

# **Community Safety Strategic Assessment:**

**Fenland**

**2024**

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

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# Table of Contents

<b>Document Details .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Table of Contents .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1. Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1. Recommendations .....	7
1.2. Summary of Key Findings .....	12
<b>2. Introduction .....</b>	<b>15</b>
2.1. National .....	15
2.2. Economic Context .....	18
<b>3. Crime Overview .....</b>	<b>22</b>
3.1. Ward Analysis .....	24
<b>4. Personal Loss .....</b>	<b>24</b>
4.1. Summary .....	24
4.1. Technical Note .....	25
4.2. National Context .....	25
4.3. Local Context .....	26
<b>5. Scams, Fraud and Cyber Crime .....</b>	<b>29</b>
5.1. Summary .....	29
5.2. National Context .....	29
5.3. Local Trend .....	30
<b>6. Violence Against the Person .....</b>	<b>33</b>
6.1. Summary .....	33
6.2. Technical note .....	33
6.3. Overview .....	34
6.4. Ward Analysis .....	35
6.5. Weapons .....	36
6.6. Serious Violence .....	38
<b>7. Sexual offences .....</b>	<b>39</b>
7.1. Summary .....	39

7.2.	National Trend and Context .....	39
7.3.	Local Trend and Context .....	42
7.4.	Victims .....	45
7.5.	Sexual Violence Prevention and Reduction – What works? .....	46
8.	Domestic Abuse .....	50
8.1.	Summary.....	50
8.2.	National Context .....	50
8.3.	Local Context .....	51
8.4.	DA Crime Types .....	53
8.5.	Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) .....	54
8.6.	Ward Analysis .....	54
9.	Exploitation and Vulnerability.....	55
9.1.	Summary.....	55
9.2.	Modern Slavery .....	55
9.3.	County Lines .....	58
9.4.	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) .....	59
10.	Substance Misuse.....	61
10.1.	Summary.....	61
10.2.	National Trends.....	61
10.3.	Local Trends.....	63
11.	Offending .....	65
11.1.	Summary.....	65
11.2.	Adult Offenders .....	66
11.3.	Youth Justice Service (YJS) Cohort Profile.....	67
12.	Issues that impact the community .....	75
12.1.	Summary.....	75
12.2.	Commercial Loss .....	76
12.3.	ASB .....	84
12.4.	Criminal Damage.....	87
12.5.	Public Order .....	88

12.6. Hate Crime .....	90
12.7. Fires .....	92
13. Geographic Analysis .....	94
14. Glossary.....	95
Appendix A: Technical Notes.....	100
A.1. Census 2021 .....	100
A.2. Population Estimates.....	100
A.3. CSEW Quarterly Bulleting .....	100
A.4. Fraud and Cyber Crime Data.....	102
A.5. Burglary Offences .....	103
A.6. Proven Reoffending Statistics .....	103
A.7. NRM data.....	104
A.8. Local LSOA Names .....	105
A.9. Knife crime and sharp instrument offences .....	106
Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes.....	106
Appendix C: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Community Safety Countywide Agreement 2022-2025 .....	109
Appendix D: CSP OPCC Activity Review .....	110
References.....	112

# 1. Executive Summary

The document has taken a broad look at a number of community safety issues and includes analysis from a range of data sources. It examines key statutory themes for the CSP such as violence, reoffending, anti-social behaviour (ASB) as well as community safety issues that impact the environment and substance misuse. As in previous years, the analysis is impacted by data availability and quality. Data and insights presented here are drawn from both national analysis and evidence as well as locally produced analysis.

It should be noted that in order to reduce duplication, more detailed analysis can be found on Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight website, [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight – Welcome to Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight \(cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk\)](https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk), on the following topics:

- Domestic Abuse and Serious Violence can be found in the Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment produced November 2023.
- Population changes including the analysis of the 2021 Census
- Deprivation
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessments from Public Health
- Serious Violence Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough published in January 2025 along with a summary Power BI dashboard.

## 1.1. Recommendations

The Fenland Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has the strategic theme of “Keeping Communities Safe” along with the tactical themes of “Putting Communities First” and “Crime Prevention”. Along with these themes, the CSP currently has the following primary work streams:

- Violence against the person (VAP)
- Hate Crime
- Scams/Fraud/Cybercrime
- Domestic Abuse
- Better understand Offending

Recommendations are broken down into the following areas: prioritisation of community safety issues in the context of current primary work streams, prioritisation of geographic wards, and prevention.

### 1.1.1. Prioritisation of community safety issues

It is recommended that the CSP prioritise their work streams through the following 3 categories:

- **Consider high attention** – these areas either have high volumes of offences or high increasing trends.
- **Concerning recent counts** – there have been either steady year on year increases or a recent increase in the last year despite decreases or fluctuations in previous years.
- **Consider reviewing in a year or discharging** – These are current work streams that has seen decreases or shown inconclusive fluctuations in volume over the last 4 years.

The analysis in this document has also identified additional community safety issues for each of the 3 prioritisation categories.

#### 1.1.1.1. Consider high attention

The following 3 community safety issues should be considered high attention because of high volumes of offences or high increasing trends:

- Violence against the person
- Vehicle offences
- Shoplifting

**Violence against the person (VAP)** – VAP is the only existing primary work stream to consider as high attention.

VAP accounted for 41% of all police recorded offences in Fenland in 2024 and remained the most common crime type. VAP offences have stayed relatively stable over the last few years, but the overall high volume is concerning. Both violence with injury and violence without injury have seen steady increases. Stalking and harassment has notably decreased and has contributed to the plateau in recent years. The decrease in stalking and harassment may have been impacted by the introduction of the 'finished incident' rule for conduct crimes. It is recommended that the CSP should use the findings of the recent Serious Violence Needs Assessment and existing delivery mechanisms to continue to tackle violence.

VAP is also connected to other community safety issues such as children who offend, domestic abuse, hate crime offences, and possession of weapons. It is recommended that a joined up multi-agency approach be used to tackle the complex interconnected nature of VAP.



VAP has also consistently been the most common offence type for children who offend for the last 3 years, and it currently makes up 43% of the 119 offences for 2024.

VAP has also consistently accounted for most of domestic abuse (DA) crimes since 2021 with a range of 77% to 78% and 78% for 2024. 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 the district.

Of all hate crime offences, VAP has surpassed public order in the last 2 years to be the highest crime type for hate crime offences with a range of 41% to 53% between 2021 and 2024 and a proportion of 52% of all hate crime for 2024.

Lastly, within VAP, possession of weapon offences has seen incremental increases year on year since 2021. In the last year offences remained relatively stable with only a 2% increase (+2 offences); however, since 2021, possession of weapon offences has increased by 51% (+38 offences).

**Vehicle offences** – Theft from a vehicle offences has increased by +79% over the last year (+116 offences). In 2024, Fenland had a rate of 2.5 per 1,000 population; this is the highest rate in comparison to all other Cambridgeshire districts (others ranging between 1.2 and 2.3). Theft from a vehicle offences accounted for the second largest proportion at 16% in 2024; in 2023, this proportion was 10%.

Interfering with a motor vehicle offences were up by 211% (+57) in 2024 when compared to 2021. Between 2021 and 2023, interfering with a motor vehicle offences accounted for 2-3%; in 2024, this proportion increased to 5%.

**Shoplifting** – The increase in commercial loss offences was exclusively driven by shoplifting offences. The number of shoplifting offences in Fenland reached 633 in 2024 – this represents an increase of 21% in comparison to 2023 (+111 offences). This is 40% higher than the 453 offences recorded in 2021 (+180 offences). Shoplifting accounted for 77% of commercial loss offences in 2024.

Whilst shoplifting is a commercial crime, there is a level of overlap with violence seen recently in attacks on shop workers and is an indication of the impact of the cost of living crisis.

