandemic year 2019; a larger decrease than seen nationally (-29%, over a similar time period) (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a). This sustained decrease compared to pre-pandemic levels suggests that the protective effect of the lockdown period on certain acquisitive offences, which has previously been noted by ONS (ONS, 2022c), appears to be continuing for burglary offences.

When broken down by sub-type, business and community burglaries accounted for 54% of burglary offences in 2023. This contrasts with other districts in the county which saw more residential than business and community burglaries.

Business and community burglary (-22 offences, -9%) decreased more in the last year than residential burglary (which only saw a minor change of -3 offences, -2%); but remained above 2019 counts. The overall reduction in burglary offences since 2019 was instead driven by residential burglary offences (-280 offences, -59%). Research has suggested that increased numbers of people staying at home during the lockdown period helped to protect against the number of residential burglaries (Frith, et al., 2022). The sustained decrease in residential burglaries in Fenland, compared to the pre-pandemic period, suggests that the protective changes in activity patterns may be continuing locally.

**Figure 9: Annual trend in Burglary offences in Fenland, by burglary type, from 2019 to 2023**

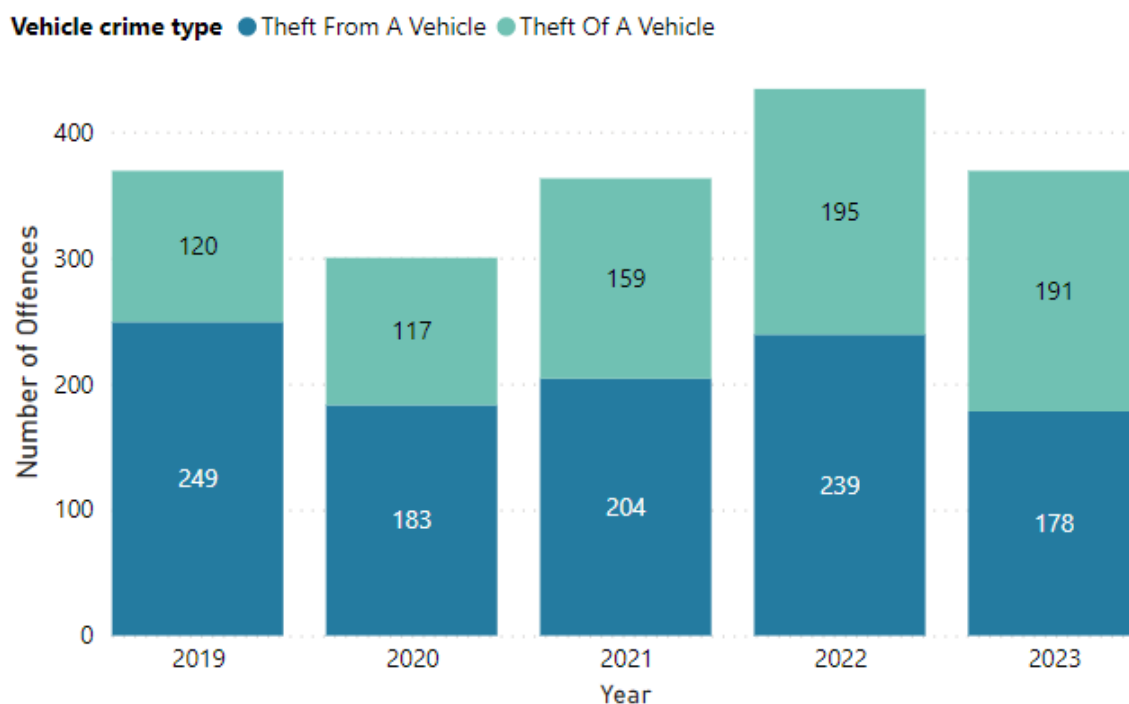


## 4.6. Vehicle Crime

Following a trend of annual increases since 2020, vehicle crime decreased by 15% between 2022 and 2023 (-65 offences), contrasting to the little change seen in national figures over a similar period (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a). The local decrease was driven by a 26% reduction in offences involving thefts from vehicles (-61 offences). A key word search for offences involving catalytic converters indicated that this included a decrease in offences involving catalytic converter thefts from 38 in 2022, down to 10 in 2023. This reduced the proportion of vehicle offences involving catalytic converter theft from 9% down to 3%.

The recent reduction in vehicle offences brought the count for 2023 down to the same as in pre-pandemic year 2019. However, whilst 2019 was more skewed towards theft from vehicle offences, a decrease in these offences (-71 offences) and coinciding increase in theft of vehicle offences (+71 offences), has meant that 2023 saw a more even split between the two offence types (see Figure 10).

**Figure 10: Annual trend in vehicle offences in Fenland, by vehicle crime type, from 2019 to 2023**



## 4.7. Other Theft

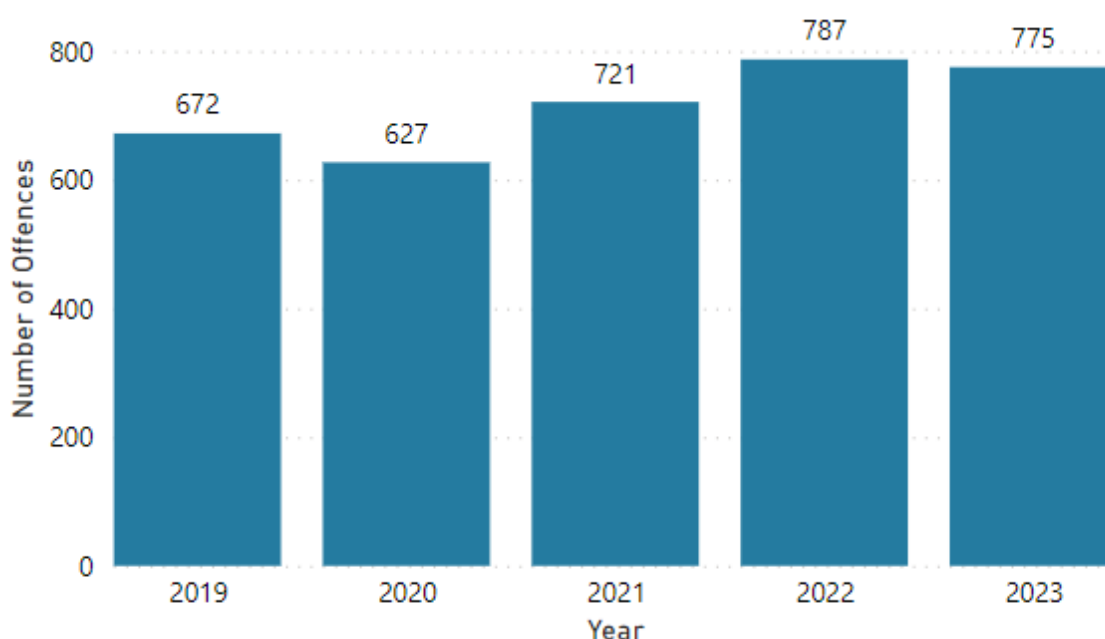
### 4.7.1. Trend

“Other theft“ offences accounted for the majority of acquisitive offences in Fenland in 2023, at 34%. The volume of offences has seen little change in the last year (-2%, -

12 offences), contrasting the national increase of 6%. Despite this relative stability in the last year, counts remain 15% above the pre-pandemic year 2019 (+103 offences). See Table 15 in Appendix F: Appendix Tables to see change in “other theft offences” across all wards in 2023, compared to 2019 and 2022.

“Theft if not classified elsewhere” accounted for the majority of “other theft” offences in 2023 (72%; or 74% including attempts), up 4% from the previous year, followed by Blackmail offences (10%). Blackmail offences (including attempts) have increased over recent years, from 14 in 2019, up to 77 in 2023. The majority of Blackmail offences in 2023 involved sextortion (78% in 2023, 60 offences), almost double the count in 2022 (31 offences).

**Figure 11: Annual trend in "Other theft" offences in Fenland, 2019 to 2023**



## 5. Scams, Fraud and Cyber Crime

### 5.1. Summary

Whilst locally reported numbers for offences of this type remain low due to under-reporting, it is an area of increasing concern. The monthly average number of cybercrimes has increased substantially for Fenland. Based on the CSEW reports a synthetic estimate for Fenland gives a figure of nearly 5000 victims of fraud in the latest year.

**Recommendation: With the national and countywide picture in mind, the CSP should continue partnership activity to tackle this issue in the upcoming year.**

## 5.2. National Context

The NCA national strategic assessment of serious and organised crime (2023) identifies cybercrime and fraud as key threats. In the year ending December 2022, 3.7 million individuals experienced fraud in England and Wales while 40 million individuals were targeted. The NCA suggest the cost-of-living crisis has increased the vulnerability of potential victims which is evident in the use of cost-of-living issues in phishing campaigns. Furthermore, significant underreporting means the true figure is likely to be higher with much fraud remaining undetected and hidden (NCA, 2023). 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 and increased technological awareness in the general population.
- Exploiting current issues including the cost-of-living crisis.
- 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). This report was re-visited in August 2021, concluding that many issues remained. An extract from this review stated:

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

## 5.3. Local Trend

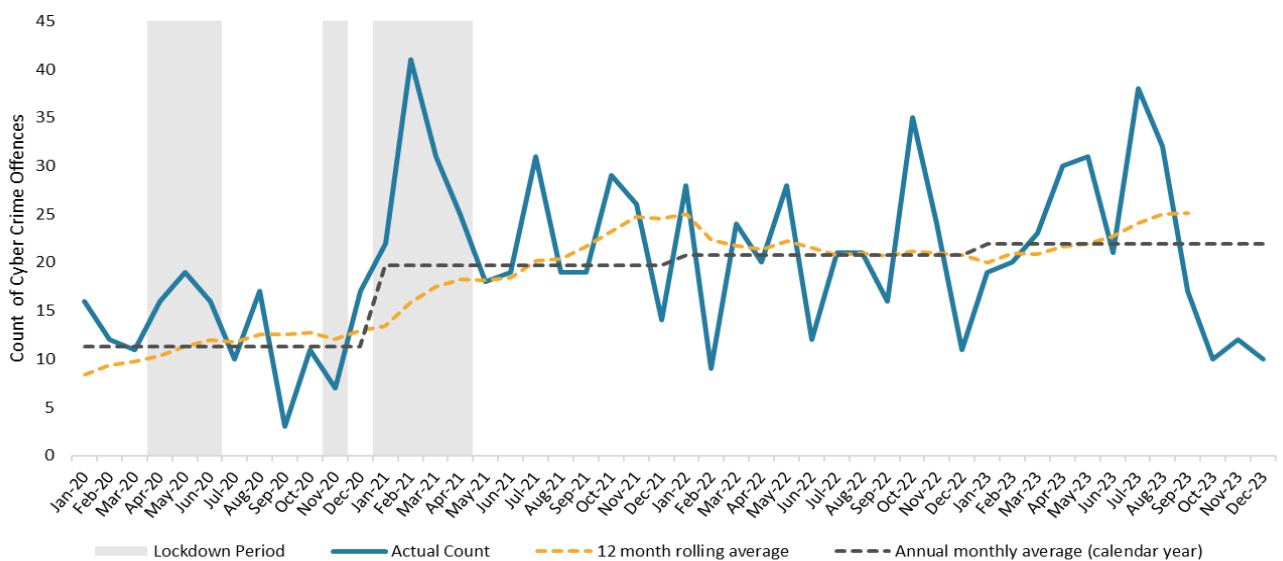
The CSEW provides the best indicator of national fraud prevalence due to high levels of underreporting for this crime type. The latest CSEW estimated that fewer than one in seven victims reported to the police or action fraud. The latest CSEW estimates for the YE September 2023 showed a 13% decrease in fraud offences compared to the previous year (ONS, 2024a). Action fraud similarly recorded a reduction in the latest year, however, police recorded crime showed a 6% increase compared to the YE September 2022. This increase has primarily been attributed to a rise in reports to UK Finance which saw a 22% increase.



Based on CSEW data showing 5.8% of respondents aged 16 and over reported being a victim of fraud in the YE September 2023 (ONS, 2024b, p. A3), this could mean an estimated 4,900 people in Fenland were victims of fraud in the YE September 2023 (based on 2021 Census population figures).

Police recorded cybercrime offences in Fenland are shown in the figure below. Offence levels have fluctuated month-by-month since the beginning of third Covid-19 lockdown. The annual monthly average has been increasing since 2019, initially jumping from 7.7 per month, up to 19.7 in 2021. Incremental increases were seen thereafter, reaching 21.9 in 2023.

**Figure 12: Police recorded cybercrime offences in Fenland, January 2020 – December 2023**

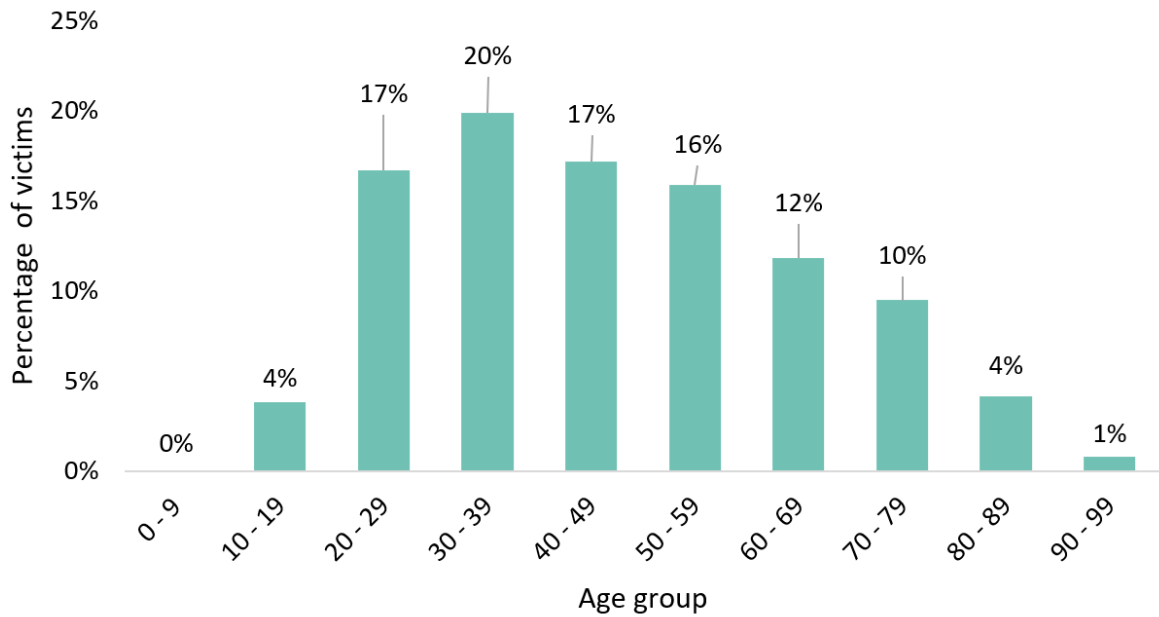


Source: CADET

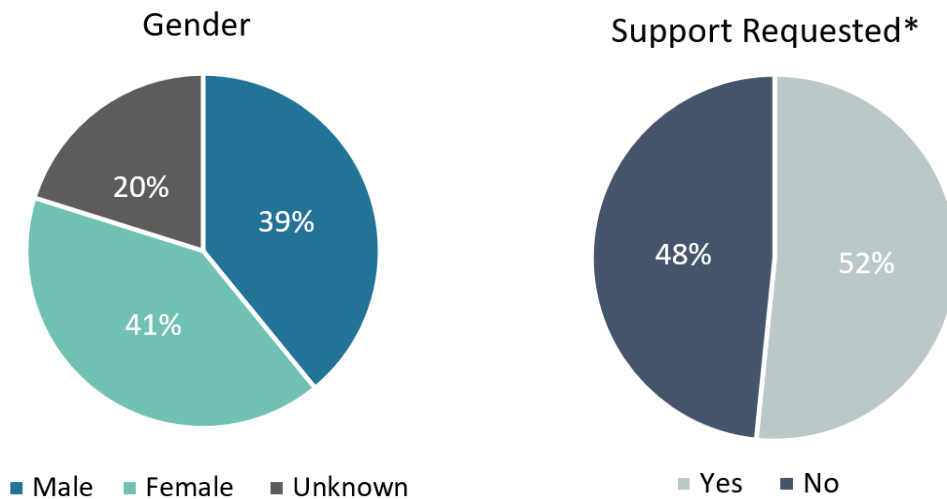
Whilst the volume of offences is fairly low in Fenland, there has been an increase in offence levels in recent years which has been sustained when comparing pre and post pandemic time periods. The risk of harm associated with fraud and cybercrime offences is likely to vary notably between victims depending on the incident type, but has the potential to be very high.

Action fraud figures for the Cambridgeshire Constabulary wide area (district level data is not available) provides a breakdown of the demographics of individuals reporting fraud and cybercrime offences as shown below (Action Fraud, 2023). A majority of victims were age 20-69 (82%), with the gender of victims (where known) relatively equally split. The 30-39 age group had the highest proportion of victims, accounting for a fifth. 52% of victims did request support when they reported the fraud.

**Figure 13: Action Fraud figures for individual victims of cybercrime and fraud by age group, Jan 2023 to Dec 2023, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough**



**Figure 14: Action Fraud figures for individual victims of cybercrime and fraud by gender and support requested, Jan 2023 to Dec 2023 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough**



Note: \* indicates that unknowns have been excluded from the chart.

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

**Figure 15: Action Fraud figures for individual victims of cybercrime and fraud by crime group, Jan 2023 to Dec 2023 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough**



## 6. Violence Against the Person

### 6.1. Summary

Violent offences continue to account for the largest proportion of crime types in Fenland. It has also recorded increases year on year in recent years. Fenland is the only district not to record any decrease in total VAP offences. Whilst some of this increase can be attributed to increased reporting and recording, it highlights the need for violence reduction to continue to be a focus for the partnership. Fenland had the highest rate per 1000 population for VAP offences compared to the other districts. As such, violence remains an issue of concern locally.

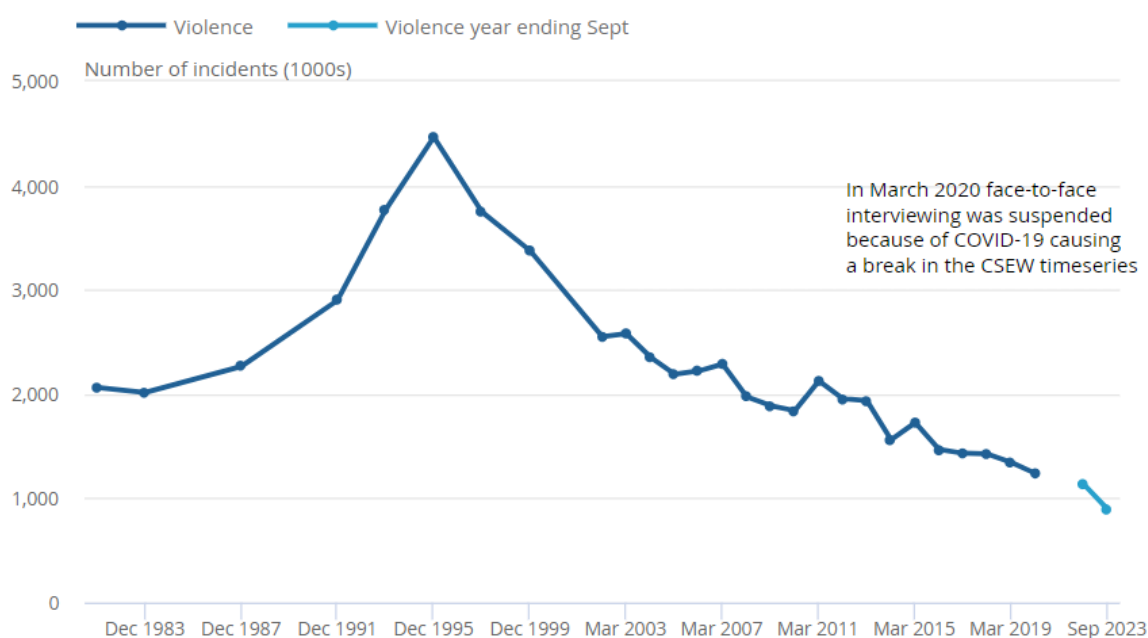
In 2023/24 the CSP commissioned a deep dive into violence and public order, as a result of recommendations in the 2022/23 annual strategic assessment. The report provided detailed analysis by violence sub-type, including geographical analysis and victim and offender demographics. **It is recommended that the CSP utilise the findings in this report and the countywide serious violence needs assessment to inform targeted action to tackle violence, with a particular focus on serious violence within the district.**

## 6.2. Overview

The CSEW estimates show that nationally there has been a long-term downward trend in violent crime over the last two decades, as illustrated in the figure below. There were an estimated 0.9 million violence offences in England and Wales in the year ending September 2023. Whilst down on the previous year, the change was not significant, however, levels were 23% below pre-pandemic levels (year ending March 2020) indicating a continuation of the long-term downward trend. This trend has been mostly driven by a reduction in violence with injury offences since the pre-pandemic period, this is typically the more high-harm violence sub-type (ONS, 2024a).

