



# **Community Safety Strategic Assessment:**

## **South Cambridgeshire**

### **2023/24**

### **Version 1.1a Final**

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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# 1. Executive Summary

## 1.1. Existing Priorities

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

The 2022/23 strategic assessment recommended that a review to be completed on existing working practices underpinning the selection of priority areas and directing CSP activities in these locations. This aimed to explore methods of enhancing effectiveness, for example, potential implementation of newly available technology to automatise basic place-based data analysis and free up analytical capacity for more in-depth analysis in response to emerging issues either by place or thematic topic.

**2023/24 Update:** A process review was completed between May – June 2023, as a result a new Power BI dashboard was developed to replace both the analysis and reporting elements of the quarterly reviews. The new process was taken for discussion to the Delivery Group in September 2023 and the CSP Board in October 2023. The Power BI dashboard was then launched at the December 2023 Delivery Group with the new review process now established as business as usual.

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

The 2022/23 strategic assessment highlighted the following specific issues:

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

**2023/24 Update:** CSP activities were completed in 2023/24 which align to the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Police and Crime Plan (see Appendix E: OPCC priorities - 2021/24). Some of these activities which align with priority 2 include;

- Engagement – participation in multiple place-based stakeholder groups and community events, building trust and enabling the identification of and focus on local high harm issues.
- Information/social media campaigns to support the public to recognise/report concerns relating to a number of high harm issues (e.g. serious violence, domestic abuse, hate crime, modern slavery and county lines)
- Work to protect young people from exploitation through the youth PSG (identifying risk via relationships with schools and youth workers and establishing partner interventions) engagement with parents around how to keep young people safe,

- Commissioned a deep dive report on violence and public order in the district.

## 1.2. Strategic Assessment Analysis Process

Since the last strategic assessment was written, there have been a number of changes nationally and locally. Where possible, they have been referenced or included within this year's analysis. The first stage of the process of the strategic assessment was to review changes and impacts as well as horizon scanning of local police recorded crime. Crime types, ASB or other issues that were considered existing or emerging problems were analysed in more depth.

This strategic assessment is based on analysis of a range of data sources as per best practice. However, as with all partnership assessments not all data was readily available and/or of suitable quality for robust analysis. This year gaps were:

- Assault related ambulance call outs
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) referral data
- National re-offending figures.

The following section highlights the key findings which emerged from the analysis based on both national and local data along with recommendations for the upcoming year.

## 1.3. Key Findings and Recommendations

### 1.3.1. Key findings overview

Nationally the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) continues to report a decline in the proportion of people that experience crime, whilst in contrast, police recorded crime numbers have shown increases in recent years.

Total police recorded crime in South Cambridgeshire remained relatively stable between 2022 and 2023 (7653 crimes in 2023 compared with 7634 in 2022). Total crime in the district is 5% higher than pre-pandemic levels (an increase of 352 crimes). Looking at the crime type breakdown over the last six years, the most notable change in South Cambridgeshire has been an increase in the volume of violence offences, which has resulted in violence accounting for a higher share of all recorded crime. This trend has also been mirrored for public order offences, but at lower offence volumes compared to violence. In the latest year there were slight reductions in violence and public order and increases in acquisitive crime, marking a change in the long-term trend locally.

A number of factors are impacting on crime patterns at present, some of these factors include; continued impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic (particularly relating to changes in people's routine working patterns/movements), the cost-of-living crisis, and continual technological developments and access to such technology, including access for children.

The following section outlines topic specific key findings from the strategic assessment and associated recommendations for 2024/25.

### 1.3.2. Topic specific key findings and recommendations

#### **Partnership priorities 2024/25**

The analysis and review in this assessment concludes that the existing priorities remain fit for purpose as they are broad enough to manage emerging issues within them. Under Priority 2 it is recommended that the issues of violence (with a particular focus on serious violence) and sexual offences with child victims are prioritised in 2024/25, with scope to widen to include further issues throughout the year.

#### **Acquisitive crime**

Overall acquisitive crime increased in South Cambridgeshire in 2023, but to a lesser degree than seen countywide. Total acquisitive crime remained 16% lower than seen in the pre-pandemic year of 2019, indicating that some protective effects resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic may be continuing to play a role in local crime levels. The increases seen in South Cambridgeshire in 2023 was primarily driven by shoplifting and vehicle interference offences. The increase in vehicle interference offences was linked to a hotspot at the Cambridge Services (A14) primarily involving attempts to gain access to lorries.

The marked reductions in burglary levels seen in 2021 have continued to be sustained with 2023 offence levels down by 47% compared pre-pandemic year of 2019 for residential burglaries and 35% down for business and community burglaries.

**It is not recommended that acquisitive crime is adopted as a priority at this time. It is recommended, however, that the police are consulted to determine the local intelligence on vehicle offences involving interference with lorries. This is due to the potential links to organised crime, including the possibility of any association with trafficking offences.**

#### **Fraud/scams**

With high levels of underreporting fraud remains a largely hidden crime. Estimates from the CSEW provide the best indication of the scale of offences as they include offences that have not been reporting via official channels. The CSEW estimates that



5.8% of people aged over 16 experienced a fraud offence in the YE September 2023, with the estimated number of offences down by 13% on the previous year. Applying this percentage to the South Cambridgeshire population gives an estimate of 7,500 potential victims of fraud in the district in the latest year. Action fraud data, which is available at county level, showed that the age group of 30-39 accounted for the highest proportion of victims, whilst there was a fairly even spread across age groups. This shows that fraud is impacting widely across the population, not just older residents who are typically considered as more vulnerable to fraud and scams.

Limited local data is available to assess the scale of fraud, scams, and cybercrime in South Cambridgeshire, however, police recorded cybercrime offences remain elevated compared to pre-pandemic levels. Fraud is still the most likely crime type for an individual to experience and the National Crime Agency (NCA) flags fraud and cybercrime as one of the key threats nationally. The cost-of-living crisis is increasing both vulnerability to, and the potential impact of this crime type. **With the national and countywide picture in mind, the CSP should consider partnership activity to tackle this issue in the upcoming year.**

## **Violence**

Following sustained increases in recent years there was a small reduction in police recorded violence offences seen in South Cambridgeshire, countywide and nationally in the latest year. In South Cambridgeshire, the overall reduction in 2023 was driven by a reduction in stalking and harassment offences whilst other sub-types saw slight increases. Despite South Cambridgeshire having the lowest violence against the person offence rate in the county and the slight decrease seen in the latest year, violence against the person offences still accounted for 35% of all crime recorded in South Cambridgeshire in 2023. 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.**

## **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences**

In the latest year there was a reduction in DA related crimes (following plateaued levels in the past three years) whilst DA incidents increased. This contrasts national data which saw further increases in police recorded DA offences in 2023. Further data work with the police to explore any changes in data recording in the latest year would help to better understand the reduction in offences seen. Victim data analysis (2021/22 – 2022/23) showed that females aged 30-39 were the dominant victim

group for DA offences in South Cambridgeshire, with females aged 30-49 accounting for almost a third of all victims (31%).

The level of sexual offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire decreased slightly in the latest year (2023), but remains elevated compared to pre-pandemic levels (up 19% compared to 2019). Just over a third of offences recorded in 2023 were non-recent, meaning they had an offence start date at least 12 months prior to the crime being recorded. Victim data analysis showed that victims of sexual offences were predominantly younger females, with females aged under 16 accounting for just under a third of victims in South Cambridgeshire between April 2021 – March 2023. It is possible for offences not recorded under the sexual offences crime type to have a marker applied for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Analysis of all offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire between 2021 and 2023 which had a CSE marker showed that 39% were 'Miscellaneous crimes against society' offences which involved the possession, creation, or distribution of indecent photographs.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) commissioned a needs assessment in 2023 which was published in January 2024 (Cambridgeshire County Council, 2023).

**Recommendation: 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 South Cambridgeshire.**

### **Exploitation and Vulnerability**

The issues of modern slavery, county lines, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) are all interlinked and present high risk of harm to vulnerable individuals. The NCA highlights exploitation of the vulnerable (via CSE, modern slavery and Organised Immigration Crime) as one of three key threats nationally. The local data picture is limited, in part due to a lack of available data and also due to the likely extent of underreporting of these offences. It is important for the CSP to access local intelligence to form a more complete picture of how these issues are impacting locally. **The CSP is advised to seek South Cambridgeshire specific insight from Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Serious Organised Crime assessment once it is completed.**

Work is underway at a county level to explore these interlinking issues, often considered within the umbrella term of contextual safeguarding. This discovery phase will include gaining a deeper understanding of the partnership processes in place. **It is advised that the CSP considers how it links within the county process.**

## **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

Following decreases in 2021 and 2022 the level of ASB in South Cambridgeshire increased by 14% in 2023 (driven by an increase in nuisance offences), but ASB remains below pre-pandemic levels. Milton & Waterbeach and Histon & Impington wards accounted for the highest proportion of ASB in the district and saw the highest incident increases in 2023. **Emerging areas of concern should continue to be monitored via the quarterly reviews. The current work to tackle ASB in Milton & Waterbeach and Histon & Impington should continue in the upcoming year.**

## 2. Introduction

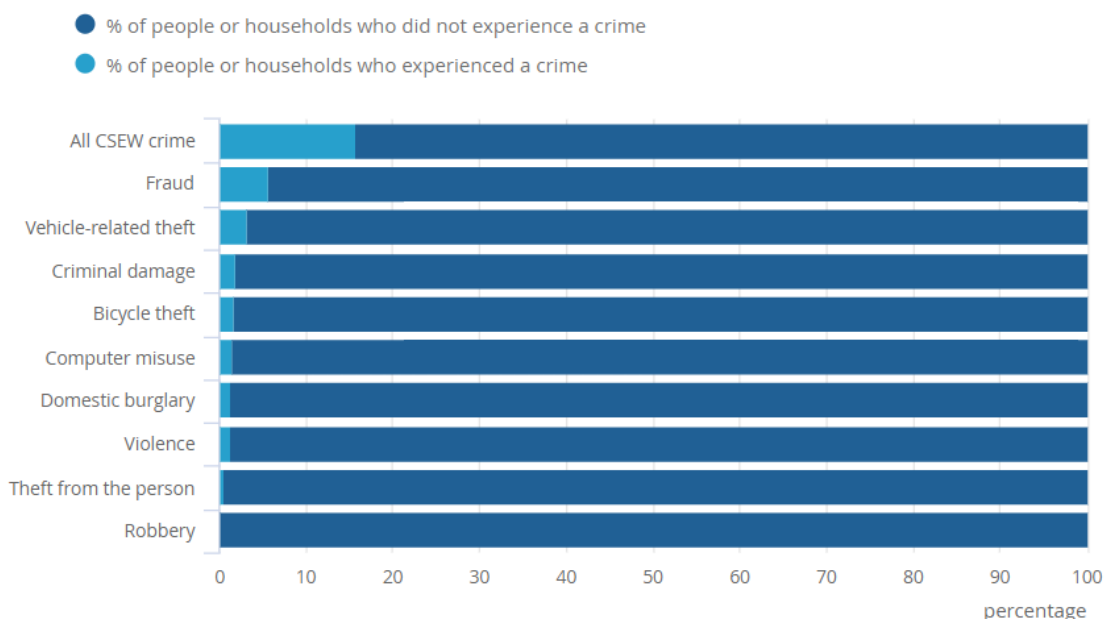
### 2.1. National

#### 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%).

**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).

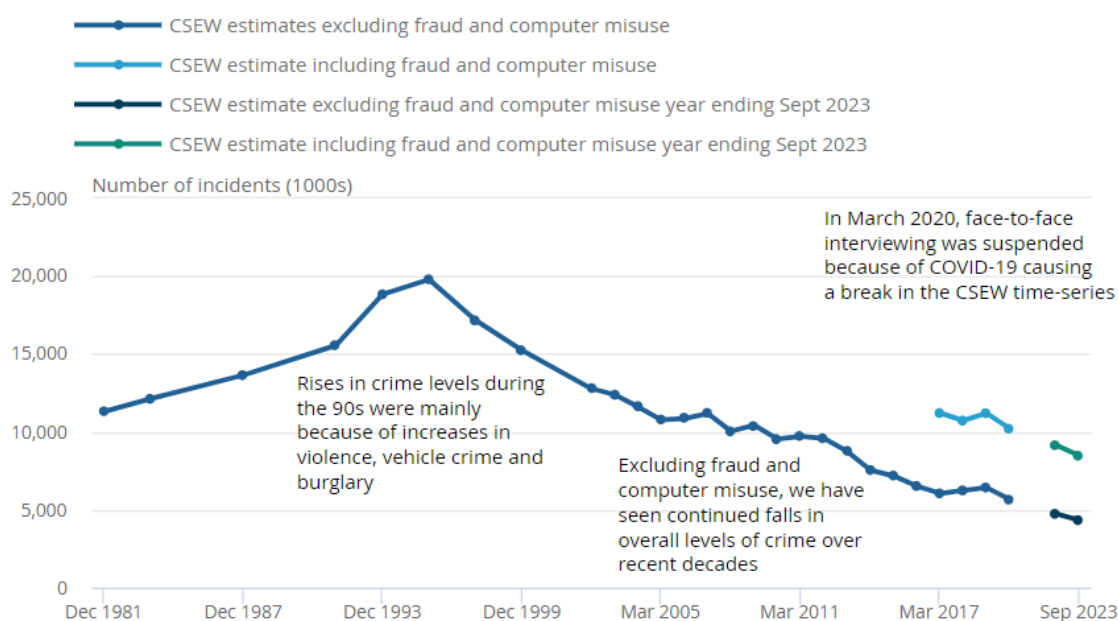
Whilst the reduction between YE September 2022 and YE September 2023 was not significant, there were some notable variations for some types of crime, as shown in the table below.

**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 recorded crime

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, these crimes 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%), 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 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 59). 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)

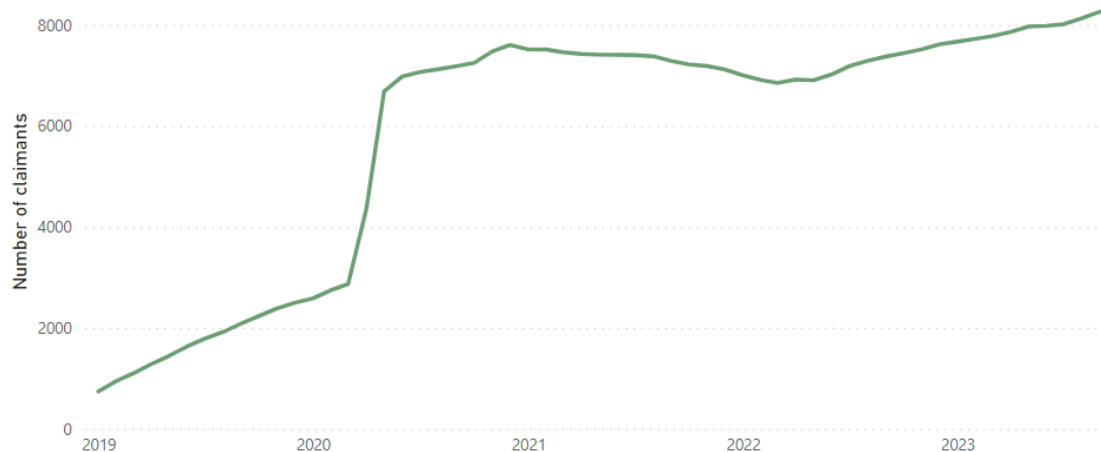
### **Economic Context for South Cambridgeshire**

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

- The total number of Universal credit claimants in December 2023 was 14.5% higher than seen in December 2022 (DWP, n.d.).
- Average (median) gross weekly pay increased from £664 in 2022, to £694 in 2023 (+4.6%), the second highest median income in the county, but the smallest annual percentage increase (ONS, 2022a; ONS, 2023b).
- The total number of food parcels distributed by the Trussell trust food bank increased by 51% between 2021/22 and 2022/23, to 2.3 thousand parcels (YE March), from 5 distribution centres (up from 4 the previous year) (The Trussel Trust, 2023).
- Average (median) private monthly rent in South Cambridgeshire increased by 8.6% in the year ending September 2023 compared to the previous year, from

£1,100 to £1,195, the highest percentage increase in the county (ONS, 2022b, p. 2.7; ONS, 2023c, p. 2.7).

**Figure 3: Monthly trend in Universal Credit claimants in South Cambridgeshire, from January 2019 to September 2023**



### 3. Crime Overview

Overall, little change was seen in police recorded crime in South Cambridgeshire between 2022 and 2023 (+<1%), remaining 5% above pre-pandemic (i.e. 2019) counts.

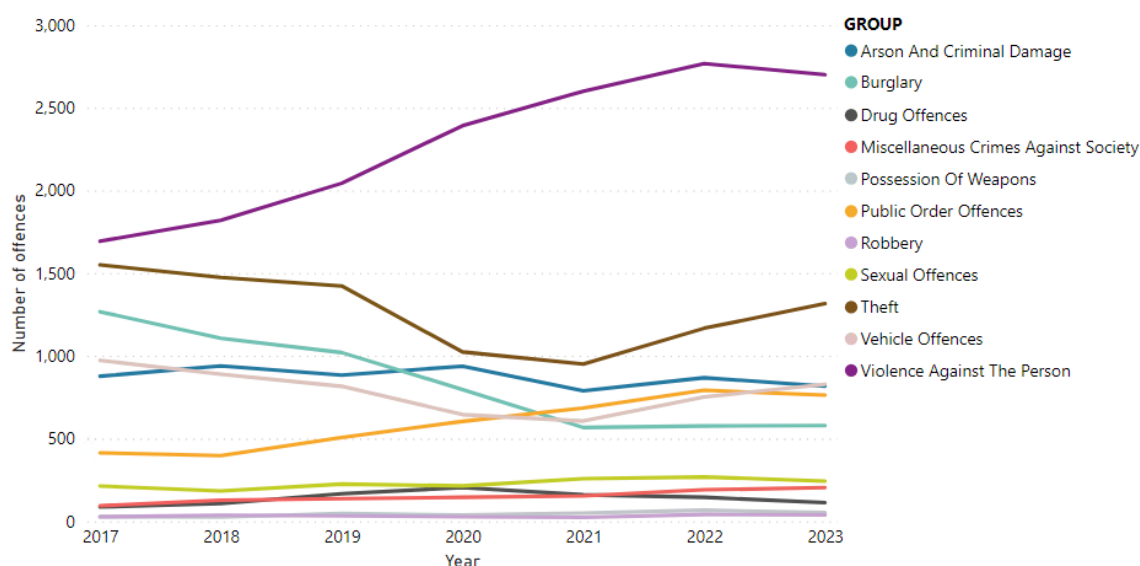
Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences accounted for the largest proportion of offences in 2023 (35%), followed by theft (17%). After a trend of increasing VAP offences, 2023 decreased by 2% in the last year (-68 offences), remaining 32% above 2019 (+656 offences). A similar pattern was seen in public order offences, which decreased by 4% in the last year (-29 offences), remaining 51% above 2019.

Long term decreases have been seen in burglary offences, and in more recent years, drug offences; with 2023 counts being notably lower than 2019 for both offence types, at 43% and 32% respectively (-441 offences, -53 offences).

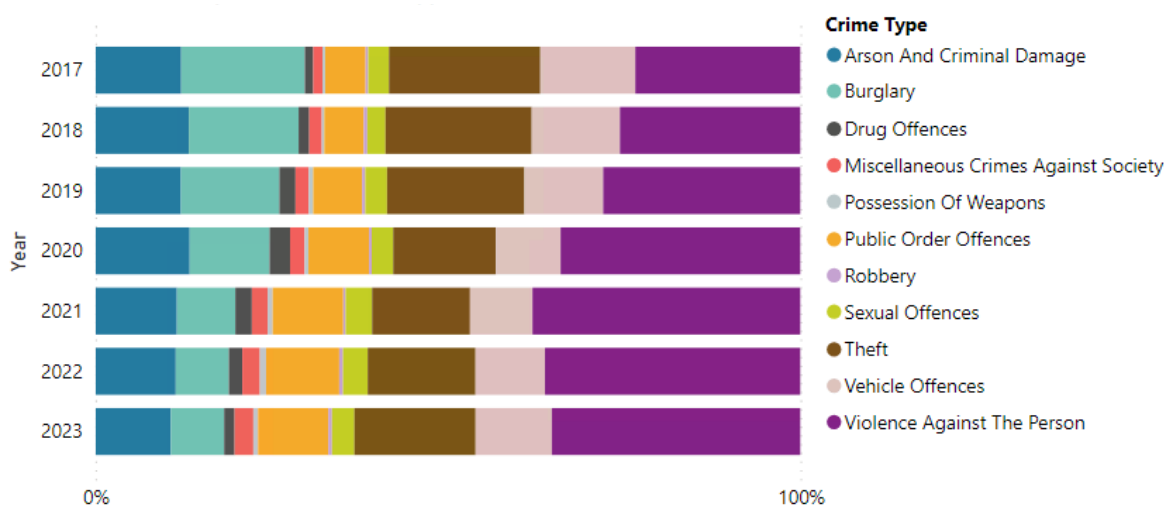
In the last year, both drug offences (-32 offences) and possession of weapons offences (-15 offences) decreased by 22%. Theft saw the biggest annual percentage increase (13%, +149 offences), but remained 8% below 2019.



**Figure 4: Trend in offences in South Cambridgeshire by crime type, 2017 to 2023**



**Figure 5: Proportion of offences in South Cambridgeshire by crime type, 2017 to 2023**



The table below displays the total crime count for all South Cambridgeshire wards in the last 2 years, and in the pre-pandemic year 2019, as well as the percentage change in comparison to 2023. Milton & Waterbeach accounted for the most crimes in South Cambridgeshire in 2023 (9%), followed shortly by Fen Ditton & Fulbourn (9%), Histon & Impington (9%), and Cambourne (8%). These 4 wards have consistently been in the top 4. The highest rates per person however are in Bar Hill (73.1 per 1000 population) and Caxton & Papworth (71.8 per 1000 population).

Decreases have been seen in the last year in Cambourne (-13%), Milton & Waterbeach (-9%), and Histon & Impington (-3%), whereas Caxton & Papworth (+28%), Fen Ditton & Fulbourn (+22%), and Bar Hill (+11%) have seen increases (see Table 3).

A notable increase in offences was also seen in Harston and Comberton in the last year (+42%), up 48% from pre-pandemic year 2019.

**Table 3: Count and change in police recorded crime offences in South Cambridgeshire, by ward, 2019, 2022, and 2023**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>% change 2022 - 2023</b>	<b>% change 2019-2023</b>	<b>2023 rate per 1000 population</b>
Milton & Waterbeach	735	780	713	-9%	-3%	65.2
Fen Ditton & Fulbourn	617	568	693	+22%	+12%	65.1
Histon & Impington	647	671	652	-3%	+1%	57.1
Cambourne	500	684	593	-13%	+19%	48.0
Harston & Comberton	347	360	512	+42%	+48%	48.4
Caxton & Papworth	387	359	460	+28%	+19%	71.8
Melbourn	398	374	437	+17%	+10%	52.8
Longstanton	257	397	338	-15%	+32%	47.0
Sawston	233	311	317	+2%	+36%	43.6
Bar Hill	270	256	285	+11%	+6%	73.1
Cottenham	346	304	276	-9%	-20%	40.7
Linton	292	340	268	-21%	-8%	37.0
Over & Willingham	276	306	238	-22%	-14%	32.9
Shelford	267	202	215	+6%	-19%	29.4
Bassingbourn	267	239	200	-16%	-25%	48.6
Swavesey	178	181	182	+1%	+2%	48.1
Gamlingay	134	121	171	+41%	+28%	45.6
Girton	182	167	169	+1%	-7%	31.9
Caldecote	130	161	156	-3%	+20%	44.7
Duxford	171	208	151	-27%	-12%	37.7
Hardwick	94	114	137	20%	+46%	42.4
Foxton	106	131	124	-5%	+17%	36.1
Whittlesford	120	124	100	-19%	-17%	32.2
Barrington	93	86	92	+7%	-1%	26.9
Balsham	103	88	90	+2%	-13%	25.0
The Mordens	151	102	84	-18%	-44%	25.1
<b>South Cambridgeshire Total</b>	<b>7301</b>	<b>7634</b>	<b>7653</b>	<b>&lt;-1%</b>	<b>+5%</b>	<b>47.2</b>

## 4. Acquisitive Crime

### 4.1. Summary and Recommendations

South Cambridgeshire has seen a small increase in acquisitive crime in the last year. The increase for South Cambridgeshire was less than seen countywide (+9%, compared to +15%). National figures for police recorded “theft” (which includes all categories of acquisitive offences except for robbery) also showed an increase of 9% between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE September).