#### 1.1.1.2. Concerning recent counts

While it is not as severe as the previous category, this second prioritisation category has seen concerning trends with either steady year on year increases or a recent increase in the last year despite decreases or fluctuations in previous years. The

following 4 community safety issues have concerning recent counts and should be explored further or engaged with preventive measures:

- Hate crime
- Sexual offences
- Exploitation
- Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

**Hate crime** – Hate crime is the only existing primary work stream that has concerning recent counts. In the last year, there has been a 19% increase in hate crime offences from 118 offences to 140 offences (+22 offences). This contrasts with the national trend over a similar period (YE March 2024). Although there was a steep 32% decrease between 2022 and 2023, this recent increase is concerning. As mentioned above, VAP has surpassed public order in the last 2 years in term of the crime type with proportions of 53% for 2023 and 52% for 2024. It is recommended that the CSP continue with their current multi-agency work.

**Sexual offences** - In the last year, the number of sexual offences recorded in Fenland have decreased slightly from 337 in 2023 to 329 in 2024 (-2%). Despite this decrease, current offence counts are still higher than that seen in 2021 and 2022; there has been a 20% increase since 2021 (+55 offences). In 2024, the overall rate of sexual offences in Fenland was 3.2 per 1,000 population. This was higher than Cambridgeshire rate of 2.5 and highest in comparison to all 5 districts (ranging between 1.9 in South Cambridgeshire to 2.9 in Cambridge). It is recommended that the CSP consider exploring a deep dive report on sexual offences.

**Exploitation** - Local data still offers a limited picture due to limited available data and potential underreporting. Given this important caveat, child sexual exploitation (CSE) marked offences in Fenland increased in the last year from 49 in 2023 to 65 in 2024 (+33%, +16 offences). Despite this increase, the number of offences remains lower than seen in both 2021 and 2022.

Fenland was the only district in Cambridgeshire to have recorded an increase in the last year and also had the higher rate compared to other Cambridgeshire districts at 0.6 per 1,000 population, with others ranging between 0.3 and 0.4. It is recommended that these increases are explored further.

**Anti-social behaviour (ASB)** - In contrast to national data, ASB in Fenland increased by 15% between 2023 and 2024 (+186 incidents). However, this is a 23% decrease compared to 2021 (-433 incidents).

Fenland has the second highest rate of ASB incidents among districts in Cambridgeshire at 14.0 per 1,000 population for 2024; this is higher than the

countywide rate of 12.6. It is recommended that these recent increases are explored further.

#### 1.1.1.3. Consider reviewing in a year or discharging

The remaining 3 current primary work streams are part of the last prioritisation category. The CSP should consider reviewing these work streams in a year or discharging them because of decreases or inconclusive fluctuations in volume over the last 4 years:

- Scams/Fraud/Cybercrime
- Domestic Abuse
- Offending

**Scams/Fraud/Cybercrime** – Cyber crime offences peaked in 2021 at 294 offences; however, cyber crime offences have decreased 32% (-95) between 2021 and 2024. In the last year, cyber crime offences decreased 24% from 263 offences to 199 offences (-64).

**Domestic Abuse** - Domestic abuse (DA) marked offences decreased slightly in the last year from 1,410 offences in 2023 to 1,362 offences in 2024. This represents a 3% decrease (-48 offences). This is part of a series of annual decreases since 2022; offences have decreased by 17% over this period (-283 offences). Decreases from 2023 are likely to have been impacted by the change in new Home Office counting rules introduced in April 2023.

Total DA incidents (non-crimed only) have also decreased year on year over the last four years; this represents a 14% decrease between 2021 and 2024 (-133 incidents). Incident numbers in 2024 are the lowest seen across this period. In the last year, incidents decreased by 2% from 812 incidents to 792 (-20 incidents).

**Offending** – A Deep Dive Report on Offenders was completed last year for the CSP. It is recommended that the CSP continue to consult this report.

In terms of children who offend, Fenland has the second highest number of children who offend among Cambridgeshire districts; however, the numbers of offenders have decreased by 27% from 112 YE December 2022 to 88 YE December 2024. Total offences and Court Sentences have seen large decreases over the last year between 2023 and 2024. The number of total offences has decreased by 50% from 236 to 119 offences, and the number of Court Sentences have decreased by 62% from 26 to 10 between 2023 and 2024. It is recommended that the CSP continue to monitor these trends and review in year.

### 1.1.2. Prioritisation of geographic wards

Based analysis in this document, the following wards frequently come to attention and should be prioritised. This highlights the need for a joined-up approach.

- **Wisbech South** had the highest rate in 7 out of the 12 analysed offence/incident types. Details can be found in the relevant sections below.
- **Wisbech Riverside** also ranked within the top 3 for 9 out of the 12 analysed offence/incident types based on highest rate. Details can be found in the relevant sections below.
- **March North** had the third highest count of total crime (excluding DA incidents, ASB incidents and Fires). This ward ranked in the top 5 for 2024 count in all analysed crime and incident types.

### 1.1.3. Prevention

One of the CSP's tactical themes is "Crime Prevention". Along with considering engaging with community safety issues that are in the second prioritisation category and that have concerning recent counts, another possible source of prevention ideas could be developed through the recent release of risk factor data by CCC PIT.

Extensive risk factor data has been recently published on the Serious Violence Needs Assessment dashboard on the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight website, [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight – Welcome to Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight \(cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk\)](https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk). Risk factors in the dashboard include alcohol and substance misuse, drug offences, educational attainment, unauthorised absences, adverse childhood experiences, homelessness, child poverty, exposure to violence, and employment data. Data is mostly provided at a district level with some ward level data. It is recommended that the CSP consider these risk factors with an aim of developing corresponding preventive measures and programmes to address these needs.

## 1.2. Summary of Key Findings

Below is a summary of the key findings in the order of the report. This section can be used as starting point to investigate specific sections of interest in the report.

### Personal Loss

Vehicle offences such as theft from a vehicle (+79%, +116 offences) and interfering with a motor vehicle (+211%, +57 offences) saw notable increases in the last year. These increases were the drivers of the increase in personal loss offences in total. Other theft accounts for the largest proportion of offences relating to personal loss (46%) but has seen decreases year on year since 2023.

## **Scams, Fraud and Cybercrime**

Cyber crime offences peaked in 2021 at 294 offences; however, cyber crime offences have decreased 32% (-95) between 2021 and 2024. The NCA strategic assessment noted that 89% of fraud is cyber-enabled, highlighting the link between cyber crime and fraud.

## **Violence against the Person**

VAP offences have overall remained relatively stable with a 2% decrease between 2023 and 2024 (-70 offences). Both violence with and without injury have reached highest counts since 2021 (827 offences and 1588 offences, respectively).

Possession of weapon offences have increased between 2021 and 2024 whilst knife-crime has decreased over this period, with a slight increase in the last year.

## **Sexual Offences**

Fenland had the highest rate per 1,000 population for sexual offences compared to all Cambridgeshire districts (2.5). Rape offences decreased in the last year (-30%, -39 offences), whilst other sexual offences have continued to increase since 2021 (+33%, +59 offences).

## **Domestic Abuse (DA)**

DA police recorded crimes and incidents have decreased in the last year (from 2,222 in 2023 to 2,154 in 2024); this decrease is part of a longer-term decreasing trend since 2021. VAP offences continue to account for the highest proportion of DA crimes; in 2024 this proportion was 78%.

## **Exploitation and Vulnerability**

Nationally, there was a notable increase in referrals to NRM in 2024, representing a 13% increase compared to 2023. Local data still offers a limited picture due to limited available data and potential underreporting. In Fenland, child sexual exploitation (CSE) marked offences increased in the last year from 49 in 2023 to 65 in 2024 (+33%, +16 offences). Despite this increase, the number of offences remains lower than seen in both 2021 and 2022.

## **Substance Misuse**

Estimates from the CSEW has indicated that there has been an overall decrease in drug use amongst 16- to 24-year-olds since December 1995. Locally, police recorded drug offences increased by 9% in the last year; this is higher than the increase seen nationally over a similar period (+1%, YE September 2024).

## **Offending**

### **Adult Offenders**

There were 296 offenders in the probation cohort whose latest known address was in Fenland as at 11/08/2024. Just under a third of offenders are aged between 30 to 39 (31%). White British are under-represented within the probation cohort (76%) in comparison to the overall 18+ Fenland population from Census 2021 (87%).