**Figure 16: CSEW annual estimates of violent offences**

### England and Wales, annual estimates



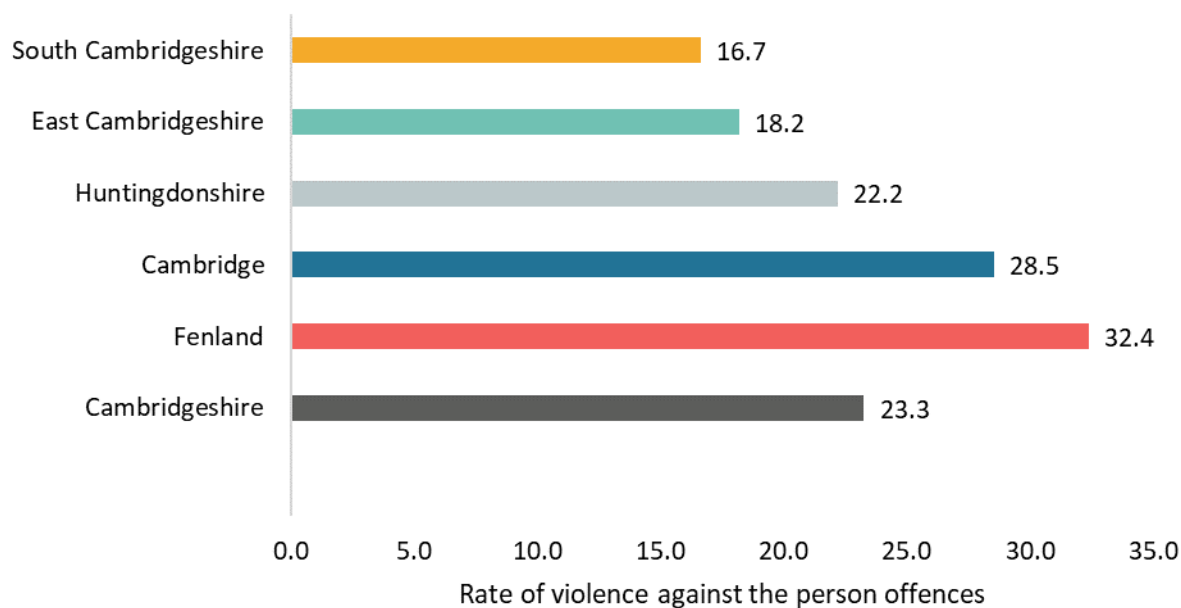
Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) from the ONS – Figure 6; “The number of incidents of violent crime continues to trend downwards” (ONS, 2024a).

National police recorded crime data for the latest year shows a similar pattern to the CSEW estimates, with a slight reduction in the year ending September 2023 compared to the previous year (-3%). However, police recorded offences are still 17% higher than the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020, in contrast to the consistent downward trend in the CSEW estimates (ONS, 2024a). It should be noted that certain offence sub-types such as stalking and harassment are included in the police recorded offences but do not form part of the CSEW violence estimates which may account for this discrepancy.

Local data shows that violence against the person (VAP) offences accounted for 41% of crime in Fenland in 2023; more than any other district in the county (compared to 34% countywide; district range of 27% to 41%).

Fenland had the highest district rate of VAP offences in Cambridgeshire (see Figure 17) at 32.4 per 1000 population in 2023. This was notably above the countywide rate of 23.3, but below the national rate of 34.7 (YE September 2023).

**Figure 17: Rate of violence against the person (VAP) per 1,000 population (census 2021) in 2023 in Cambridgeshire districts and countywide**



The long-term trend indicates that Fenland saw the largest district increase since 2019, with an increase of 33% (compared 26% countywide).

The VAP crime group is broken down into 4 sub-types; homicide, violence with injury, violence without injury, and stalking and harassment, and the recent trend for these sub-types is displayed in Figure 18 below. The increase since 2019 was reflected across all sub-groups (excluding homicide which remained very low). The largest increase was in stalking and harassment (+76%, +431 offences), followed by violence without injury (+24%, +295 offences), and violence with injury (+15%, +103 offences).

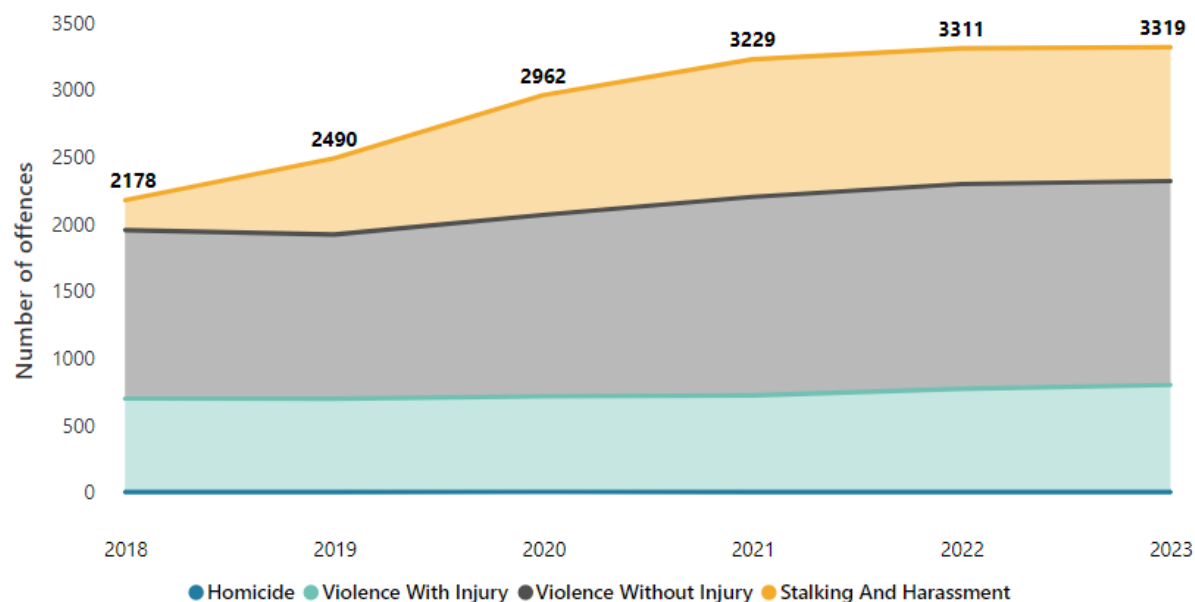
However recent figures show that levels of VAP have been stable since 2022 (+0%, +8 offences); differing slightly from the minor reduction seen nationally. The stability in overall VAP since 2022 was reflected across sub-groups, with only minor changes:

- Stalking and harassment: -1% (-14 offences)
- Violence without injury: 0% (-7 offences)
- Violence with injury: +4% (+28 offences)

- Homicide remained very low with 0 offences in 2022, and 1 in 2023.

Despite this stability, domestic abuse (DA) tagged VAP offences have decreased (-11%, -130 offences); accounting for 33% of VAP offences in 2023, down from 37% in 2022. Offences not marked as DA increased by 7% (+138 offences).

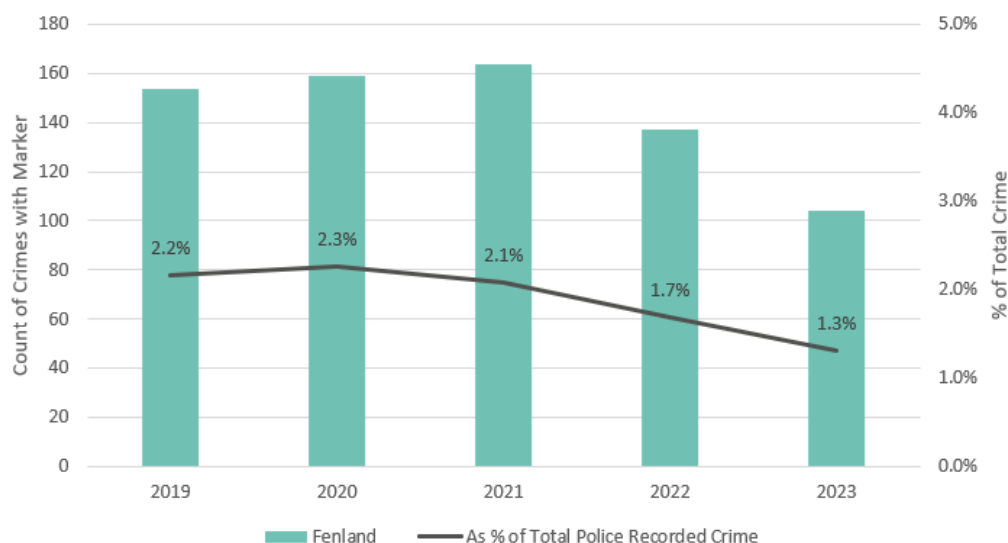
**Figure 18: Annual trend in VAP offences in Fenland, 2018 to 2023**



The sub-type “violence with injury” typically contains the more high harm offences, and is most likely to include serious violence. There were 799 violence with injury offences in Fenland in 2023, accounting for almost a quarter (24%) of VAP offences. The majority were ABH (67%). Offences involving allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control constituted the next highest category at 9% (71 offences). There were 69 non-fatal strangulation offences (9% of all violence with injury offences).

### 6.3. Knife Crime

In Fenland, the volume of police recorded crime that involves knives is fairly low. 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. Knife crime accounted for 1.3% of total crime in Fenland in 2023, slightly down on recent years and the pre-pandemic year of 2019 (with 2.2% in 2019). The 24% reduction in police recorded knife crime in Fenland in 2023 compared to 2022, is in line with countywide picture where the number of knife crimes decreased by 30%, in contrast to the 5% rise seen at a national level.

**Figure 19: Annual trend in police recorded knife crime in Fenland from 2019 to 2023**

Source: CADET

## 7. Sexual offences

### 7.1. Summary

In 2023, the number of sexual offences in Fenland continued the increases seen in recent years, contrasting the decrease seen in other Cambridgeshire districts and national figures in the last year. The 2023 count exceeded 2019 by 61% in Fenland, compared to 19% countywide. Previous national increases in police recorded sexual offences have been attributed to improvements in reporting and police recording practices (ONS, 2024a). This increase in Fenland appears to have been driven by an increase in the reporting of historical offences. Crimes reported after more than one year between occurring and recording increased by 88% since 2019 in Fenland compared to an increase of 51% where the time gap was less than 12 months. Historic crimes accounted for a third of sexual offences reported in 2023. Recent sexual offences however saw a decrease of 5% since 2022. Sexual offences in Fenland accounted for a similar proportion of offences as in most other districts in Cambridgeshire.

It should be noted that underreporting remains and as such the true scale of sexual offences are likely to be much higher than indicated in police recorded crime figures.

Victim data analysis showed that victims were predominantly younger females, with females under 16 accounting for almost a third (32%) of victims.

**It is recommended that the CSP utilise the findings of the Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment, alongside the analysis presented in this**

**assessment, to work with the County Partnership to develop appropriate actions for Fenland.**

## 7.2. National Trend

National police recorded crime data shows long-term increases in the number of sexual offences recorded over the last decade. The October 2021 - September 2022 year saw the highest annual offence count ever recorded in England & Wales. The latest YE September 2023 saw a slight reduction of 3%, however, levels of sexual offences nationally remain 17% higher than the pre-pandemic YE March 2020 (ONS, 2024a).

The latest available prevalence estimates from the CSEW indicate that 2.7% of people aged 16-59 experienced a sexual assault in the year ending March 2023, no significant change on the previous year or the pre-pandemic year. The CSEW highlights persistent levels of underreporting for sexual offences, with the latest estimates showing that fewer than one in six victims of rape or assault by penetration reported the crime to the police (ONS, 2024a).

The fact that CSEW prevalence estimates have remained relatively stable since the pre-pandemic period whilst police recorded offences have increased notably suggests that increases in the reporting and recording of sexual offences is likely to have played a role in the increases observed, however, it is not known the extent to which real terms increases in the number of victims form a part of this trend.

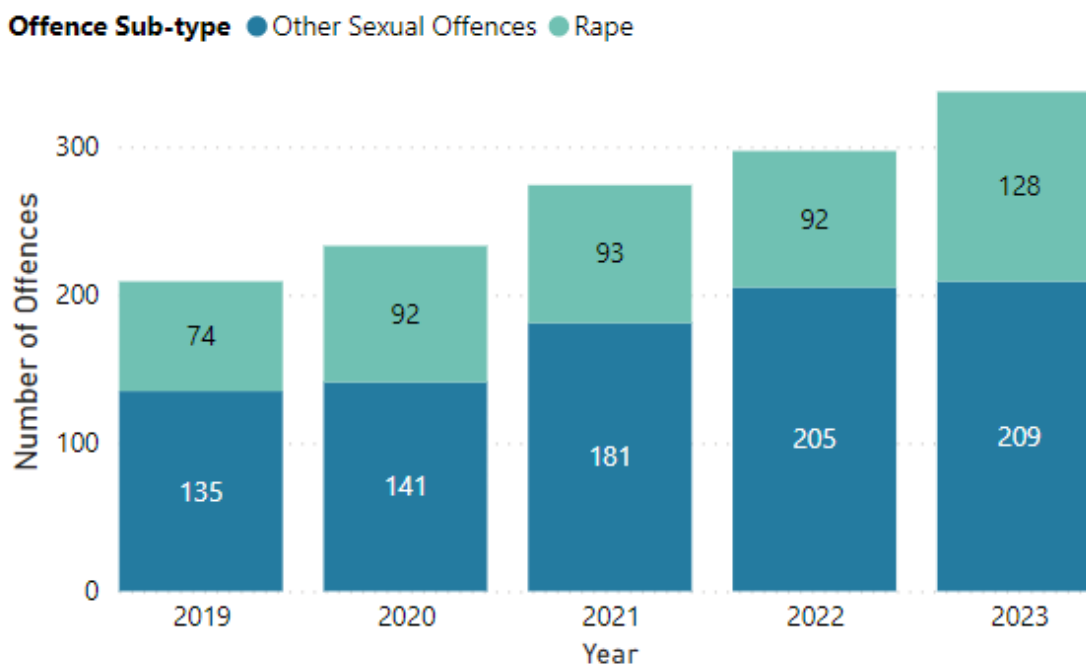
The levels of underreporting highlighted by the CSEW should be borne in mind when interpreting the local police recorded crime figures as they are likely to only represent a small proportion of offences that have actually occurred.

## 7.3. Local Trend

The most recent local police recorded crime data for Fenland showed that the increasing trend in sexual offences seen in recent years has continued into 2023. A 13% increase was seen in the last year, up 61% since 2019. This contrasts with other districts in Cambridgeshire, which decreased in the last year, with countywide sexual offences remaining only 19% above the 2019 count. However, sexual offences in Fenland accounted for a similar proportion of offences (at 4%) as most other districts in Cambridgeshire.



**Figure 20: Number of police recorded sexual offences in Fenland, by sub-type, 2019 to 2023**



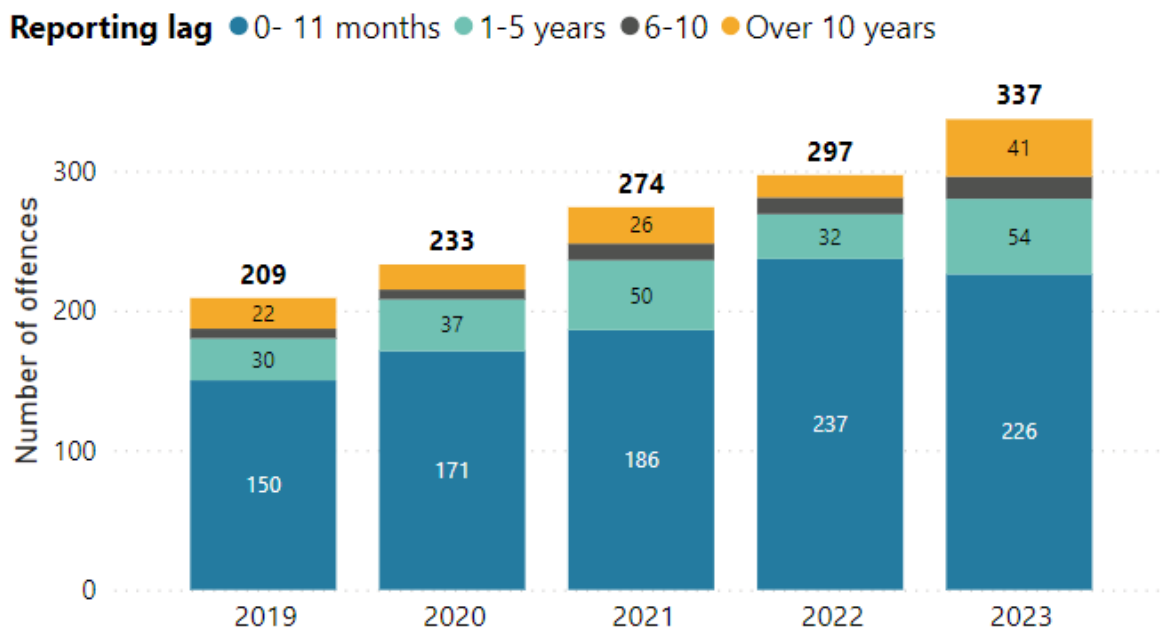
When sexual offences are reported to the police, this does not always happen immediately after the offence has occurred. In order to explore any possible impact of changes in reporting lag on recent trends observed locally, analysis has been completed on the difference between the date an offence was recorded by the police and the date when the offence occurred. It should be noted that offences can span a wide time period and analysis here focuses on the offence start date rather than the offence end date due to data completeness.

A third (33%) of sexual offences recorded in Fenland in 2023 had an offence start date that was at least 12 months prior to the crime recorded date, slightly above the proportion seen for Cambridgeshire as a whole (29%). As displayed in the figure below, this marks an 85% increase in the number of non-recent offences compared to the previous year, when 20% were historical offences (+51 offences). This contrasts countywide historical offences which increased by 7% in the last year.

In contrast, recent offences recorded in 2023 (that occurred within 1 year of the recorded date), were 5% lower than in 2022 (-11 offences), similar to the countywide decrease of 7%.

These figures indicate that overall increase in sexual offences recorded in Fenland in the last year was driven by an increase in the reporting of historical sexual offences in this year.

**Figure 21: Number of years between offence start date and offence recorded date for all police recorded sexual offences in Fenland, 2019 to 2023**

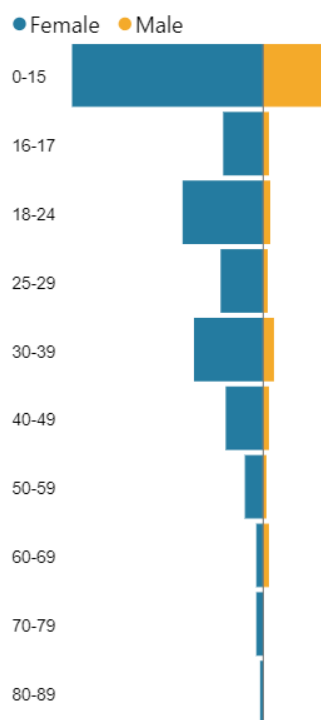


## 7.4. Victim Profile

Victim records shared by Cambridgeshire Constabulary which matched to a sexual offence recorded in Fenland between April 2021 – March 2023 have been analysed to provide additional insight for this assessment, following on from countywide analysis completed for the Violence Against Women and Girls needs assessment (Cambridgeshire County Council, 2023).

As it is possible for victims to experience more than one offence in any given time frame unique victims of a sexual offence in South Cambridgeshire have been identified to ensure that repeat victims do not impact on the demographic profile presented. There were 480 unique victims who reported a sexual offence in Fenland between April 2021 – March 2023, 81% were female, 16% were male, and 3% had an unknown or unspecified gender. The count of victims by age and gender (where both was recorded) is presented in the figure below. Victims were predominantly younger females, with females under 16 accounting for 32% of all victims (where age and gender were known). Those under 16 (male and female) accounted for 43% of all victims.

**Figure 22: Victims of sexual offences in Fenland, YE March 2023**



## 8. Domestic Abuse

### 8.1. Summary

The key findings draw on analysis for the Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment produced in November 2023 and specific analysis using the same datasets for Fenland CSP.