Key findings for acquisitive crime in South Cambridgeshire include:

- “Other theft” (31%) accounted for the most of acquisitive offences in South Cambridgeshire in 2023, followed by “theft from a vehicle” (18%).
- The most notable change in the last year was in shoplifting, which increased by almost half in the last year, exceeding the 2019 count by 13%.
- Whilst other acquisitive offences in South Cambridgeshire had a more positive picture in the last year compared to the countywide, vehicle offences saw a different pattern.
  - Vehicle offences saw larger percentage increase (+10%) over the last year, than the 2% increase seen both countywide and nationally (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a), reaching pre-pandemic levels locally.
  - Locally this increase was mostly driven by “interfering with a motor vehicle” offences, whereas nationally the small increase was mostly driven by “theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle” offences (ONS, 2024a).
  - The Cambridge (A14) service station in Caxton and Papworth was a notable hotspot in 2023, with most offences involving interference with lorries (usually involving cutting of the lorry curtains/canvas).
- Decreases in burglary resulting from the pandemic period appear to have been sustained, with 2023 counts remaining 43% below 2019 levels.

It is not recommended that acquisitive crime is adopted as a priority at this time. It is recommended, however, that the police are consulted to determine the local intelligence on vehicle offences involving interference with lorries. This is due to the potential links to organised crime, including the possibility of any association with trafficking offences.

### 4.2. National Context

**CSEW**

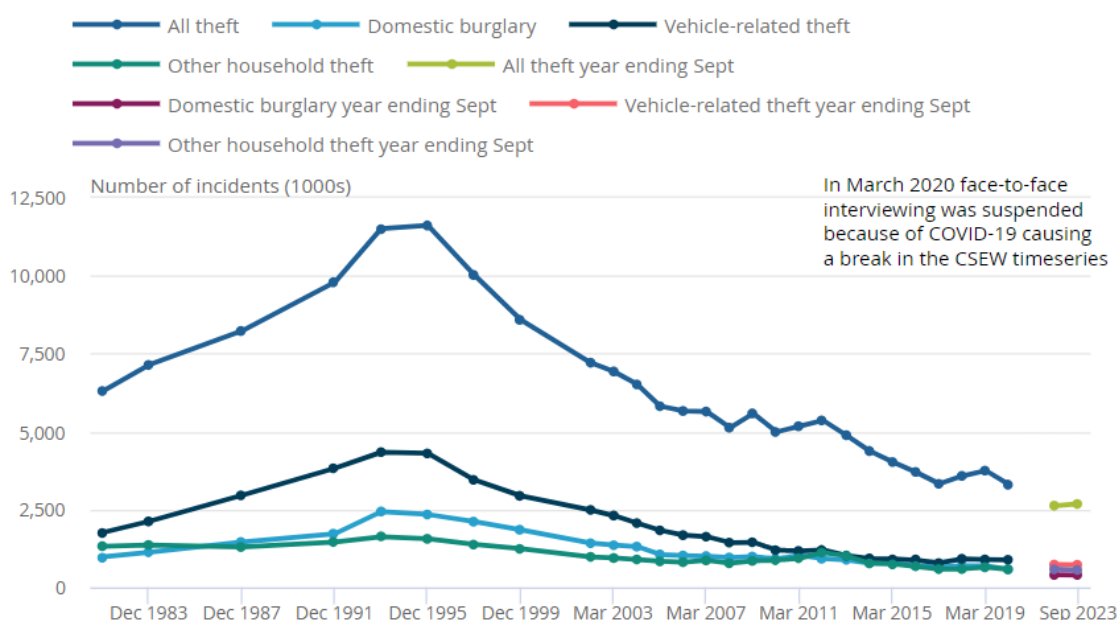
The latest Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) release for the year ending September 2023 estimated 2.7 million incidents of acquisitive crime (referred to as “theft” by CSEW, including theft offences, burglary, and vehicle offences). This was not significantly different from the previous year, 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 offences 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 6).

**Figure 6: 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 in 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. 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 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. South Cambridgeshire Acquisitive Crime**

#### **4.3.1. Acquisitive crime by group**

Compared to pre-pandemic levels, the 2023 acquisitive crime count remained 16% lower than 2019 in South Cambridgeshire (-530 offences), larger than the 8% decrease seen nationally in “all theft offences” over a similar time period (between 2021/22 and 2022/23, YE September) (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a).

Burglary in South Cambridgeshire saw little change in the last year, but remained 43% below levels seen in pre-pandemic year 2019 (-441 offences), larger than the national decrease of 29% (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a).

As shown in Table 4, smaller changes were seen in other acquisitive offences in South Cambridgeshire.

**Table 4: Change in acquisitive crime from 2019 to 2023, by crime group**

Crime type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019-2023 change (%)	2022-2023 change (%)
Burglary	1020	797	567	576	579	-441 (-43%)	+3 (+1%)
Robbery	33	27	23	41	39	+6 (+18%)	-2 (-5%)
Theft	1423	1024	950	1167	1316	-107 (-8%)	+149 (+13%)
Vehicle Offences	816	645	606	752	828	+12 (+1%)	+76 (+10%)
All acquisitive	3292	2493	2146	2536	2762	-530 (-16%)	+226 (+9%)

#### 4.3.2. Acquisitive crime by sub-type

Other theft offences accounted for approximately third of acquisitive offences in South Cambridgeshire in 2023 (at 31%) slightly down from 33% in 2022. The next highest offence share was for “theft from a motor vehicle” at 18%, down from 21% in 2022. The share of acquisitive offences by all sub-type in South Cambridgeshire in 2022 and 2023 is shown in the table below.

**Table 5: Percentage share of acquisitive offences in South Cambridgeshire in 2023, by crime sub-type**

Crime type	2022 Percentage Share	2023 Percentage Share
Other Theft	33%	31%
Theft From A Vehicle	21%	18%
Residential Burglary	14%	13%
Shoplifting	8%	10%
Business and Community Burglary	8%	8%
Theft Or Unauthorised Taking Of A Motor Vehicle	6%	6%
Interfering With A Motor Vehicle	2%	5%
Bicycle Theft	4%	5%
Robbery of Personal Property	2%	1%
Theft from the Person	2%	1%
Robbery of Business Property	<1%	<1%
Aggravated Vehicle Taking	<1%	<1%

The changes in acquisitive offences by sub-type in the last year, and since the pre-pandemic year 2019, are shown below in Figure 7 and Figure 8.

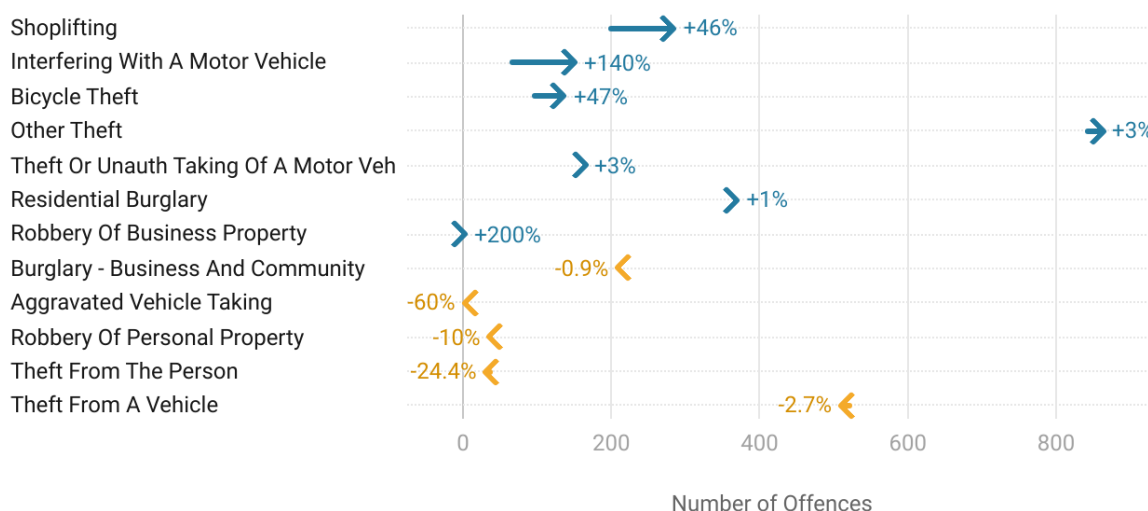
The 9% increase in police recorded “theft offences” seen nationally in the last year (YE September), was said by ONS to be primarily driven by increases in shoplifting (ONS, 2024a). Shoplifting was also the most notable change in acquisitive offences in South Cambridgeshire, increasing by almost half since 2022 (+46%, +90

offences); exceeding pre-pandemic levels by 13%. Bicycle offences saw a similar percentage increase in the last year but at a smaller volume (47%, +44 offences), and remained below pre-pandemic levels (-42%). Interfering with a motor vehicle offences more than doubled since 2022 (+140%), from 63 to 151 offences, exceeding 2019 counts by 50%.

Both residential burglary, and business and community burglary have seen little change in the last year, and remain substantially below pre-pandemic levels.

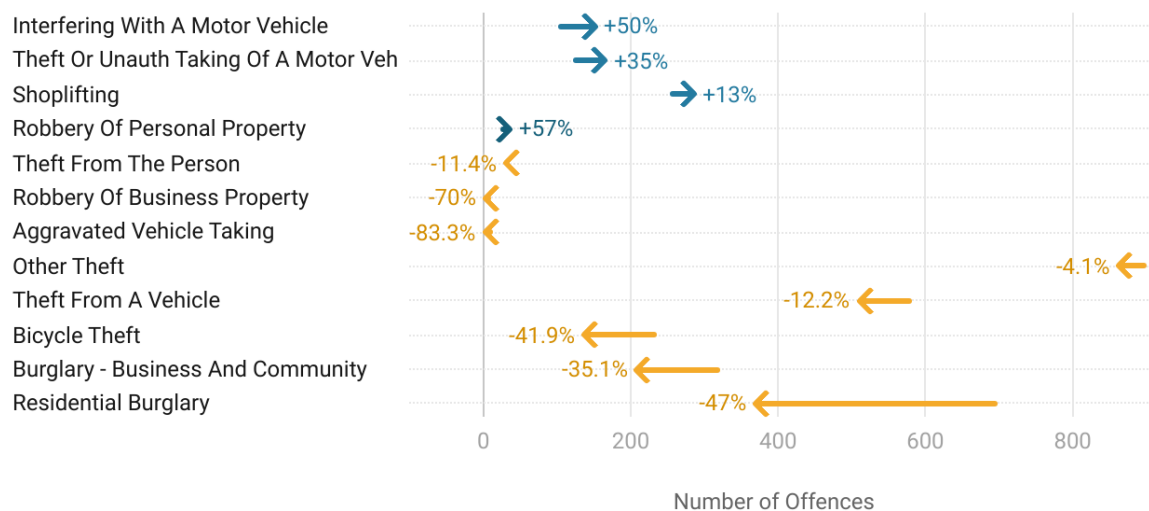
Further details on vehicle offences, shoplifting, burglary, and other theft offences in South Cambridgeshire are presented in the following sections. Due to the violent nature of robbery and the link with knife crime, further details on robbery offences in South Cambridgeshire are included in the Violence Against the Person section of this report.

**Figure 7: Change in number of acquisitive offences in South Cambridgeshire between 2022 and 2023, by crime sub-type**



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**Figure 8: Change in number of acquisitive offences in South Cambridgeshire between 2019 and 2023, by crime sub-type**



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## 4.4. Vehicle Offences

### 4.4.1. Trends over time

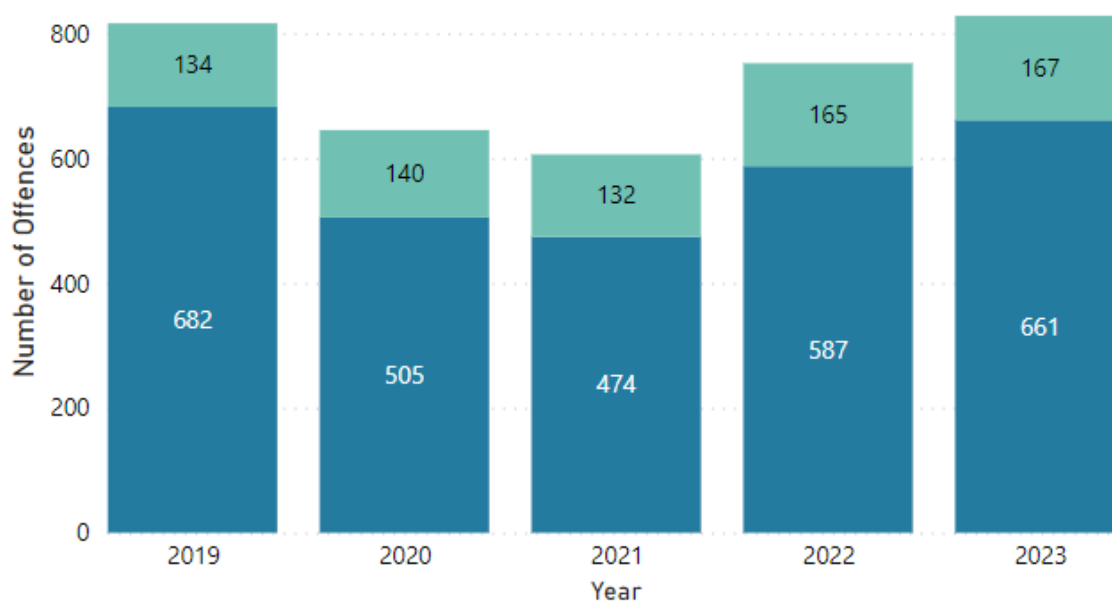
In 2023, vehicle crime accounted for the second most acquisitive offences in South Cambridgeshire, at 30%. Vehicle crime has continued to increase in the district since the dip seen in 2021 (see Figure 9), with counts for 2023 (up 10% in the last year) reaching the level seen in the pre-pandemic year 2019 (see Table 6). This contrasts national police recorded figures, and CSEW estimates, which have both remained below pre-pandemic levels.

A notable increase was seen in “Interfering with a motor vehicle” offences, which more than doubled (+140%) from 63 offences in 2022, to 151 in 2023, exceeding the 2019 offence count (101 offences) by 50%. In contrast to national figures, “theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle” offences saw less of a change in the last year (+3%), but counts remained 35% higher than in 2019. A full breakdown of changes in vehicle offences is shown in Table 6.



**Figure 9: Annual trend in vehicle crime offences in South Cambridgeshire, by vehicle crime sub-type, 2019 to 2023**

Vehicle crime type ● Theft From A Vehicle ● Theft Of A Vehicle

**Table 6: Change in vehicle offences in South Cambridgeshire, by sub-type, from 2019 and 2022, to 2023**

Crime type	2019	2022	2023	Percent change 2019 to 2023	Count change 2019 to 2023	Percent change 2022 to 2023	Count change 2022 to 2023
Theft from a vehicle	581	524	510	-12%	-71	-3%	-14
Aggravated vehicle taking	12	5	<5	-83%	-10	-60%	-3
Theft or unauth taking of a motor vehicle	122	160	165	+35%	+43	+3%	+5
Interfering with a motor vehicle	101	63	151	+50%	+50	+140%	+88
All vehicle offences	816	752	828	+1%	+12	+10%	+76

A key word search indicated that 12% of vehicle crimes involved catalytic converter thefts in 2023, down from 25% in 2022, representing a decrease of 49% in offence volume (-93 offences).

#### 4.4.2. Geographic findings

Key findings from geographic analysis of vehicle offences in South Cambridgeshire are shown below:

- The ward with the highest number of vehicle offences was Caxton & Papworth ward, which increased by 149% (from 51 in 2022 to 127 in 2023), accounting for 15% of the offences in South Cambridgeshire in 2023.
- The increase in Caxton & Papworth was mainly driven by an increase at Cambridge Services (A14), from 17 in 2022 to 97 in 2023 (+471%), which alone accounted for 12% of the vehicle offences in South Cambridgeshire.
  - In 2023, 79% of the offences at this location were “interference with a motor vehicle” offences, up from 26% in 2022.

A key word search indicated that the increase here was driven by offences involving lorries (see Table 18 in Appendix E: OPCC priorities - 2021/24

**Table 17: 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)

- Appendix F: Appendix Tables).
- Vehicle offences involving lorries were specific to Cambridge A14 service station (accounting for 86%), with only a small number of offences scattered elsewhere throughout the district.

- There were peaks in vehicle crimes involving lorries in March 2023, September 2023, and October 2023, with the majority classed as “Interfering with a motor vehicle”. A moderate peak was also seen in March 2023 in “theft from a vehicle” offences.
- Fen Ditton & Fulbourn ward accounted for 11% of the vehicle offences in South Cambridgeshire in 2023, increasing from 58 offences in 2022 to 89 offences in 2023.
- The majority of offences in Fen Ditton and Fulbourn were located in:
  - E01018297 (28 offences), which saw little change from the year before, followed by,
  - E01018243 which increased from 8 in 2022 to 24 in 2023.
- The LSOAs with the largest percentage increases in the last year were:
  - E01018254 (Hauxton) in Harston & Comberton, which increased from 2 in 2022 to 18 in 2023, and
  - E01018275 in Barrington, which increased from 3 to 18.

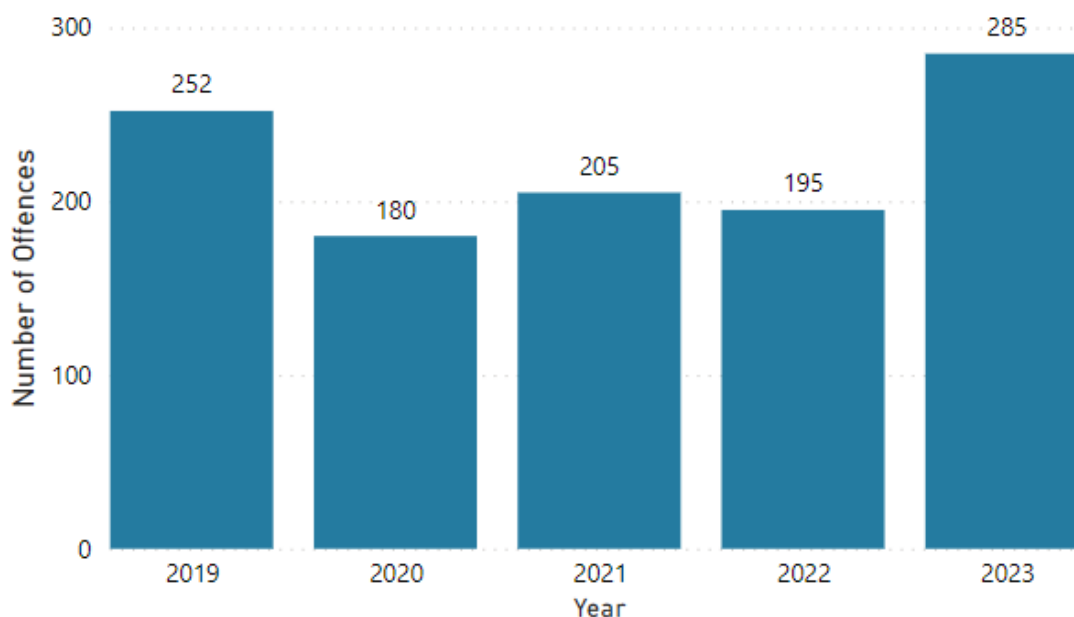
Further investigation is needed on the above-mentioned vehicle offences involving interference with lorries, due to potential links with organised crime, and potential associations with trafficking.

## 4.5. Shoplifting

Nationally, shoplifting offences increased by 32% in the last year, exceeding pre-pandemic levels by 12% (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a). In line with the national trend shoplifting in South Cambridgeshire also increased, but by 46% in the last year (+90 offences), exceeding the 2019 count by 13% (+33 offences).

The increase in shoplifting offences in the last year in South Cambridgeshire was similar to the county increase of 50%, but compared to the pre-pandemic year 2019, South Cambridgeshire saw less of an increase than most other districts (with an overall increase of 38% across the county).

**Figure 10: Annual trend in shoplifting offences in South Cambridgeshire, from 2019 to 2023**



These increases in shoplifting offences were seen across most wards in South Cambridgeshire (14 out of 20 wards). Milton and Waterbeach ward accounted for the highest proportion of shoplifting offences in 2023 (27%). Whilst the majority of offences in this ward were located at a supermarket (71%), the number of offences at this location decreased by 19% (-13 offences), with the ward increase instead being driven by a new shopping location in Cambridge Square which opened at the end of the year.

Other notable increases were seen in the following LSOAs, each primarily driven by single shopping locations:

- E01018276 (+20 offences, from 3 to 23) in Caxton & Papworth
- E01018256 (+18 offences, from 3 to 21) in Harston & Comberton
- E01018297 (+14 offences, from 5 to 19) in Fen Ditton & Fulbourn

## 4.6. Burglary

### 4.6.1. 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.

#### 4.6.2. Burglary analysis

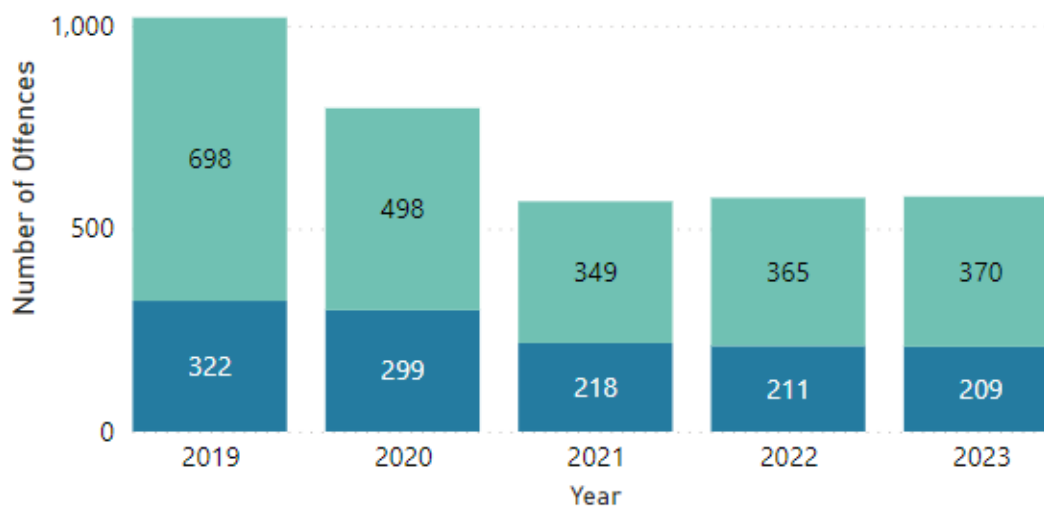
Countywide, there has been a 10% increase in burglary in the last year, driven primarily by a 17% increase in residential burglary. This contrasts national figures which showed little change in the last year (-1%, YE September) (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a). South Cambridgeshire burglary is more in line with national figures, with only a 1% increase in the last year. The number of burglary offences has been stable since 2021, representing a 43% decrease compared to pre-pandemic year 2019; a larger decrease than seen countywide (-36%), and nationally (-29%, over a similar time period) (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a).