National reoffending statistics show that the proportion of male reoffenders in Fenland in YE March 2023 was higher than the proportion of female reoffenders (22% and 19% respectively). However, the proportion of female reoffenders has increased since YE March 2019 from 15% (YE March 2019) to 19% in YE March 2024. It should be noted that the cohort analysed was made up of 18% female offenders and 82% male offenders.

### **Youth Justice Service (YJS)**

For the Youth Justice Service (YJS) cohort, 88 children who offend received a total of 110 outcomes in Fenland during the 2024. Fenland has the second highest number of children who offend among Cambridgeshire districts; however, the numbers of offenders have decreased by 27% from 112 YE December 2022 to 88 YE December 2024. There were decreases in Court Sentences (-62%), Out of Court Disposals (OOCs) (-29%), and total offences (-50%) between 2023 and 2024. Children who offend in this cohort were predominately male. There was a decrease in males between 2023 and 2024 (from 107 to 60); females, however, have seen an increase over this period (from 23 to 28). Violence against the person (VAP) offences accounted for the highest proportion of total offences in 2024 at 43% (51 of 119).

### **Issues that impact the community**

**Commercial Loss** - Overall, commercial loss offences have increased between 2023 and 2024 (+9%, +70 offences); this increase is solely driven by shoplifting offences (+21%, +111 offences). Shoplifting offences accounted for 77% of commercial loss offences in Fenland in 2024.

**ASB** - ASB incidents have increased in the last year (+15%, +186 incidents), after decreases since 2022. In 2024, this averaged at 121 incidents a month in Fenland. Youth-related ASB has continued to decrease since 2022. Between 2021 and 2024, there has been a 49% decrease (-282 offences). This now represents 20% of all ASB; however, in 2021 this proportion was 30%.

**Criminal Damage** - Offences have seen small year-on-year decreases since 2022. The number of offences has decreased by 6% since 2021 (-51 offences).

**Public Order** - The number of offences has almost halved since 2021 (-48%, -435 offences); decreases in offence counts only became notable from 2023 onwards.

**Hate Crime** - After a notable decrease in hate crime marked offences between 2022 and 2023, there was an increase in the last year (+19%, +22 offences). This increase contrasts with the national trend over a similar period (YE March 2024).

**Fires** - There was an increase of 12% in all fires in Fenland between 2023 and 2024 (+32 fires). More specifically, deliberate fires saw an increase of 36% over this period (+21 fires). One driver of this increase was 'other's property' fires with an increase of 133% between 2023 and 2024 (+24 fires).

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1. National

In order to provide context for local crime trends this report includes data released nationally. The ONS publish quarterly crime bulletins detailing national crime statistics. This includes police-recorded crime in England and Wales, and estimates of crime experienced by residents aged 16 and over based on the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) (ONS, 2025a). Due to the methodology used for CSEW estimates, the latest data for September 2024, covers crimes that occurred between October 2022 and August 2024. See further technical notes on CSEW data in appendix section A.3. Crime in England and Wales quarterly bulletins.

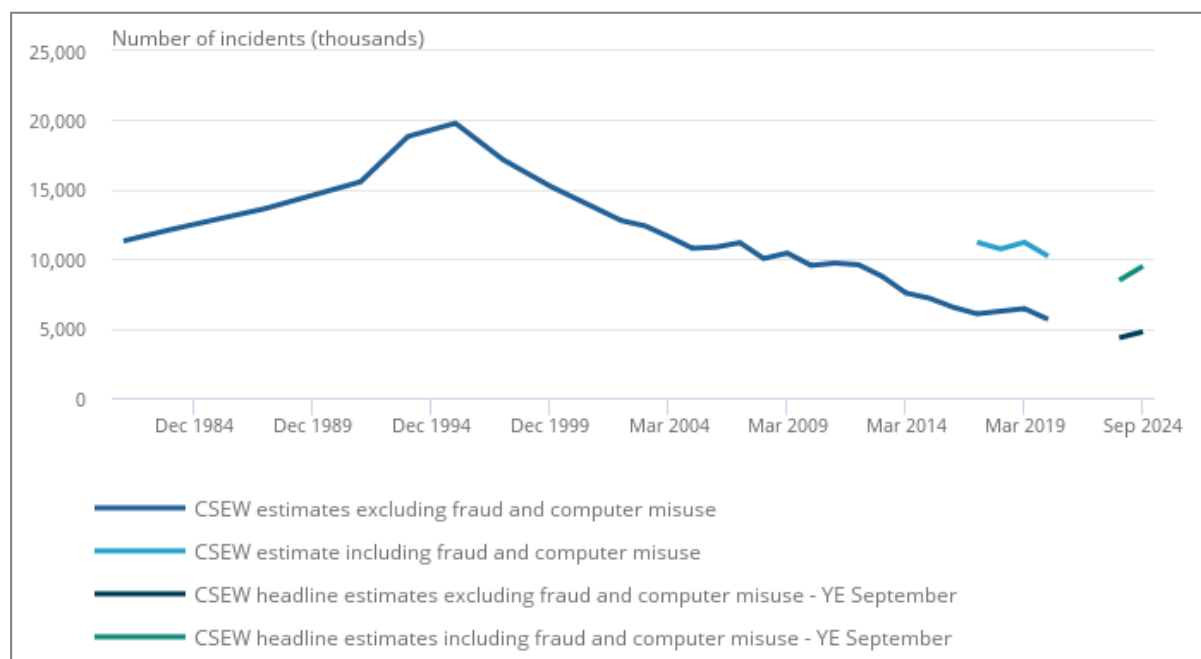
#### 2.1.1. Crime Survey for England and Wales

The main part of the CSEW covers theft offences, robbery, criminal damage, fraud, computer misuse and violence with or without injury (referred to as "headline crimes").

CSEW estimates suggest that 9.5 million incidents of headline crimes were experienced by those aged 16+ in the YE September 2024 survey period, up 12% from the 8.5 million incidents estimated in YE September 2023 survey period. According to the ONS, this was mainly driven by a 19% increase in fraud (accounting for 3.9 million incidents from the YE September 2024 period) (ONS, 2025a). However, the 8.5 million incidents estimated from the YE September 2024 survey remained below the 11.2 million incidents estimated from the YE March 2017 survey, when fraud and computer misuse were first included.

Furthermore, the longer term trend indicates decreases in incidents of headline crimes since a peak in the year ending (YE) December 1995 survey (see Figure 1). When looking at figures excluding fraud and computer misuse, the estimated 4.8 million incidents from the YE September 2024 survey remains well below the peak of 19.8 million estimated for the YE December 1995 survey period.

**Figure 1: Long term trend in CSEW estimates of offences in England and Wales, YE December 1981 to YE September 2024**



Source: Figure 1 in Crime Survey for England and Wales (ONS, 2025a)

Notes: See technical notes in Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes.

## 2.1.2. Crime type breakdown

According to the CSEW, there have been decreases in the proportion of people reporting experience of violence (with or without injury), theft, criminal damage and domestic abuse over the past decade, and stalking and harassment has remained relatively stable. In contrast, sexual assault has increased since a dip in YE March 2014 (up to 2.2% in YE September 2024).

Table 1 shows the breakdown in headline crimes by type in the last 2 years.

- Fraud had the highest estimated number of incidents and the second highest prevalence (6.6%), with a 19% increase in volume in the last year (statistically significant at 5% level).
- Whilst fraud had the highest number of incidents, theft offences were experienced by a higher proportion of respondents (7.6%).
- Whilst the prevalence of violence was relatively low (1.5%), it saw a notable volume increase of 27% in the last year.



- Whilst the prevalence of robbery was low (0.2%), it saw a notable increase in volume of 46%.

**Table 1: Percentage changes in types of crimes, CSEW estimates for England and Wales, year ending September 2023 to year ending September 2024**

Crime Type	2022/23	2023/24	Percentage Change	Prevalence (%)
<b>Fraud</b>	3,240,000	3,858,000	+19%	6.6
<b>Theft Offences</b>	2,681,000	2,875,000	+7%	7.6
<b>Violence</b>	894,000	1,140,000	+28%	1.5
<b>Computer Misuse</b>	898,000	867,000	-3%	1.5
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	674,000	629,000	-7%	2.0
<b>Robbery</b>	83,000	121, 000	+46%	0.2

Notes: Violent crime includes violence with, and violence without injury. Prevalence indicates the percentage of respondents (aged 16+) who reported experiencing a crime once or more.