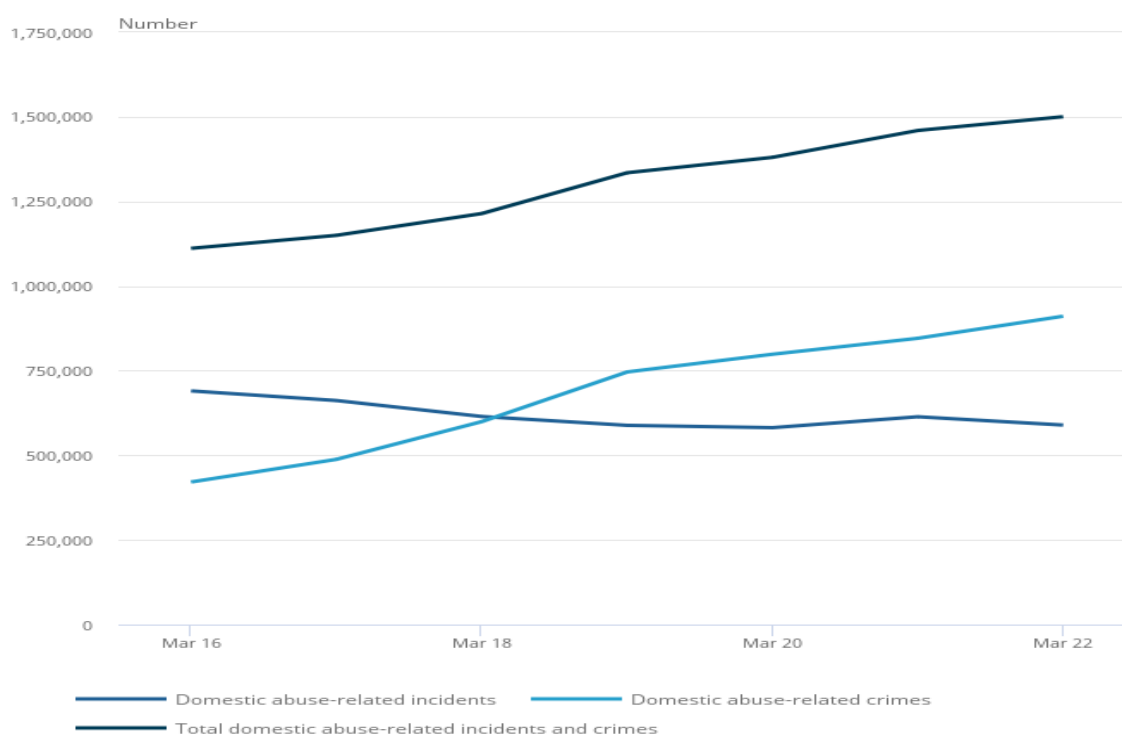
- Following the increases in DA tagged offences in Fenland between 2019 and 2021, counts have been decreasing, but the 2023 count has remained 12% above 2019.
- Bar a temporary increase in 2021, DA incidents have shown a decreasing trend which has continued into 2023, equating to a 21% decrease since 2019.
- The proportion of incidents that were converted into crimes has stayed relatively stable over the last few years (see Table 5).
- As in previous years, DA offences were predominantly VAP offences.
- The largest demographic group for victims of DA offences in Fenland in 2023 were females aged 30-39, accounting for almost one fifth of all victims.

**It is recommended that the CSP utilise these findings and that of the Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment to continue to work with the County Partnership to develop appropriate actions for Fenland.**

## 8.2. Domestic Abuse Trends

Nationally DA incidents have been decreasing in recent years, with a contrasting increase seen in the number of DA crimes recorded as illustrated in the figure below. The latest available police recorded crime data released by the ONS showed a small decrease number of crimes recorded in the YE September 2023 (-4%) compared to the previous year (ONS, 2024a). Increased willingness of victims to report and improved recording by the police have both been cited as factors which may have influenced the recent increases in previous years (ONS, 2024a). Figures will need to be monitored over the long term to determine whether this reflects variation within stabilised figures (i.e. a plateauing in the impact of these factors), or whether this is the beginning of a downward trend.

**Figure 23: National police recorded domestic abuse incidents and crimes, March 2016 to March 2022**

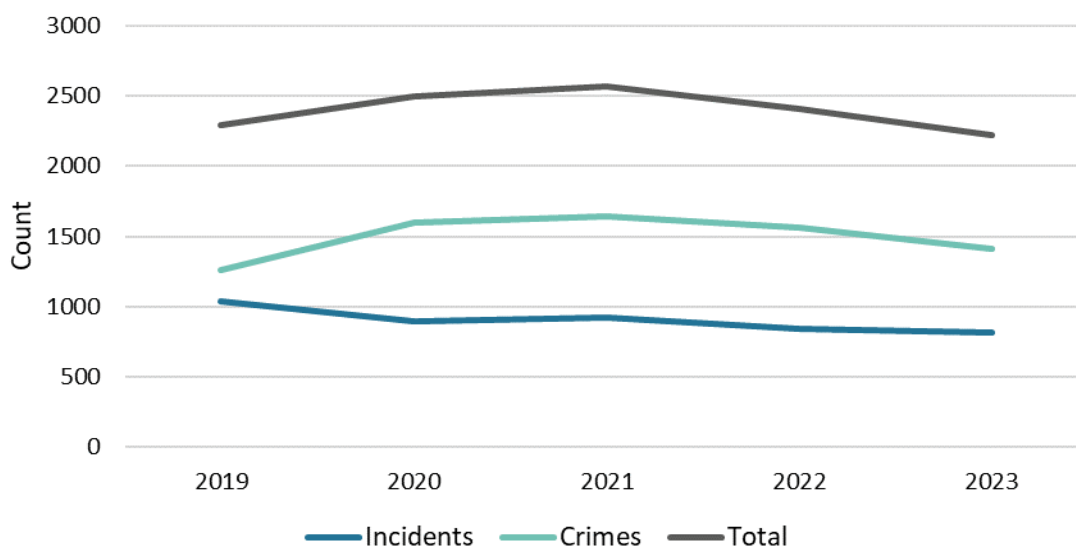


Source: Figure 4 Domestic Abuse report in England and Wales Overview, for year ending November 2022 (ONS, 2022d).

Local police recorded crime data following the same methodology as the ONS is presented in the figure below. DA tagged crimes in Fenland decreased by 10% (-154 offences), reflecting the 13% decrease seen at the county level, and 4% national decrease. Despite this decrease, the total DA tagged offences in 2023 remained 12% above the 2019 count in Fenland (+151 offences), contrasting countywide figures, which saw 2023 return back to the level seen in 2019.

The number of DA incidents (non-crimed only) in 2023 continued the generally decreasing trend seen over the last few years, decreasing by 3% in the last year (-29 offences), equating to a 21% decrease since 2019 (-222 offences).

**Figure 24: Police recorded Domestic Abuse (DA) crimes and incidents (non-crimed only) in Fenland, 2019 to 2023**



The proportion of incidents that were converted into crimes has stayed relatively stable over the last few years (see Table 5).

**Table 5: DA incidents and crimes recorded in Fenland, 2019 to 2023**

Incident category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total police recorded DA (incidents & crimes)	2293	2497	2570	2405	2222
Total DA tagged crimes	1259	1600	1645	1564	1410
Total DA incidents	1930	2010	2013	1867	1764
Incidents that result in a crime being recorded	896	1113	1088	1026	952
Incidents that remain as incident only	1034	897	925	841	812
Proportion of incidents that were 'crimed'	46%	55%	54%	55%	54%
Proportion of total recorded DA that were crimes	55%	64%	64%	65%	63%

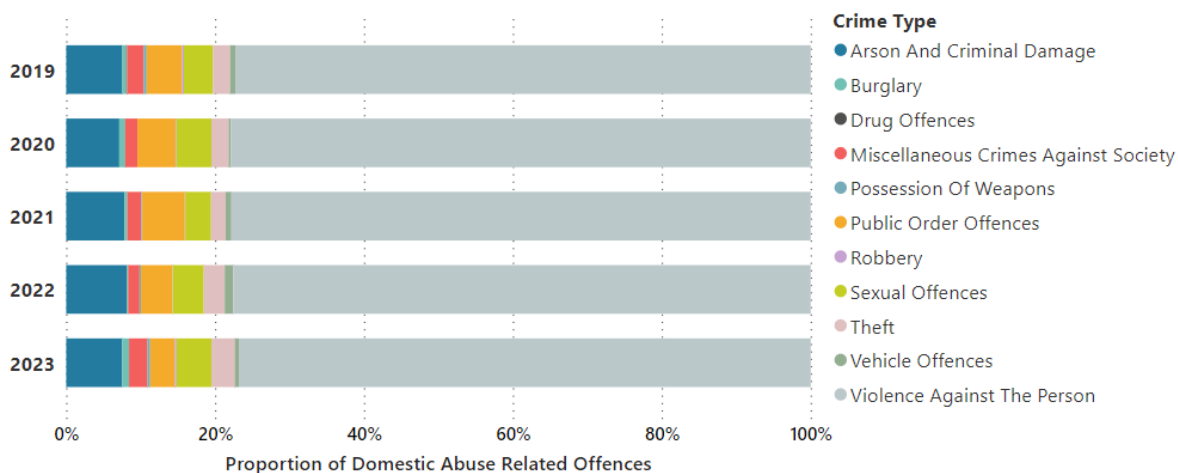
### 8.3. DA Crime Types

In 2023, 17% of all offences recorded in Fenland were marked as DA related, down slightly from 19% the previous year.

Violence against the person (VAP) continues to be the primary offence type, accounting for more than 3 quarters of DA offences (77%) in Fenland in 2023. The

breakdown for the past 5 years (see Figure 25) shows a fairly consistent pattern in the distribution of offence types.

**Figure 25: Crime type breakdown for Domestic Abuse (DA) related offences recorded in Fenland, 2019 to 2023**



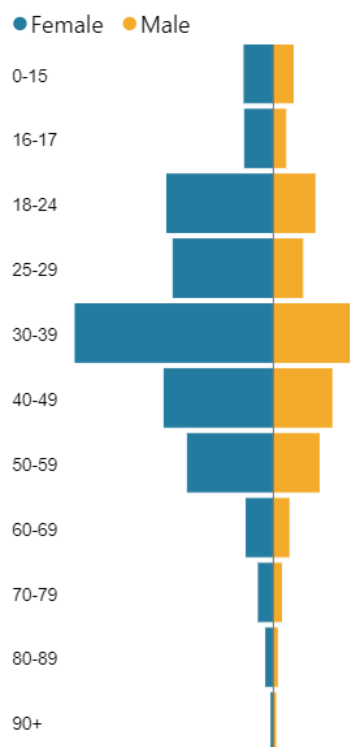
## 8.4. Victim Profile

Victim records shared by Cambridgeshire Constabulary which matched to a DA related offence recorded in Fenland between April 2021 – March 2023 have been analysed to provide additional insight for this assessment, following on from countywide analysis completed for the Violence Against Women and Girls needs assessment (Cambridgeshire County Council, 2023).

As it is possible for victims to experience more than one offence in any given time frame, unique victims of a DA offence in Fenland have been identified to ensure that repeat victims do not impact on the demographic profile presented.

There were 1970 unique victims who reported a DA offence in Fenland between April 2021 and March 2023; 68% were female, 30% were male, and 2% had an unspecified gender. The count of victims by age and gender (where both was recorded) is presented in the figure below (for 1967 victims). Females aged 30-39 were the largest demographic group, accounting for 19% of victims (with known age and gender). Looking specifically at male victims, the largest age group was also those aged 30-39 (7% of victims with known age and gender).

**Figure 26: Victim age and gender breakdown for DA offences in Fenland between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE March)**



Self-defined ethnicity was unknown (either not stated or not recorded) for over a third (39%) of unique victims who reported a DA related offence in Fenland between April 2021 and March 2023.

## 8.5. Domestic Homicide Reviews

At the time of writing this document, there are 2 Domestic Homicides Reviews currently in progress in Fenland. One relates to a death in 2021, which is under review at Home Office, and the other relates to a death in 2022, which is in progress.

There are currently 2 published DHRs which are available to view on the Fenland District Council website, for victims who died in 2021 and 2022: [Domestic Homicide Review - Fenland District Council](#).

A further 4 DHR summaries for deaths which occurred more than 6 years ago are available to view on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership website: [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - DHR Summaries \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](#).

## 9. Exploitation and Vulnerability

### 9.1. Summary

The true prevalence of slavery and exploitation in Fenland is hard to gauge due to the high level of under-reporting and resources needed to investigate and combat it. The data available highlights the seriousness of these crimes and the risk of harm to victims. The national and local data highlights the risk to children, including the increase in child-on-child offences. The local police data for Fenland has a lower number of offences for both modern slavery and Child Sexual CSE in 2023 than the previous year.

Raising awareness of the signs and how to report locally would likely increase the engagement from the public and increase intelligence gathered locally.

### 9.2. County Lines and Modern Slavery

County Lines refers to a model of offending whereby gangs and organised crime groups move drugs into supply areas within the UK via the exploitation of vulnerable individuals. These individuals are recruited and coerced into the drug supply chain (NCA, 2019). The term 'County Line' refers to the dedicated mobile phone line used to receive orders for drugs. Criminal networks involved in running county lines operations are typically located in urban hubs but facilitate the movement of drugs into more rural areas. The latest strategic assessment published by the National Crime Agency highlights that a large proportion of British victims of modern slavery are exploited within county lines activity. Local police intelligence indicates that county lines are currently active within Cambridgeshire and as such this is an issue which needs consideration from the CSP.

The ONS provides a comprehensive definition of Modern Slavery and how it relates to various offences and harms:

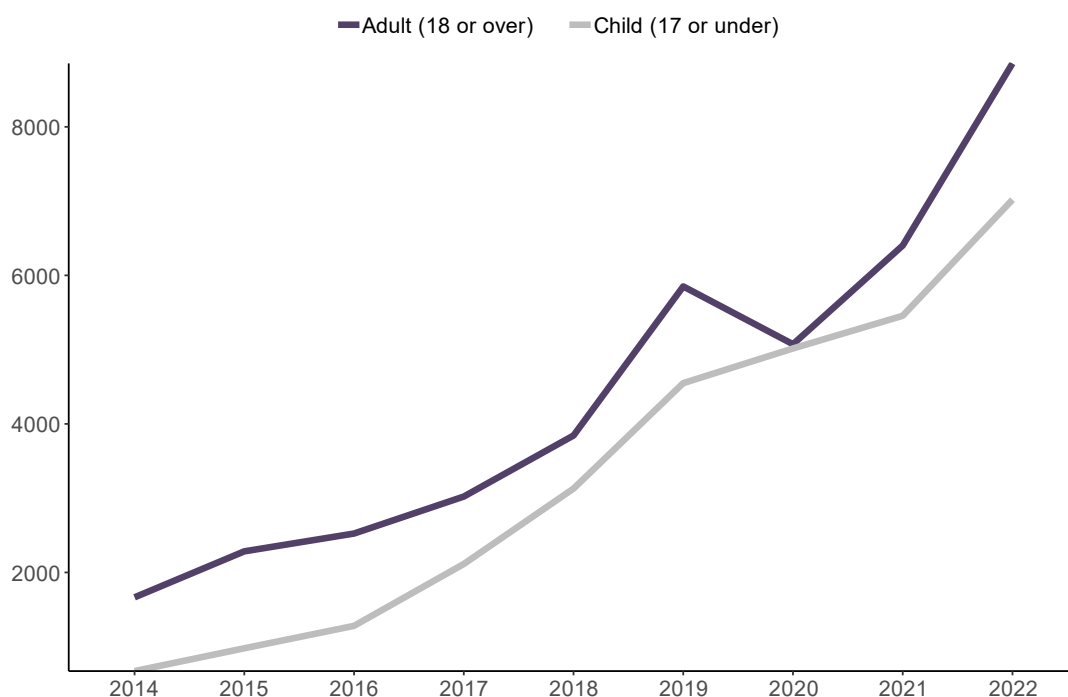
*“Modern slavery is a complex crime that covers all forms of slavery, trafficking and exploitation. Trafficking includes transporting, recruiting or harbouring an individual with a view to them being exploited. Modern slavery crimes may involve, or take place alongside, a wide range of abuses and other criminal offences such as grievous bodily harm, assault, rape or child sexual abuse. Victims of modern slavery can be men, women and children of any age across the world. There is an assumption that victims of modern slavery are often trafficked to the UK from other countries, but residents of the UK are also among the victims that are exploited in the UK and other countries.”* (ONS, 2020)



Due to the hidden nature of Modern Slavery, it is difficult to assess the prevalence of Modern Slavery in the UK. A key measure of Modern Slavery comes from the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). First responder organisations can refer potential victims of Modern Slavery that they encounter in order to seek support. This includes local authorities, specified non-governmental organisations (NGOs), police forces and some government agencies. While local level statistics for this are not currently available, we can be informed by key demographics shown by analysis of NRM referrals. Overall NRM referrals continue a long-term trend of increase in volume.

The latest available NRM referral statistics shows that a majority (78%) of potential victims in 2022 were male and 52% of all potential victims referred were over 18 years old. For the first time since 2016 the most common nationality referred was not UK; instead, Albanian nationals formed 27% of potential victims in 2022 (UK nationals 25%).

**Figure 27: NRM referrals nationally by age group of exploitation: (count of potential victims referred nationally)**



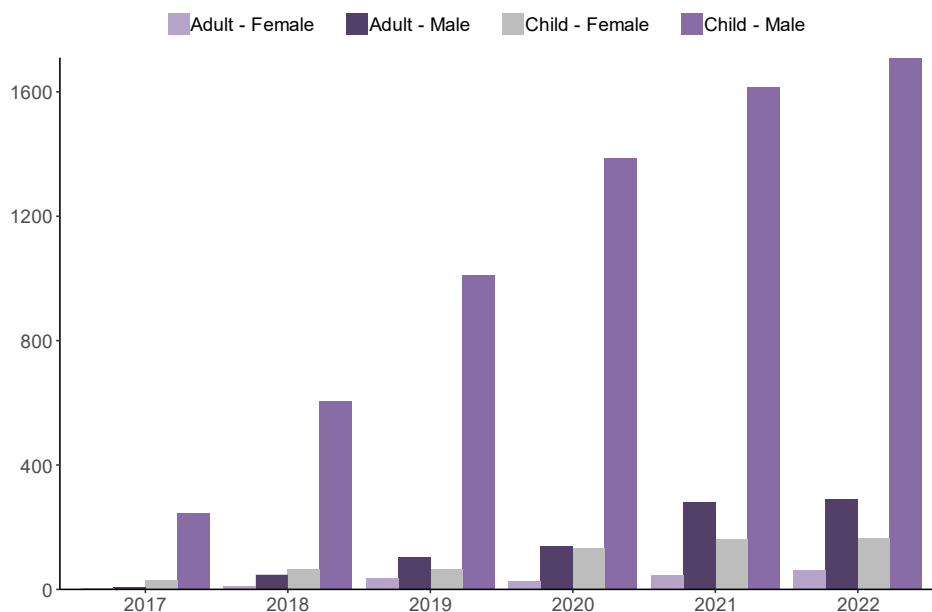
Source: Home Office

Child potential victims are most frequently referred for criminal exploitation. The NRM referral system flags referrals that relate to county lines. Analysis shows that males under 18 are the most frequently occurring group among county lines related NRM referrals nationally.

The National Crime Agency strategic assessment highlighted international issues that are influencing risk of labour exploitation, which local CSPs should be alert to.

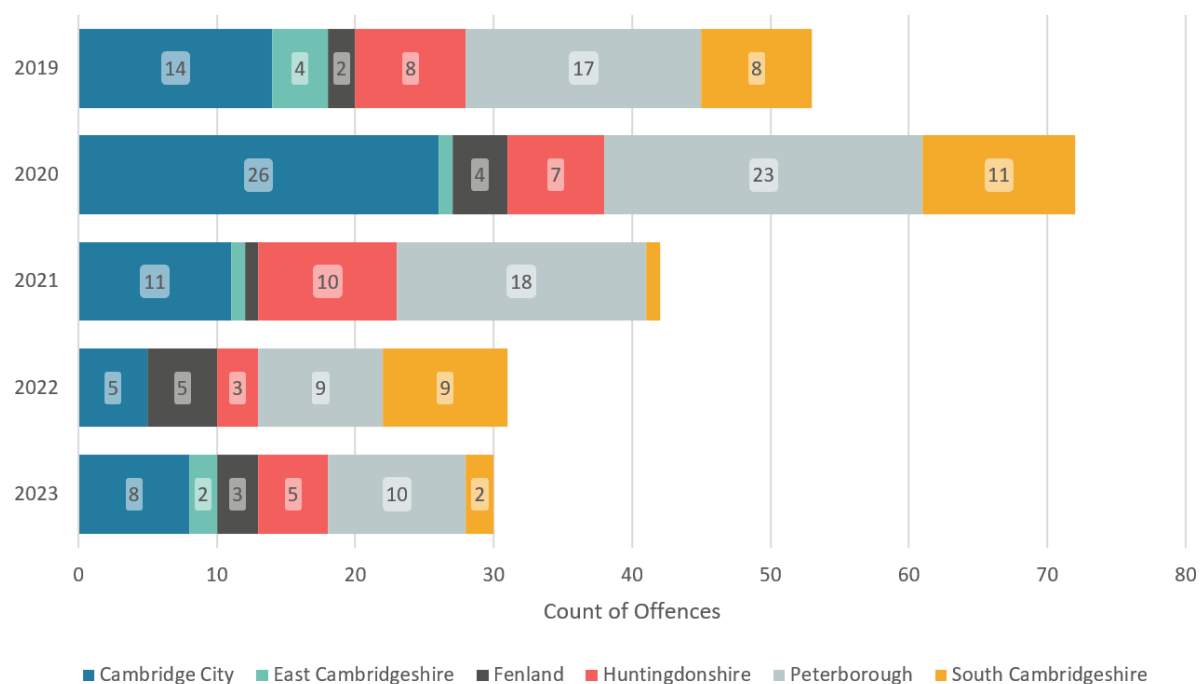
Due to the war in Ukraine fewer seasonal workers are coming to the UK from Ukraine. Recruitment is now taking place in other countries outside of Europe where exploitation during recruitment is known to be a higher risk. Incidents of debt bondage affecting seasonal workers is therefore more likely. Furthermore, the ongoing cost-of-living crisis is believed to have increased risks relating to modern slavery. Financial pressures may make more people vulnerable to exploitation and it is possible that organised crime groups will offset rising costs onto victims.