Recent patterns have been similar across both residential and business and community burglaries, although residential burglaries are down on pre-pandemic levels by a slightly greater amount (-47% compared to -35%). Research has suggested that increased numbers of people staying at home during the lockdown period helped to protect against the number of residential burglaries; and that changes in activity patterns may be related to decreases in non-residential burglaries (Frith, et al., 2022). The sustained decrease in burglaries in South Cambridgeshire suggests that the protective changes in activity patterns may be continuing locally.

When broken down by type, residential burglaries accounted for 64% of burglary offences in 2023, and 13% of all acquisitive offences locally.

**Figure 11: Annual trend in burglary offences, for residential burglary and business and community burglary, from 2019 to 2023**

**Burglary type** ● Business and Community Burglary ● Residential Burglary



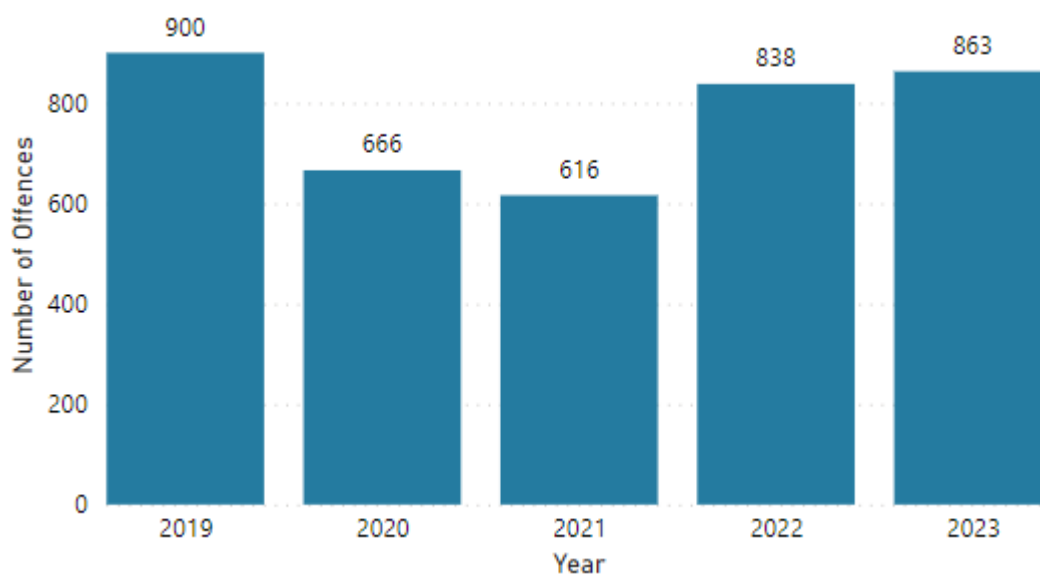
## 4.7. Other Theft

Nationally (England and Wales), police recorded “all other theft” saw an increase of 6% in the last year (YE September), reaching 357,361 offences (ONS, 2024a), coming close to pre-pandemic levels (-1%, YE March 2020) (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a).

In South Cambridgeshire, “other theft” accounted for the most acquisitive offences in 2023 (31%). Following the dip seen in 2020 and 2021, offences have since come closer to pre-pandemic levels. A small (3%) increase was seen in the last year, remaining 4% below the count for pre-pandemic year 2019.

“Theft if not classified elsewhere” accounted for the majority of “other theft” offences in 2023 (55%), followed by “Making off without payment” (22%), and “blackmail (indictable)” (11%). The majority of “Making off without payment” offences were in Bar Hill Tesco (61%, 113 offences), relating to fuel thefts. Blackmail offences have increased over recent years from 15 offences in 2019 to 92 offences in 2023. This offence type includes incidents of sextortion, where threats are made to publish sexual photographs or videos in order to extort money from the victim.

**Figure 12: Annual trend in "Other theft" offences in South Cambridgeshire, 2019 to 2023**



## 5. Scams, Fraud and Cyber Crime

### 5.1. Summary and Recommendations

With high levels of underreporting fraud remains a largely hidden crime. Estimates from the CSEW provide the best indication of the scale of offences as they include offences not reported to the police. CSEW estimates indicate a reduction of 13% in the YE September 2023, with Action Fraud also showing a reduction. National police recorded crime data showed a 6% increase which has partially been linked to increased reporting.

Limited local data is available to assess the scale of fraud, scams, and cybercrime in South Cambridgeshire, however, applying the CSEW prevalence estimates to the local population indicates a potential 7,500 victims of fraud in South Cambridgeshire annually (based on Census 2021 population figures). Police recorded cybercrime offences remain elevated compared to pre-pandemic levels. Fraud is still the most likely crime type for an individual to experience and the National Crime Agency (NCA) flags fraud and cybercrime as one of the key threats nationally. Furthermore, the cost-of-living crisis is increasing both vulnerability to, and the potential impact of this crime type. **With the national and countywide picture in mind, the CSP should consider 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, linked to improved

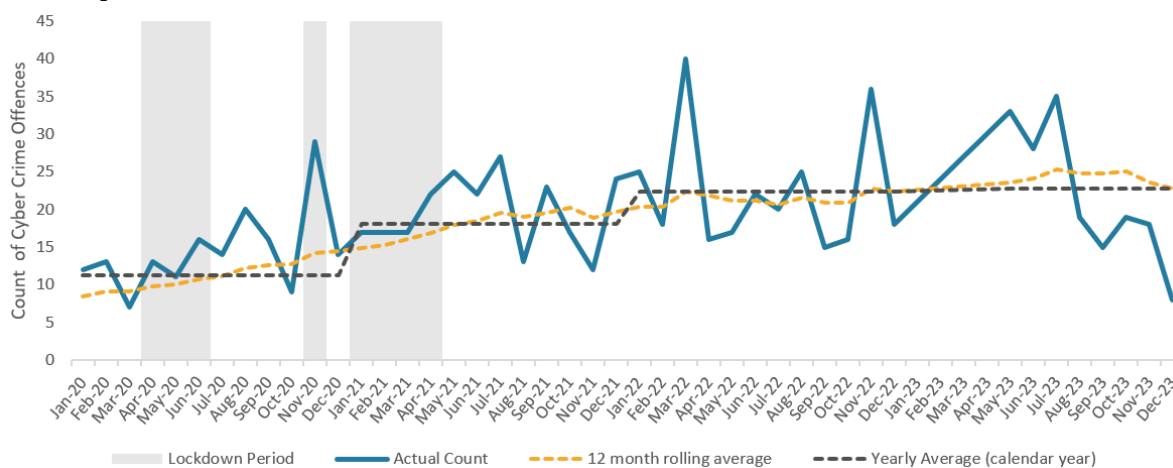


reporting. An explanation of police recorded fraud offences is provided in Appendix A: Technical Notes.

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 7,500 people in South Cambridgeshire were victims of fraud in the YE September 2023 (based on 2021 Census population figures).

Police recorded cybercrime offences in South Cambridgeshire are shown in the figure below. Offence levels have fluctuated month-by-month while gradually increasing compared to levels seen during Covid-19. In 2023 there were 273 offences, up from 103 in 2019.

**Figure 13: Police recorded cybercrime offences in South Cambridgeshire, January 2020 – December 2023**

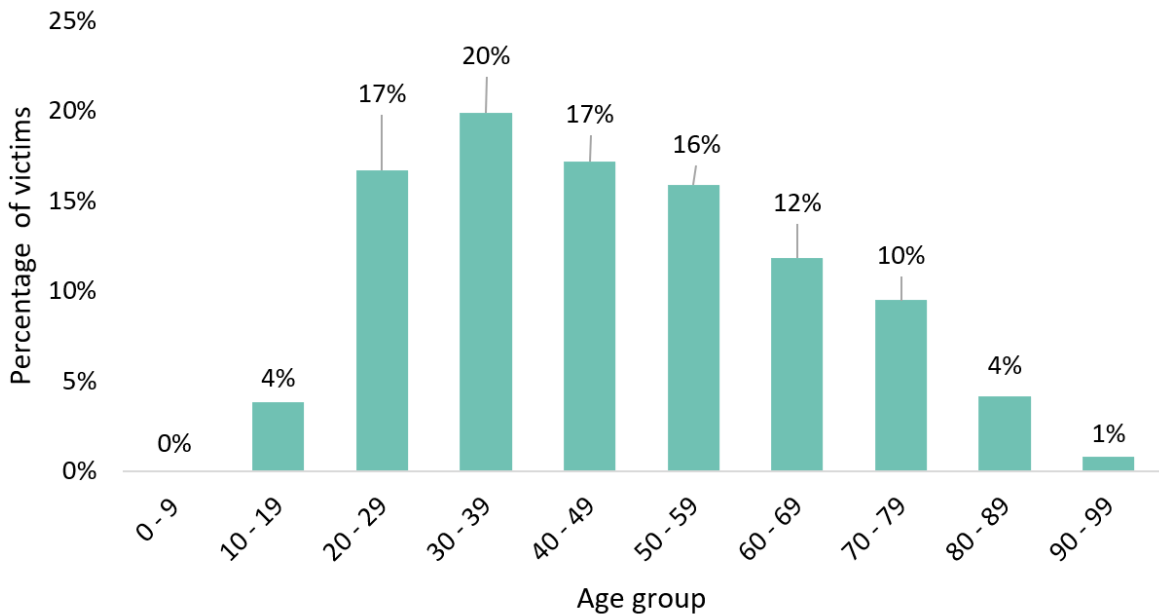


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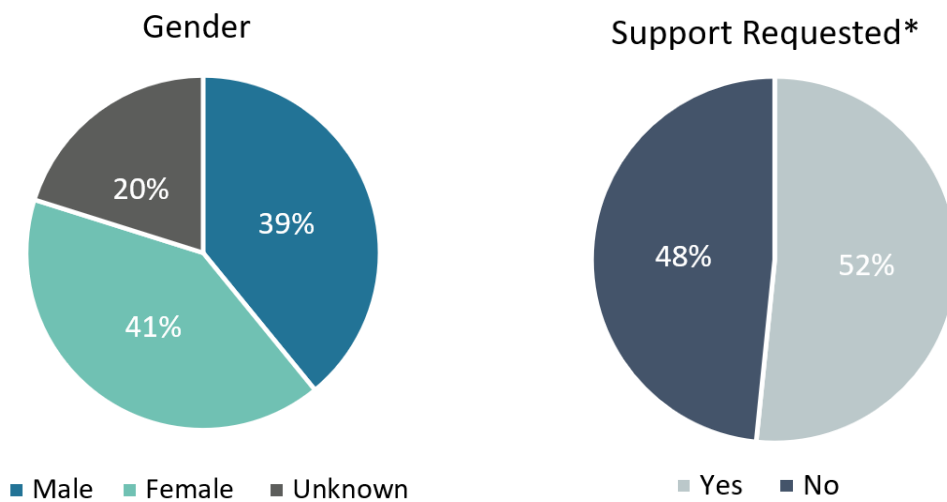
Whilst the volume of offences is fairly low in South Cambridgeshire, there has been an increase in offence levels in recent years which has been sustained when comparing pre and post pandemic time periods. The risk of harm associated with fraud and cybercrime offences is likely to vary notably between 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 14: Action Fraud figures for individual victims of cybercrime and fraud by age group, Jan 2023 to Dec 2023, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough**



**Figure 15: 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 16: 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 and Recommendations

Following increases in recent years there was a small decrease in police recorded violence offences seen in South Cambridgeshire, countywide and nationally in the latest year. In South Cambridgeshire, the overall reduction in 2023 was driven by a reduction in stalking and harassment offences whilst other sub-types saw slight increases. Despite South Cambridgeshire having the lowest violence against the person offence rate in the county and the slight decrease seen in the latest year, violence against the person offences still accounted for 35% of all crime recorded in South Cambridgeshire in 2023. 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. Trends Over Time

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 17: CSEW annual estimates of violence offences**

**England and Wales, annual estimates**



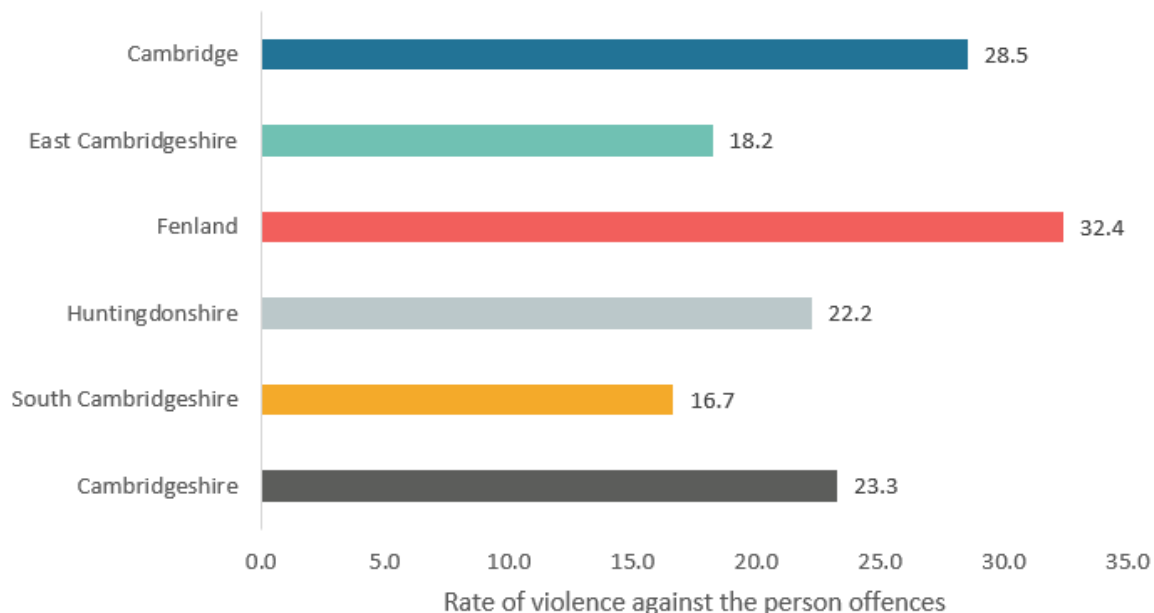
Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) from the ONS – Figure 6; “The number of incidents of violent crime continues to trend downwards”

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.

Locally South Cambridgeshire has the lowest rate of violence against the person offences in Cambridgeshire, as illustrated in the figure below. At 16.7 offences per

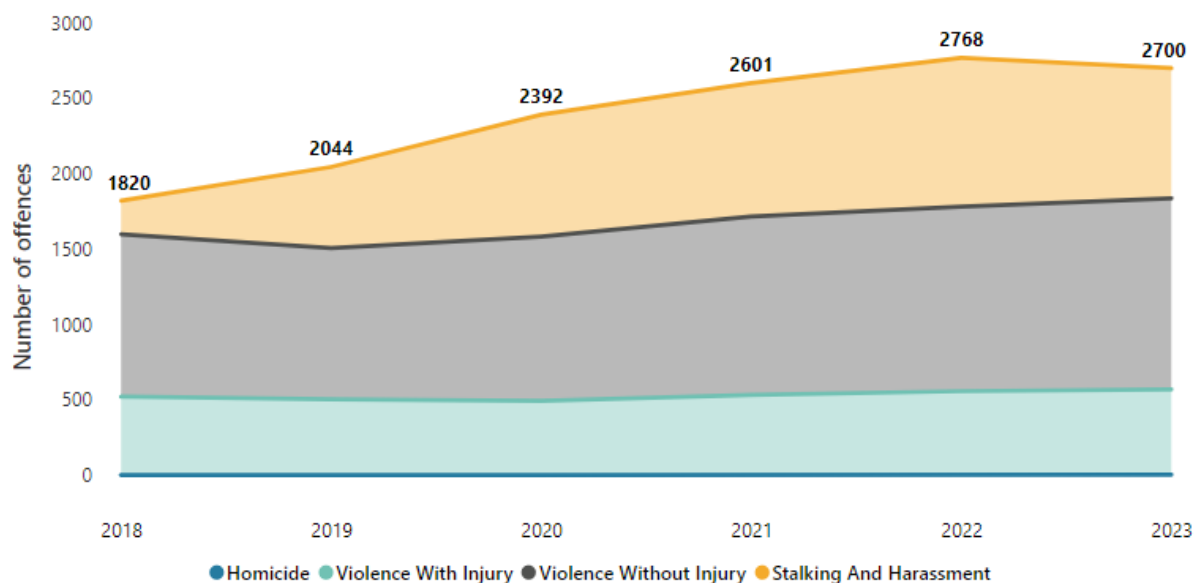
1,000 population in 2023 this is notably below both the countywide rate of 23.3 offences and the national rate of 34.7 (YE September 2023).

**Figure 18: Rate of violence against the person (VAP) per 1,000 population (census 2021) in 2023 in Cambridgeshire districts and countywide**



Local data shows that there were 2,700 violent offences recorded in 2023, a slight reduction of 2% compared to the previous year, reflecting national patterns. Total violence against the person remains 32% higher than the pre-pandemic levels seen in 2019. Violence against the person offences accounted for just over a third (35%) of all crime in South Cambridgeshire in 2023.

The VAP crime group is broken down into 4 crime sub-types; homicide, violence with injury, violence without injury, and stalking and harassment. The breakdown in offence count by sub-type over time is displayed in the figure below. Stalking and harassment has accounted for the highest proportion of the increases seen since the pre-pandemic period, with the offence count increasing by 61% between 2019-2023. In the latest year violence *with* injury and violence *without* injury both remained relatively stable, seeing modest increases of 2% and 4% respectively. In contrast levels of stalking and harassment offences fell by 12%.

**Figure 19: Annual trend in VAP offences in South Cambridgeshire, 2018 to 2023**

Violence offences marked as DA related reduced by 9% in 2023 whilst non-DA violence offences increased by 2%.

## 6.3. Violence With Injury

### 6.3.1. Police recorded crime

The sub-type of violence with injury typically contains the more high harm offences, and is most likely to include serious violence. There were 566 violence with injury offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire in 2023, accounting for a fifth (21%) of all violence against the person offences. The majority of violence with injury offences were ABH (63%). Offences involving allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control constituted the next highest category at 10% (55 offences). There were 49 non-fatal strangulation and suffocation offences (9% of all violence with injury offences).

### 6.3.2. Health data

While police data captures some violent crime it is understood that alternative data sources from the health sector are also needed to build a more complete picture of violence with injury locally. Data on arrivals at Addenbrooke's Emergency Department gives insight into the nature of some of the assaults occurring in Cambridgeshire. Addenbrooke's is based in Cambridge City, but patients could come from anywhere in the surrounding area. It is also a Major Trauma Centre

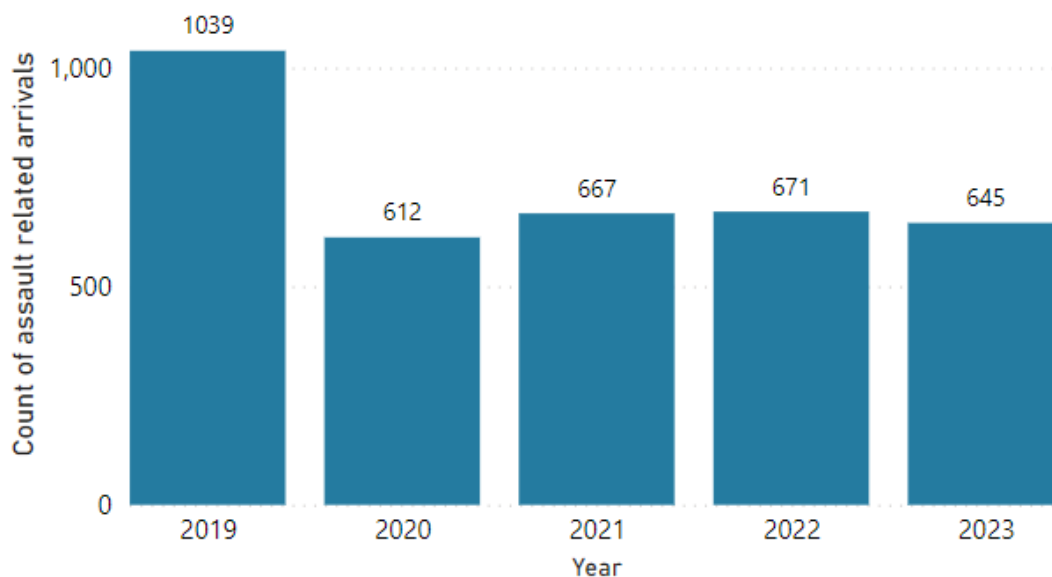
serving patients from across the Eastern Region (East of England Trauma Network, n.d.).

As such the data for assault related arrivals at Addenbrookes Emergency Department will not exclusively reflect assaults occurring within South Cambridgeshire. This data set does include a free-text field to record where the assault incident occurred. However due to gaps in more recent recording (41% of records missing this location information in YE September 2023) it is not possible to assess the trend relating to South Cambridgeshire specifically.

Further it should be noted that residents of South Cambridgeshire or injuries resulting from violence taking place in the district might seek medical attention from other hospitals that currently are not sharing data with Cambridgeshire Policy and Insight Team or the Community Safety Partnership. Therefore whilst this data is useful it will not be the complete picture for South Cambridgeshire.

The overall number of all assault related arrivals at Addenbrooke’s Emergency department saw a spike in the pre-pandemic year 2019 of 1039 arrivals. Subsequent years have seen a lower volume of assault related arrival, as shown in the figure below. Numbers for 2023 were 38% lower than seen in the pre-pandemic year 2019 (-394 arrivals), and 4% lower than 2022 (-26 arrivals).

**Figure 20: Annual trend in assault related arrivals at Addenbrooke's Emergency Department, from 2019 to 2023**

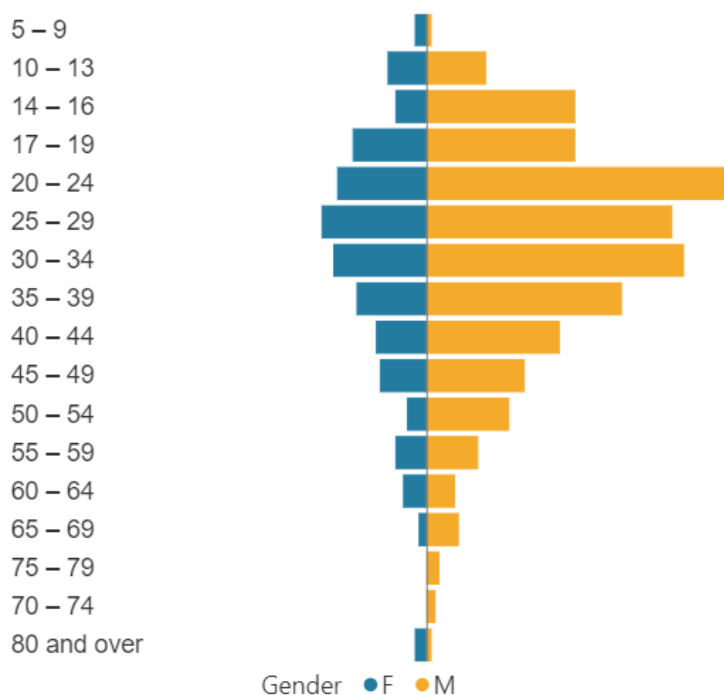


The most common weapon used was “punch with fist” accounting for 34% of assault related arrivals, followed by “blunt object/force” and “unknown weapon” accounting for 24% each.

Similar to previous years, males accounted for the majority of assault related arrivals at Addenbrooke’s in 2023 at 72% (of all assault related arrivals, including those with

unknown age and gender). The most common age group was those aged 20 to 24, accounting for 16%, followed by age groups 25 to 29, and 30 to 34, accounting for 14% each. The age and gender distribution for all those with known age and gender is shown in the figure below.