Source: Appendix tables for Crime in England and Wales year ending September 2024 quarterly bulletin (ONS, 2025b, p. A1).

### 2.1.3. Police Recorded Crime

As explained by ONS, police recorded crime can give more insight into offences that the CSEW does not sufficiently capture (such as crimes against businesses), as well as those that are low volume, high harm offences.

National police recorded data has indicated the increases in shoplifting since the COVID-19 pandemic have continued, increasing by another 23% in the last year. As noted by ONS, this is the highest level recorded since current police recording practices began in YE March 2003 (ONS, 2025a).

While offences involving firearms saw a notable decrease of 17%, offences involving knives or sharp instruments saw a small increase (+4%).

Other changes in police recorded offences noted by ONS are detailed in Table 2.

**Table 2: Police recorded offences in England and Wales, YE September 2023 to YE September 2024**

Crime type	YE September 2023 count	YE September 2024 count	Percentage change (%)
Shoplifting	402,220	492,914	+23%
Robbery	78,865	82,347	+4%
Offences involving knives or sharp instruments	52,969	55,008	+4%

<b>Crime type</b>	<b>YE September 2023 count</b>	<b>YE September 2024 count</b>	<b>Percentage change (%)</b>
Homicides	572	550	-4%
Offences involving firearms	6,499	5,372	-17%

Source: Section 1 in Crime Survey for England and Wales Bulletin for YE September 2024 (ONS, 2025a, p. 1).

## 2.2. Economic Context

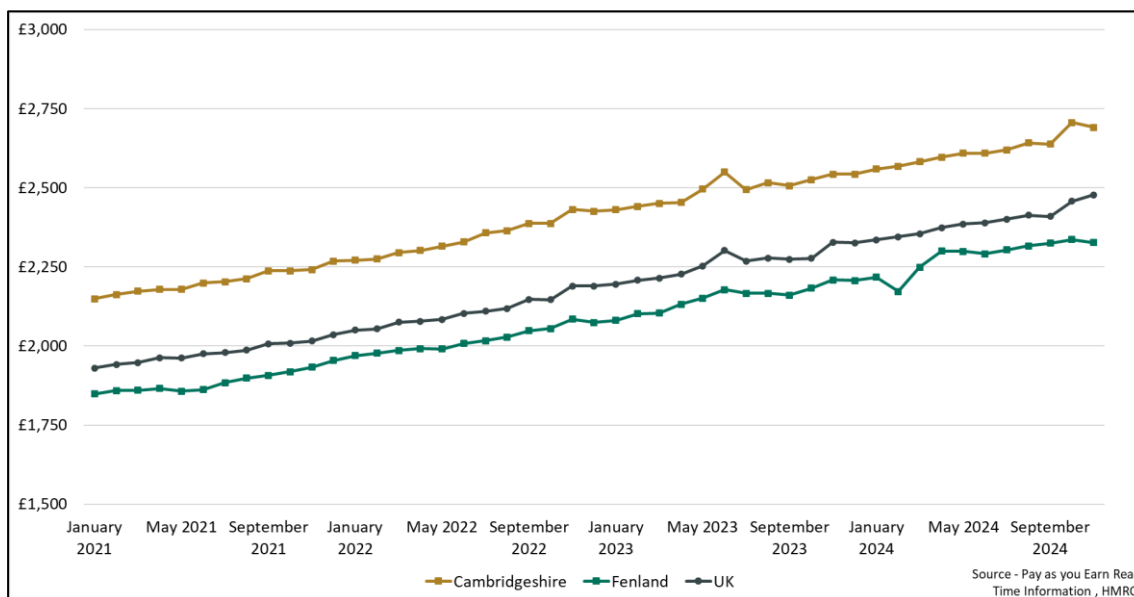
Fenland sits within an overall UK economy that has been slowing over 2024. GDP growth slowed from +0.7% in Q1 2024 to +0.4% in Q2 2024 to 0.0% in Q3 2024 (ONS, 2024a). Recent estimates for Q4 2024 point to little growth at +0.1% (ONS, 2025c). This means that output in terms of goods and services produced in the UK economy has been slowing. Within this weak national economic growth, the economic context for Fenland can be furthered examined in 3 parts:

- Median monthly pay and pay growth
- Claimant rate
- Universal credit

### 2.2.1. Median monthly pay and pay growth

Figure 2 below shows that the median monthly pay in Fenland has been consistently lower than both Cambridgeshire and the UK. All things equal, this means that Fenland experiences a lower standard of living than Cambridgeshire and the UK overall.

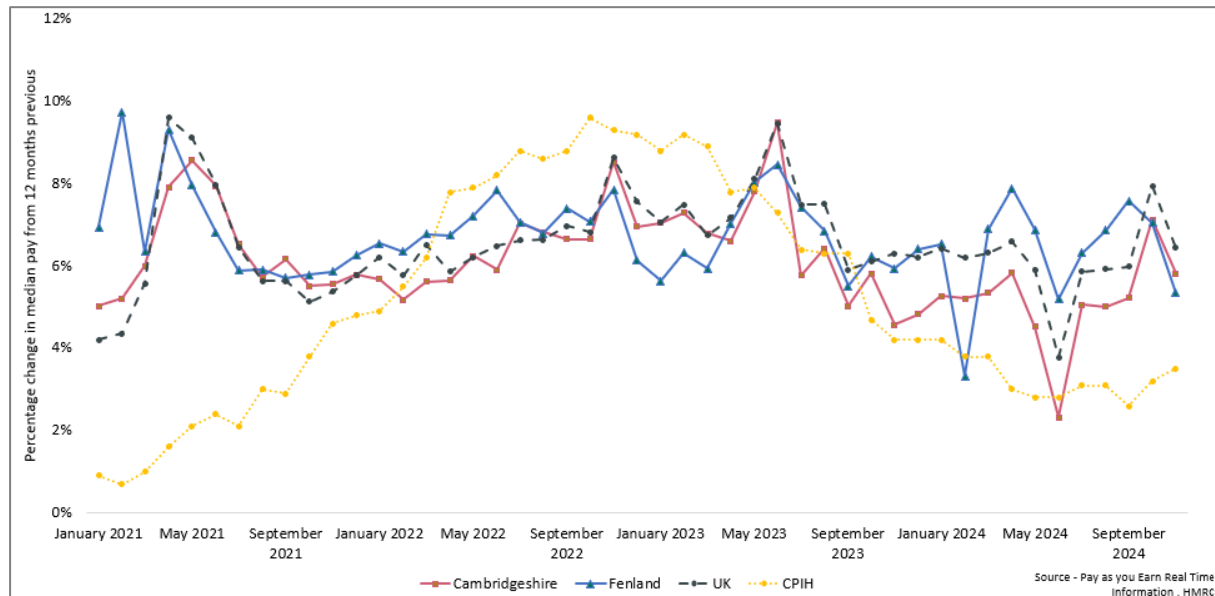
**Figure 2: Median Monthly Pay in Fenland, Cambridgeshire and UK, January 2021 to November 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data from HMRC.

Furthermore, Figure 3 below shows that the percentage change in median monthly pay growth in Fenland has been greater than the CPIH inflation measure since March 2024. This difference means that most residents of Fenland should begin to have more disposable income, and the cost of living pressures of recent years should be reducing.

**Figure 3: Percentage change in median monthly pay from 12 months previous in Fenland, Cambridgeshire and UK alongside CPIH, January 2021 to November 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data from HMRC.

### 2.2.2. Claimant rate

Table 3 below shows that for ages 16-64 Fenland has a highest claimant rate (3.7%) among districts in Cambridgeshire but is lower than the UK claimant rate (4.0%) as of December 2024. This means that Fenland as a whole has a slighting lower rate of those not in work but who are seeking work than compared to the UK.