**Figure 28: National Number of NRM referrals flagged as county lines, by age group at exploitation and gender**



NRM figures are not available at local geography level, however, we are able to consider police recorded modern slavery offences. The chart below displays the total count of modern slavery offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for the past 5 years by district. This shows that there were 30 offences recorded in 2023, down from the peak of 72 recorded in 2020. Fenland saw just 3 offences in 2023 down from 5 offences in 2022. These numbers should not be taken as a true representation of the levels of modern slavery offending in Fenland, or countywide, due to high levels of underreporting for this crime type.

**Figure 29: Police recorded Modern Slavery Offences by district 2019-2023**



### 9.3. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of sexual abuse whereby a child is coerced, manipulated, or deceived into sexual activity. The full definition is as follows:

*“Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.”* (HM Government, 2016)

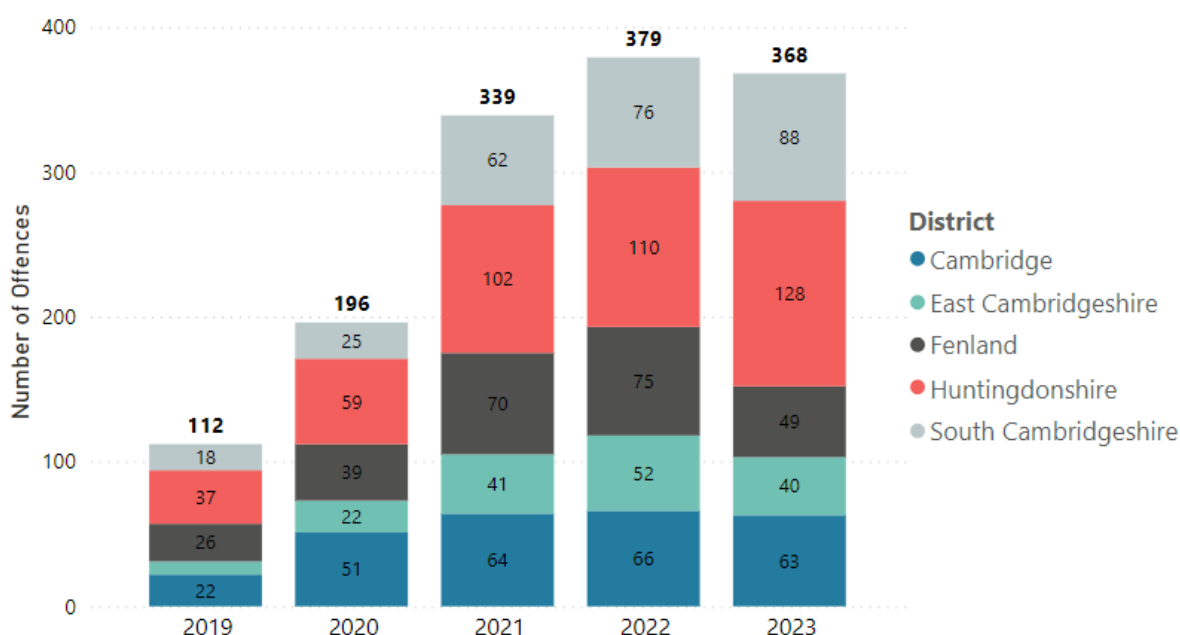
A national report on child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE) was released in January 2024 by the Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Programme. Some of the key findings from this report (relating to offences recorded nationwide in 2022) are listed below. It should be noted that the report flags that figures do not account for underreporting on this crime type, particularly for boys, minority communities, migrant groups, and those with disabilities.

- Offences in 2022 were up 7.6% on the previous year.
- Many offences remain unreported.

- Around three quarters of offences were committed against children whilst a quarter related to indecent images of children.
- Child-on-child offences account for an increasing high proportion of offences (just over half in 2022).
- Males account for 82% of perpetrators with females accounting for 79% of victims.
- It is estimated that a third of CSAE offences occur within the family environment.
- Group-based child exploitation accounted for 5% of CSAE.
- The volume of online CSAE continues to grow, accounting for a third of CSAE (The Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme, 2024).

Any police recorded offence can be marked as CSE related. Police recorded CSE crimes had been on an upward trajectory in Fenland between 2019 – 2022, however, the number of offences dropped to 49 in 2023 (down from 75 in 2022). Not all districts recorded a decline in 2023.

**Figure 30: Police recorded CSE offences districts in Cambridgeshire, year ending December**



In order to better understand the types of offences being recorded locally, analysis has been completed on the offence sub-type and short title fields for the 194 offences recorded in Fenland between 2021 – 2023. As displayed in the table below, the most common offence type was ‘other sexual offences’ accounting for 45%, followed by Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society which accounted for 36%. Examination of the short title field showed that all Miscellaneous crimes against society offences involved the possession, creation, or distribution of indecent photographs. This percentage is slightly higher than seen the latest release of

national data which showed a quarter of offences related to indecent images in 2022 (albeit the time periods are not directly comparable) (The Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme, 2024).

**Table 6: CSE offences in Fenland by offence sub-type, 2021 to 2023**

<b>Offence Sub-Type</b>	<b>Count of offences January 2021 – December 2023</b>	<b>Percentage of offences</b>
Other Sexual Offences	87	44.8%
Misc Crimes Against Society	70	36.1%
Rape	23	11.9%
Other Theft	5	2.6%
Other offences	9	4.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 10. Substance Misuse

### 10.1. Summary

Findings from the Fenland Community Safety Survey indicated that drug dealing was the most common concern amongst respondents (Fenland District Council, February to March 2024). As well as the harm that illegal drug activity can cause through its association with violence (NCA, 2020), it should also be noted that Fenland has a relatively high rate of drug related deaths compared to other Cambridgeshire districts, as well as a high rate of alcohol related hospital admissions and deaths (according to data for financial year 2021/22) (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Public Health Intelligence Team, 2023a). More recent data from police recorded offences in Fenland, and from Change Grow Live (CGL) on Fenland residents who are in treatment for substance abuse are shown below.

- Police recorded drug offences in Fenland have decreased by 13% in the last year, contrasting the 2% increase seen nationally over a similar time period (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a).
- Despite the decrease in drug offences in Fenland in the last year, the count remained 27% above pre-pandemic year 2019.
- The recent trend of increasing numbers of clients in treatment for substance abuse in recent years, has reversed in the last year, with 2023 seeing a small decrease compared to 2022 (-5%).
  - Those in treatment for opiates only (-31 clients), and for both non-opiates and alcohol (-6 clients) both decreased, whereas other substance treatment groups saw little change.
  - Similar to previous years, those in treatment for opiates (38%), or alcohol only (35%) accounted for the majority of clients.

## 10.2. National Trends

Nationally, police recorded drug offences have seen little change in the last year (+2% between 2021/22 and 2022/23, YE September), and since the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020 (-1%) (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a).

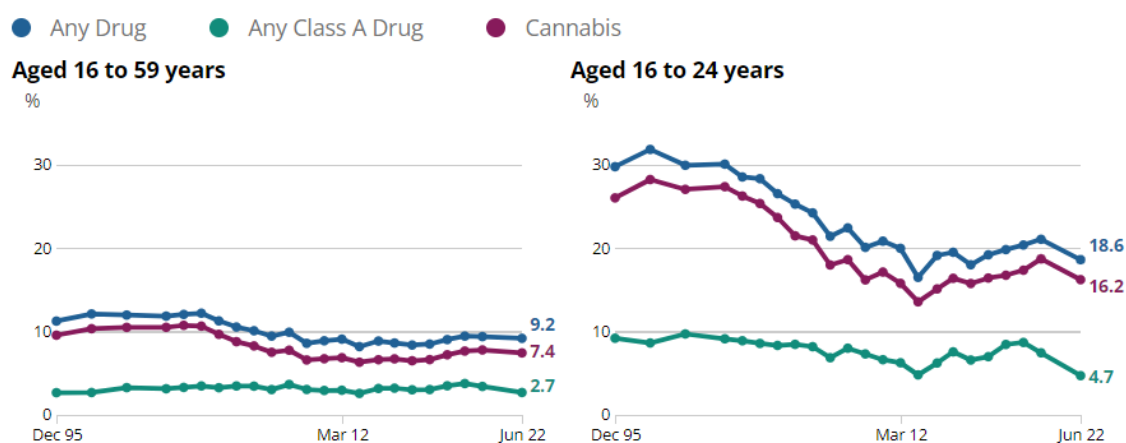
The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides a useful indicator of national patterns in drug use, as many instances of drug use will not typically come through in police recorded crime statistics. No data has yet been published for 2022/23, but the data below indicates trends up until 2021/22 (YE June).

When looking at those aged 16 to 24, despite temporary increases within the last decade, long-term trends show clear decreases in drug use, with recent years (since 2019/20, YE March) returning to this trend (see Figure 31 below). These changes were mostly driven by changes in cannabis use, although a general decreasing trend is also seen in Class A drug use.

Class A drug use by those aged 16 to 59 decreased since the pre-pandemic period by 22%; and by 37% for those aged 16 to 24 (from YE March 2020 to YE June 2022) (ONS, 2022e).

Decreases were also seen in the use of ecstasy and nitrous oxide (from YE March 2020 to YE June 2022) (ONS, 2022e). The possession of laughing gas was recently criminalised. Classed as a Class C drug from 8th November 2023, serious repeat offenders can now face up to two years in prison and an unlimited fine (Home Office, 2023a). Future CSEW releases will reveal whether this change in law causes further decreases in nitrous oxide use.

**Figure 31: Long term trend in the proportion of CSEW respondents reporting drug use in England and Wales, from 1994/95 (YE December) 2021/22 (October-June)**



Note: See Appendix B: Figure technical notes for figure notes.

Source: Figure 1 Drug misuse in England and Wales report (ONS, 2022e), Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW).

As noted by the CSEW, class A drugs are often taken in social situations, and these recent reductions in class A drug use amongst 16 to 24 year olds may be due to less social contact as a result of Covid-19 and government restrictions.

In April 2022 a policy paper was released by central government detailing a new 10 year strategy to tackle the drug supply chain and demand for recreational drug use, as well as facilitate treatment for drug use (Department for Education, et al., 2022). This new strategy aims to treat addiction as a chronic health condition, and involves an investment of a further £780 million to improve drug treatment and recovery services. This includes help for young people, offenders, and those experiencing multiple and complex needs, such as mental health difficulties, homelessness, and rough sleeping.

As noted in the policy paper for a 10-year drugs plan, almost half of acquisitive crime (including burglary, robbery, and theft) in the UK is thought to be linked to drug addiction (Department for Education, et al., 2022). Data on the extent of drug related acquisitive crime in Cambridge City is not available.

### 10.3. Fenland Community Safety Survey

Findings from the Fenland Community Safety Survey indicated that the most common concern that respondents wanted the CSP to focus on was drug dealing (Fenland District Council, February to March 2024). Over a third reported that they or their family had been directly affected by drug dealing (39%) and by drug or substance misuse (36%) in their area in the last three months.

### 10.4. Local Trends

A Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been produced by the Public Health Intelligence Team published in 2023 (2023b; 2023a). **This report should be consulted to gain insight into the current drug and alcohol picture in Fenland and countywide to help inform CSP activities in this area.** Some of the key findings from the assessment relating to Cambridgeshire and Fenland are presented below.

#### 10.4.1. Cambridgeshire

The data indicated that there was an increasing trend in the number of adults needing treatment for non-opiates, but with a 4% decrease between 2020/21 and 2021/22. There was also a decreasing trend in the number of adults in treatment for

opiates in Cambridgeshire (2023a, p. 28). Whilst non-opiates accounted for a third of new presentations, a higher rate of successful completions (compared to opiates) meant they accounted for only 18% of all those in treatment (2023a, p. 28). Compared to England as a whole, Cambridgeshire saw a higher proportion seeking treatment for crack cocaine (2023a, p. 28). Cambridgeshire also saw a higher proportion of self-referrals than England, with females (7%) being more likely to be referred through social services than males (1%).

#### 10.4.2. Young people in Cambridgeshire

A school survey in Cambridgeshire showed 11% of year 10 pupils reported that they had taken drugs to get high; with more females reporting this than males (2023, p. 58). Females also reported higher alcohol consumption within the last 7 days compared to males (2023a, p. 58). Cambridgeshire saw higher rates of alcohol use in children (2023a, p. 12); however the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol use was similar to England, and mirrored the decreasing trend seen nationally (2023a, p. 58).

Compared to England, a higher proportion of the young people in Cambridgeshire who were in treatment for substance misuse were referred from criminal justice and health services; and a higher proportion were not in employment education or training. They also had longer lengths of treatment, with almost all successful completions not representing within 6 months (2023a, p. 58).

#### 10.4.3. Fenland

##### **Alcohol**

In 2021/22, Fenland had a larger the proportion of people owed statutory homelessness duty who had alcohol dependency support needs than other Cambridgeshire districts, or nationally (7.5% for Fenland vs 5.2% for Cambridgeshire, and 4.6% for England) (2023a, p. 16). The district also had the highest district rate of alcohol related hospital admissions in the county at 499.9 per 100,000 population, compared to 420.0 for Cambridgeshire (based on the narrow definition of alcohol related conditions), and exceeds England's overall rate of 494.0 per 100,000 population.

When broken down by gender, males (691.1 per 100,000) had a higher rate than females (326.2 per 100,000), but the rates for both genders were relatively high in Fenland compared to other geographies.

When broken down by age group, the rate for 40-64 year olds was particularly high (870.7 per 100,000), exceeding the rate for the county (684.8 per 100,000), and England (772.4 per 100,000) (2023a, p. 8).



Alcohol related mortality in Fenland (in 2021) was the highest district rate in the county (36.4 per 100,000, versus 30.7 per 100,000 for Cambridgeshire), but remained below the England rate of 38.5 per 100,000 (2023a, p. 26).

### Drugs

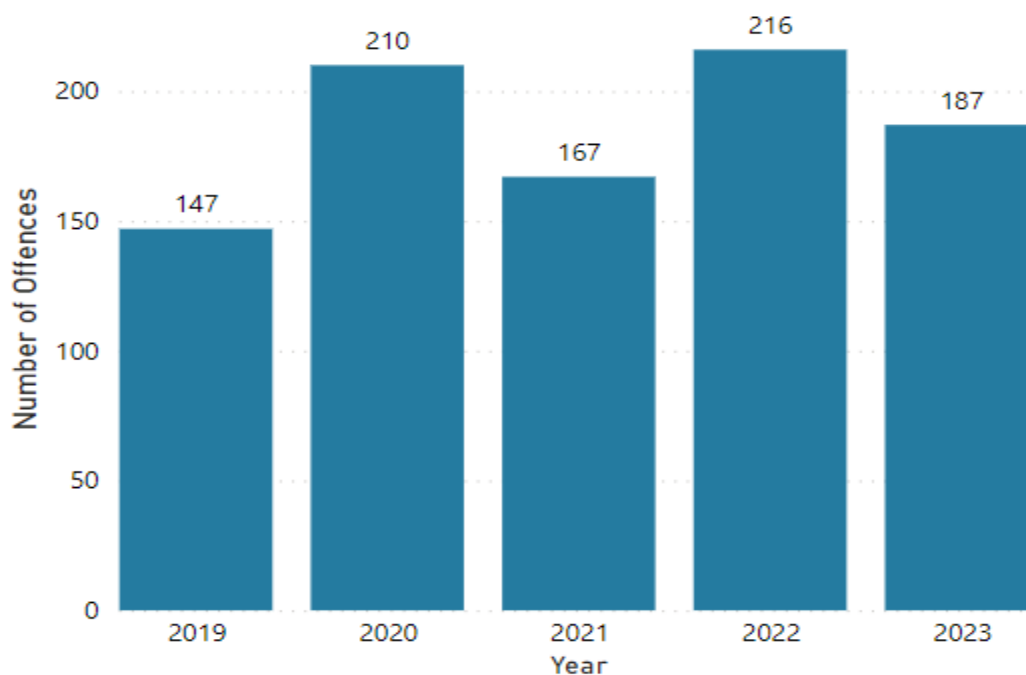
The proportion of people owed statutory homelessness duty who had a drug dependency support needs in Fenland was in line with the county proportion (6.8% in Fenland, and 6.9 for Cambridgeshire, versus 6.3 for England) (2023a, p. 45). However, Fenland had a higher rate of deaths from drug misuse (from 2018-2020) compared to other districts in the county (5.6 per 100,000 for Fenland, versus 3.1 per 100,000 for Cambridgeshire), exceeding the national rate (5.0 per 100,000 for England) (2023a, p. 56).

## 10.5. Police Recorded Drug Offences

Nationally, police recorded drug offences saw a 2% increase between years ending September 2022 and 2023 (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a). In contrast, Fenland saw a 13% decrease (-29 offences) in the last year. The numbers of drug offences in Fenland have fluctuated since 2019, and despite the decrease in the last year, figures remain 27% above those seen in 2019 (+40 offences).

Fenland’s rate of drug offences in 2023 (1.8 per 1000 population) was close to the county rate (1.6 per 1000 population) and was lower than the national rate (3.0 per 1000 population) of drug offences over a similar period (ONS, 2024b, p. A7).

**Figure 32: Annual trend in police recorded drug offences in Fenland, from 2019 to 2023**



## 10.6. Treatment Services

The current provider of substance misuse services (for adults) in Cambridgeshire, Change Grow Live (CGL), provide a summary of residents in treatment, by district, for inclusion in the strategic assessment.

As part of central government's 10 year drug strategy, it was announced that £267 million will be allocated to drug and alcohol treatment in 2024/25. However, CGL have expressed concern for proposals indicating a potential loss of funds for some services based on performance indicators. They explained that this could lead to underspend in some areas, and increased pressure to move people through the treatment system regardless of outcomes. They have also advised that organisations may be deterred from undertaking new developments and service innovation due to the lack of reliable income (CGL, 2023).

Following a trend of increasing numbers of clients in treatment for substance abuse in recent years (mostly driven by those in treatment for non-opiates and/or alcohol), local CGL data has shown a small decrease in the last year (-5%, -29 clients) (see Figure 33). This decrease was reflected in the number of clients in treatment for opiates only (-12%, -31 clients), and those in treatment for both non-opiates and alcohol (-10%, -6 clients). Little change was seen in the number of those in treatment for non-opiates only (+3%, +3 clients), or alcohol only (+2%, +5 clients). Continued monitoring is needed to determine whether this reflects stabilising numbers of clients receiving treatment for non-opiates and/or alcohol.

Similar to previous years, those in treatment for opiates (38%), and those in treatment for alcohol only (35%) accounted for largest proportion of service users. It cannot be concluded whether these statistics reflect true trends in the number of people mis-using these substances in Fenland, or whether they only reflect trends in the number of people accessing treatment.

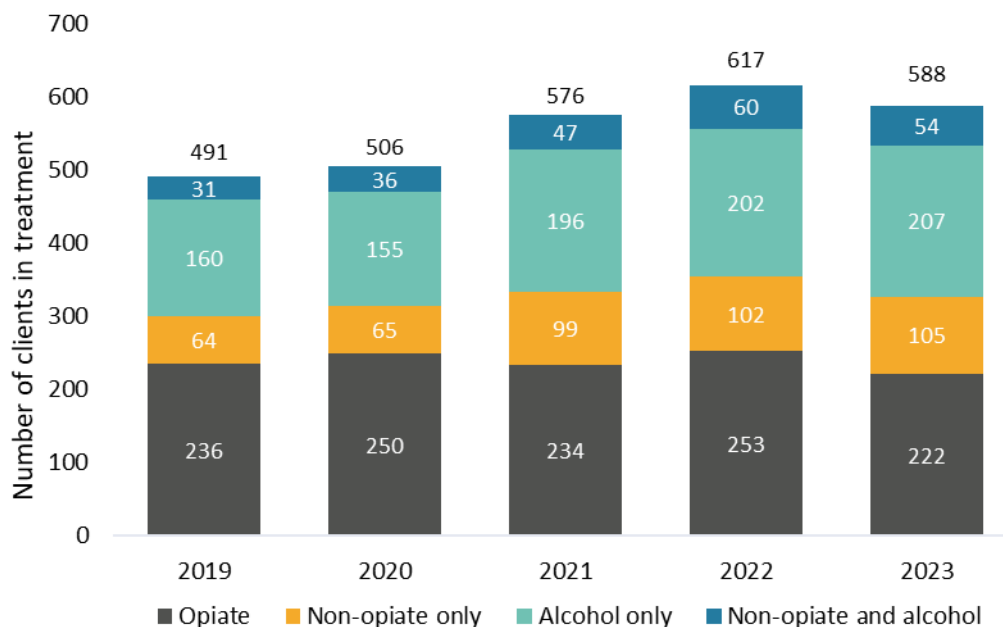
**Table 7: Fenland residents who were in treatment, or who successfully completed treatment in 2023**

<b>Clients grouped by substance</b>	<b>Count of clients in 2022</b>	<b>Count of clients in 2023</b>	<b>Percentage of clients in 2023</b>	<b>% change between 2022 and 2023</b>
Opiate	253	222	38%	-12%
Non-opiate only	102	105	18%	+3%
Alcohol only	202	207	35%	+2%
Non-opiate and alcohol	60	54	9%	-10%
Total Number in Treatment	617	588	100%	-5%
Successful completions	170	171	-	+1%

Source: Change Grow Live (CGL)

Note: The above figures reflect service users residing in Fenland, and does not reflect the location of the treatment service.