**Figure 21: A tornado chart of assault related arrivals at Addenbrooke's Emergency Department in 2023, by age and gender**



The most recent estimates by the National Violence Surveillance Network (NVSN) on serious violence in England and Wales are available for calendar year 2022, based on violence related attendances at a sample of 88 Emergency Department (ED), MIUs (Minor Injuries Units), and Walk-in Centres (Sivarajasingam, et al., 2023). Males accounted for the majority of assaults at 69%, and the most common age groups were those aged 18 to 30, and those aged 31 to 50, accounting for 37% each.

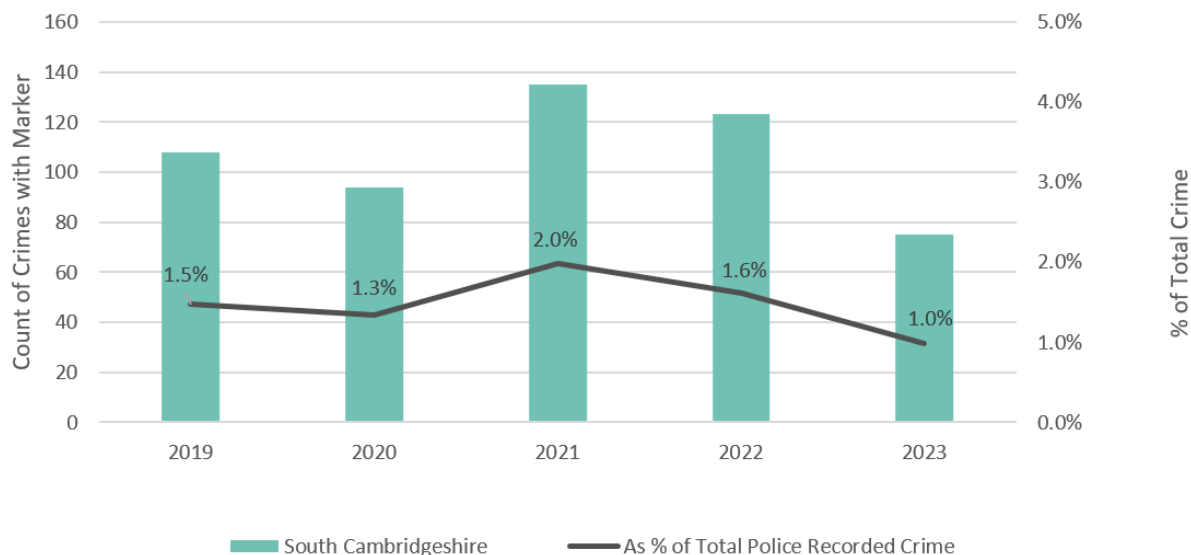
## 6.4. Knife Crime

In South Cambridgeshire, the volume of police recorded crime that involves knives is very low. And it should be noted that police activity can influence knife crime figures, for example recording of possession offences resulting from police activity to tackle knife crime. As the figures are very low, they have been displayed as annual counts and the percentage of the total crime count for the district. Knife crime accounted for 1% of total crime in South Cambridgeshire in 2023, slightly down on recent years and the pre-pandemic year of 2019. The 39% reduction in police recorded knife crime in South Cambridgeshire in 2023 is in line with countywide picture where the



number of knife crimes decreased by 30%, in contrast to the rise seen at a national level.

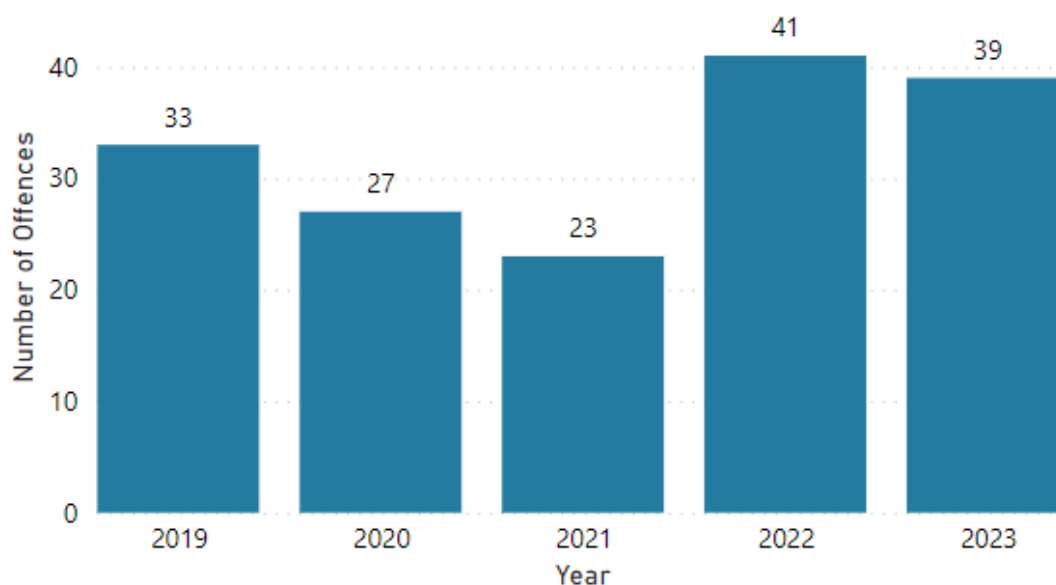
**Figure 22: Annual trend in police recorded knife crime in South Cambridgeshire from 2019 to 2023**



## 6.5. Robbery

Whilst robbery is an acquisitive crime it has been included within the violence section due to the violent nature of this offence type and the link to knife crime. Nationally, there was a 12% increase in robbery in the last year (YE September) but this did not exceed pre-pandemic levels. The ONS reported a notable increase in robberies involving a knife or sharp instrument in the latest year, up 19% (ONS, 2024a).

Overall robbery levels are low in South Cambridgeshire with 39 offences recorded in the last year. There was a notable increase in offences in 2022 with 41 offences recorded, up from 23 in the previous year. When looking at robbery of personal property, the count decreased slightly in the last year (-10%, -4 offences), but is higher than seen in pre-pandemic levels (+57%, +13 offences). Overall counts of robbery offences remained lower in 2023 compared to 2019, due to a decrease in business robbery offences, which have remained low since 2020. However, due to the low numbers of robbery offences seen locally, it is difficult to draw strong conclusions about the trend. The two most common types of robbery offences were personal robbery (20 offences) and attempted personal robbery (15 offences).

**Figure 23: Annual trend in Robbery offences in South Cambridgeshire, 2019 to 2023**

Further analysis of the MOs and incident summaries of these offences showed that 64% of the 39 robbery offences in 2023 involved assault (25 offences). These assaults varied in severity, from attempted assault, to physical attacks, and a single incident in which the victim was stabbed. In just over half of the offences, it could be determined that the offender was unknown to the victim (21 offences), and was known in approximately a third of offences (12 offences). For 6 of the offences it was not possible to determine whether the victim and offender were known to each other. 7 offences mentioned verbal threats of violence, including some which involved threats to cut, or stab; indicating the potential for high harm. In total, 16 offences referred to weapons, 13 of which were knife related, ranging in severity from those where victims had been threatened with knives that were not made visible, to those who were robbed at knife-point, and the stabbing offence mentioned above.

## 7. Sexual Offences

### 7.1. Summary and Recommendations

In line with the national trend, sexual offences in South Cambridgeshire have decreased in 2023 following the increasing trend seen in recent years. Previous national increases in police recorded sexual offences have been attributed to improvements in reporting and police recording practices (ONS, 2024a). However, underreporting remains and as such the true scale of sexual offences are likely to be much higher than indicated in police recorded crime figures.

Despite this recent decrease (-9%), the offence count remained above pre-pandemic levels (+8% on 2019). Just over a quarter (27%) of offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire in the last year were non-recent, meaning they had an offence start date at least 12 months prior to the crime being recorded. Victim data analysis showed that victims were predominantly younger females, with females under 16 accounting for almost a third (31%) of victims (with known age and gender).

**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 South Cambridgeshire.**

## 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.

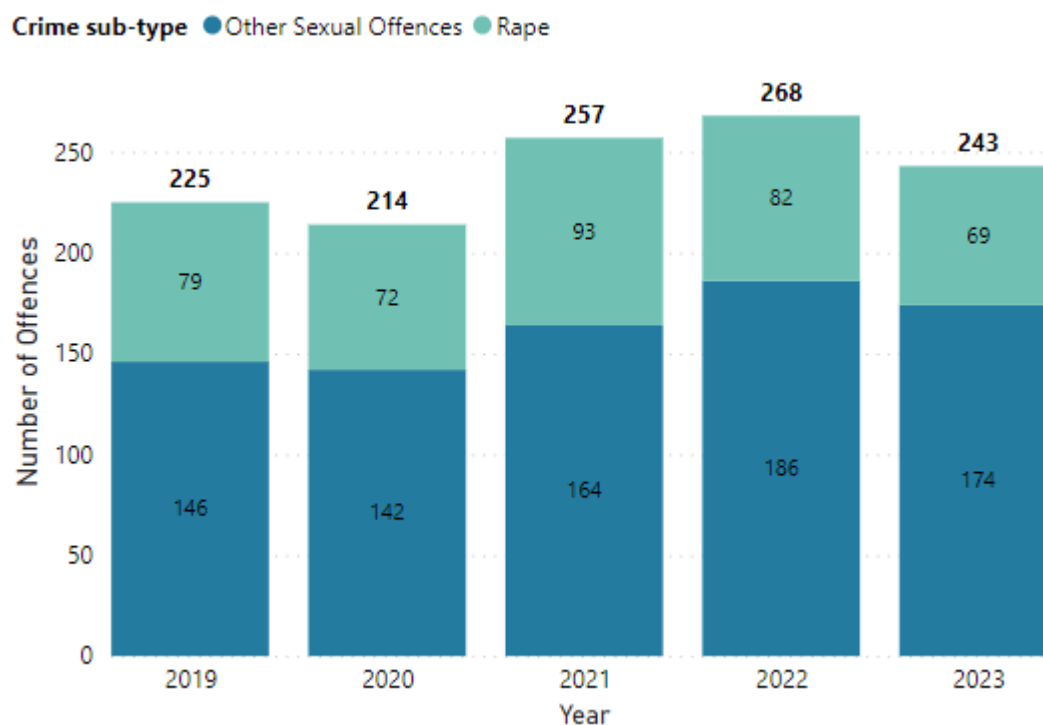
The levels of underreporting highlighted by the CSEW should be borne in mind when interpreting the local police recorded crime figures as they are likely to only represent a small proportion of offences that have actually occurred.

## 7.3. Local Trend

Following a trend of increases in sexual offences between 2020 and 2022 in South Cambridgeshire, the most recent local police recorded crime data showed a 9% reduction between 2022 and 2023 (-25 offences). Despite this reduction, the district remained 8% higher than the pre-pandemic year 2019 (+18 offences). Countywide

sexual offences were 19% above 2019 levels. The proportion of sexual offences in South Cambridgeshire accounted for by rape has decreased slightly, from 35% in 2019 down to 28% in 2023. Rape accounted for a slightly higher proportion of offences in Cambridgeshire overall (33%).

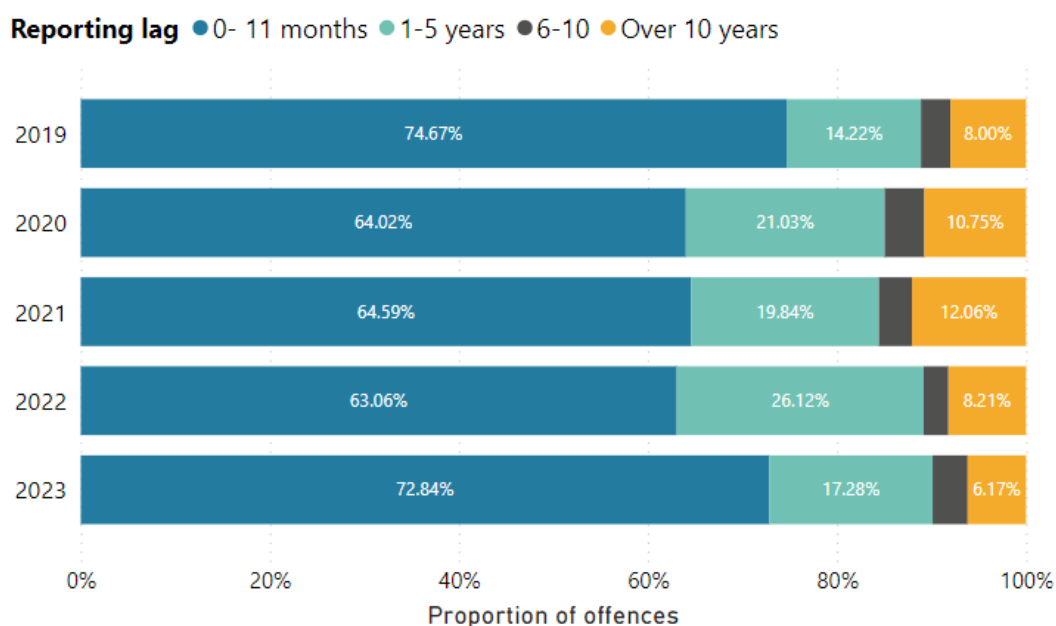
**Figure 24: Number of police recorded sexual offences in South Cambridgeshire, by sub-type, 2019 - 2023**



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.

27% of sexual offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire in 2023 had an offence start date that was at least 12 months prior to the crime recorded date, similar to the proportion seen for Cambridgeshire as a whole (29%). This marks a decrease in the proportion of non-recent offences compared to the previous year (37%), but is consistent with the proportion seen in 2019 (25%). As displayed in the figure below, 6% of offences recorded in 2023 had a start date that was over 10 years earlier than the offence recorded date. The proportion of offences which had occurred over 10 years earlier peaked in 2021 at 12%.

**Figure 25: Number of years between offence start date and offence recorded date for all police recorded sexual offences in South Cambridgeshire, 2019 - 2023**

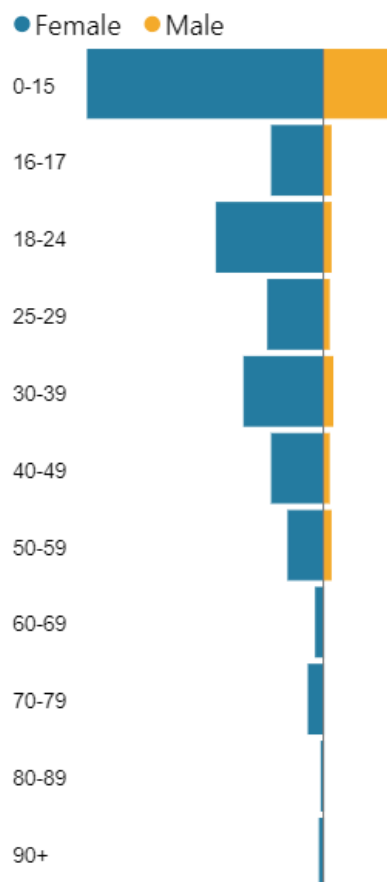


## 7.4. Victim Profile

Victim records shared by Cambridgeshire Constabulary which matched to a sexual offence recorded in South Cambridgeshire 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 437 unique victims who reported a sexual offence in South Cambridgeshire between April 2021 – March 2023; 82% were female, 14% were male and 4% had an unknown or unspecified gender. The count of victims by age and gender (where both was recorded, 407 in total) is presented in the figure below. Victims were predominantly younger females, with females under 16 accounting for 31% of all victims (where age and gender are known). Males aged under 16 accounted for 9% of all victims.

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



Self-defined ethnicity was unknown for 48% of victims. Of the 229 victims where ethnicity was recorded, the distribution of ethnic groups was similar to the South Cambridgeshire Census 2021 population, although those with White ethnicity were slightly overrepresented, and those with Asian ethnicity were slightly under-represented. However, with such a high level of missing data it is challenging to draw accurate conclusions about the ethnicities of victims in this cohort.

**Table 7: Ethnic group of victims of sexual offences in South Cambridgeshire between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE March), compared to Census 2021 population**

Ethnicity category	Percentage of victims	Percentage of Census population
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	3%	6%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	<2%	1%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	3%	3%
Other ethnic group	<2%	1%
White	93%	89%

## 8. Domestic Abuse

### 8.1. Summary and Recommendations

Following a plateau in police recorded Domestic Abuse (DA) in South Cambridgeshire in recent years, 2023 saw a reduction in DA related crimes; whilst DA incidents increased. It is not known whether this reduction in DA crimes reflects reporting and/or recording changes, or a real terms reduction in offending. This is particularly pertinent considering that improvements in victims' willingness to report, and in police recording practices being cited by ONS as drivers for national increases in DA in recent years (ONS, 2024a). Further data work with the police to explore any changes in data recording in the latest year would help to better understand the reduction in offences seen.

As seen in previous years, DA offences were predominantly VAP offences. The majority of DA victims in South Cambridgeshire were females aged between 30-39, with those aged 30-49 accounting for almost a third of victims with known age and gender (31%).

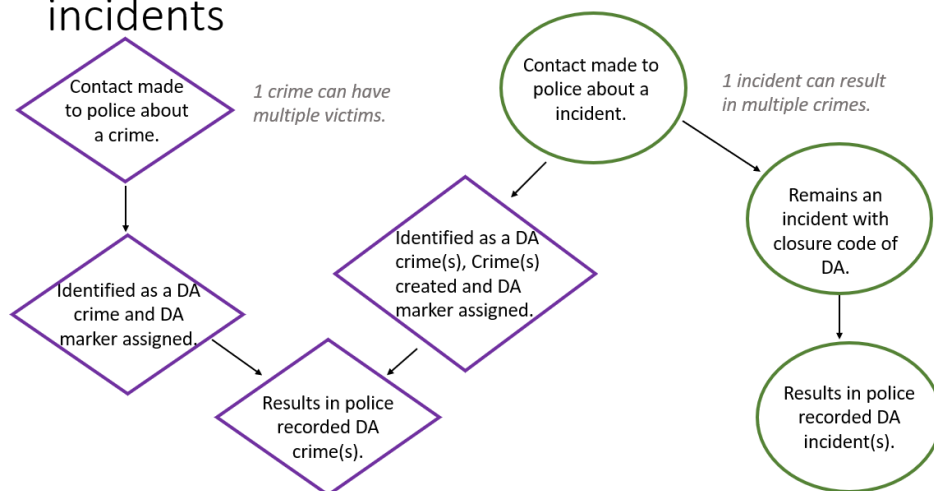
**It is recommended that the CSP utilise the findings of the Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment, alongside the analysis presented in this assessment, to work with the County Partnership to develop appropriate actions for South Cambridgeshire.**

### 8.2. DA Data Note

Domestic Abuse (DA) reported to the police can be recorded under two different data sets: DA incidents and DA related crimes. The visual below displays the two different recording routes and illustrates how the same incident can feature on both data sets when an initial incident of DA is recorded, and it is then established that the incident constitutes a criminal offence resulting in a DA related crime being recorded. In order to avoid double counting, only DA related crimes and DA incidents which did not go on to be crimed are analysed in this report. This reflects the approach used by the ONS for national police recorded DA data.

**Figure 27: Flow of police recording – DA crimes and DA incidents**

Domestic abuse police recorded crimes and incidents

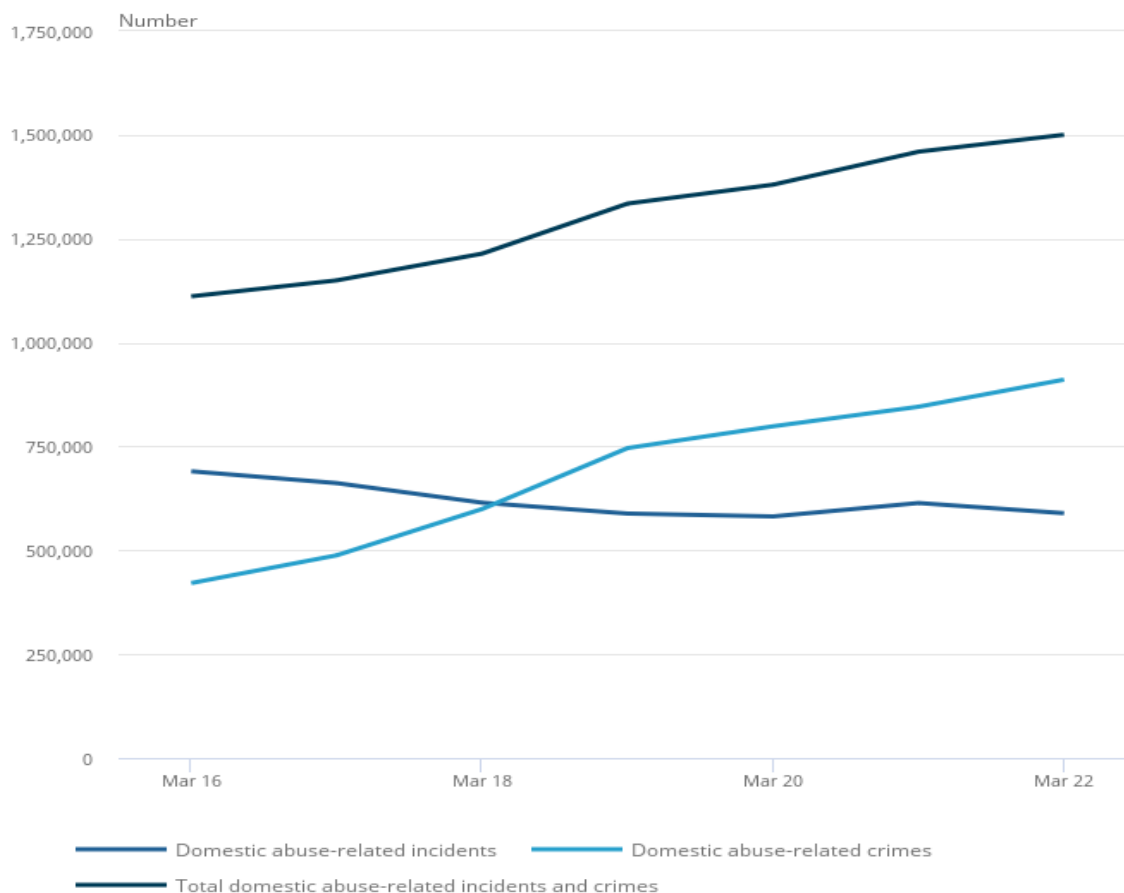


### 8.3. Domestic Abuse Trends

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.

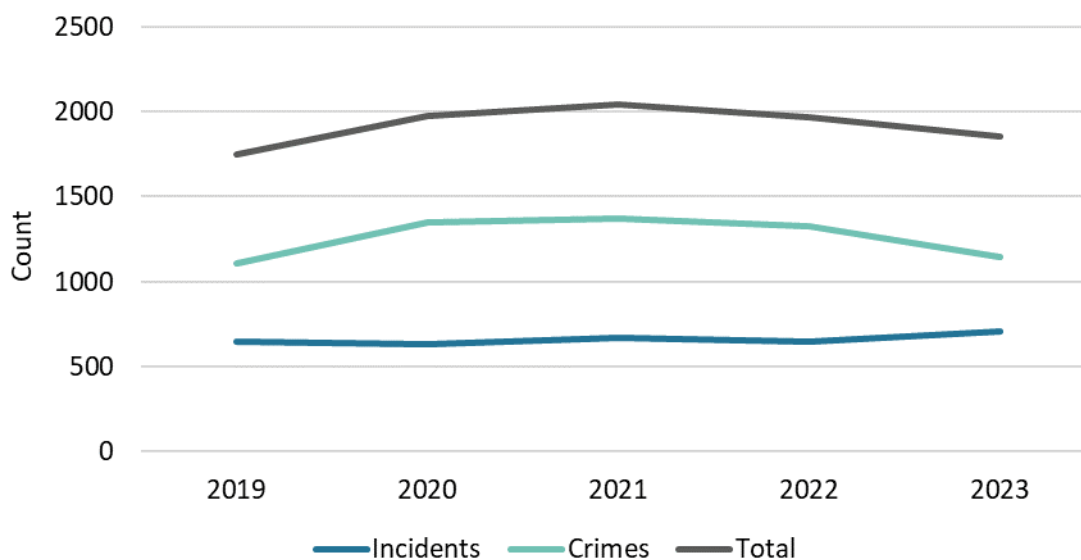


**Figure 28: National police recorded domestic abuse incidents and crimes, March 2016 to March 2022**



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

Local police recorded crime data following the same methodology as the ONS is presented in Figure 29 below. Whilst national data showed a small decrease in DA tagged offences (-4%), South Cambridgeshire saw a decrease of 14% in the last year (-179 offences); however, this remains slightly above the 2019 level (+4%, +42 offences). A similar pattern was seen at the county level, where the count decreased by 13% in the last year, close to levels seen in 2019. In contrast, the number of DA incidents (which did not go on to be crimed) in South Cambridgeshire saw a 10% increase in the last year (+62 incidents).