**Table 3: Claimant rates by district and age group, as of December 2024**

<b>Claimant Rates</b>	<b>Number of claimants 16-64 Dec 2024</b>	<b>16-64 Dec 2024</b>	<b>16-24 Dec 2024</b>	<b>25-49 Dec 2024</b>	<b>50-64 Dec 2024</b>
<b>Cambridgeshire</b>	10,055	2.3%	2.2%	2.6%	1.7%
Cambridge City	2,275	2.0%	1.1%	2.4%	2.5%
East Cambridgeshire	1,130	2.0%	2.4%	2.4%	1.4%
Fenland	2,240	3.7%	4.8%	4.3%	2.3%
Huntingdonshire	2,560	2.2%	3.1%	2.6%	1.3%
South Cambridgeshire	1,855	1.8%	2.0%	2.1%	1.3%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	1,703,940	4.0%	4.2%	4.6%	2.9%

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data from Office for National Statistics.

### 2.2.3. Universal credit

Table 4 below shows that Fenland has a higher percentage of the 16-64 population (18.6%) that are on Universal Credit compared to Cambridgeshire (11.2%) and Great Britain (17.4%). All regions in Table 4 have had double digit increases over the last year. This may be influenced by eligibility changes and advertisement of benefit opportunities.

**Table 4: People on Universal Credit by district, November 2024**

<b>People on Universal Credit</b>	<b>Number of total people on Universal Credit Nov 2024</b>	<b>% 16-64 resident population Nov 2024</b>	<b>% Change 12 Months ago vs Now: November 2023 to Nov 2024</b>	<b>% Change Previous update vs Now: Aug 2024 to Nov 2024</b>
<b>Cambridgeshire</b>	50,663	11.2%	+14.1%	+3.9%
Cambridge City	9,553	8.4%	+13.2%	+4.3%
East Cambridgeshire	6,175	10.9%	+17.4%	+4.5%
Fenland	11,562	18.6%	+10.9%	+3.5%
Huntingdonshire	13,660	11.8%	+16.8%	+3.3%
South Cambridgeshire	9,713	9.4%	+13.2%	+4.1%
<b>Great Britain</b>	7,265,984	17.4%	+16.9%	+4.4%

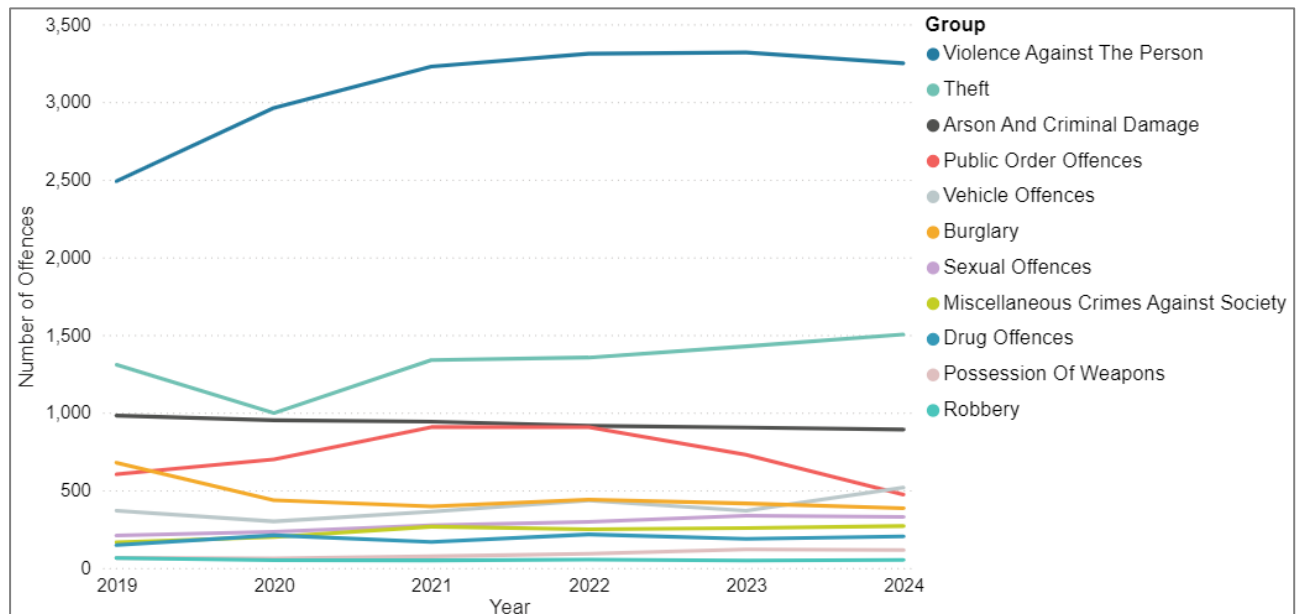
Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data from Office for National Statistics.

### 3. Crime Overview

Police recorded crime in Fenland has decreased slightly in the last year from 8,112 in 2023 to 7,987 in 2024 (-2%, -125 offences). This is following a period of increases between 2019 and 2022, and since a peak in 2022 (8,269 offences), numbers have then decreased. The rate of offences in Fenland in 2024 was 77.1 per 1,000 population; this is higher than the countywide rate of 64.7 and below the national rate for YE September 2024 (excluding fraud and computer misuse) of 88.1 (ONS, 2025b, p. A7).

As shown in Figure 4, violence against the person (VAP) remains the offence group with the highest number of offences, which in 2024 was 3,249 offences. This is a slight decrease on the previous year (-2%, -70 offences). When looking between 2021 and 2024, offences have appeared to have stabilised (+1%, +20 offences). In 2024, VAP offences accounted for the largest proportion of all offences (out of the offence types within Figure 4), at 41%. This was followed by theft offences at 19%.

**Figure 4: Long term annual trend of police recorded offences in Fenland by crime group, 2019 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Table 5 highlights the breakdown of crime types and the count and percentage change between 2023 and 2024.

**Table 5: Police recorded offences by crime type in Fenland, 2023 and 2024**

Crime group	2023 Count	2024 Count	2023-24 Percent change (volume change)	2024 rate per 1,000 population
Arson and Criminal Damage	904	891	-1% (-13)	8.6
Burglary	415	385	-7% (-30)	3.7
Drug offences	187	203	+9% (+16)	2.0
Miscellaneous crimes against society	257	270	+5% (+13)	2.6
Possession of Weapons	120	115	-4% (-5)	1.1
Public order offences	729	472	-35% (-257)	4.6
Robbery	48	52	+8% (+4)	0.5
Sexual offences	337	329	-2% (-8)	3.2
Theft	1,427	1,503	+5% (+76)	14.5
Vehicle offences	369	518	+40% (+149)	5.0
Violence Against the Person	3,319	3,249	-2% (-70)	31.4
<b>Total offences</b>	<b>8,112</b>	<b>7,987</b>	<b>-2% (-125)</b>	<b>77.1</b>

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

### 3.1. Ward Analysis

**Wisbech South** had the highest rate per 1,000 population at 206.5, which was notably higher than rate for Fenland at 77.1 (see Appendix A.2. Population Estimates for more details).

- Offence counts have seen incremental increases between 2021 and 2024, having increased by 18% (+279 offences) since 2021.
- In the last year, offences have increased by 6% (+108 offences).
- In 2024, **Wisbech South** accounted for almost a quarter of total crime that occurred in Fenland (23%).

**Wisbech Riverside** had the second highest rate at 164.2.

- Despite the second highest rate, numbers have been decreasing since 2021 (-19%, -183 offences).
- There was little change between 2023 and 2024 (0%, -3 offences).

**Elm and Christchurch** had the third highest rate at 89.3.

- This ward saw the largest percentage change, out of any other ward in Fenland, between 2021 and 2024 (101%, +228 offences).
- There has also been a notable increase between 2023 and 2024 (+53%, +156 offences).

**March North** had the third highest count of offences (733 offences) and a rate of 85.2 per 1,000 population. The count of offences is down 10% on 2023 figures (-85 offences). However, the number of offences remains higher than 2021 figures (+10%, +69 offences).

Other wards with higher rates than Fenland (77.1) include: **Whittlesey Lattersey** (77.4), **Wisbech North** (81.6), **March West & Benwick** (82.5).