**Figure 33: Fenland residents in treatment for substance misuse, by year and substance type**



Source: Change Grow Live (CGL)

## 11. Offending

### 11.1. Summary

Data sharing and analysis of adult and young offenders remains limited. In particular greater understanding of the needs and potential interventions to reduce re-offending for the local Fenland cohorts would be beneficial. The profile for adult offenders known to probation remains relatively consistent with previous analysis; with males over 35 accounting for the largest proportion of the cohort. In terms of young offenders known to YOS there has been a large increase in the number of female offenders in Fenland in the most recent year.

Data on adult and young offenders could be further developed in order for the CSP to identify where further activity might enable further reductions in crime and disorder.

## 11.2. Probation Cohort Profile

The Probation Service have provided a caseload profile for individuals on probation in Fenland as of 18/01/2024. There were 328 people on probation with a home location in Fenland.

The table below presents the probation assessed risks of reoffending/serious harm for the cohort in Fenland. Just over a quarter (27%) of individuals in the Fenland probation caseload were assessed as at high or very high risk of reoffending.

**Table 8: Probation assessed risk of reoffending for Fenland's probation caseload**

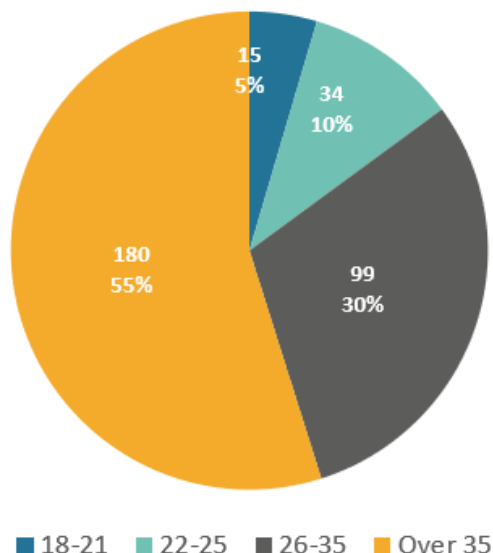
Statistic	Low	Medium	High	Very High	Not assessed
Risk of reoffending - count	144	95	63	26	N/A
Risk of reoffending - percentage	44%	29%	19%	8%	N/A

Notes:

The Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS) is a proven predictor of re-offending based only on static risks – age, gender, and criminal history.

The age profile for the Fenland cohort is presented in the chart below. Over 35's account for over half (55%) of the caseload. Just under a third (30%) of the cohort were aged 26-35 with 15% being in the younger age groups between 18-25.

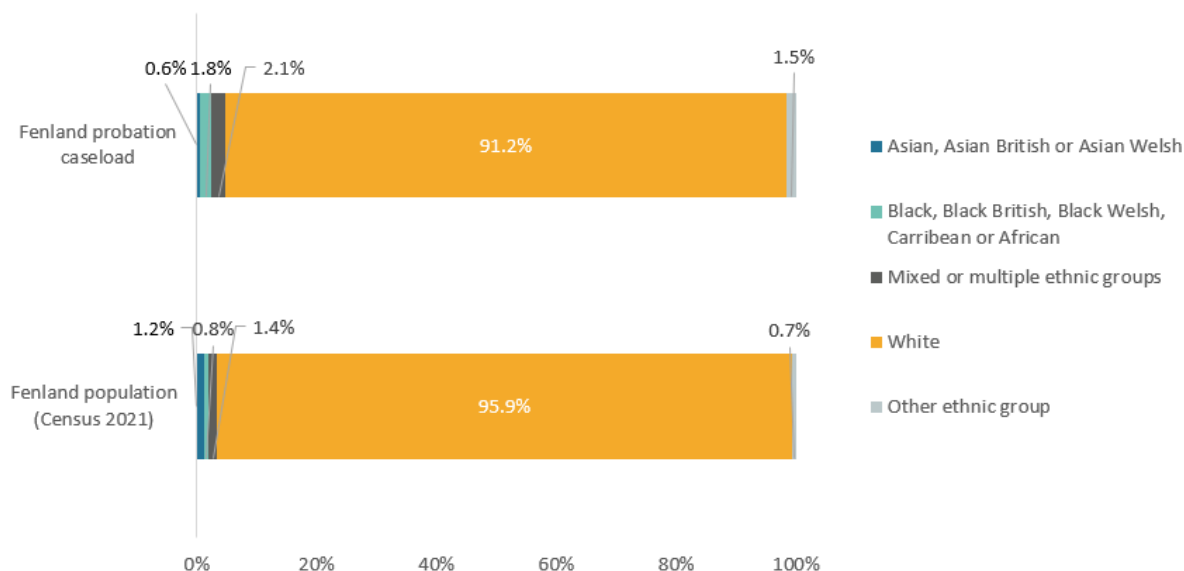
**Figure 34: Age breakdown for individuals active on the Fenland probation caseload (as of 18/01/2024)**



Males account for the vast majority of individuals on the Fenland probation caseload at 91%.

Ethnic group was either not stated or refused for 3% of individuals on the Fenland probation caseload. The figure below shows the ethnicity breakdown for the 319 individuals where ethnic group was recorded, alongside the breakdown for the Fenland population (2021 census). This shows that the white ethnic group is slightly underrepresented in the probation caseload, accounting for 91% compared to 96% of the local population.

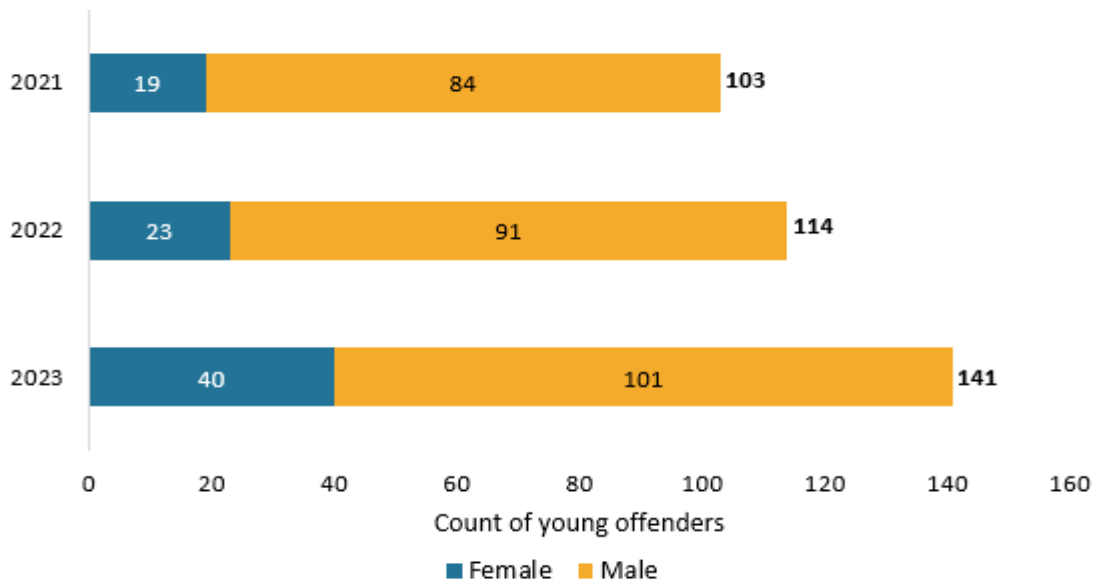
**Figure 35: Ethnicity breakdown for individuals active on the Fenland probation caseload (as of 18/01/2024) and the Census 2021 population**



### 11.3. Youth Offending Service (YOS) Cohort Profile

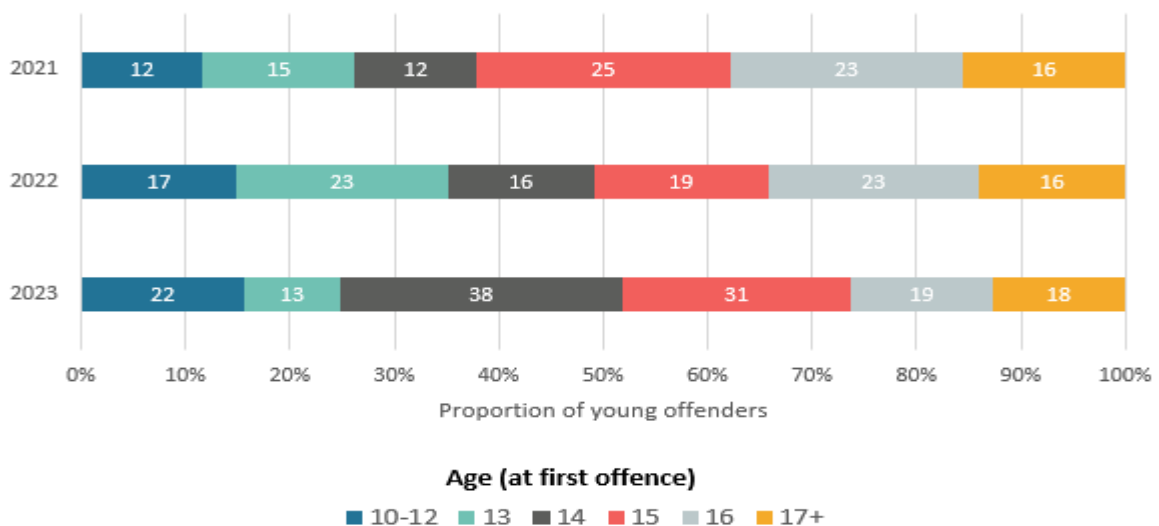
The total count of unique offenders in the Fenland YOS cohort has increased by 37% between 2021 and 2023, rising from 103 individuals to 141. As illustrated in the figure below, the cohort has been predominantly male over the past three years, although the proportion of female offenders has increased from 18% in 2021 to 28% in 2023.

**Figure 36: The total annual counts of unique offenders in the Fenland YOS cohort from the 2021-2023**



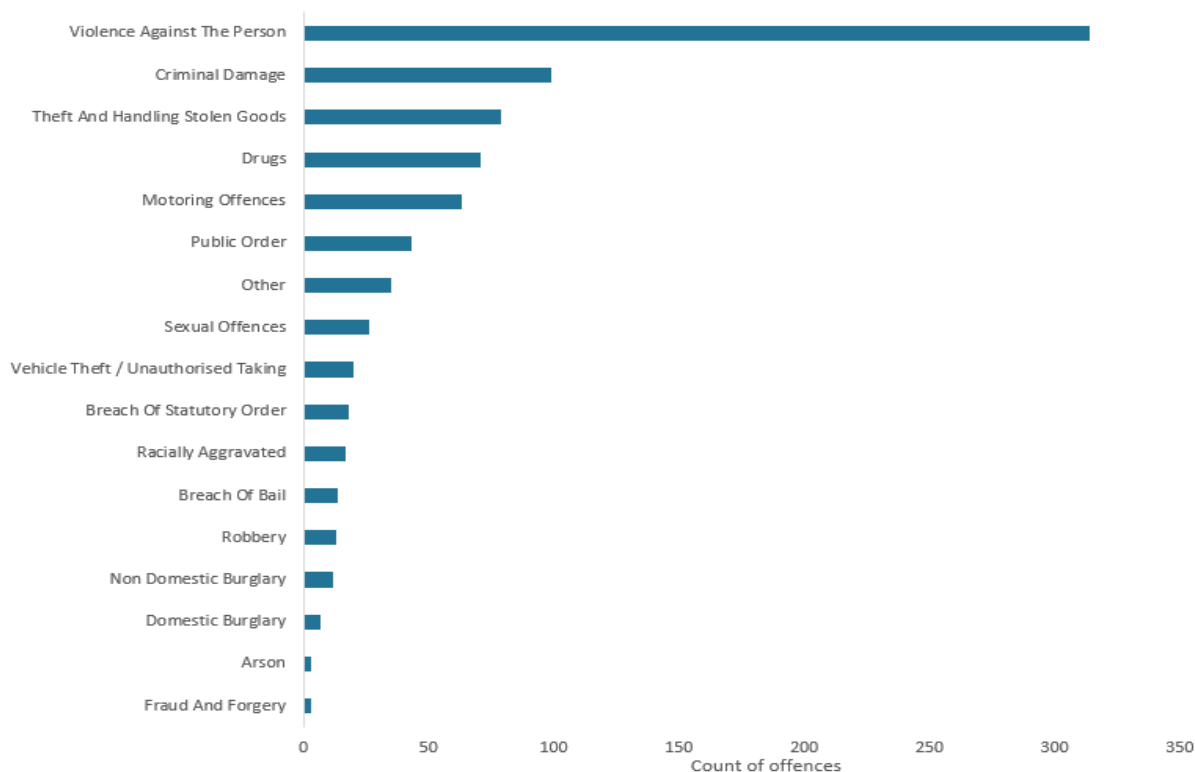
The age profile (at the time of first offence) for the YOS cohort is presented in the figure below. This shows that individuals are fairly evenly spread between the ages. Over time there has been a slight reduction in the older age groups with 15+ accounting for 48% in 2023 down from 62% in 2021. The proportion of 10-14 year olds has increased from 38% to 52%.

**Figure 37: Age of first offence for Fenland YOS cohort for 2021-2023**



The figure below shows the offence count by offence type for the YOS cohort in in the last three years (2021-2023). This highlights that violence against the person is the primary offence type for young offenders, accounting for 38% of all offences. Criminal damage and theft and handling stolen goods are the next most common offence types accounting for 12% and 9% respectively. Drugs and motoring offences each accounted for 8% of total offences.

**Figure 38: Primary offence type for young offenders in the Fenland YOS cohort, 2021-2023**



## 12. Crimes that impact the community

### 12.1. Summary

Whilst some offending has high visibility to the community it does not all come with equal risk of harm. ASB, public order offences and deliberate fires have all shown a reduction in the latest year locally. Deliberate fires which can carry a serious risk of injury have been decreasing over the longer term nationally.

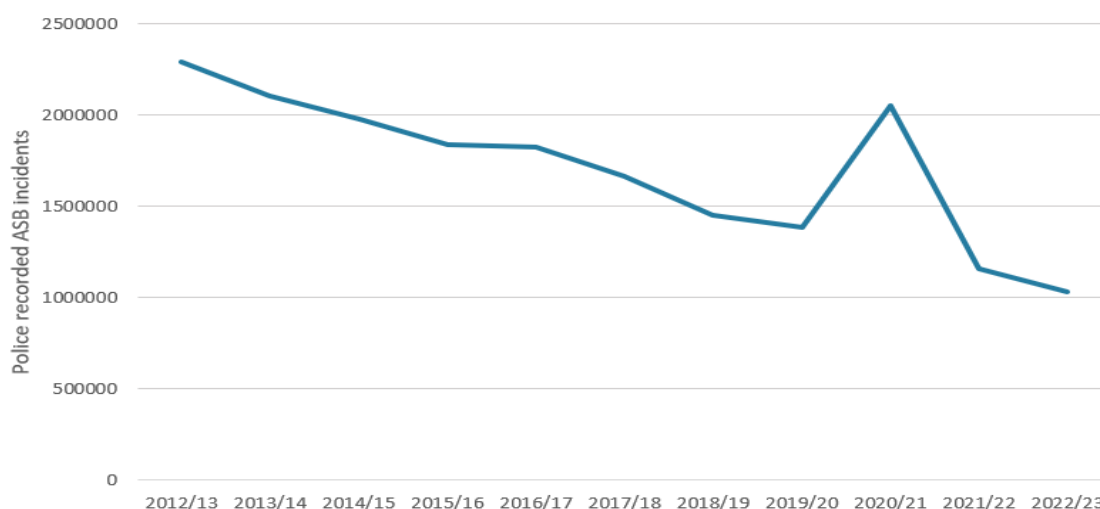
Hate crime also saw a reduction compared to last year. The medium-term trend had been year on year increases and as this is an often under-reported crime this decrease may not represent a true reduction but a drop in reporting or recording. Hate crime has the potential to have a high impact not just on an individual victim but a wider community. **It is recommended that the CSP consider how it can access residents in order to gain a greater understanding of peoples experience of hate crime to gain a better understanding of the local picture.**

## 12.2. ASB

### 12.2.1. National Trend

The most recent Office for National Statistics (ONS) report states there was an 8% decrease in recorded ASB incidents in England and Wales in the year ending September 2023 (ONS, 2024a). This continued the decreasing trend prior to the spike during the pandemic (see Figure 3933).

**Figure 39: Police recorded ASB incidents in England and Wales, 2012/13 – 2022/23, financial year (year ending March)**



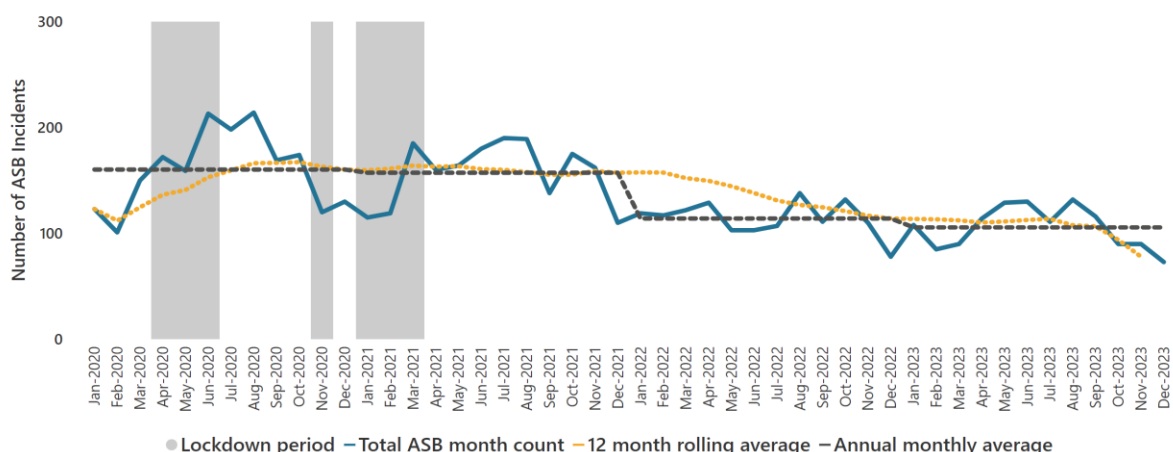
Source: (ONS, 2023d)

### 12.2.2. Local Trend

Since fluctuations linked to the Covid-19 pandemic seen in 2020 and 2021, ASB has been on a downward trajectory in Fenland. The average number of monthly ASB incidents for Fenland in 2023 was 105.7, 7% lower than 2022 (114.1 incidents per month). The total number of ASB incidents in 2023 was 35% lower than in 2019. The rate of ASB incidents per 1,000 population in Fenland district in 2023 was 12.4 in the year ending December 2023. This is higher than Cambridgeshire which had 10.8.



**Figure 40: Police recorded ASB incidents in Fenland, January 2020 to December 2023**



### 12.2.3. ASB Type

Nuisance ASB, which refers to incidents which impact on the local community in general, consistently account for the majority of ASB recorded in Fenland (approximately 80% in 2023). There have been minor decreases in the proportion of Environmental ASB incidents since 2020, with no change in the last year.