**Figure 29: Police recorded Domestic Abuse (DA) crimes and incidents (non-crimes only) in South Cambridgeshire, 2019 to 2023**

As displayed in the table below, the proportion of incidents that went on to be recorded as a DA crime reduced from 57% in 2022, to 52% in 2023. This appears to reflect a decreasing trend since the peak of 59% in 2020. Whilst this may reflect a higher proportion of incidents that do not meet the threshold for recording a crime, it is also possible that this reflects lower levels of police recording. Improved police recording has been cited nationally as potential explanation for increases seen in DA crimes whilst incidents either reduced or plateaued; if this trend has changed then this could partially explain some of the reductions in DA related crimes recorded locally. Further data work with the police is recommended to explore this.

**Table 8: DA incidents and crimes recorded in South Cambridgeshire, 2019 to 2023**

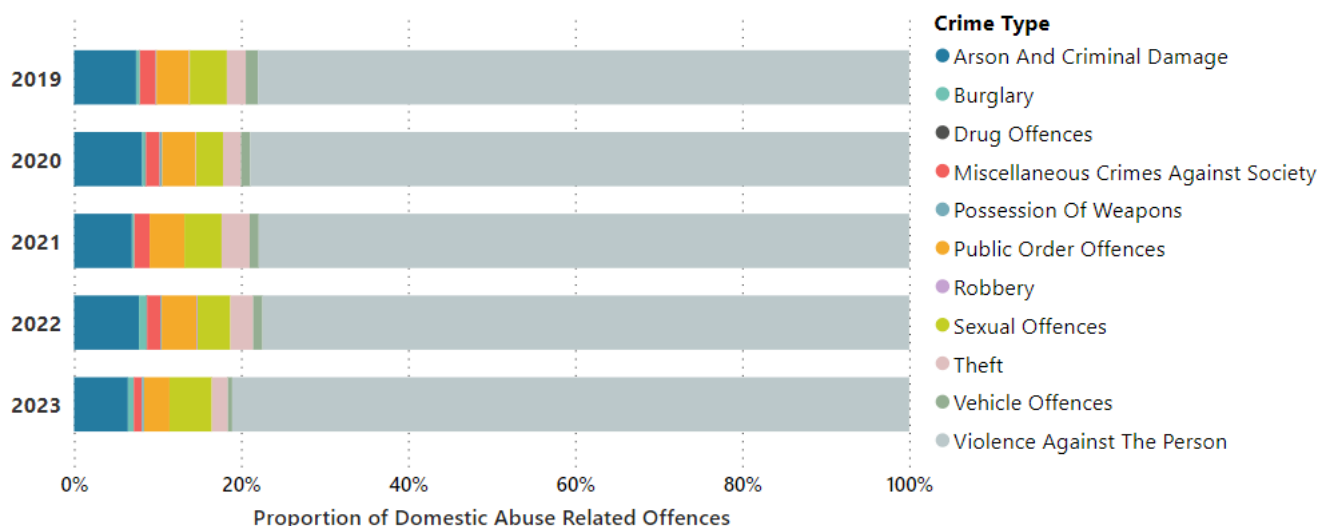
Incident category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total police recorded DA (incidents & crimes)	1748	1977	2040	1971	1854
Total incidents	1382	1547	1558	1501	1470
Incidents that result in a crime being recorded	738	916	888	855	762
Incidents that remain as incident only	644	631	670	646	708
Proportion of incidents that were 'crimed'	53%	59%	57%	57%	52%
Proportion of total recorded DA that were crimes	63%	68%	67%	67%	62%

## 8.4. DA Crime Types

In 2023, 15% of offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire were marked as DA related, down slightly from 17% the previous year. Countywide a similar proportion of all offences were marked as DA related in 2023 (14%).

Violence against the person (VAP) continues to be the primary offence type, accounting for more than three quarters of DA offences (81%) in South Cambridgeshire in 2023. The breakdown for the past 5 years (see Figure 30 below) shows a fairly consistent pattern, with only minor changes in the last year; including a slight increase seen in the proportion of VAP (77% in 2022 to 81% in 2023), and a slight reduction in the proportion of arson and criminal damage offences (8% in 2022 to 6% in 2023).

**Figure 30: Crime type breakdown for Domestic Abuse (DA) related offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire, 2019 to 2023**



## 8.5. Victim Profile

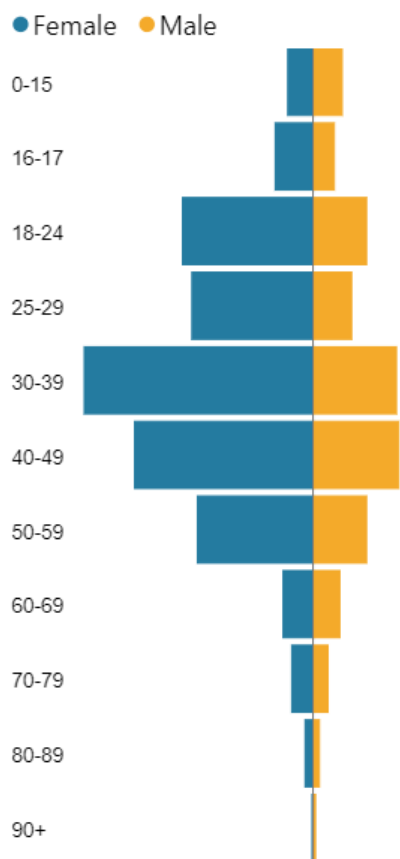
Victim records shared by Cambridgeshire Constabulary which matched to a DA related offence recorded in South Cambridgeshire between April 2021 – March 2023 have been analysed to provide additional insight for this assessment, following on from countywide analysis completed for the Violence Against Women 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 South Cambridgeshire have been identified to ensure that repeat victims do not impact on the demographic profile presented.

There were 1,713 unique victims who reported a DA offence in South Cambridgeshire between April 2021 and March 2023; 67% were female, 31% were male, and 2% had an unspecified gender. The count of victims by age and gender

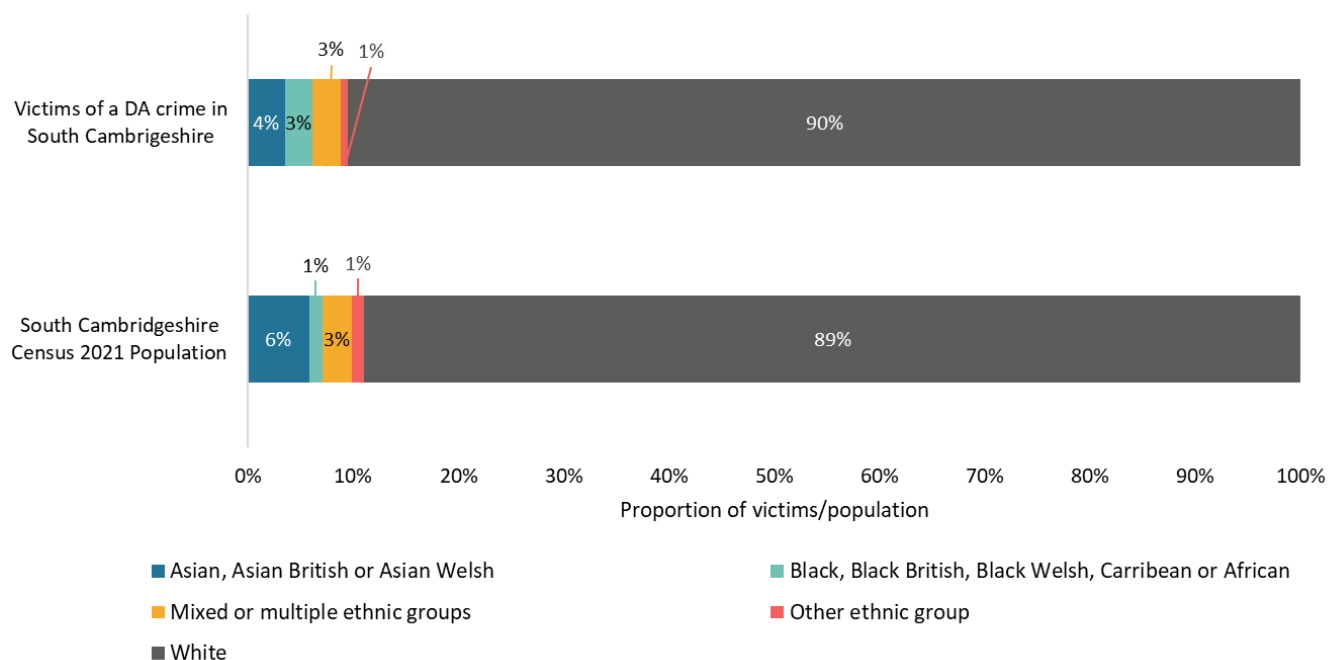
(where both was recorded) is presented in the figure below. Females aged 30-49 accounted for almost a third of all victims (where victims age and gender were known) at 31%. Females aged 30-39 accounted for 17%. Looking specifically at male victims, the highest proportion were also aged 30-49 (13% of all victims).

**Figure 31: Victim age and gender breakdown for DA offences in South Cambridgeshire between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE March)**



Self-defined ethnicity was unknown (either not stated or not recorded) for over a third (37%) of unique victims who reported a DA related offence in South Cambridgeshire between April 2021 and March 2023. The breakdown of self-defined ethnicity for the 1,084 victims where data was available is presented in the chart below, alongside the breakdown for the South Cambridgeshire population as a whole based on 2021 census data. This shows that the two profiles were very similar, although with a slightly lower proportion Asian individuals, and slightly higher proportion Black individuals in the DA victim cohort. Caution must be used when drawing conclusions due to the levels of missing data.

**Figure 32: Breakdown in ethnic group for unique victims of DA offences in South Cambridgeshire between April 2021 and March 2023, and the South Cambridgeshire census 2021 population**



## 8.6. Domestic Homicide Reviews

At the time of writing this document, there are five Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) in progress in South Cambridgeshire, only 1 of which relates to a death from 2023; with 4 relating to deaths between 2020 and 2022.

A DHR in relation to a death in September 2020, is in the final report stage.

Three DHRs relate to deaths in 2022, one in February, one in March, and one in December. The first is being prepared for resubmission to the Home Office, the second is currently being reviewed by the Home Office, and the third is in progress.

The DHR from October 2023 is currently awaiting trial.

There are currently 3 published DHRs which are available to view on the South Cambridgeshire CSP webpage; two from 2018, and one from 2021: [Community Safety Partnership - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership).

## 9. Exploitation and Vulnerability

### 9.1. Summary and Recommendations

The issues of modern slavery, county lines, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation are all interlinked and present high risk of harm to vulnerable individuals. The NCA highlights exploitation of the vulnerable (via CSE, modern slavery and Organised Immigration Crime) as one of three key threats nationally. The local data picture is limited, in part due to a lack of available data (for example, county lines related offences or local NRM referrals for modern slavery) and also due to the likely extent of underreporting of these offences. It is important for the CSP to access local intelligence to form a more complete picture of how these issues are impacting locally. **The CSP is advised to seek South Cambridgeshire specific insight from Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Serious Organised Crime assessment when it is completed.**

There is work underway at a county level to explore these interlinking issues, often considered within the umbrella term of contextual safeguarding. This discovery phase will include gaining a deeper understanding of the partnership processes in place. **It is advised that the CSP considers how it links within the county process.**

### 9.2. Modern Slavery

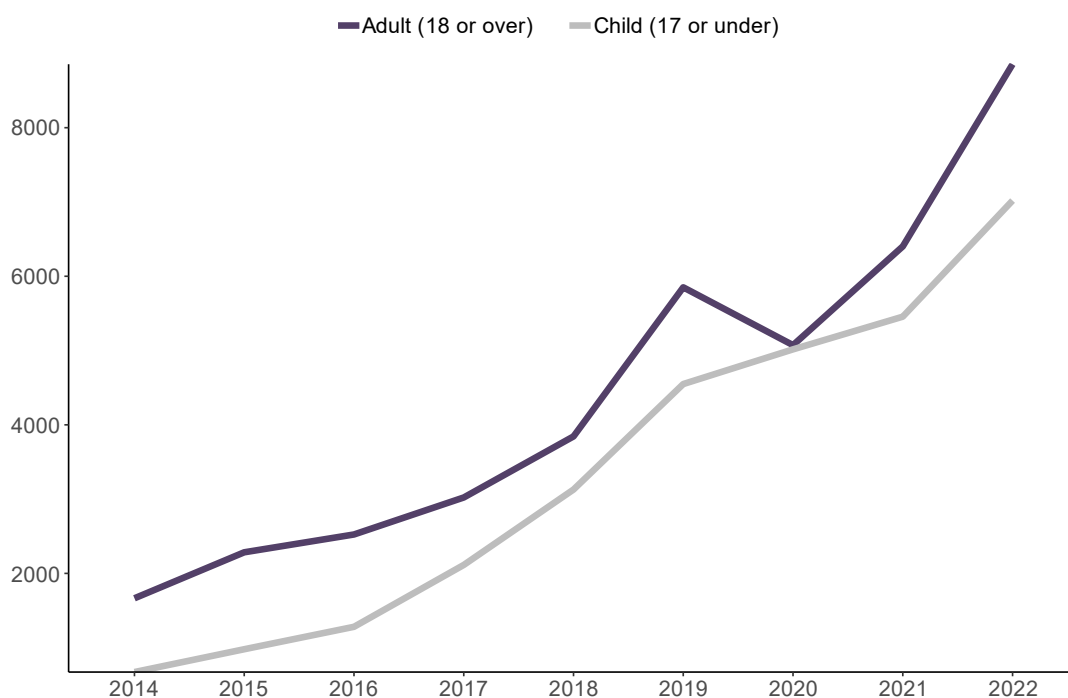
The ONS provides a comprehensive definition of Modern Slavery and how it relates to various offences and harms:

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

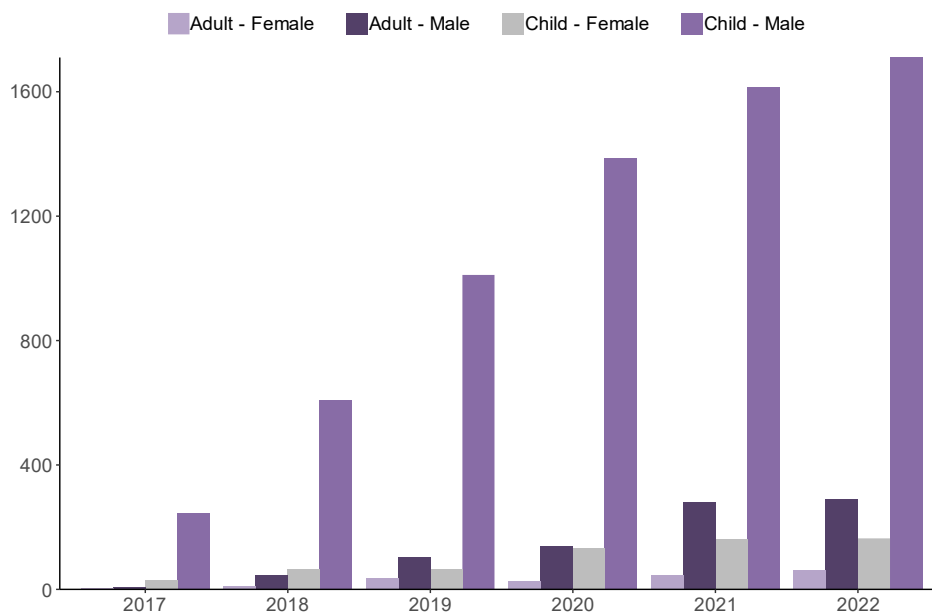


Source: Home Office

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. Further information on county lines can be found in the next section.

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.

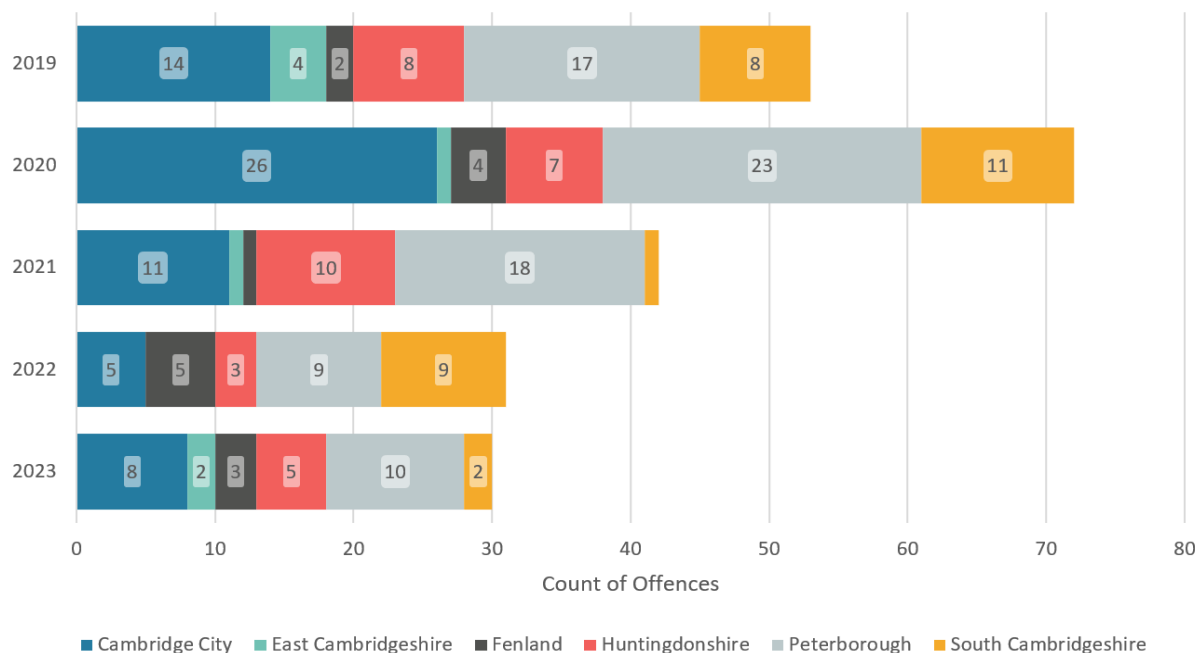
**Figure 34: National Number of NRM referrals flagged as county lines, by age group at exploitation and gender**



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, broken down by district. This shows that there were 30 offences recorded in 2023, down from the peak of 72 recorded in 2020. South Cambridgeshire saw just two offences in 2023 down from 9 offences in 2022. These numbers should not be taken as a true representation of the levels of modern slavery offending in South Cambridgeshire, or countywide, due to high levels of underreporting for this crime type.



**Figure 35: Police recorded Modern Slavery Offences by district 2019-2023**



### 9.3. County Lines

County Lines refers to a model of offending whereby gangs and organised crime groups move drugs into supply areas within the UK via the exploitation of vulnerable individuals. These individuals are recruited and coerced into the drug supply chain (NCA, 2019). The term ‘County Line’ refers to the dedicated mobile phone line used to receive orders for drugs. Criminal networks involved in running county lines operations are typically located in urban hubs but facilitate the movement of drugs into more rural areas. 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. Police intelligence indicates that county lines are currently active in Cambridge City which is relevant to the South Cambridgeshire CSP due to the geographical proximity and likelihood for residents to be traveling into the city.

### 9.4. 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:

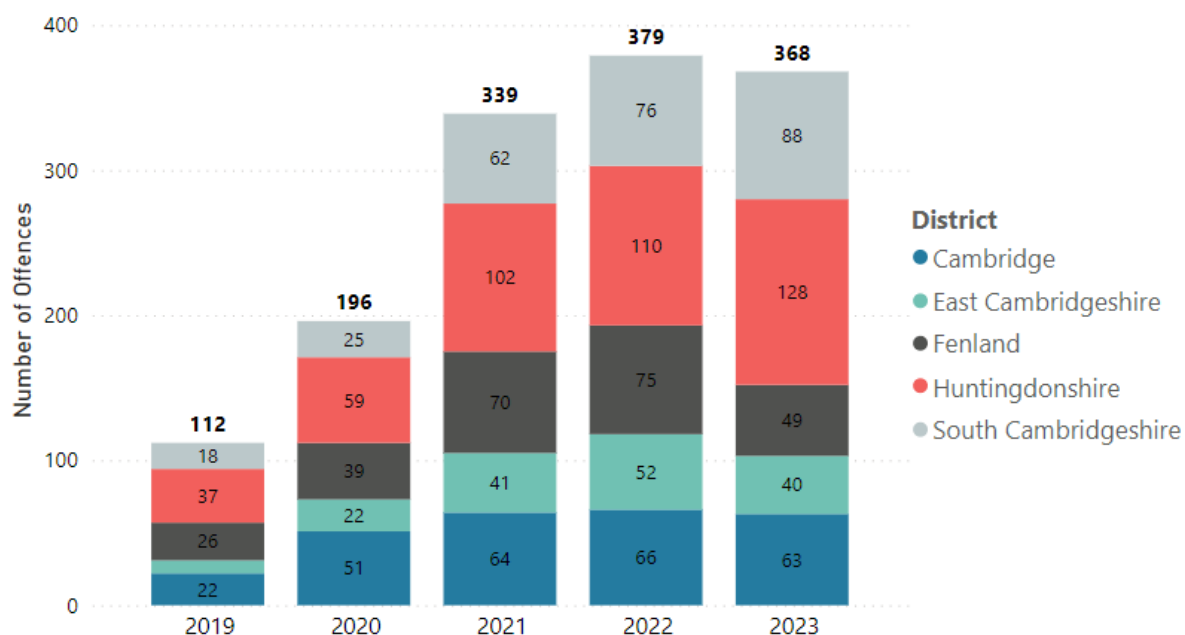
*“Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (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 have been on an upward trajectory in South Cambridgeshire between 2019 – 2023, broadly reflecting the countywide pattern. There were 87 offences recorded in the last year, up from 76 in 2022.

**Figure 36: Police recorded CSE offences in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 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 226 offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire between 2021 – 2023. As displayed in the table below, the most common offence type was ‘other sexual offences’ accounting for 44%, followed by Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society which accounted for 39%. 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).