## 4. Personal Loss

### 4.1. Summary

Fenland saw an increase in offences related to personal loss in the last year, a more notable increase than national police recorded 'theft' (including commercial loss) over a similar period (YE September 2024). Vehicle offences including interfering with a motor vehicle and theft from a vehicle offences have seen notable increases since 2021, and were key drivers of the increase in the last year. Offences occurring in Wisbech South accounted for a third of personal loss related offences in Fenland in 2024



## 4.1. Technical Note

In order to focus on acquisitive crimes related to personal loss, the following section excludes crimes explicitly related to businesses, i.e. shoplifting, robbery of business property, as well as business and community burglary. Acquisitive crimes explicitly related to businesses will be analysed in the Issues that Impact the Community section of this report. It should be noted that some crimes against businesses may still be present in the following section; it will include vehicle crimes for vehicles owned by businesses, as well as those owned by individuals.

In April 2023, residential burglary was split into 'residential burglary – home' and 'residential burglary – unconnected building', see A.5. Burglary Offences for technical notes.

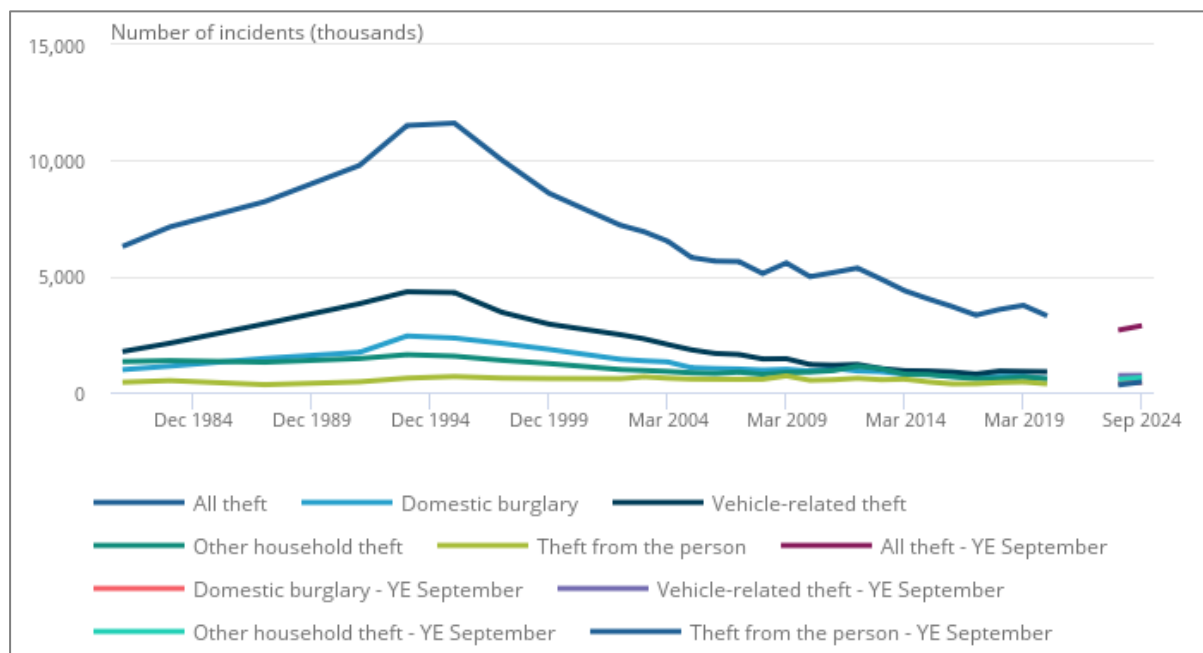
## 4.2. National Context

### 4.2.1. Crime Survey for England and Wales

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) can provide an indication of trends in victim-based offences, that are not necessarily reported to the police. Incidents of acquisitive crime, referred to as "theft" by the CSEW, includes domestic burglary, vehicle related theft, other household theft, theft from the person, bicycle theft, and other theft of personal property. CSEW estimates indicated a minor increase in the volume of theft, from 2.7 million in YE September 2023, to 2.9 million in YE September 2024 (+7%). This follows the long term trend of decreases since a peak of 11.6 million offences in YE December 1995 (see Figure 5), and remains 13% lower than the pre-pandemic YE March 2020 (ONS, 2025b, p. A1; ONS, 2025a).

Whilst there has been little change in theft offences overall, there was a 42% increase in theft from the person and a 14% increase in other household theft between YE September 2023 and YE September 2024. Vehicle related theft saw little change in the last year (+1%), and overall, has decreased since pre-pandemic YE March 2020; however, theft of vehicles has increased by 36% compared to YE March 2020.

**Figure 5: Trend in CSEW estimates of theft, YE December 1981 to YE September 2024**



Notes: See figure technical notes in Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes

Source: Figure 6 in Crime in England and Wales Bulletin for the year ending September 2024 (ONS, 2025a, p. 12).

#### 4.2.2. Police recorded crime

National police recorded acquisitive crime (“theft”, which includes burglary, theft from the person, vehicle offences, bicycle theft, shoplifting, and all other theft offences) increased by 2% since the YE September 2023, reaching 1.8 million offences in YE September 2024. According to ONS, this increase was influenced by substantial increases in shoplifting, and theft from the person, of 23% and 22% respectively (ONS, 2025a).

In contrast, decreases were seen in bicycle theft (-10%), all other theft offences (-8%), vehicle offences (-6%), and burglary (-4%) (ONS, 2025b, p. A5).

### 4.3. Local Context

There were 1,637 offences related to personal loss in Fenland in 2024. This represents a 9% increase compared to 2023 and is part of what appears to be a longer-term increasing trend since 2021. There was a slight dip in 2023 from 1,584 offences in 2022 to 1,508 offences in 2023; however, the number of offences recorded in 2024 is the highest in the last four years.

The largest driver of the increase in the last year was ‘theft from a vehicle offences’ (+79%, +116 offences). All offence subgroups have increased compared to 2021

apart from bicycle theft (-42%, -54 offences) and aggravated vehicle taking (-10%, -1 offence).

### Theft offences

- Other theft has consistently accounted for the largest proportion of offences related to personal loss; in 2024, this proportion was 46%. Despite accounting for the largest proportion, the count of other theft offences have seen decreases since 2023 (-4%, -28 offences).
- As previously mentioned, bicycle theft has been decreasing since 2021, and in the last year there was a small decrease (-7%, -6 offences).
- Theft from the person offences saw a notable increase from 34 offences in 2022 to 49 in 2023 (+44%). In the last year, number of offences remained stable (-2%, -1 offence).

### Vehicle offences

- As previously mentioned, theft from a vehicle offences saw a notable increase in the last year; this was after a slight dip in 2023. In 2024, Fenland had a rate of 2.5 per 1,000 population; this is the highest rate in comparison to all other Cambridgeshire districts (others ranging between 1.2 and 2.3) (see Appendix A.2. Population Estimates for more details).
- Theft from a vehicle offences accounted for the second largest proportion at 16%; in 2023, this proportion was 10%.
- Interfering with a motor vehicle offences were up by 211% in 2024 when compared to 2021 (+57 offences). Between 2021 and 2023, interfering with a motor vehicle offences accounted for 2-3%; in 2024, this proportion increased to 5%.
- Numbers of aggravated vehicle taking remain low and relatively stable.

### Burglary

- Residential burglary has remained relatively stable between 2022 and 2024 after an increase between 2021 and 2022 (+11%, +19 offences). In the last year, offences increased slightly by 4% (+7 offences).