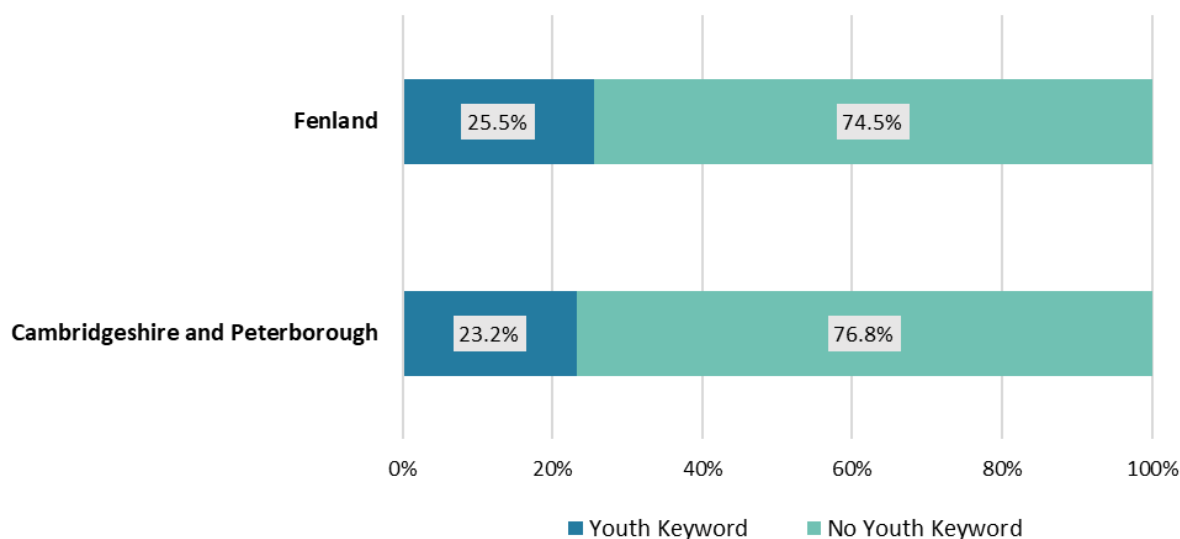
The majority of personal ASB incidents in the year ending December 2023 were categorised as either ‘no risk’ or ‘standard risk’ (77.3%). 22.7% of incidents were classified as ‘medium risk’.

### 12.2.4. ASB involving young people

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.

As highlighted in the figure below, a quarter (25.5%) of ASB recorded in Fenland in the year ending December 2023 had a youth related keyword. This is slightly above the proportion for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole (23.2%). This proportion in Fenland has dropped since 2022, when youth keyword incidents accounted for 29.6% of all ASB.

**Figure 41: Proportion of police recorded ASB incidents in 2023 which contain a youth related keyword**



ASB does not occur uniformly across the district. Youth related ASB incidents followed a similar pattern to overall incidents across wards. However, there were some notable wards that digressed from this trend. For example, March wards saw notable decreases in youth related ASB. In March North ward youth related ASB decreased from 33 in 2022 down to 9 in 2023 (-24 incidents), whereas non-youth related ASB decreased by just 8 incidents. A similar pattern was seen in March East (-30 youth ASB incidents, versus -12 non-youth ASB incidents), whilst March West saw an increase in non-youth related ASB (+7 incidents), with youth-related ASB decreasing by 32 incidents.

#### 12.2.5. ASB reported to Fenland

Fenland District Council has a recording system for ASB cases called Uniform. It adopted the system in mid-May 2023. The data supplied to the Team covers from the middle of May 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The data shows similar patterns as the police data with the majority of cases categorised as nuisance.

**Table 9: Number of ASB Cases recorded by FDC between Mid-May 2023 and 31st March 2024, by type**

ASB Type	Number of cases	Proportion of total
Personal	15	16%
Nuisance	55	60%
Environmental	21	23%
Total	91	100%

Source: Fenland District Council

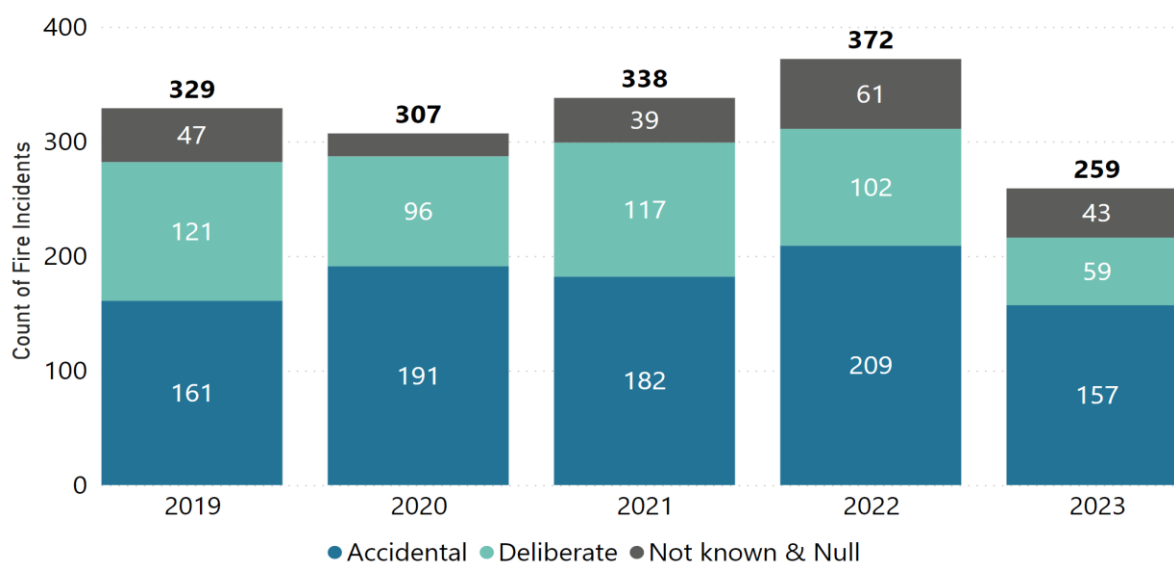
## 12.3. Deliberate Fires

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

The latest available national data from the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) (reported by year ending March) shows that over the last ten years the total number of deliberate fires whilst fluctuating have remained relatively stable. Between 2021/22 and 2022/23 the number of deliberate fires attended increased by 15% to 79,982 (Home Office, 2023b).

The figure below displays the number of fires in Fenland broken down by cause for the past five years, this shows that all fire types saw a reduction in the last year. Deliberate fires decreased by 42.2%, down from 102 in 2022 to 59 in 2023. Deliberate fires accounted for 22.8% of all fires in 2023 compared to 27.4% in 2022.

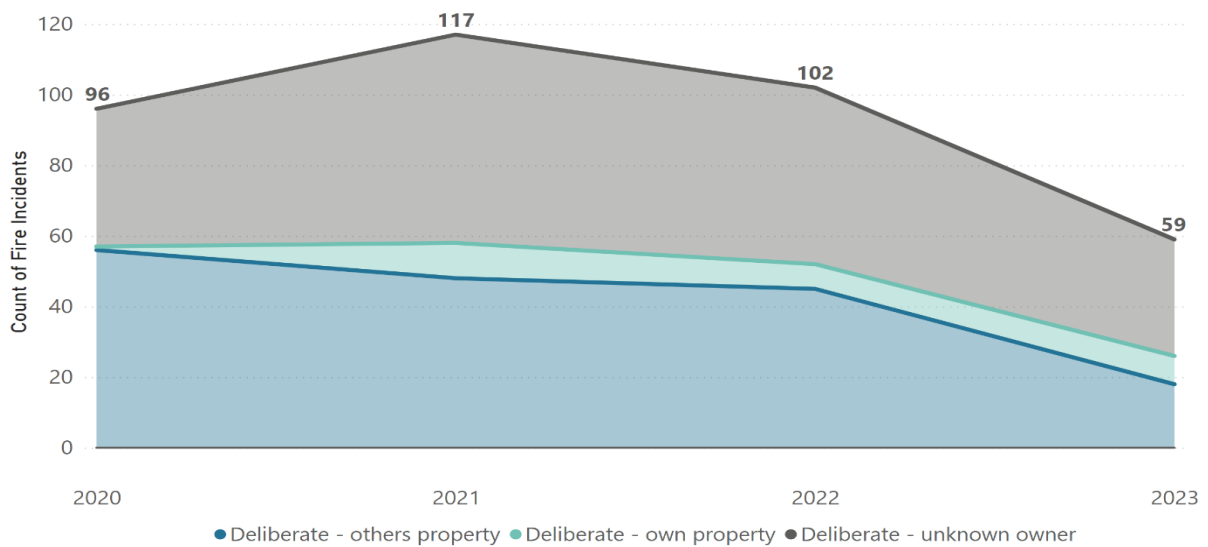
**Figure 42: Count of fires in Fenland by cause, 2019 - 2023**



The national trend showed a decrease during covid with the latest year showing (2022/23) rises compared to last year heading towards pre-pandemic levels. This is not the pattern seen locally in Fenland, where deliberate fires have decreased year on year since 2021. It should be noted that the local data is analysed by calendar year whilst national data is released for financial years.

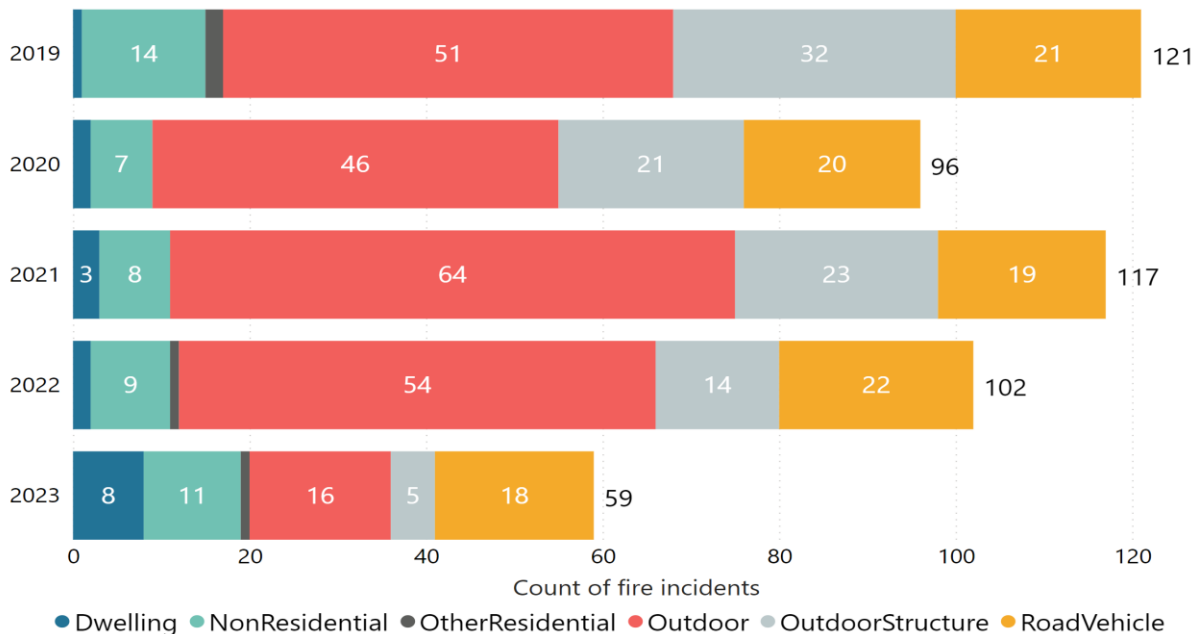
Deliberate fires are broken down into 3 types. 'other property', 'own property' and 'unknown owner'. Both 'others property' and 'unknown owner' fires saw large decreases of 27 and 17 yearly incidents respectably between 2022 and 2023 while 'own property' fires increased by 1 during the same period.

**Figure 43: Breakdown of deliberate fires in Fenland, 2020 to 2023**



The figure below shows the property category for deliberate fires and shows that ‘road vehicle’ and ‘outdoor’ were the biggest recorded categories, at 18 and 16 respectively in 2023. Outdoors fires saw a notable reduction in 2023 year, likely linked to the summer heatwave in 2022, whilst vehicle fires remained consistent. ‘Dwelling’ and ‘non-residential’ were the only property categories that saw increases.

**Figure 44: Breakdown in property category of deliberate fires in Fenland, 2019 – 2023**



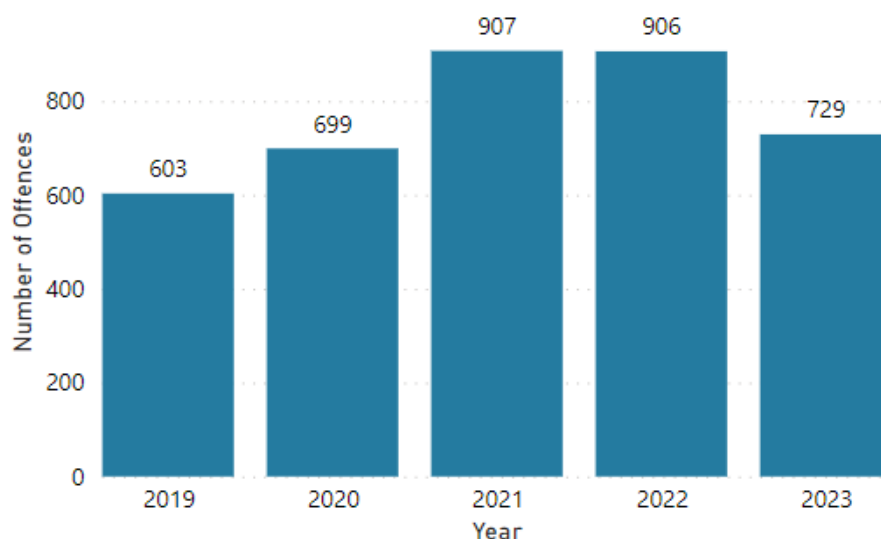
## 12.4. Public Order

Public order offences refer to incidents of violence and/or intimidation committed by individuals or groups in public. One of the offence sub-types is ‘Racially or religiously

aggravated harassment, alarm or distress' and as such there is a notable cross over with hate crimes.

Public order offences were highlighted in last year's strategic assessment as increasing between 2019 and 2022. Public order offences in Fenland have notably decreased in the last year, albeit at an elevated level compared to prior to the pandemic (+21%). There were 729 offences recorded in 2023, down 20% from 2022.

**Figure 45: Annual trend in police recorded public order offences in Fenland, 2019 to 2023**



In order to give an insight into the type of offences within this crime category, the breakdown in short title for public order offences recorded in Fenland between January 2023 – December 2023 is displayed in the table below.

Offences relating to harassment, alarm and distress accounted for the majority of offences, followed by fear or provocation of violence and the breach of criminal behaviour order. Two main offences account for three quarters of public order offences. These are;

- Sec 4a POA Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress – 320 offences
- Sec 4 POA Fear or provocation of violence – 239 offences

Specific offences that were relating to racially or religiously motivated accounted for 36 offences.

## 12.5. Hate Crime

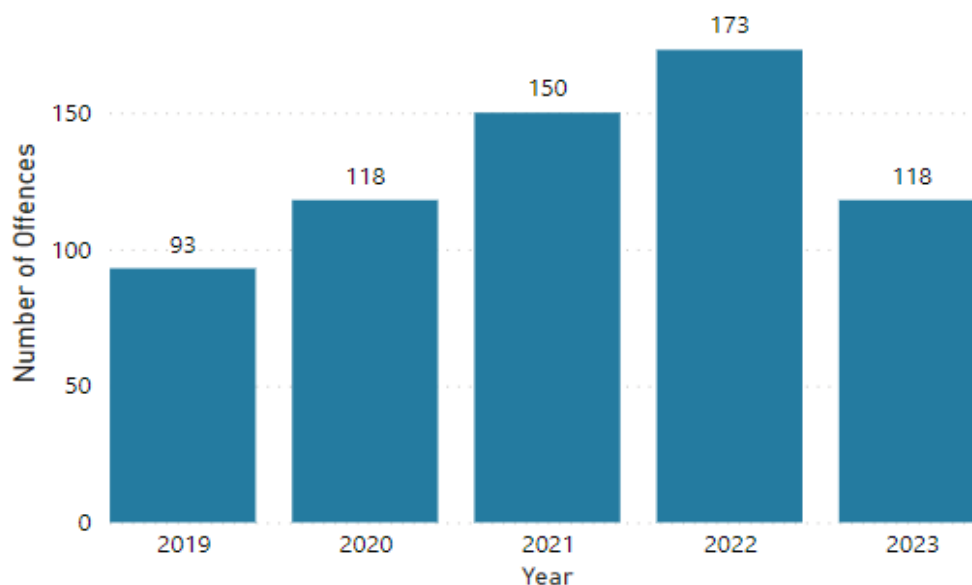
A hate crime is defined as *'any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic'* (Home Office, 2022). The police can apply a hate

related marker to any offence where it appears to be motivated by one or more of the five monitored hate characteristics; race or ethnicity, religion or beliefs, disability sexual orientation and transgender identity. Improvements in police crime recording and improvements in the identification of what constitutes a hate crime should be considered in the interpretation of hate crime trend data (Home Office, 2022).

The latest release of national data shows that levels of hate crime fell slightly (5%) in 2022/23 (YE March), the first annual reduction noted since comparable records were first collected in 2013 (Home Office, 2023c). Racially motivated offences accounted for the majority of hate crimes (70%), although racially motivated hate crimes reduced by 6% compared to the previous year (Home Office, 2023c). Transgender hate crimes showed a contrasting pattern to the reductions seen in religious, sexual orientation and disability hate crimes in 2022/23, with an increase of 11% recorded.

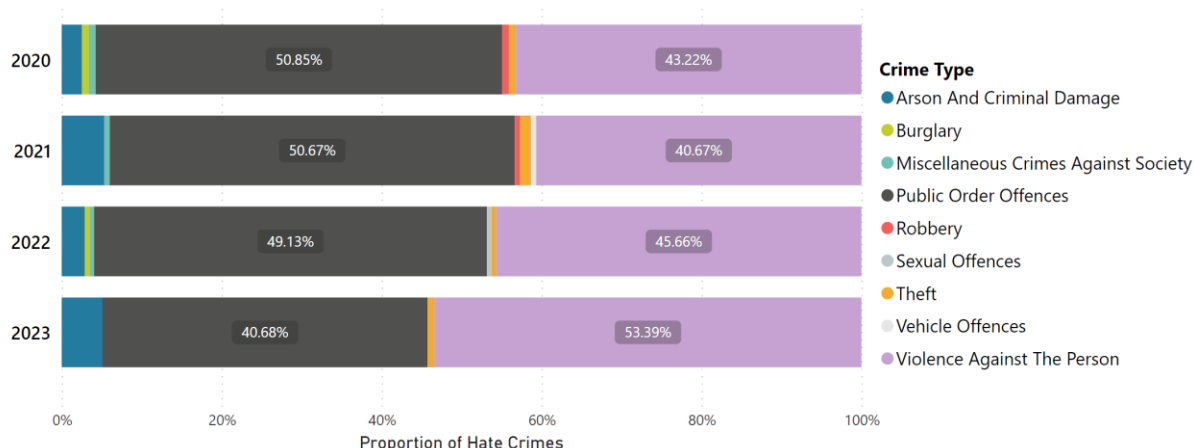
As shown in Figure 46 below, after a trend of increasing hate crime tagged offences in Fenland between 2019 and 2022, 2023 saw a decrease of 32% compared to the previous year (-55 offences), down to the level seen in 2020.

**Figure 46: Annual trend in police recorded hate crime offences in Fenland, 2019 to 2023**



The figure below shows the offence type breakdown for all hate crimes recorded in Fenland in the last four years. The majority of hate crimes in 2023 were Violence Against the Person (VAP) and public order offences, combined accounting for 94% of offences. The breakdown has fluctuated over time with a notable increase in the proportion of VAP over the last three years. Further analysis would be needed to determine to investigate this shift towards VAP hate crimes.

**Figure 47: Proportion of offence types for all Hate Crimes, Fenland, 2020 to 2023**



## 13. Geographic analysis

### 13.1. Total Crime

The table below displays the total crime count for all Fenland wards in the last 2 years, and in the pre-pandemic year 2019, as well as the percentage change in comparison to 2023.

Wisbech South has consistently accounted for the most crimes in Fenland over the last few years; accounting for 21% in 2023. The ward saw little change in the number of offences in the last year (-7 offences), but has increased by 38% since 2019 (+474 offences).

March North, which accounts for the second most offences (10%), saw a notable increase of 17% in the last year (+116 offences), exceeding its 2019 count by 35% (+212 offences).

Whittlesey North West has also seen a notable increase of 19% in the last year (+ 46 offences), exceeding its 2019 count by 68% (+117 offences).

A notable decrease was seen in Chatteris and North Manea in the last year (-16%, - 69 offences), representing a 21% decrease since 2019 (-97 offences).

**Table 10: Count and change in police recorded offences in Fenland by ward, 2019, 2022 and 2023**

Ward	2019 count	2022 count	2023 count	% 2023 share	% change 2022 - 2023	% change 2019 - 2023
Wisbech South	1252	1733	1726	21%	0%	+38%
March North	606	702	818	10%	+17%	+35%
Wisbech Riverside	742	816	779	10%	-5%	+5%
Wisbech Walsoken & Waterlees	458	581	515	6%	-11%	+12%
March West & Benwick	505	488	485	6%	-1%	-4%
March East	388	456	412	5%	-10%	+6%
Chatteris North & Manea	463	435	366	5%	-16%	-21%
Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary	357	358	343	4%	-4%	-4%
Wisbech North	242	310	314	4%	+1%	+30%
Leverington & Wisbech Rural	267	328	313	4%	-5%	+17%
Whittlesey South	308	342	303	4%	-11%	-2%
Elm & Christchurch	228	275	297	4%	+8%	+30%
Whittlesey North West	171	242	288	4%	+19%	+68%
Chatteris South	340	302	283	3%	-6%	-17%
Whittlesey East & Villages	215	296	276	3%	-7%	+28%
March South	232	272	271	3%	0%	+17%
Doddington & Wimblington	174	198	185	2%	-7%	+6%
Whittlesey Lattersey	132	135	138	2%	+2%	+5%
<b>All Fenland</b>	<b>7080</b>	<b>8269</b>	<b>8112</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>+15%</b>

### 13.2. Acquisitive crime

The most common ward for residential burglaries in 2023 was Wisbech South, accounting for 21%. The count in this ward has increased since last year (28 offences in 2022), but matches the count from 2019.