**Table 9: CSE offences in South Cambridgeshire by short title, 2021 to 2023**

Offence Sub-Type	Count of offences January 2021 – December 2023	Percentage of offences
Other Sexual Offences	100	44.2%
Misc Crimes Against Society	89	39.4%
Rape	20	8.8%
Stalking & Harassment	8	3.5%
Other Theft	5	2.2%
Other offences	4	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 10. ASB

### 10.1. Summary and Recommendations

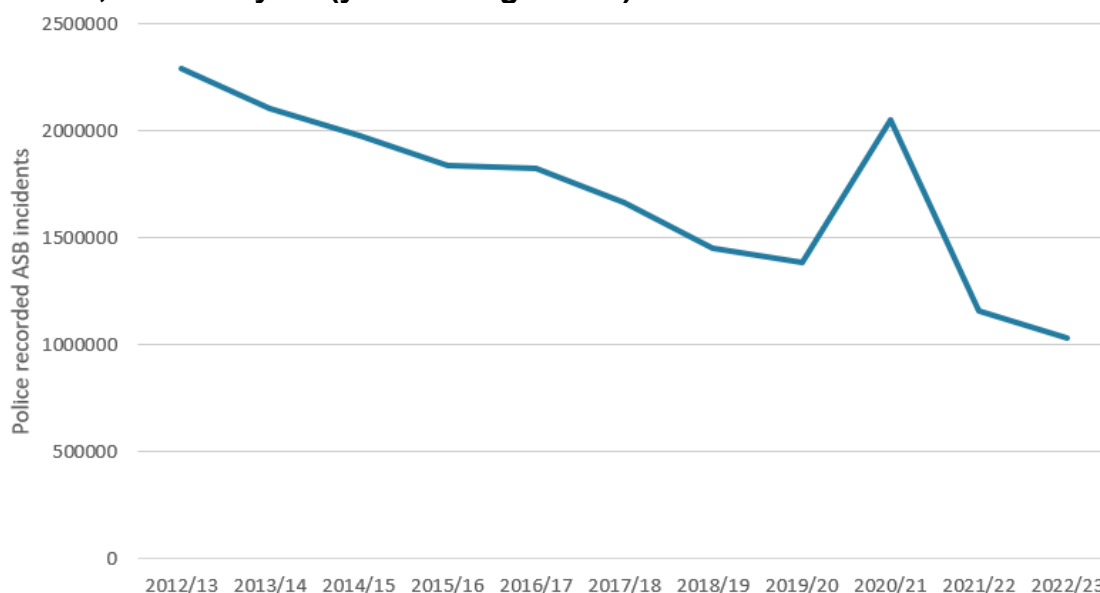
Following decreases in 2021 and 2022 the level of ASB in South Cambridgeshire increased by 14% in 2023, driven by an increase in nuisance offences which accounted for 80% of all ASB. Despite this increase ASB incident levels remain 14% below the pre-pandemic 2019 count.

Milton & Waterbeach and Histon & Impington wards accounted for the highest proportion of ASB in the district and saw the highest incident increases in 2023. **Emerging areas of concern should continue to be monitored via the quarterly reviews and work to tackle and ASB in Milton & Waterbeach and Histon & Impington should continue in the upcoming year.**

### 10.2. National Trend

Aside from a spike during the Covid 19 pandemic (linked to breaches of lockdown restrictions), levels of police recorded ASB in England and Wales have been on a downward trajectory in the past decade, as illustrated in the figure below.

**Figure 37: Police recorded ASB incidents in England and Wales, 2012/13 – 2022/23, financial year (year ending March)**



Source: (ONS, 2023d)

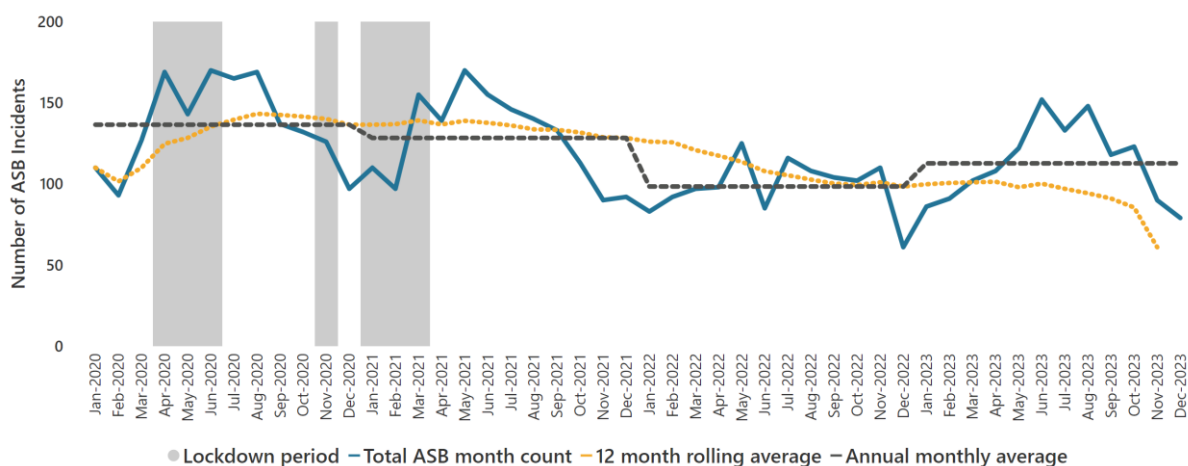
The latest CSEW estimates indicate that a quarter of people experienced or witnessed ASB in the last 12 months, consistent with levels in the previous year. National police recorded data however showed a decrease in ASB, with 1 million

incidents recorded in England and Wales in the year ending September 2023, down by 8% on the previous year (ONS, 2024a).

### 10.3. Local Trend

There were 1,352 ASB incidents recorded in South Cambridgeshire in 2023, an increase of 14% compared to 2022. The figure below shows the monthly count of ASB incidents for the past 4 years along with the rolling and annual month averages. This highlights that, following fluctuations linked to the Covid-19 pandemic seen in 2020 and early 2021, ASB was on a downward trajectory in South Cambridgeshire until a spike in cases during the summer (May - September 2023).

**Figure 38: Police recorded ASB incidents in South Cambridgeshire, January 2020 to December 2023**

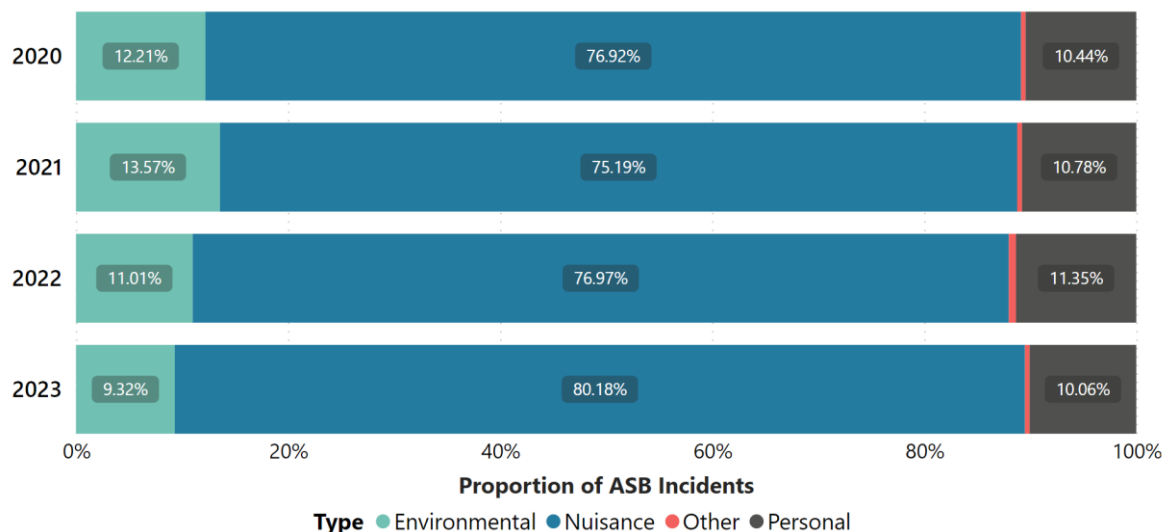


The rate of ASB incidents per 1,000 population in South Cambridgeshire district was 8.3 in the year ending December 2023, below the Cambridgeshire-wide rate of 10.8 (based on Census 2021 population data).

### 10.4. ASB Type

Nuisance, which refers to incidents which impact on the local community in general, account for the majority of ASB recorded in South Cambridgeshire. There has been an increase in the proportion of nuisance incidents between 2022 and 2023, with the proportion of environment and personal ASB both decreasing slightly.

**Figure 39: Police recorded ASB by incident type, South Cambridgeshire, 2020 – 2023**



The majority of personal ASB incidents in the year ending December 2023 were categorised as either ‘no risk’ or ‘standard risk’ (90%). 9.6% of incidents were classified as ‘medium risk’.

## 10.5. Geographical Analysis

Ward level analysis (see table below) shows that Milton & Waterbeach, Histon & Impington, Cambourne, and Fen Ditton and Fulbourn wards had the highest proportion of ASB incidents. All of these wards are either current priority areas or are under monitoring for adoption as a priority areas. Milton & Waterbeach saw the highest volume of ASB in the district. Additional Milton & Waterbeach ASB mapping has been completed as a briefing paper, this showed the Milton Park & Ride to be a hotspot for ASB, specifically vehicle related nuisance. Options to tackle the issues identified at this location, for example, a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) are currently being explored via a partnership approach, taking into account national good practice and resource implications. Histon & Impington accounts for the second highest proportion of ASB and saw the second largest increase in 2023 (+33 incidents).

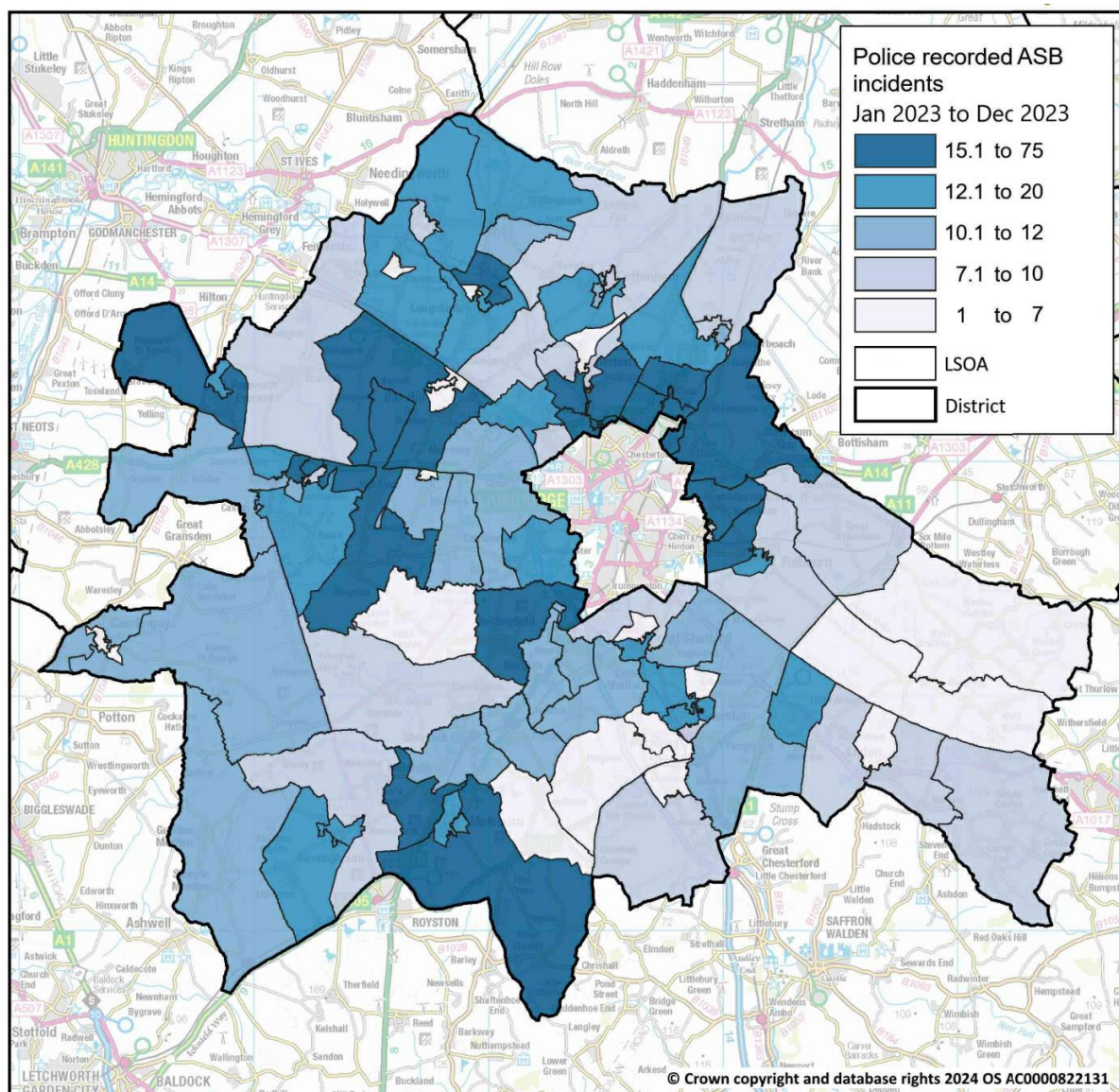
**Table 10: ASB incidents in South Cambridgeshire wards in 2022 and 2023**

Ward	2022 Incidents	2022 Percentage	2023 Incidents	2023 Percentage	Percentage point change between 2022 and 2023
Balsham	12	1.0%	15	1.1%	+0.1%
Bar Hill	23	1.9%	12	0.9%	-1.1%
Barrington	10	0.8%	9	0.7%	-0.2%
Bassingbourn	24	2.0%	31	2.3%	+0.3%
Caldecote	23	1.9%	48	3.6%	+1.6%
Cambourne	151	12.8%	127	9.4%	-3.4%
Caxton & Papworth	47	4.0%	64	4.7%	+0.8%
Cottenham	47	4.0%	40	3.0%	-1.0%
Duxford	33	2.8%	21	1.6%	-1.2%
Fen Ditton & Fulbourn	101	8.6%	120	8.9%	+0.3%
Foxton	17	1.4%	22	1.6%	+0.2%
Gamlingay	18	1.5%	17	1.3%	-0.3%
Girton	38	3.2%	32	2.4%	-0.9%
Hardwick	16	1.4%	17	1.3%	-0.1%
Harston & Comberton	64	5.4%	76	5.6%	+0.2%
Histon & Impington	107	9.1%	140	10.4%	+1.3%
Linton	36	3.0%	40	3.0%	-0.1%
Longstanton	90	7.6%	71	5.3%	-2.4%
Melbourn	51	4.3%	78	5.8%	+1.5%
Milton & Waterbeach	120	10.2%	170	12.6%	+2.4%
Over & Willingham	33	2.8%	45	3.3%	+0.5%
Sawston	36	3.0%	61	4.5%	+1.5%
Shelford	26	2.2%	45	3.3%	+1.1%
Swavesey	26	2.2%	26	1.9%	-0.3%
The Mordens	24	2.0%	17	1.3%	-0.8%
Whittlesford	8	0.7%	8	0.6%	-0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1352</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	-

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 15 incidents) are primarily located north-east are of the district bordering Cambridge City and west of Cambridge in Cambourne. The lowest levels of ASB incidents were in the south-east.



**Figure 40: Police recorded ASB in South Cambridgeshire by LSOA, 2023**



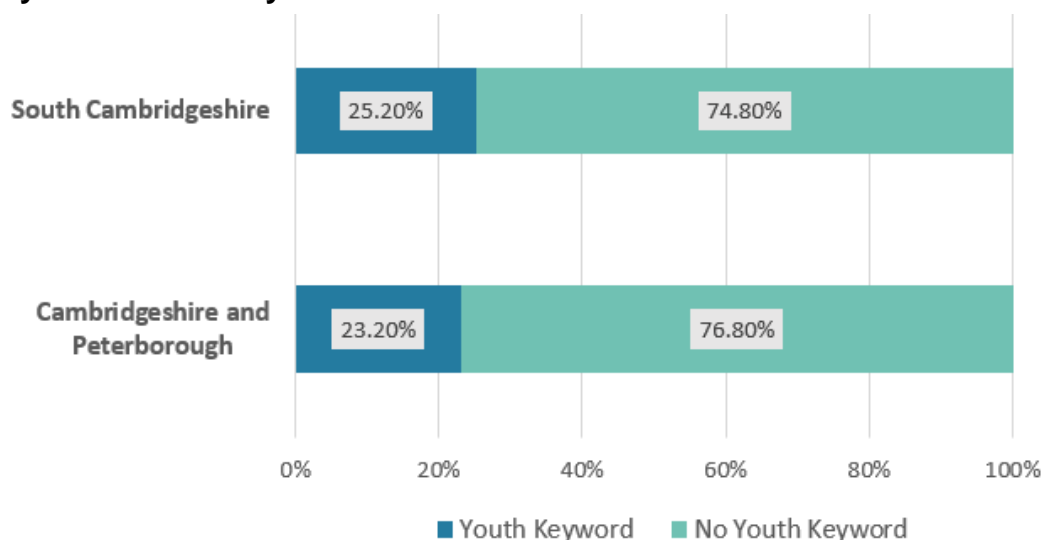
## 10.6. ASB Involving Young People

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, just over a quarter (25.2%) of ASB recorded in South Cambridgeshire 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 has remained fairly stable in recent years.

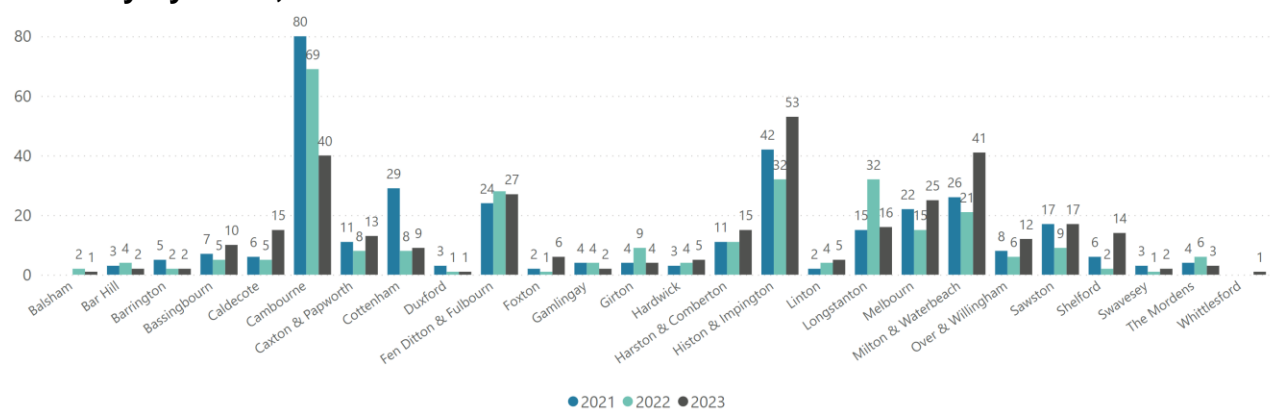


**Figure 41: Proportion of police recorded ASB incidents in 2023 which contain a youth related keyword**



As seen below, the wards which saw notable increases in the count of youth related ASB incidents included; Histon & Impington, Milton & Waterbeach and Shelford. The largest decrease was Cambourne ward which had 40 incidents in 2023, a 50% reduction from 80 in 2021.

**Figure 42: Police recorded youth ASB incidents in South Cambridgeshire annually by Ward, 2021 to 2023**



## 11. Substance Misuse

### 11.1. 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).

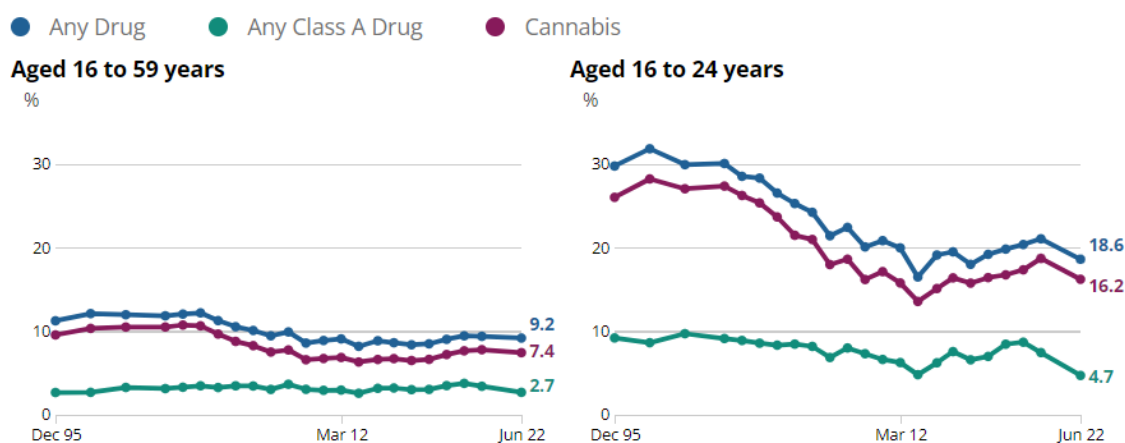
The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides a useful indicator of national patterns in drug use, as many instances of drug use will not typically come through in police recorded crime statistics. No data has yet been published for 2022/23, but the data below indicates trends up until 2021/22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

When looking 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 43). 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 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, 2022d).

Decreases were also seen in the use of ecstasy and nitrous oxide (from YE March 2020 to YE June 2022) (ONS, 2022d). The possession of laughing gas was recently criminalised. Classed as a Class C drug from 8<sup>th</sup> 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 43: 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, 2022d), 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.

## 11.2. Local Trends

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

### **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 (2023b, 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 (2023b, p. 28). Compared to England as a whole, Cambridgeshire saw a higher proportion seeking treatment for crack cocaine (2023b, 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%).

### **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 (2023b, p. 58). Females also reported higher alcohol consumption within the last 7 days compared to males (2023b, 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 (2023b, 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 (2023b, p. 58).

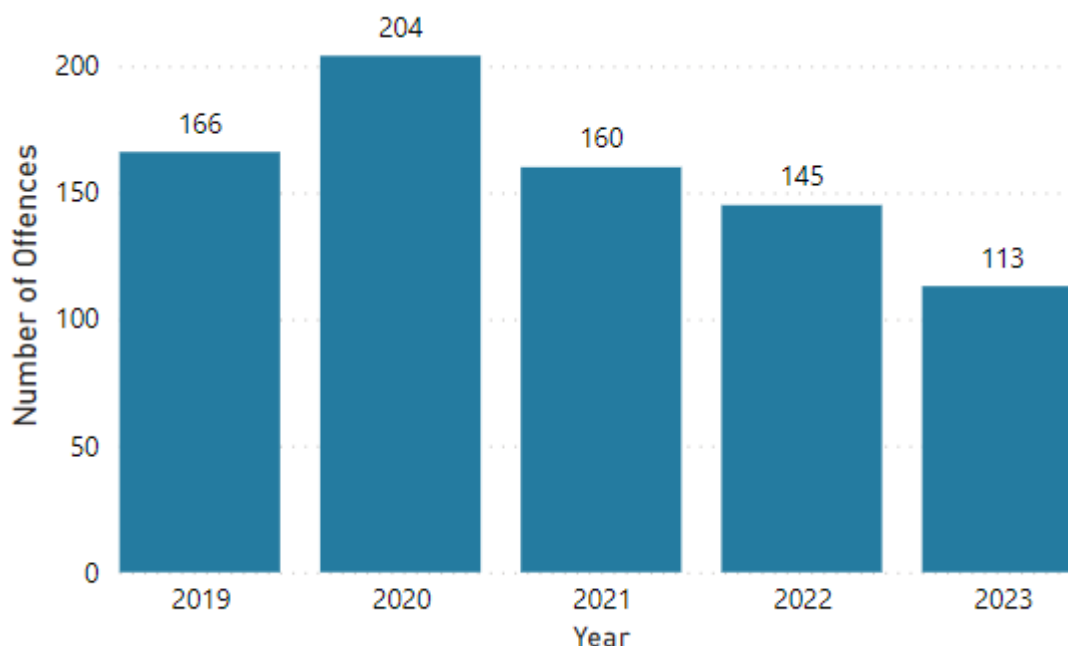
### **South Cambridgeshire**

Drug related deaths in South Cambridgeshire were very low between 2018 and 2020 (2023b, p. 56). South Cambridgeshire had a smaller the proportion of people owed statutory homelessness duty who had a drug dependency support need than seen countywide, or nationally (2.8% for South Cambridgeshire vs 6.9% for Cambridgeshire, and 6.3% for England) (2023b, p. 45).