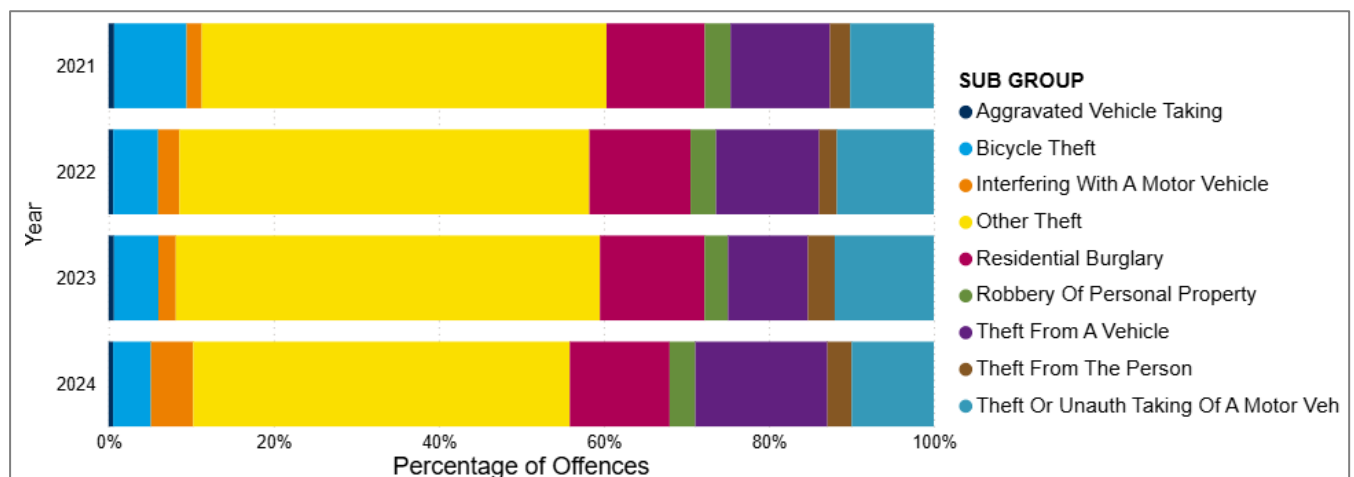
**Table 6: Acquisitive offences related to personal loss in Fenland, 2021 to 2024**

Subgroup	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 share	2021-24 % change (count)	2023-24 % change (count)
Other theft	721	787	775	747	46%	+4% (+26)	-4% (-28)
Theft from a vehicle	177	198	146	262	16%	+48% (+85)	+79% (+116)
Residential burglary	175	194	191	198	12%	+13% (+23)	+4% (+7)

Subgroup	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 share	2021-24 % change (count)	2023-24 % change (count)
Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle	149	186	181	163	10%	+9% (+14)	-10% (-18)
Interfering with a motor vehicle	27	41	32	84	5%	+211% (+57)	+163% (+52)
Bicycle theft	129	86	81	75	5%	-42% (-54)	-7% (-6)
Robbery of personal property	46	49	43	51	3%	+11% (+5)	+19% (+8)
Theft from the person	36	34	49	48	3%	+33% (+12)	-2% (-1)
Aggravated vehicle taking	10	9	10	9	1%	-10% (-1)	-10% (-1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>1,584</b>	<b>1,508</b>	<b>1,637</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>+11% (+167)</b>	<b>+9% (+129)</b>

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

**Figure 6: Share of acquisitive offences related to personal loss in Fenland, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

#### 4.3.1. Ward Analysis

Only four wards (out of 18) had a rate higher than Fenland's rate of 15.8 per 1,000 population; these wards were as follows: **Wisbech South** (60.8), **Wisbech Riverside** (31.7), **Whittlesey Lattersey** (22.6) and **March West & Benwick** (21.8).

Offences occurring in **Wisbech South** accounted for 33% of all personal loss related offences in Fenland with a count of 540. This is notably higher than counts in other wards which ranged between 36 (both Whittlesey East & Villages and Whittlesey Lattersey) and 150 (Wisbech Riverside). Offences in **Wisbech South** have increased by 28% since 2021 (+119 offences).

When looking into the subgroups at ward level, it was noted that **Wisbech South** saw notable increases between 2023 and 2024 in some vehicle offences, particularly theft from a vehicle (+250%, +50 offences).

**Elm & Christchurch** saw the largest percentage increase between 2021 and 2024 (+68% +25 offences). This is due to year-on-year fluctuations with 37 offences recorded in both 2021 and 2023 and then higher counts recorded in 2022 and 2024 (55 and 62 respectively).

## 5. Scams, Fraud and Cyber Crime

### 5.1. Summary

The true prevalence of fraud and cyber-crime is unknown due to underreporting, synthetic estimates can suggest that in YE September 2024, 5,700 of Fenland's residents were victims of fraud. NCA noted that 89% of fraud, reported to Action Fraud, was cyber-enabled (NCA, 2024); cyber-crime in Fenland appeared to reach a peak in 2021 and has decreased since (between 2021 and 2024).

### 5.2. National Context

The NCA national strategic assessment of serious and organised crime (2024) identifies cybercrime and fraud as key threats. It was noted that threat from fraud within the UK has grown over the last ten years. Whilst certain fraud types are now seeing some decline, fraud types such as consumer and romance fraud are increasing (NCA, 2024). The NCA also suggest that the cost-of-living crisis has increased the vulnerability of potential victims, increasing risky online behaviours to make or save money.

The Online Safety Act was introduced in October 2023 (HM Government, 2023; Online Safety Act, 2023). This act included fraud as one of the priority offences and ensuring social media platforms ensure higher levels of protection against fraudulent advertising for its users. The NCA also noted that 89% of fraud, which was reported to Action Fraud, are cyber-enabled. This proportion has increased significantly when compared with figures in 2012 to 2013 (37%) (NCA, 2024).

When fraud is reported to the police, it is recorded and collected by National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) from Action Fraud alongside Cifas and UK Finance.

Police recorded fraud offences increased by 9% in the last year to 1.2 million offences (YE September 2024). As explained by ONS, these increases can be partly attributed to efforts made by UK Finance “to improve the volume of actionable intelligence shared with the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau” (ONS, 2025a, p. 14).

However, these of offences are known to have high levels of underreporting. It is estimated that less than 1 in 7 fraud offences are reported to either the police or Action Fraud (ONS, 2024b). Estimates based on the CSEW place the potential number of fraud incidents at 3.9 million for the YE September 2024. This estimate is 19% higher than the previous year (YE September 2023) but is close to the pre-pandemic YE March 2020 (+5%) (ONS, 2025a; ONS, 2025b, p. A1).

## 5.3. Local Trend

### 5.3.1. Estimated prevalence of fraud

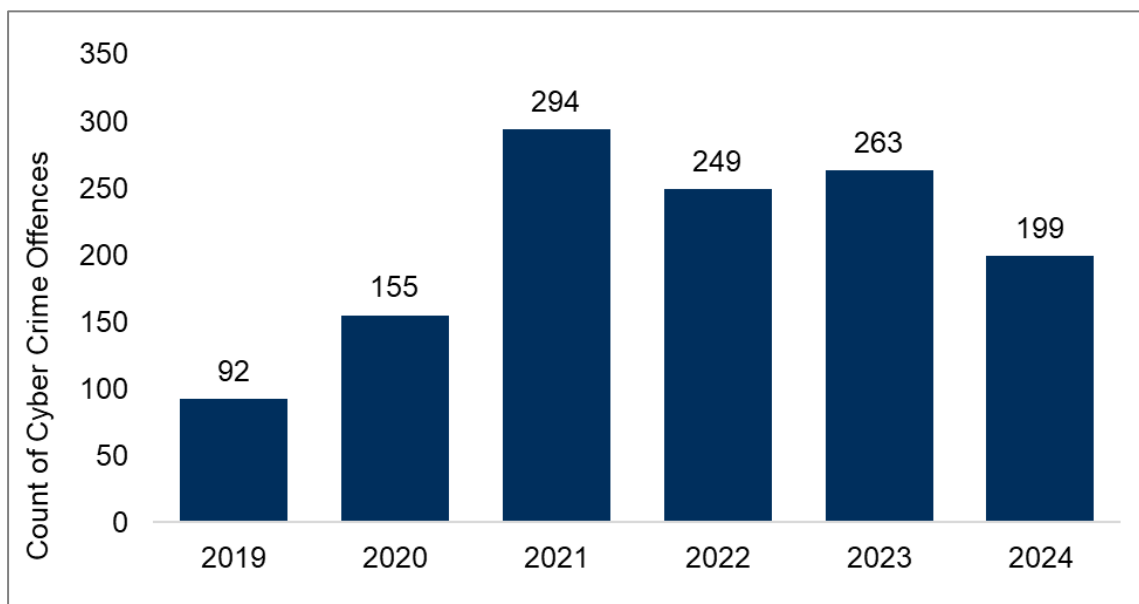
CSEW data from YE September 2024 showed that 6.6% of respondents aged 16 and over reported being a victim of fraud (ONS, 2025b). This could mean an estimated 5,700 people in Fenland were victims of fraud in the YE September 2024 (see A.2. Population Estimates for technical note and details about estimation calculation).