The main hotspot for shoplifting offences was the Horse Fair / Market Place area of Wisbech (LSOA E01033112, with 187 offences in 2023), accounting for 36% of shoplifting offences in Fenland in 2023. The count of offences in this area has



increased by half since 2022 (+63 offences, +51%), and has doubled since 2019 (+95 offences, +103%).

The findings from the geographic analysis of “Other theft” in Fenland are summarised below:

- The ward with the most offences was Wisbech South, accounting for 41% of “other theft” offences in Fenland in 2023.
- This large count of other theft offences in this ward was primarily driven by a single hotspot; the Wisbech recycling centre (251 offences). This accounted for:
  - 79% of other theft offences in Wisbech South,
  - 32% of other theft offences in Fenland in 2023,
  - 11% of all acquisitive offences in Fenland in 2023.
  - The CSP is aware of the issues at Wisbech recycling centre, and the location has been subject to intervention, involving work with private landowners, the Recycle Centre Operators, the police, and Fenland District Council.
- Little change was seen in Wisbech South in the last year, but there was a more than two-fold increase between 2019 and 2023 (+216%, +216 offences).
- The majority of wards saw decreases since 2019 (11 out of 18).
- The largest percentage change in the last year was a more a three-fold increase in Wisbech North (+314%, +24 offences), primarily “theft if not classified elsewhere” offences.
- The biggest volume change in the last year was a 59% decrease in Chatteris and North Manea (-59%, -41 offences).

## 13.3. ASB

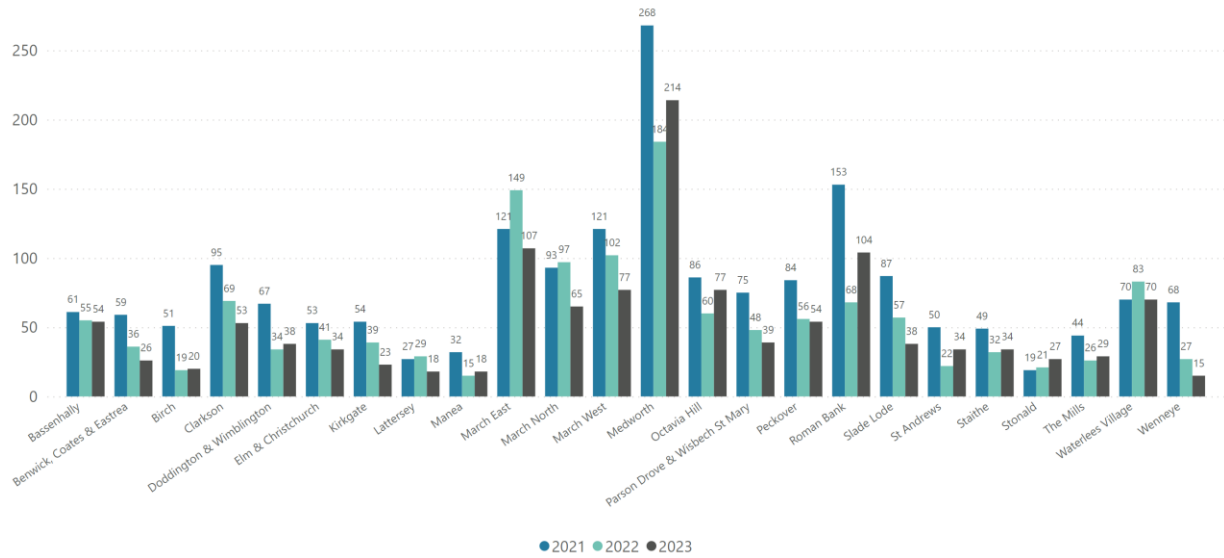
Table 11: ASB incidents in Fenland wards in 2022 and 2023

Ward (2021 Ward Boundary)	2022	2022 percentage	2023	2023 percentage	Percentage point change between 2022 and 2023
Bassenhally	55	4.0%	54	4.3%	+0.2%
Benwick, Coates & Eastrea	36	2.6%	26	2.1%	-0.6%
Birch	19	1.4%	20	1.6%	+0.2%
Clarkson	69	5.0%	53	4.2%	-0.9%
Doddington & Wimblington	34	2.5%	38	3.0%	+0.5%
Elm & Christchurch	41	3.0%	34	2.7%	-0.3%
Kirkgate	39	2.8%	23	1.8%	-1.0%
Lattersey	29	2.1%	18	1.4%	-0.7%
Manea	15	1.1%	18	1.4%	+0.3%
March East	149	10.9%	107	8.4%	-2.4%
March North	97	7.1%	65	5.1%	-2.0%
March West	102	7.5%	77	6.1%	-1.4%
Medworth	184	13.4%	214	16.9%	+3.4%
Octavia Hill	60	4.4%	77	6.1%	+1.7%
Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary	48	3.5%	39	3.1%	-0.4%
Peckover	56	4.1%	54	4.3%	+0.2%
Roman Bank	68	5.0%	104	8.2%	+3.2%
Slade Lode	57	4.2%	38	3.0%	-1.2%
St Andrews	22	1.6%	34	2.7%	1.1%
Staithe	32	2.3%	34	2.7%	+0.3%
Stonald	21	1.5%	27	2.1%	+0.6%
The Mills	26	1.9%	29	2.3%	+0.4%
Waterlees Village	83	6.1%	70	5.5%	-0.5%
Wenneye	27	2.0%	15	1.2%	-0.8%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1369</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1268</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	-

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

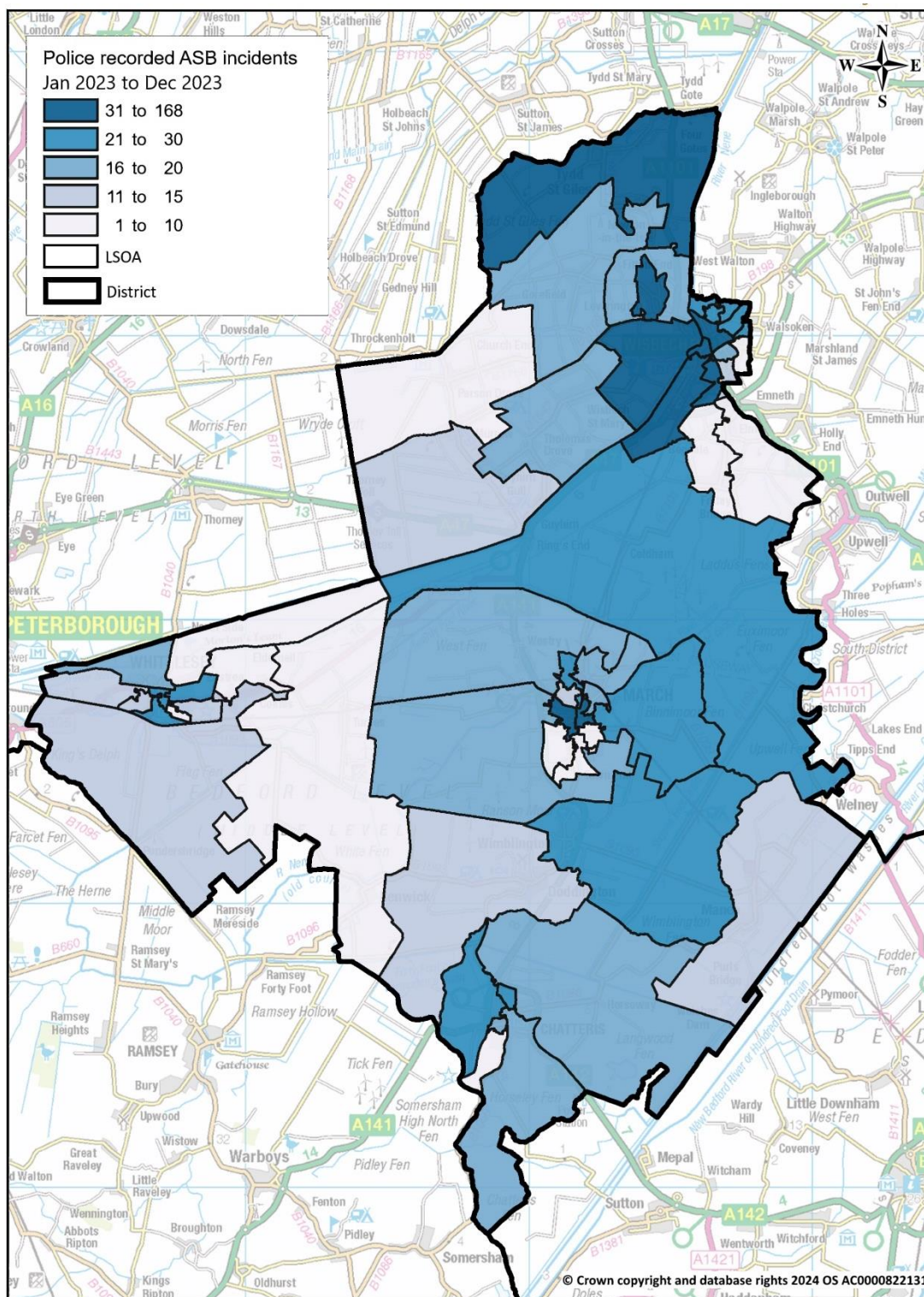
The figure below shows the change in incidents yearly between 2021 and 2023 by ward. The wards around March have seen a notable decrease. March East and March North saw a temporary increase in 2022, but decreased by 42, 32 incidents respectively in 2023. March West saw annual decreases between 2021 and 2023, equating to a reduction of 44 incidents. Increases were seen in Medworth and Roman Bank in the last year (of 30 incidents and 36 incidents respectively), but these both remained below counts for 2021 (by 54 and 49 incidents respectively).

**Figure 48: Police recorded ASB in Fenland annually by Ward (2021 ward boundary), 2021 to 2023**



The thematic map overleaf presents the annual count of ASB incidents at the lower level geography of LSOA. This illustrates that the LSOA's with the highest levels of ASB (over 30 incidents) are primarily located in the north of Fenland and the market towns of Wisbech and March.

Figure 49: Police recorded ASB in Fenland, 2023

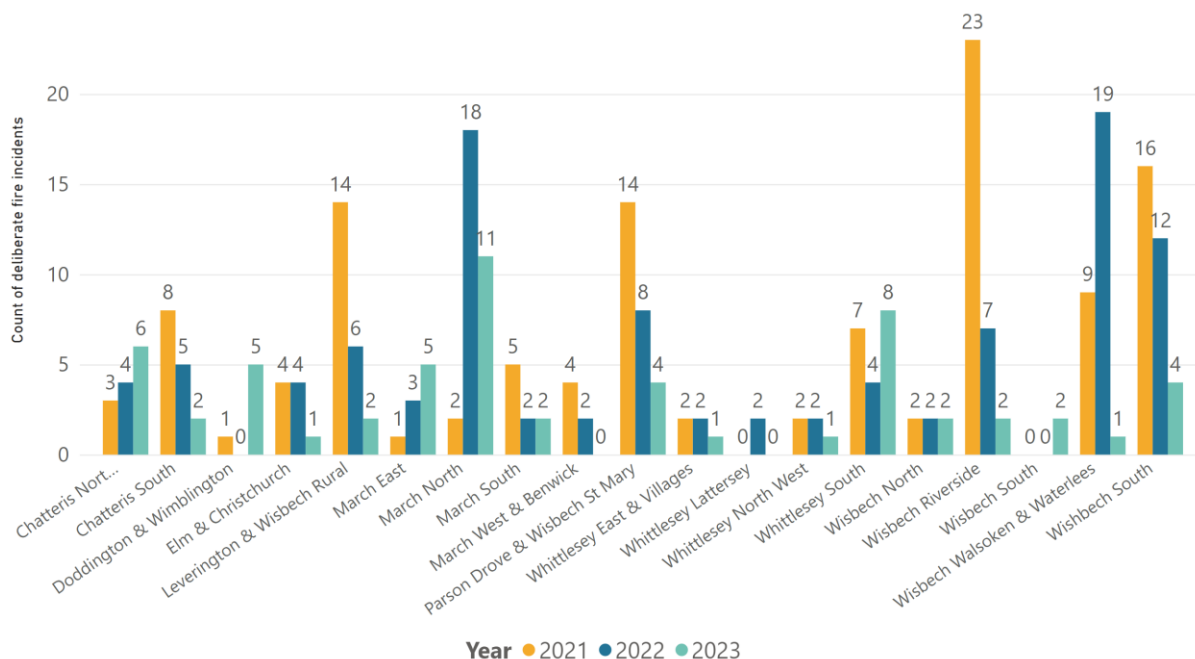


### 13.4. Deliberate Fires

The highest count of deliberate fires between January 2021 and December 2023 were in northern Fenland around Wisbech, and in central Fenland around March. When comparing deliberate fire incidents in the last 3 years, there has been some

large changes in specific Fenland wards. Wisbech & Waterlees ward for example saw a decrease from 19 incidents in 2022 to 1 in 2023 while Whittlesey North West increased from 4 in 2022 to 8 in 2023. Overall, most wards in Fenland had fewer deliberate fires compared to the previous 2 years.

**Figure 50: Breakdown of yearly deliberate fires by ward, 2021 to 2023**

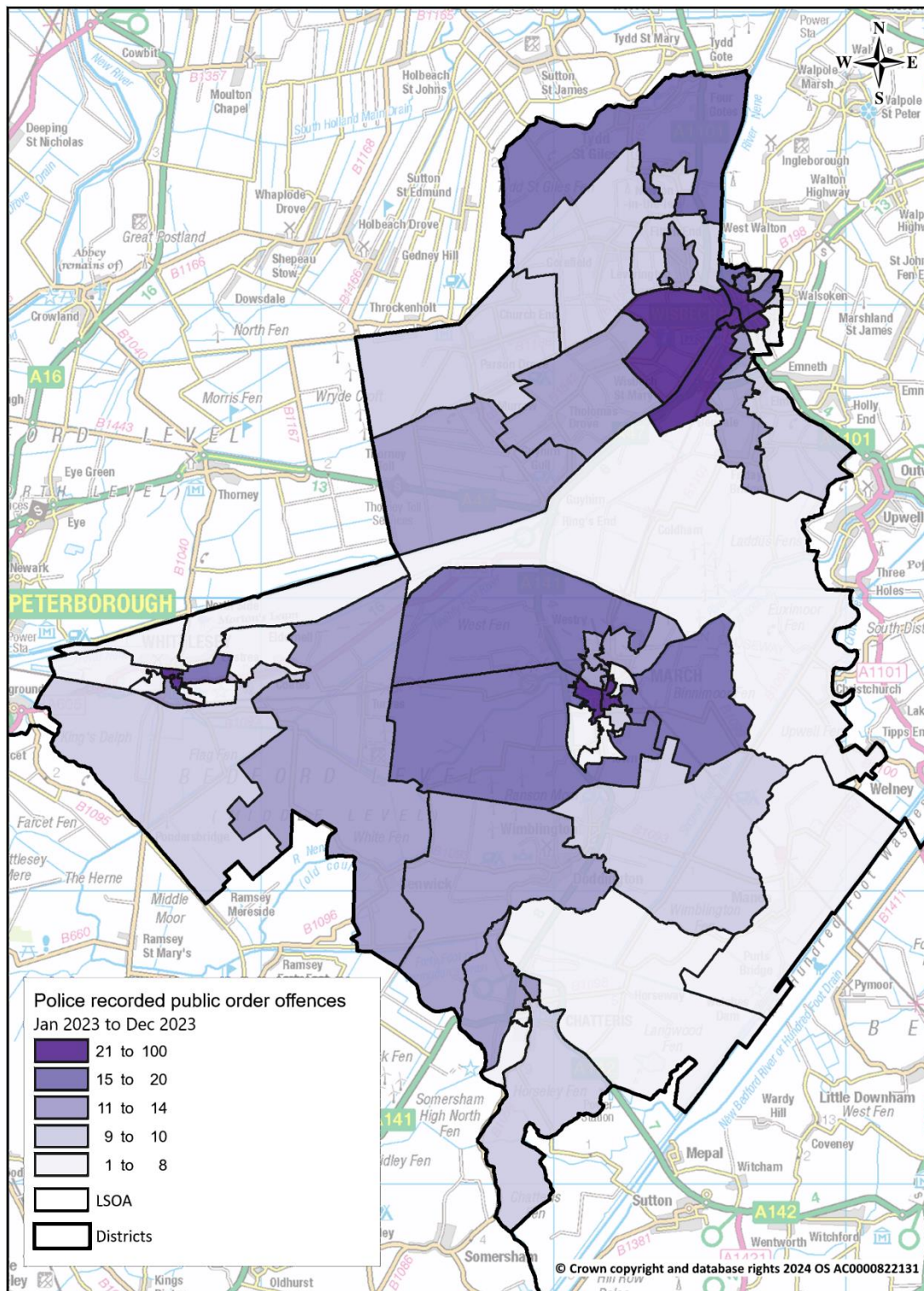


### 13.5. Public Order

The thematic map overleaf presents the annual count of public order offences at the lower level geography of LSOA. This illustrates that the LSOA’s with the highest levels of public order offences (over 20 incidents) are primarily located in the north of Fenland and the market towns of Wisbech, March and Whittlesey.



**Figure 51: Thematic map of public order offences by LSOA in Fenland, January 2023 to December 2023**



## 14. Glossary

**Table 12: Glossary**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)	“Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person' (Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 and Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011).” (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, n.d., a)
Acquisitive Crime	Acquisitive crime is a broad crime category, encompassing a wide range of offences, including burglary, robbery, theft and vehicle offences.
ASB categories: personal, environmental and nuisance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.</li> <li>• Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person’s actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.</li> <li>• Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, n.d., a).</li> </ul>
Accidental Fires	Where the motive for the fire is thought to be accidental or is unknown.
Arson	The criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property.
BeNCH CRC	Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BeNCH) Community Rehabilitation Cohort (CRC).
Catalytic converters	“Catalytic converters are devices fitted to vehicle exhausts to reduce the amount of dangerous gases emitted. They are often targeted by thieves as they contain valuable metals and can be removed in less than a minute.” (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, n.d., b)
CCE/CSE	Child Criminal Exploitation/Child Sexual Exploitation
Child Sexual Exploitation	“...where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

Term	Definition
	The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology". (Department for Education, 2018)
Coercive Control	"...act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim." (Women's aid, n.d.)
County Lines	"A term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons." (Home Office, 2023d)
CRG	Cambridgeshire Research Group
CSEW	Crime Survey for England and Wales
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DASVP	The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership
Deliberate Fires	"Where the motive was thought to be or suspected to be deliberate." Whilst deliberate fires can include arson incidents, not all deliberate fires are arson (Home Office, 2023e).
Dip sample	Methodology for examining data. A suitable proportion of records from a specified period are sampled (ideally at random) and then reports are read in detail to ascertain if there are common themes across those records.
Domestic Abuse Crime	Domestic Abuse Crime is not limited to specific offences. Any police recorded crime can be flagged as Domestic Abuse related and as such would be counted as a 'Domestic Abuse Crime'.
Domestic Abuse Incident	"A (police recorded) report of a domestic incident, which occurs in either a public or private place." Recording such incidents enables data to capture those incidents where the circumstances do not amount to a notifiable crime i.e., not all domestic abuse incidents result in a crime being recorded." (Home Office, 2011, p. 19).
Domestic Homicide Review	"When a person is murdered in the context of



Term	Definition
	domestic violence or abuse, a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is usually carried out. The responsibility for DHR's sits with the relevant district Community Safety Partnership (part of the District Council). The Community Safety Partnership will commission an independent Chair and Author for the DHR and organize a panel of appropriate professionals (membership dependent on the case).” (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough DASV Partnership, n.d.)
ED	Emergency Department
FDC	Fenland District Council
FRS	Fire and Rescue Service
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
Hate Crime	“A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone’s: race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability. These aspects are known as ‘protected characteristics’. A hate crime can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and damage to property. A hate incident is behaviour which isn’t a crime but which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on the 5 protected characteristics.” (HM Government, n.d.)
HMICFRS	Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services
IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisers)	“IDVAs provide emotional and practical advice, guidance and support to help you and your family to become and remain safe. They will seek ways to empower you to make positive safe choices and they will liaise with other professionals on your behalf. The support they provide could include help for you through a court process, help to access safe accommodation and advocate on your behalf.” (Safer Futures, n.d.).
LSOA; Lower Super Output Area	An LSOA is a geographical area, usually comprising of between 400 to 1200 households, and a resident population of between 1000 and 3000 people (ONS, 2023e).
MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference)	Where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), probation

Term	Definition
	and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors (Safe Lives, 2013).
Modern Slavery	“Modern slavery is a complex crime that covers all forms of slavery, trafficking and exploitation. Trafficking includes transporting, recruiting or harbouring an individual with a view to them being exploited.” The 5 main types of exploitation that victims of modern slavery may experience are: labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting (ONS, 2020).
National Referral Mechanism (for Modern slavery) (NRM)	“The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support”. Only staff at designated first responder organisations can make online NRM or Duty to Notify (DtN) referral. An NRM referral is made for those under 18, and for adults who have consented to be referred. A DtN referral is for those who have not consented to a NRM referral (Home Office; UK Visas and Immigration, 2022).
NCA	National Crime Agency
ONS	Office for National Statistics
OPCC	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Other Theft	Other theft offences involve the theft of property which is not taken directly from a person or shop. Some subcategories include; blackmail, theft by an employee, theft of mail, making off without payment etc.
Sextortion	“where threats are made to publish sexual photographs or videos in order to extort money from the victim.” (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, n.d., c)
Substance misuse: Opiate and Non-opiate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opiate – e.g., heroin</li> <li>• Non-opiate – e.g., cannabis, crack and ecstasy (Public Health England, 2020).</li> </ul>
Theft offences	In this document, when discussing figures from the CSEW, theft offences are defined as theft from the person, other theft of personal property, domestic burglary, vehicle theft, and other household theft (ONS, 2024a). When discussing national police recorded theft offences, “theft”, or “all theft offences”, includes all acquisitive offences except for robbery (ONS, 2024b). When discussing local police recorded theft offences, this refers to the acquisitive crime group called “theft offences”,

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
	which includes bicycle theft, “other theft”, shoplifting and “theft from the person”.
Ward	Wards (or electoral wards), are geographical areas used to elect local authority councillors (ONS, 2023e).
YE (Year ending)	The final month of the 12 month period measured.