South Cambridgeshire also had a smaller the proportion of people owed statutory homelessness duty who had alcohol dependency support needs than other Cambridgeshire districts, or nationally (3.4% for South Cambridgeshire vs 5.2% for Cambridgeshire, and 4.6% for England) (2023b, p. 16). The district also had a lower rate of alcohol related mortality (2021), and a lower rate of hospital admissions (for the year 2021/22) compared to other Cambridgeshire districts, and compared to the national rate. However, these rates were notably higher for males than females in South Cambridgeshire (470 admissions per 100,000 population for males, versus 276 for females; and 40 mortalities per 100,000 16+ population for males versus 14.1 for females). Those aged 40-64 accounted for the highest proportion of admissions, though those aged over 64 had the highest rate (630 per 100,000 population) (2023b, p. 8).

#### **11.2.1. 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, South Cambridgeshire drug offences in 2023 continued the decreasing trend seen locally in recent years (see Figure 44), reducing by 22% compared to the previous year (-32 offences). This equates to a 32% reduction in offences since pre-pandemic year 2019 (-53 offences), contrasting the countywide increase of 17%. Moreover, South Cambridgeshire's rate of drug offences (0.7 per 1000 population) was lower than the county rate (1.6 per 1000 population) and was a less than a third of the national rate (3.0 per 1000 population) of drug offences over a similar period (ONS, 2024b, p. A7)

**Figure 44: Annual trend in police recorded drug offences in South Cambridgeshire, from 2019 to 2023**

### 11.2.2. 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).

Local CGL data has shown a 13% decrease in the number of clients in treatment for substance misuse in the last year (-14 clients). This decrease was reflected across treatment for each substance type, excluding those in treatment for both non-opiates and alcohol, which increased by 6 clients. It cannot be concluded whether this reflects a lower number of users than in the previous year or a smaller proportion of users accessing treatment. Similar to previous years, those in treatment for alcohol accounted for largest proportion of service users (40%), followed by those in treatment for opiates (32%).

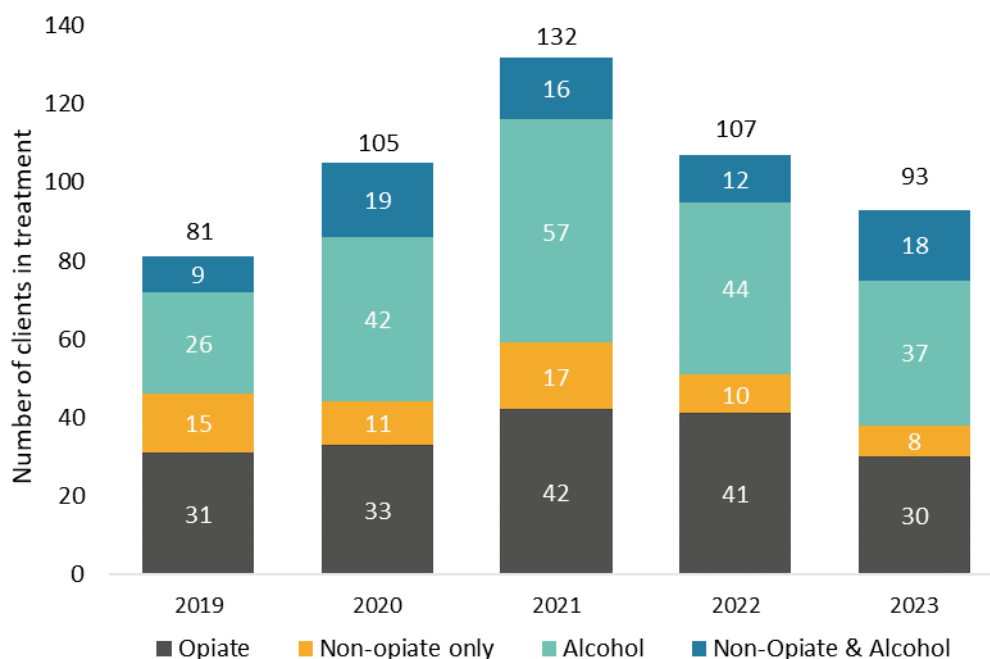
**Table 11: Clients residing in South Cambridgeshire and in treatment or who successfully completed treatment in 2023**

Clients grouped by substance	Count of clients in 2022	Count of clients in 2023	Percentage of clients in 2023	% change between 2022 and 2023
Opiate	41	30	32%	-27%
Non-opiate only	10	8	9%	-20%
Alcohol only	44	37	40%	-16%
Non-opiate and alcohol	12	18	19%	+50%
Total Number in Treatment	107	93	100%	-13%
Successful completions	33	28	-	-15%

Source: Change Grow Live (CGL)

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

**Figure 45: Clients in treatment in South Cambridgeshire, by year and substance type**



Source: Change Grow Live (CGL)

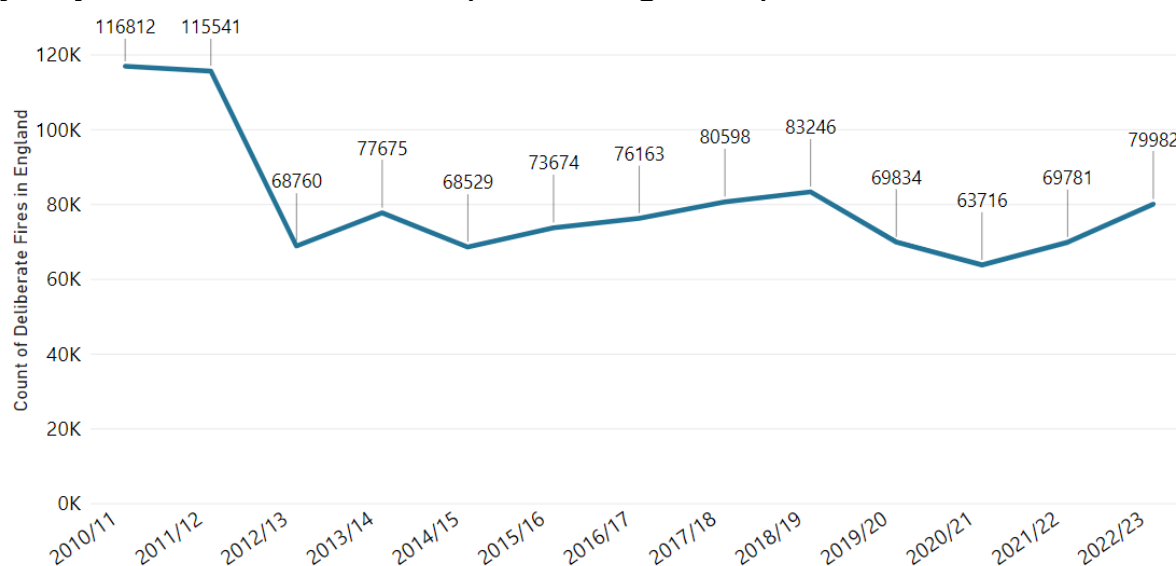
## 12. Fire

### 12.1. Trends over time

The national and local Fire Service data used in this section includes accidental, and deliberate fires as well and 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 the total number of fires attended in the 2022/23 was 178,737. This is 17% higher than seen in the previous year (Home Office, 2023b). The national figures for deliberate fires attended have remained relatively stable since 2011/12. Between 2021/22 and 2022/23 the number of deliberate fires attended increased by 15% to 79,982 (Home Office, 2023b).

**Figure 46: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England yearly between 2010 and 2023 (Year ending March)**



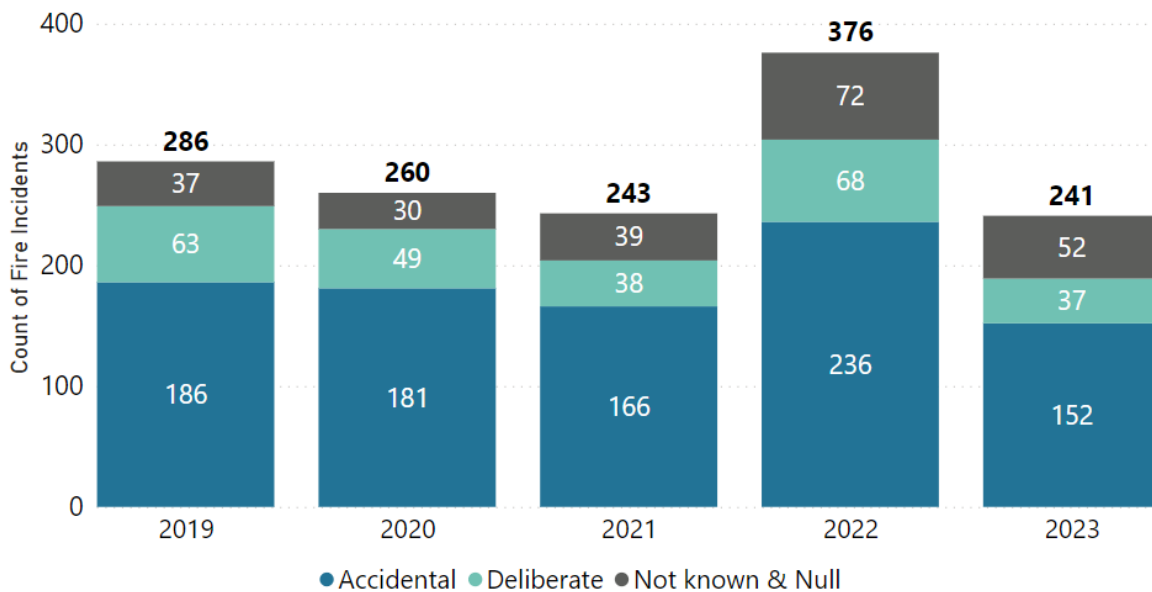
Source: (Home Office, 2023b)

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue service recorded 241 fires in South Cambridgeshire between January 2023 and December 2023. This is down over a third (-36%) compared to 2022 where 376 fires were recorded. South Cambridgeshire accounted for 14% of the total fires in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and 8% of deliberate fires in 2023.

The figure below displays the number of fires in South Cambridgeshire broken down by cause for the past five years, this shows that all fire types saw a reduction in the

last year to similar levels seen in 2020 and 2021. Deliberate fires decreased by 46%, down from 68 in 2022 to 37 in 2023.

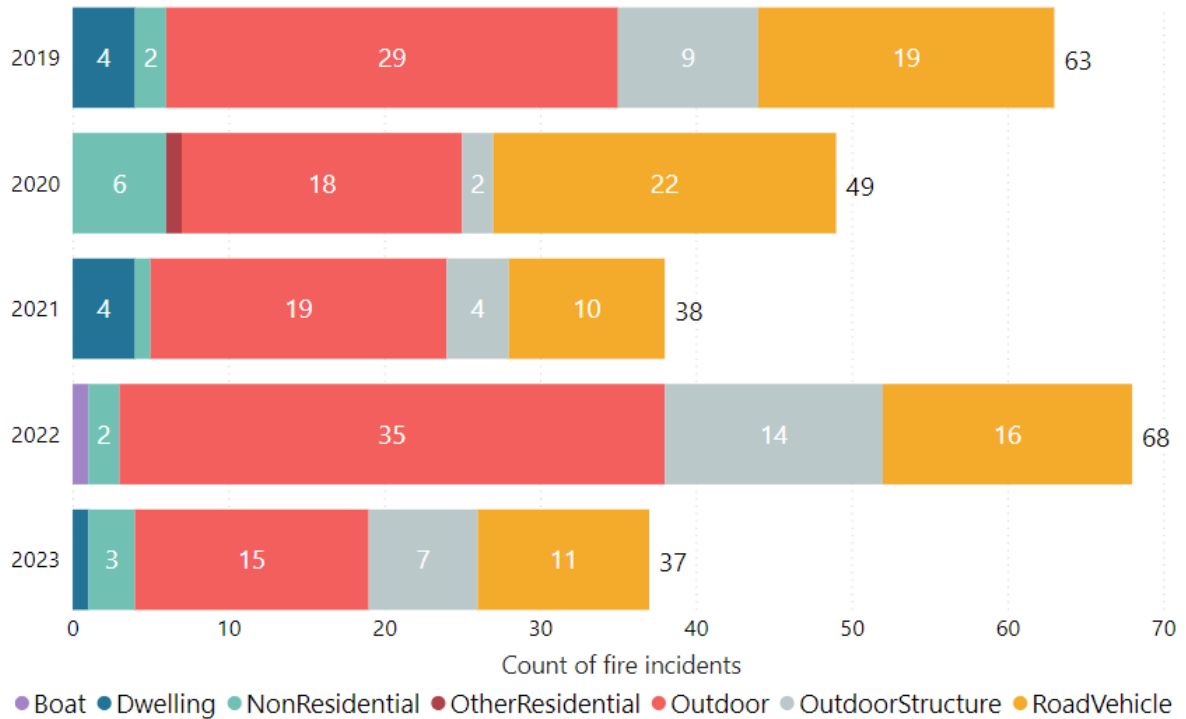
**Figure 47: Count of fires in South Cambridgeshire by cause, 2019-2023**



All deliberate fires (other property, own property, and unknown owner) saw a reduction in 2023. Fires classified as ‘deliberate - others property’ reduced from 33 in 2022 to 11 in 2023. The figure below shows the property category for deliberate fires and shows that ‘outdoors’, ‘outdoor structure’ and ‘road vehicle’ were the biggest categories, at 15, 11 and 7 recorded respectively in 2023. Outdoor fires saw the largest reduction in 2023 to levels previously seen in 2021. The spike in 2022 was likely due to the summer heatwave.

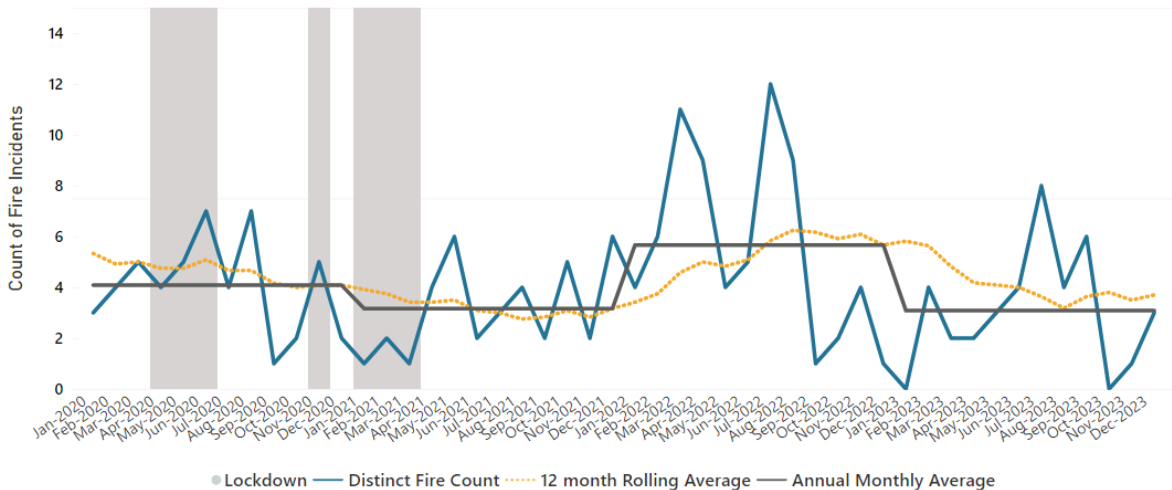


**Figure 48: Breakdown in property category of deliberate fires in South Cambridgeshire, 2019 – 2023**



The monthly trend of deliberate fires is displayed in the chart below, this shows that since January 2023 the number of fires has fluctuated between 0 and 8 deliberate fires a month, similar to levels seen in 2020 and 2021 but notable less than 2022 which had 2 spikes in deliberate fires during the summer.

**Figure 49: Monthly count of deliberate fires in South Cambridgeshire, January 2020 - December 2023**



## 12.2. Geographical analysis

Looking across the last three years of data, Histon & Impington has had the highest volume of deliberate fires with 20 recorded, 14% of all South Cambridgeshire fires.

**Table 12: The count and share of deliberate fires in South Cambridgeshire wards, 2021 to 2023**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Count of deliberate fires 2021-2023</b>	<b>Proportion of deliberate fires</b>
Histon & Impington	20	14.0%
Cambourne	12	8.4%
Fen Ditton & Fulbourn	10	7.0%
Milton & Waterbeach	10	7.0%
Over & Willingham	10	7.0%
Cottenham	9	6.3%
Melbourn	9	6.3%
Longstanton	8	5.6%
Harston & Comberton	7	4.9%
Shelford	7	4.9%
Caxton & Papworth	5	3.5%
Duxford	<5	<3%
Foxton	<5	<3%
Sawston	<5	<3%
Swavesey	<5	<3%
The Mordens	<5	<3%
Balsham	<5	<3%
Bar Hill	<5	<3%
Gamlingay	<5	<3%
Girton	<5	<3%
Linton	<5	<3%
Whittlesford	<5	<3%
Barrington	<5	<3%
Bassingbourn	<5	<3%
Hardwick	<5	<3%
<b>South Cambridgeshire Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100%</b>

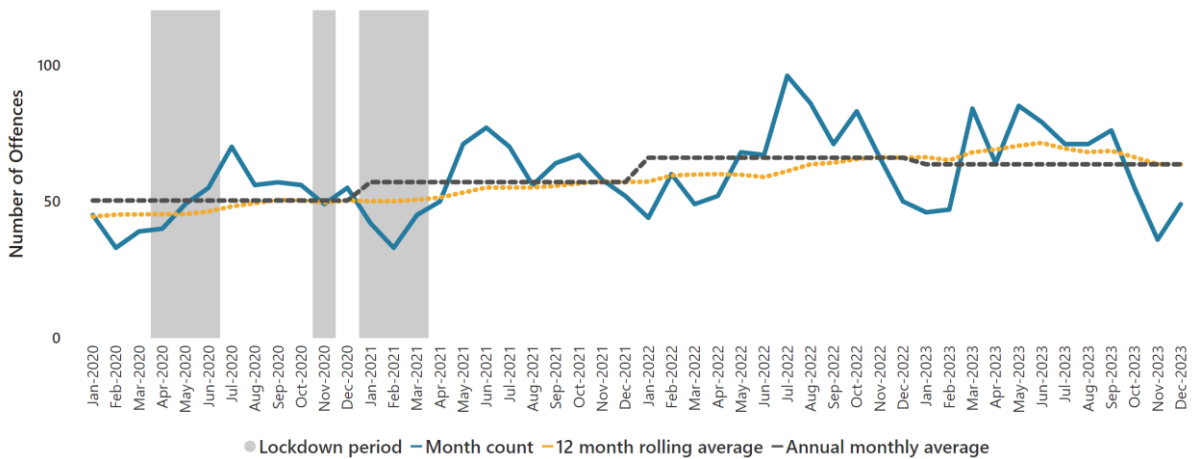
## 13. Public Order

### 13.1. Trends Over Time

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 in South Cambridgeshire decreased in 2023 to 763 offences, down 4% on the previous year. The figure below illustrates that public order offences had been on a slight upward trajectory since the pandemic period, however, offences dropped towards the end of 2023 (October to December).

**Figure 50: Police recorded public order offences in South Cambridgeshire, January 2020 – December 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 South Cambridgeshire 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 racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress.

**Table 13: Count of public order offences by Short Title, South Cambridgeshire, January 2023 - December 2023**

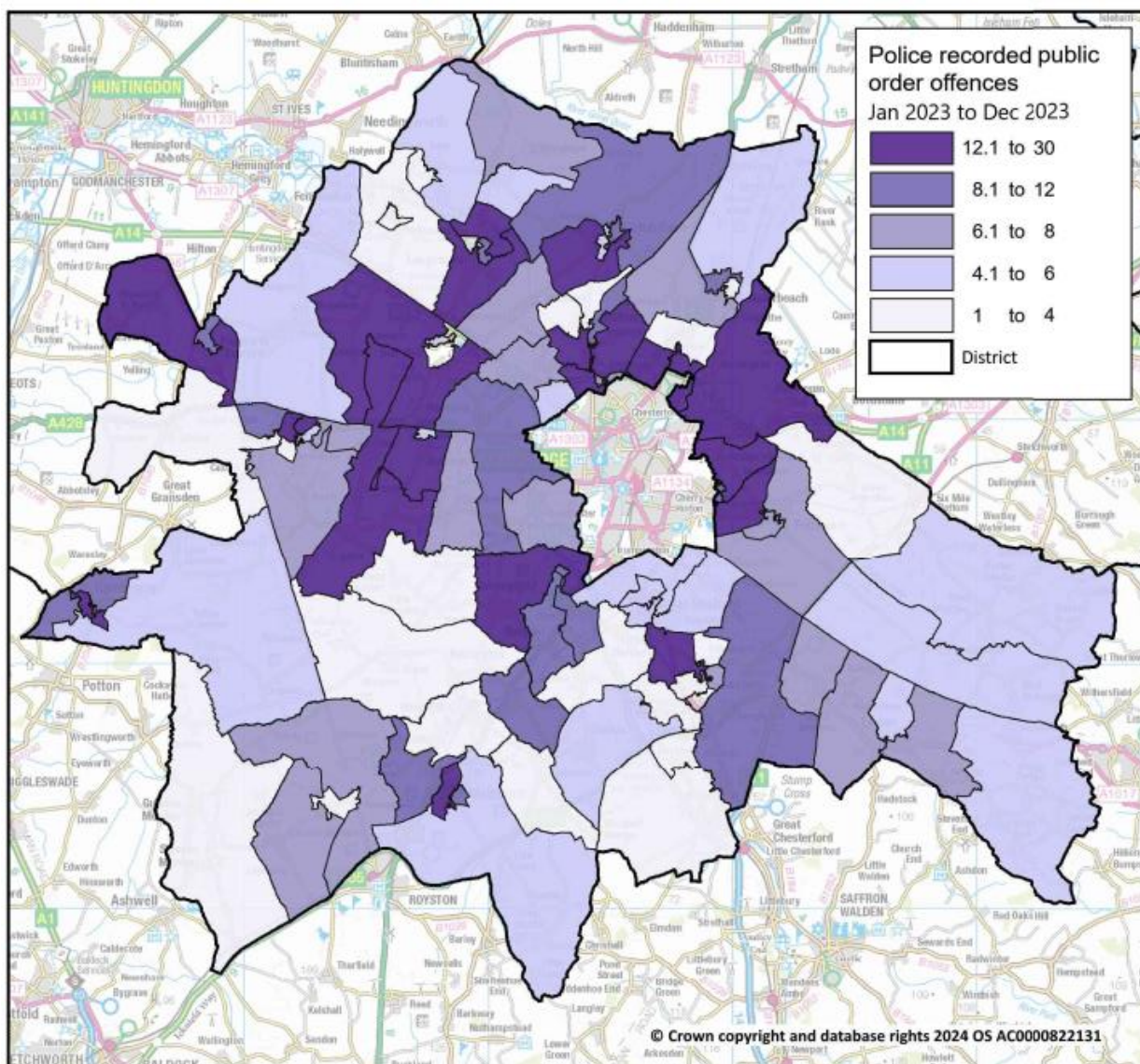
<b>Offence Short Title</b>	<b>Count of Offences</b>
Sec 4a POA Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress	377
Sec 4 POA Fear or provocation of violence	236
Racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress	35
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress	23
Breach of non-molestation order	21
Affray	18
Sec 5 POA Harassment, alarm or distress	15
Breach of a criminal behaviour order	9
Committing or conspiring to commit, an act outraging public decency	7
Racially or religiously aggravated fear or provocation of violence	6
All other offences	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>763</b>

Note: Where the offence count was under 5 these categories have been combined under 'All other offences'.

## 13.2. Geographical Analysis

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 (over 12 incidents) are primarily located West of Cambridge City around Cambourne, and North East around Milton and Waterbeach. The lowest levels of public order offences were south of the district.