## Appendix A: Technical Notes

### A.1. 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. It should be noted that Census 2021 was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic, which may have affected the data collected.

### A.2. Crime Rates

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

### A.3. CSEW Data

“The CSEW remains the best estimate of long-term trends in crimes against the household population for the crimes included in the survey. However, estimates for the year ending September 2022 and September 2023 should be interpreted with caution. The CSEW estimates presented for the year ending September 2022 are based on lower than usual interview numbers following the gradual return to face-to-face interviewing from October 2021 (20,980 respondents). Both years are subject to lower response rates, which may affect the quality of the estimates. The CSEW estimates have been temporarily suspended of their National Statistics status while we assess data quality since the pandemic. For more information, see the [Office for Statistics Regulation's Temporary suspension of National Statistics status for estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales note](#)” (ONS, 2024a).

Further notes:

- “CSEW data relate to people aged 16 years and over. PRC data relate to crimes against individuals (including children), households, businesses, and society.
- Data on knife or sharp instrument offences exclude Greater Manchester Police for the whole timeseries back to the year ending March 2011 and exclude Devon and Cornwall Police for the years ending September 2022 to September 2023.

- Estimates for fraud, theft, violent crime, and computer misuse are statistically significant at the 5% level. PRC figures are not subject to significance testing as they are not estimates but counts.” (ONS, 2024a)

## A.4. Fraud Offences

An explanation of police recorded fraud offence figures provided by the ONS:

“Fraud offences investigated by the police are recorded and collected by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) from Action Fraud, Cifas, and UK Finance. Data from Action Fraud exclude Devon and Cornwall Police because of a system change affecting their ability to provide accurate data. UK Finance and Cifas are not affected by this issue. For further information see [Section 15: Strengths and limitations](#).” (ONS, 2024a)

## A.5. Theft Offences

In this document, when discussing figures from the CSEW, theft offences are defined as theft from the person, other theft of personal property, domestic burglary, vehicle theft, and other household theft (ONS, 2024a). When discussing national police recorded theft offences, “theft”, or “all theft offences”, includes all acquisitive offences except for robbery (ONS, 2024b). When discussing local police recorded theft offences, this refers to the acquisitive crime group called “theft offences”, which includes bicycle theft, “other theft”, shoplifting and “theft from the person”.

## Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes

### **Figure 1: Estimated proportion of people or households who have experienced a crime in England and Wales, by crime type, year ending September 2023**

1. Data from the CSEW for the year ending September 2022 and September 2023 are not designated as [National Statistics](#).
2. Percentages for violence, robbery, theft from the person, fraud and computer misuse are quoted for people aged 16 years and over. Percentages for domestic burglary and criminal damage are quoted for households. Percentages for vehicle-related theft and bicycle theft are quoted for vehicle- or bicycle-owning households.
3. For all CSEW crime, including fraud and computer misuse, this is the estimated percentage of people aged 16 years and over who have been a victim of at least one personal crime or have been resident in a household that was a victim of at least one household crime.

**Figure 2: Long term trend for annual crime estimates for England and Wales, from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, from 1981 (YE December) to 2023 (YE ending September)**

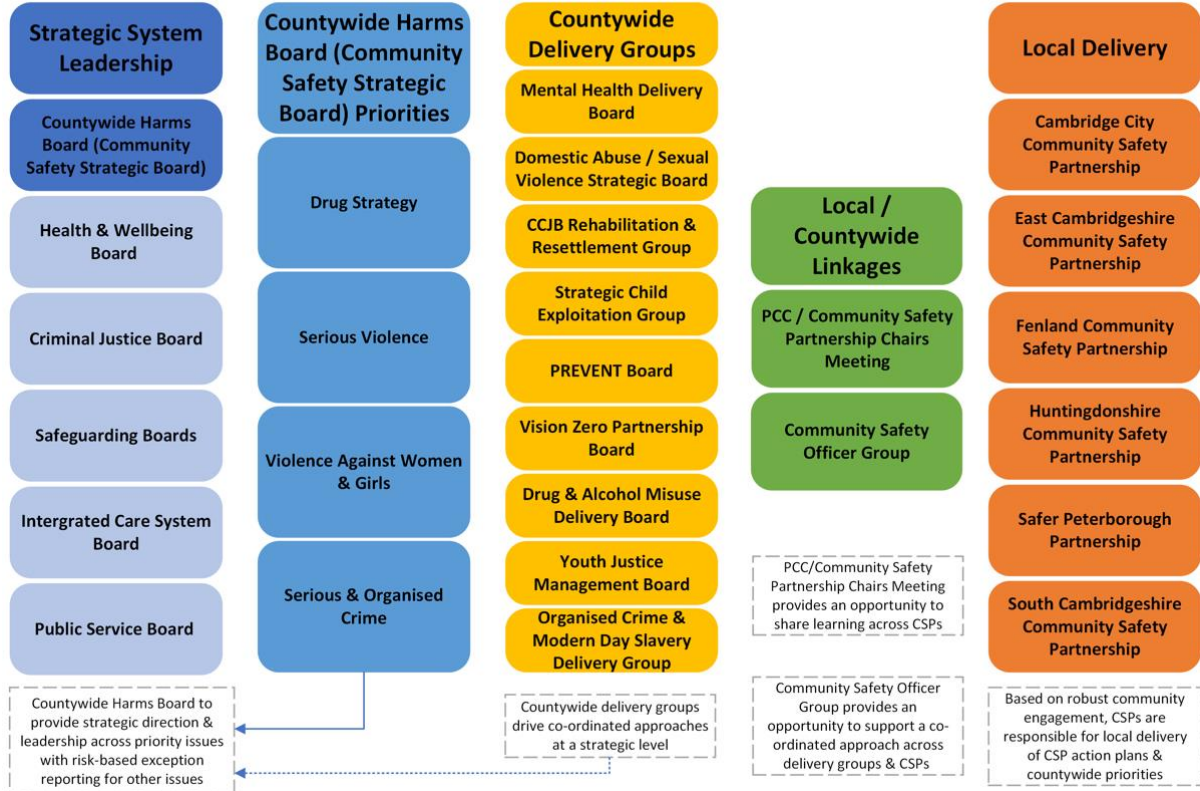
1. Data from the CSEW for the year ending September 2022 and September 2023 are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Data on this chart refer to different time periods: 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year; and from the year ending March 2002 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that year.
3. Total crime estimates from the CSEW only include crimes covered by the survey. In addition, some crime types covered by the self-completion section of the survey are excluded from the total estimates of crime. For instance, sexual offences are not included in the CSEW total estimates of crime except for the categories of "serious wounding with sexual motive" and "other wounding with sexual motive", which are included in the offence type of "wounding". Further information about how we present crimes covered by the survey is included in our User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales: March 2023.
4. New questions on fraud and computer misuse were incorporated into the CSEW from October 2015. The questions were asked of half the survey sample from October 2015 until September 2017 and have been asked of a full sample from October 2017.
5. There is a break in the CSEW time series because of the suspension of face-to-face interviewing between March 2020 and October 2021, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

**Figure 5: Long term annual estimates of theft offences from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), from the year ending December 1981 to the year ending September 2023**

1. Data from the CSEW for the year ending September 2022 and September 2023 are not designated as [National Statistics](#).
2. Data on this chart refer to different time periods: 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year; and from year ending March 2002 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that year.
3. There is a break in the CSEW time series because of the suspension of face-to-face interviewing between March 2020 and October 2021, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

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

## Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Countrywide Agreement 2022 - 25



## Appendix D: UK Economic Updates

Further economic updates for the UK include:

- The average rate paid by mortgagors is expected to increase from 2% in the first quarter of 2022 to 4.8% by the final quarter of 2027. 50% of this increase had already been realised by September 2023; with 90% of it expected to have occurred by the final quarter of 2024 (The Resolution Foundation, 2023).
- Survey data (the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey; 20 September to 1<sup>st</sup> October) published by ONS indicated that due to the rising cost-of-living, 47% of adults in Great Britain are using less fuel; and 44% are spending less on food shopping and essentials (ONS, 2023f).
- The cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages was 13.6% higher in August 2023 compared to the year before, down from July 2023 which was 14.9% higher than the year before (ONS, 2023g; ONS, 2023h). March 2023 saw the highest annual increase in over 45 years of 19.2% (ONS, 2023h).
- The cost of motor fuels in August 2023 were 16.4% lower compared to the year before. September's price fell by 9.7% compared to the previous year (ONS, 2023i).
- Due to the lowering of the Ofgem price cap, gas prices fell by 25.2% between June and July 2023; the largest monthly decrease ever recorded. However in September 2023, gas increased by 1.7% and electricity by 6.7% compared to the previous year; the same as in August.
- Recent survey findings published by ONS (Opinion and Lifestyle Survey; 18 to 29 October 2023) indicated 39% of energy bill payers found it difficult to afford their energy bills; down from 42% during a similar period the year before (ONS, 2023j).
- Those who own their properties outright are expected to see more disposable income, whereas mortgagors are expected to have 7% less (£2700) in 2024/25 than in 2021/22 after housing costs (The Resolution Foundation, 2023).
- Private rent costs have been increasing, with new rents costing around a quarter more in May 2023 compared to January 2021 (The Resolution Foundation, 2023).
- August 2023 saw the highest annual increase in private rental prices since the records began in 2016; of 5.5% higher compared to the previous year (ONS, 2023k).
- In a survey published by ONS (Opinions and Lifestyle Survey; 18 to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023) 40% of mortgage and rent payers reported their payments had increased in the last 6 months (up from 32% at a similar period the previous year). 35% reported finding it difficult to afford these payments (up from 33% during a similar period the previous year) (ONS, 2023j).



- The increased cost of renting is not being reflected in local housing allowances which have been frozen (The Resolution Foundation, 2023).
- While higher income households are predicted to see real pay growth, no real growth is predicted for the median non-pensioner household for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26. Furthermore, the lower income half of non-pensioner households is expected to see a decrease in average pay of 1% in 2024/25, which is predicted to push an extra 300,000 people into poverty (The Resolution Foundation, 2023).
- Unemployment has risen from a low of 3.5% in 2022, to 4.2% (in quarter 2 of 2023), and is expected to continue to rise to 4.6% by quarter 1 of 2023 (The Resolution Foundation, 2023).
- Schemes such as the Cost-of-Living Payments which were operating in 2022/23 and 2023/24, will not be continuing in 2024/25 (The Resolution Foundation, 2023).
- For a single person, a decrease of 13% (£700) will be seen in the combined real-terms value of basic out-of-work benefits and support payments in 2024/25, whereas a couple with 2 children will see a decrease of a 2% (£300) (The Resolution Foundation, 2023).
- In 2022, the median gross weekly pay in the UK was £532.50, a 5.4% increase from the previous year (ONS, 2022f).

**Figure 52: CPI, OOH component and CPI annual inflation rates for the last 10 years, UK, September 2013 to September 2023**



Source: Figure 1 in Consumer Price Inflation report for September 2023 (ONS, 2023a).

## Appendix E: CSP OPCC Activity Review

**Table 13: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner priorities - 2021/24**

Putting Communities First	We will ensure the police and other partners are listening to the public and working with them to act on their concerns and supporting them to assist themselves. From initial contact to rural and business crime, anti-social behaviour, hate crime and speeding.
Crime Prevention	We will work in partnership to understand and tackle the root causes of crime and serious violence through early intervention and rehabilitating people who have offended, while reducing opportunities for people to commit crime.
Supporting victims and witnesses	We will protect vulnerable people and ensure victims and witnesses are placed at the heart of the criminal justice system, commissioning services to support them. We will recognise every victim's experience is different and will provide a quality service which maintains their trust and confidence in the criminal justice system
Robust enforcement	We will ensure the police and other partners such as courts, prosecutors, probation and local authorities are using criminal justice and other enforcement processes effectively to keep Cambridgeshire and Peterborough safe.

Source: [Police and Crime Plan 2021-24 \(cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk)

The below table, provided by Fenland District Council, shows a summary of the Fenland CSP’s activities.

**Table 14: Fenland CSP Activities**

Activity	OPCC Priority Area
<p>Tackling nuisance to residents caused by inappropriate use of open land, increased fear of crime, fear of environmental health issues, litter/Fly Tipping concerns, reduction in general quality of life and acquisitive crime.</p> <p>Partnership approach involved Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire County Council, Private Landowners and impacted business operators.</p> <p>Outcomes were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An individual person subject of enforcement by police in consultation with FDC by way of amending a current Criminal Behaviour Order. The amendment prohibited their being within a defined area around the problem location.</li> <li>○ FDC with assistance of a grant from the OPCC arranged for a site clean up.</li> <li>○ The landowner erected a temporary perimeter fence ahead of a more permanent installation.</li> </ul> <p>Did it resolve the issues?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In respect of the open land, concern about vermin and nuisance to residents it did have a positive impact.</li> <li>○ However, the acquisitive crime continued.</li> </ul> <p>Next Steps &amp; Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A new access route was identified that facilitated continued acquisitive crime offending.</li> <li>○ It was also identified the access was on other private land on which proceeds of the crimes were being discarded and/or stored for later collection.</li> <li>○ This was causing a nuisance to the landowner as well as crimes continuing to be reported.</li> <li>○ Partnership assessment and response led to the police seeking a Closure Order on the private land.</li> <li>○ At least three suspects have been found breaching the Order, committing crime and await court. At the same time each suspect was given a Community Protection Warning.</li> <li>○ Mobile CCTV has been deployed as part of the Safer Streets 5 initiative.</li> </ul>	<p>Putting Communities first &amp; Crime Prevention &amp; Supporting victims and witnesses</p>

Activity	OPCC Priority Area
<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work continues with landowners regarding potential clearing of the land or at least part of it to help police patrols monitor the Closure Order as well remove any cover for the offenders to hide</li> </ul>	
<p>Community Engagement:</p> <p>Fenland District Council, Community Safety team on behalf of the CSP has run several community engagement events across the district where advice and assistance has been given to residents.</p> <p>Events have been held in each of the four Fenland towns with smaller events being held at rural locations alongside existing community events.</p> <p>Partners involved have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cambridgeshire Constabulary Scam/Cybercrime Prevention Officer</li> <li>○ Bobbie Scheme</li> <li>○ Road Safety Partnership</li> <li>○ Domestic Abuse Partners</li> <li>○ Neighbourhood Watch</li> </ul> <p>Topics covered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advice how to report speeding and setting up a Speedwatch scheme.</li> <li>○ Onward reporting of issues with the County Council regarding issues with roads and missing road signs,</li> <li>○ Liaising with FDC street scene colleagues around dog waste hotspot areas</li> <li>○ Police Scam Prevention officer present at many events meant scam advice has been shared, supporting potential victims of online scams as well as increasing community awareness of cybercrime/scams/fraud.</li> <li>○ Report received of human excrement deposited in a public place. Advice given how to report such issues using FDC online tools. Community Safety took an action away for the mess to be reported direct to the cleansing team on behalf of the customer.</li> <li>○ Guidance provided during community engagement sessions to encourage residents to use</li> </ul>	<p>Putting Communities first</p>

Activity	OPCC Priority Area
<p>online reporting tools on Police, County Council &amp; FDC websites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sharing speeding hotspots with the police from information provided through direct engagement with residents.</li> <li>○ Reported safeguarding concerns leading to appropriate partner agency contact, intervention and mitigation of potential risk.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Domestic Abuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The CSP worked closely with the Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence Partnership and other domestic abuse organisations to deliver various projects to help improve the community’s knowledge of DA. As well as that of front-line professionals who work across Fenland. This included showing of the film Rattlesnake a Fenland premiere, two training sessions for front line professionals, a DHR partnership event, community engagement sessions, and a media campaign.</li> </ul> <p><b>Domestic Abuse Awareness Stickers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The CSP designed and sourced discreet self-cling stickers, with contact information for the Domestic Abuse Support Service and Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership to help raise awareness over the Christmas period. These were distributed to Libraries, Community Centres and transport services used by residents including: Fenland Licensed Taxis and Community Transport</li> <li>○ Partners worked with included Refuge; Hourglass; and Impakt.</li> <li>○ One specific training event (Workforce development) focused on domestic abuse (DA) within the LGBTQ+ community and was a DHR recommendation to increase awareness of support opportunities for those in that community suffering DA.</li> </ul>	<p>Putting Communities first &amp; Crime Prevention &amp; Supporting victims and witnesses</p>
<p><b>Public Spaces Protection Order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Following community concern and after extensive consultation a short and narrow passage was identified as a hotspot for litter, suspected drug activity, urination, defecation, and sexual activity. Using PSPO legislation the passage was closed and physically gated. The passage no longer suffers the original issues and community feedback has been positive.</li> <li>○ Following continued assessment, the only problem to persist is litter being thrown over the gate at one end of the passage. The impact of this behaviour is regularly monitored and dealt with by FDC streetscene team.</li> </ul>	<p>Putting Communities first &amp; Crime Prevention &amp; Supporting victims and witnesses</p>

<b>Activity</b>	<b>OPCC Priority Area</b>
<p>Community concern from the public, business community in town centre, and town council regarding anti-social activities of a rough sleeper that were having a detrimental impact on the town centre and those who lived, worked or visited. Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire Constabulary together agreed a joint response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interventions had been attempted to support homelessness and prevent offending without success.</li> <li>○ Police were considering criminal route linked to breaching of Community Protection Notice</li> <li>○ Council made decision to seek a civil ASB injunction as burden of proof lower and timescales shorter than criminal intervention.</li> <li>○ Injunction granted and served.</li> <li>○ Injunction breached and evidence secured by both Council and Police</li> <li>○ Subject placed before court.</li> <li>○ Suspended prison sentence given for breach of conditions and injunction extended for a further six months.</li> </ul>	<p>Putting Communities first &amp; Robust enforcement &amp; Supporting victims and witnesses</p>

Source: Fenland District Council

## Appendix F: Appendix Tables

**Table 15: Other theft offences in Fenland, by ward, 2019, 2022 and 2023**

Ward	2019 count	2022 count	2023 count	2019-2023 % change	2019-2023 count change	2022-2023 % change	2022-2023 count change
Wisbech South	100	319	316	+216%	+216	-1%	-3
March West & Benwick	80	48	49	-39%	-31	+2%	+1
Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary	51	41	47	-8%	-4	+15%	+6
Wisbech Riverside	63	53	47	-25%	-16	-11%	-6
March North	51	32	42	-18%	-9	+31%	+10
Wisbech Walsoken & Waterlees	29	38	30	+3%	+1	-21%	-8
Chatteris North & Manea	63	70	29	-54%	-34	-59%	-41
Wisbech North	5	7	29	+480%	+24	+314%	+22
Whittlesey South	30	21	25	-17%	-5	+19%	+4
March East	30	18	24	-20%	-6	+33%	+6
Chatteris South	25	20	22	-12%	-3	+10%	+2
Whittlesey East & Villages	16	15	22	+38%	+6	+47%	+7
Leverington & Wisbech Rural	32	14	21	-34%	-11	+50%	+7
March South	17	18	20	+18%	+3	+11%	+2
Elm & Christchurch	10	20	16	+60%	+6	-20%	-4
Whittlesey Lattersey	15	20	15	0%	0	-25%	-5
Whittlesey North West	34	18	12	-65%	-22	-33%	-6
Doddington & Wimblington	21	15	9	-57%	-12	-40%	-6
<b>Fenland Total</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>+15%</b>	<b>+103</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-12</b>

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