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



## 14. 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 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.

**Table 14: Hate crimes recorded by the police by monitored strand, year ending March 2019 to year ending March 2023, England and Wales (excluding Devon and Cornwall)**

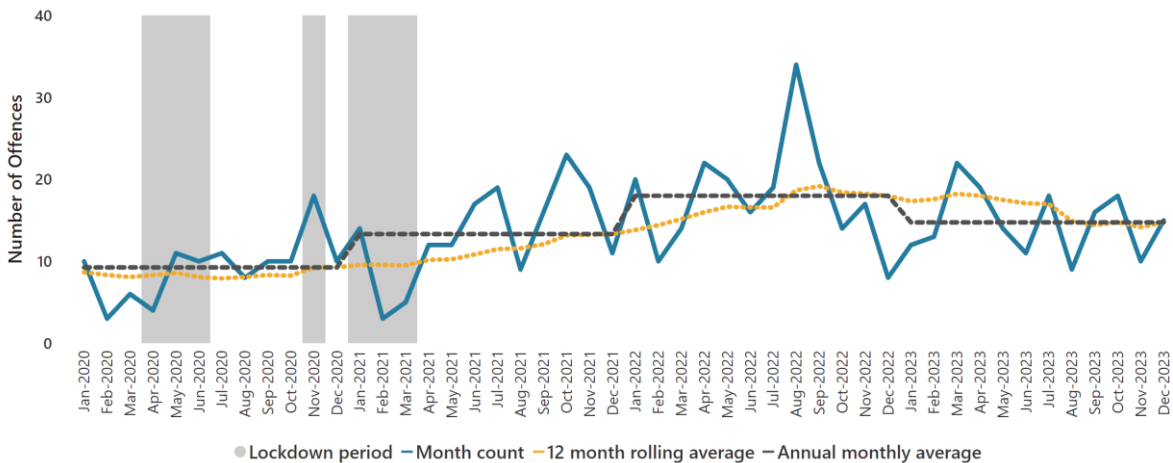
Hate crime strand	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	% change 2021/22 to 2022/23
<b>Race</b>	77850	-	90909	108476	101906	-6%
<b>Religion</b>	8,460	-	6288	8602	8241	-4%
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	14161	-	18239	25639	24102	-6%
<b>Disability</b>	8502	-	9690	13905	13777	-1%
<b>Transgender</b>	2253	-	2728	4262	4732	11%
Total number of motivating factors	110776	-	127854	160884	152758	-5%
<b>Total number of offences</b>	<b>104765</b>	<b>112633</b>	<b>122256</b>	<b>153536</b>	<b>145214</b>	<b>-5%</b>

Source: Table 2.1 in Hate crime report for England and Wales, 2022 to 2023, second edition (Home Office, 2023c).

Prevalence estimates based on the CSEW are not currently available with the next estimates (based on a 3-year average) expected to be published in 2025.

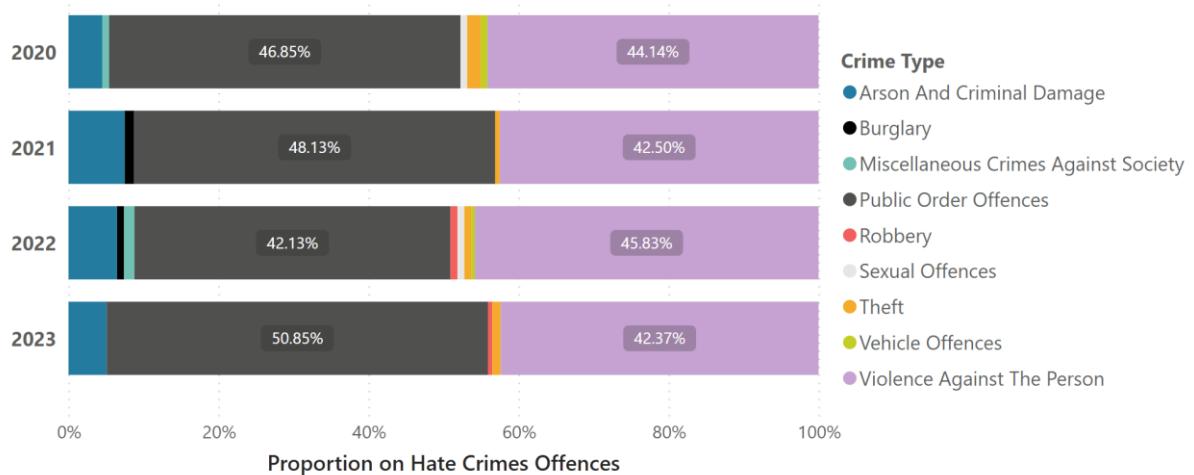
Local police recorded crime data shows that there were 177 offences in South Cambridgeshire in 2023 that were marked as hate crimes. This represents a decrease of 18% on the previous year (-39 offences). The figure below displays the monthly count of hate crimes and shows fairly consistent levels during 2022 and 2023, apart from a spike seen in August 2022.

**Figure 52: Police recorded hate crimes in South Cambridgeshire, October 2020 - September 2023**



The figure below shows the offence type breakdown for all hate crimes recorded in South Cambridgeshire in the last four years. The majority of hate crimes in 2023 were violence against the person and public order offences, combined accounting for 93% of offences. The breakdown has fluctuated over time with a notable changes in violence against the person and public order offences in the last 4 years. The level of arson and criminal damage offences is down from 6.5% in 2022 to 5.1% in 2023. Variation in crime type breakdown in recent years may be linked to the differing degrees of impact that lockdown restrictions had on different crime types.

**Figure 53: Proportion of offence types for all Hate Crimes, South Cambridgeshire, 2020 – 2023**



## 15. Offending

### 15.1. Probation Cohort Profile

The Probation Service have provided a caseload profile for individuals on probation in South Cambridgeshire as of 18/01/2024. There were 249 people on probation with a home location in South Cambridgeshire.

The table below presents the probation assessed risks of reoffending/serious harm throughout South Cambridgeshire. Risk of serious harm related to the probability that a future offence will be one of “serious harm”. Just over a quarter (26%) of individuals in the South Cambridgeshire probation caseload were assessed as at high or very high risk of reoffending. The number of individuals assessed as at very high risk for serious harm was less than 5 so the number has been suppressed. A fifth of the caseload (20%) were assessed as high risk.

**Table 15: Probation assessed risk of reoffending/serious harm for South Cambridgeshire’s probation caseload**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Not assessed</b>
Risk of reoffending - count	107	78	44	20	N/A
Risk of reoffending - percentage	43%	31%	18%	8%	N/A
Risk of serious harm - count	39	158	50	<5	<5
Risk of serious harm - percentage	16%	63%	20%	<1%	<1%

Notes:

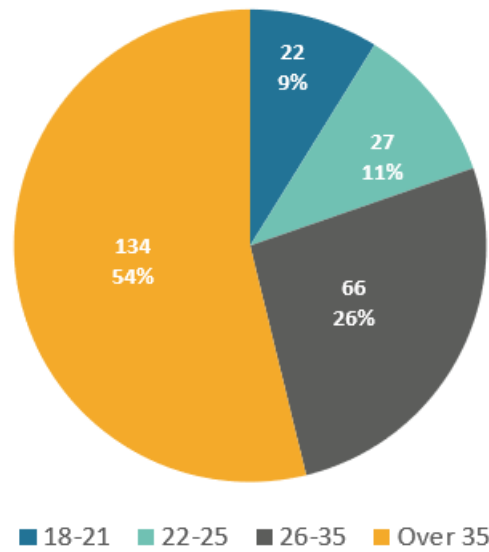
The Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS) is a proven predictor of re-offending based only on static risks – age, gender, and criminal history.

Risk of Serious Harm (ROSH) is defined as the highest of the assessed risks to - children, other individuals either known or not, to staff, or to self, whilst in the community.

The age profile for the South Cambridgeshire cohort is presented in the chart below. Over 35’s account for just over half (54%) of the caseload. Just over a quarter (26%) of the cohort were aged 26-35 with 20% being in the younger age groups between 18-25.



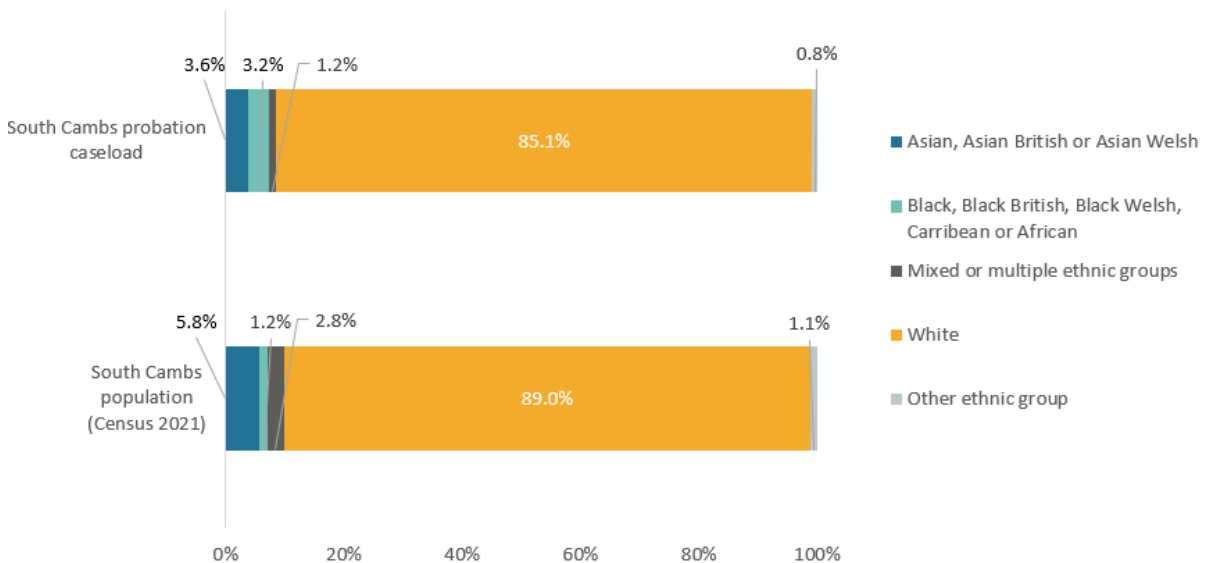
**Figure 54: Age breakdown for individuals active on the South Cambridgeshire probation caseload (as of 18/01/2024)**



Males account for the vast majority of individuals on the South Cambridgeshire probation caseload at 93%.

Ethnic group was either not stated or refused for 6% of individuals on the South Cambridgeshire probation caseload. The figure below shows the ethnicity breakdown for the 234 individuals where ethnic group was recorded, alongside the breakdown for the South Cambridgeshire population (2021 census). This shows that the white ethnic group is slightly underrepresented in the probation caseload, accounting for 85.1% compared to 89.0% of the local population. Asian ethnic groups are also slightly underrepresented.

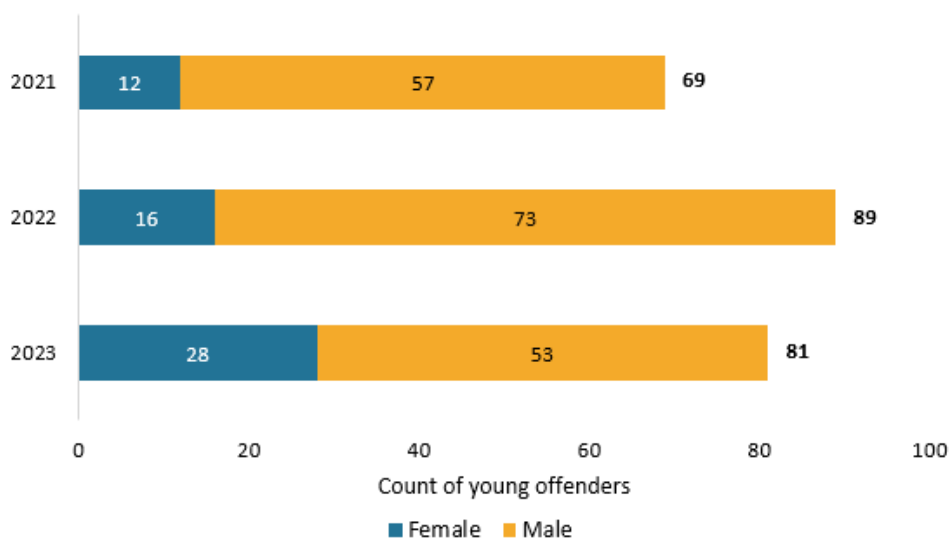
**Figure 55: Ethnicity breakdown for individuals active on the South Cambridgeshire probation caseload (as of 18/01/2024) and the Census 2021 population**



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

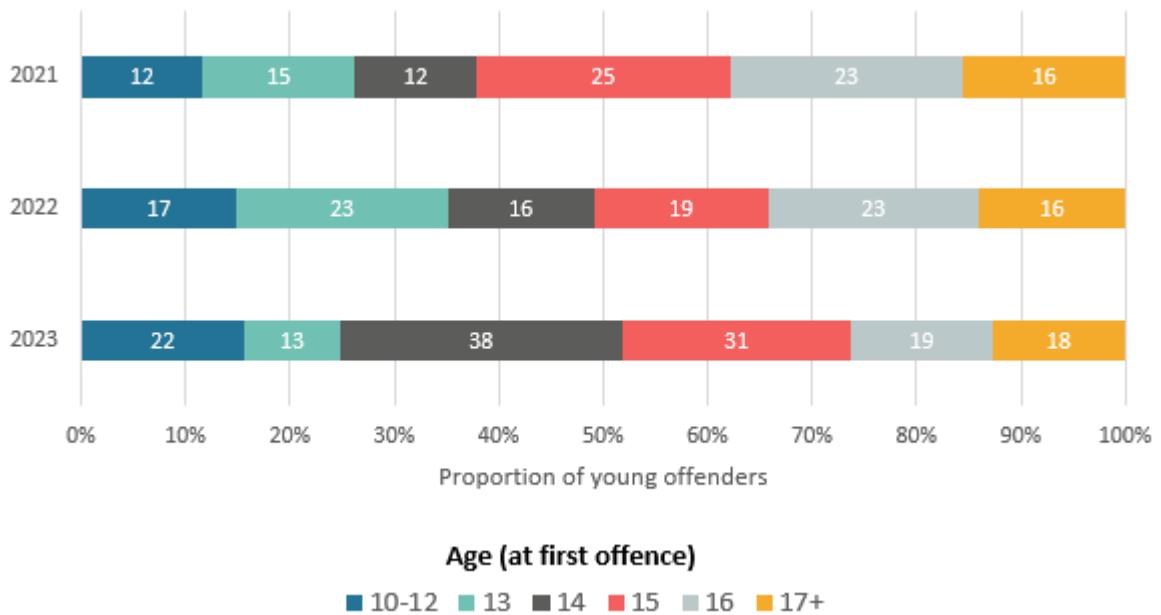
The total count of unique offenders in the South Cambridgeshire YOS cohort increased notably in 2022, rising from 69 in the previous year to 89. In the latest year, this count reduced slightly to 81 individuals. As illustrated in the figure below, the cohort has been predominantly male over the past three years, although the proportion of female offenders increased from 17% in 2021 to 35% in 2023.

**Figure 56: The total annual counts of unique offenders in the South Cambridgeshire YOS cohort from the 2021-2023**



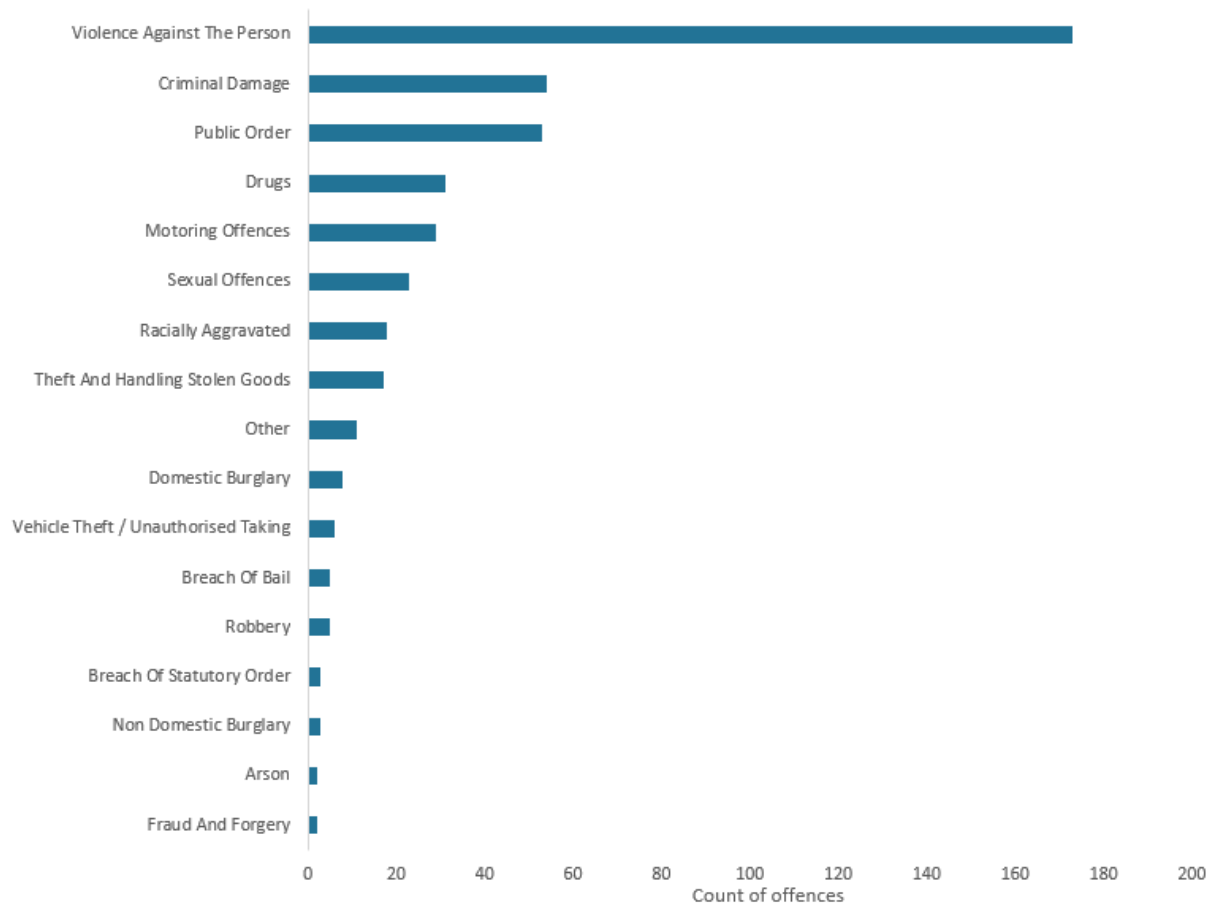
The age profile (at the time of first offence) for the YOS cohort is presented in the figure below. This shows that individuals are fairly evenly spread between the ages. There has not been a notable shift toward younger or older offenders between 2022 and 2023 with the median age remaining consistent at 14 years old.

**Figure 57: Age of first offence for the South Cambridgeshire 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 39% of all offences. Criminal damage and public order were the next most common offence types, each accounting for 12% of offences.

**Figure 58: Primary offence type for young offenders in South Cambridgeshire YOS cohort, 2021-2023**



### 15.3. Re-offending

The latest available reliable re-offending statistic were presented in the 2021/22 strategic assessment. Due to continued data challenges following the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic there is no update to these figures to present in this assessment.

## 16. Glossary

**Table 16: 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)
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 domestic violence or abuse, a Domestic

Term	Definition
	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
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 is not 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 and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors (Safe Lives, 2013).

Term	Definition
MO	Within the context of this document “MO” stands for Modus Operandi and refers to a short description of what happened in a police recorded crime.
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.
PIT	Policy and Insight Team. Formerly the Cambridgeshire Research Group.
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



<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
	acquisitive crime group called “theft offences”, 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.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).

## A4. 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)

## A5. 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)**

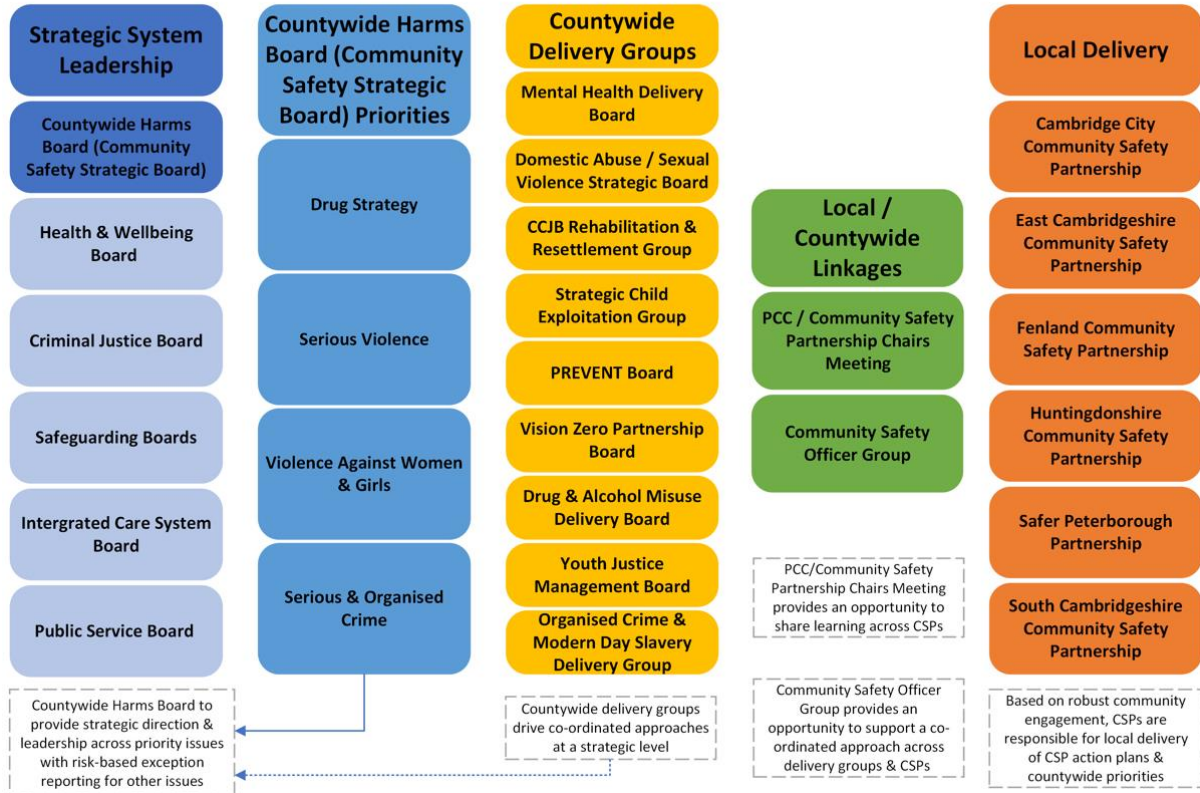
1. Data from the CSEW for the year ending September 2022 and September 2023 are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Data on this chart refer to different time periods: 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year; and from the year ending March 2002 onwards the estimates relate 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 6: 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, 2022e).

**Figure 59: 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: OPCC priorities - 2021/24

**Table 17: 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)



## Appendix F: Appendix Tables

**Table 18: Vehicle offences involving lorries in Caxton and Papworth ward in 2022 and 2023**

<b>Lorry key word search</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>All Caxton and Papworth: Total vehicle offences</b>	<b>51 (100%)</b>	<b>127 (100%)</b>
All Caxton & Papworth: Lorry not mentioned in incident summary	40 (78%)	41 (32%)
All Caxton and Papworth: Lorry mentioned in Incident Summary	11 (22%)	86 (68%)
<b>Caxton &amp; Papworth Services: Total vehicle offences</b>	<b>17 (100%)</b>	<b>97 (100%)</b>
Caxton & Papworth Services: Lorry not mentioned in incident summary	6 (35%)	11 (11%)
Caxton & Papworth Services: Lorry mentioned in Incident Summary	11 (65%)	86 (89%)

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