### 5.3.2. Police recorded crime

There were 199 police recorded cyber crime offences in 2024; this is more than double counts seen in 2019 (+116%, +107 offences). After a notable increase between 2020 and 2021 (from 155 offences to 294), annual counts have continued to fluctuate year on year. Between 2023 and 2024, offences saw a 24% decrease (-64 offences).

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

**Figure 7: Annual trend in police recorded cybercrime offences in Fenland, 2019 to 2024**

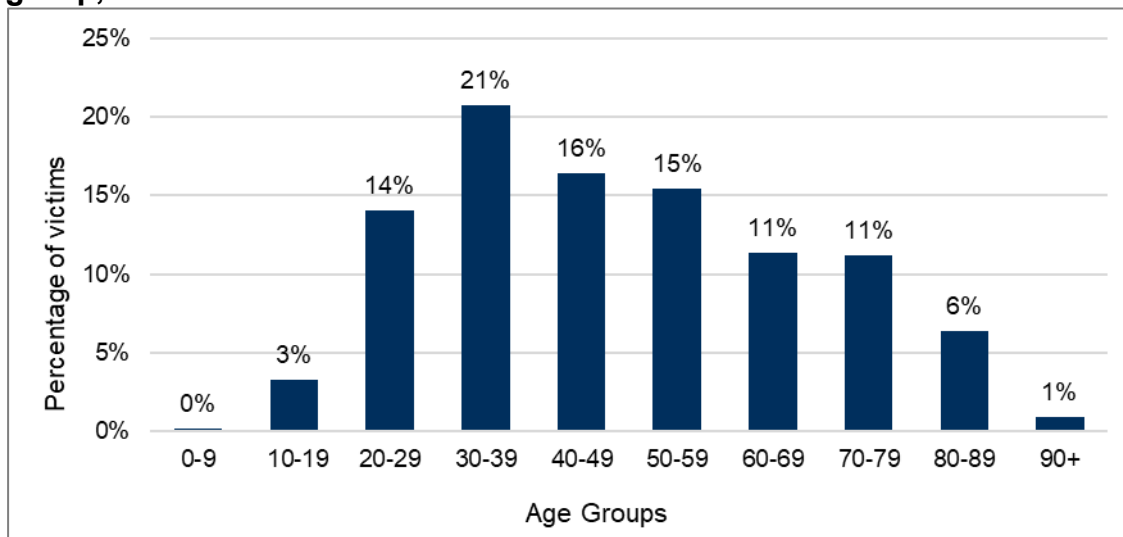


Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using CADET data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

### 5.3.3. Action Fraud

Figures from the Action Fraud dashboard cannot be viewed at district level, but the data covers the Cambridgeshire Constabulary area. This public facing dashboard was created to Action Fraud dashboard holds 13 months of data only, so data was collated at the end of January 2025 and the data below contains figures for YE December 2024. Data on fraud and cyber crime offences is available from Action Fraud down to the police force area level. Figure 8 below shoes breakdown by age group. The age group that accounted for the highest proportion were those aged 30-39 (21%). In terms of gender breakdown, where known, there was a slightly higher number of female victims (52%) than male victims (48%).

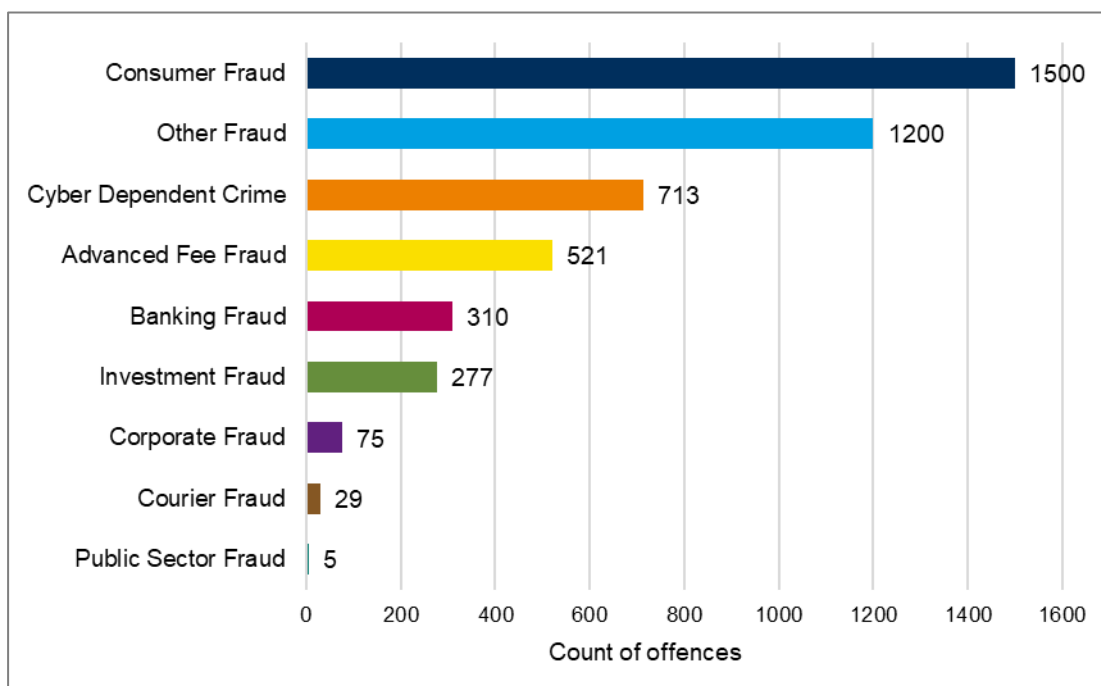
**Figure 8: Individual victims of fraud and cyber crime offences recorded by Action Fraud in the Cambridgeshire Constabulary police force area, by age group, YE December**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from NFIB Fraud and Cyber Crime Dashboard (Action Fraud, 2025)

Figure 9 below shows the crime groups according to the type of fraud committed. Consumer fraud is the most common type at 1.5 thousand offences.

**Figure 9: Number of fraud and cyber crime offences recorded by Action Fraud for the Cambridgeshire Constabulary police force area, by crime category, YE December 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from the NFIB fraud and cyber crime dashboard (Action Fraud,



2025).

## 6. Violence Against the Person

### 6.1. Summary

Violence against the person (VAP) offences remain the highest proportioned offence type in Fenland, accounting for just under half of all offences (41%). VAP offences have however remained relatively stable since 2021. Sub groups of VAP offences have varied; violence with injury has seen incremental increases since 2021, whilst stalking and harassment has notably decreased.

Knife crime decreased between 2021 to 2023, and has increased in the last year. Possession of weapons offences have seen incremental increases since 2022 onwards.

The Serious Violence Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as well as the Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment also provides additional insight and is available to the Partnership.

### 6.2. Technical note

New Home Office counting rules came into force in 2023 that will affect the recording of conduct crimes.

- Previously up to 2 crimes could be recorded when a victim made a report to the police. As of May 2023, only the most serious crime was recorded, due to the implementation of the “Principal Crime” rule.
- A further change has also allowed police to stop counting malicious communication, crimes of threatening or abusive messages, and public order offences.
- There has been an increase in the number of officers who are able to remove a crime from the record, if evidence suggests no crime took place.
- They are also linked to a 26% reduction in malicious communication offences (Domestic Abuse Commissioner, 2024; ONS, 2024b).

Due to these changes, it is important to note that police recorded violence with or without injury may not provide reliable trends in counts of crime, but it is useful to better understand police activity.

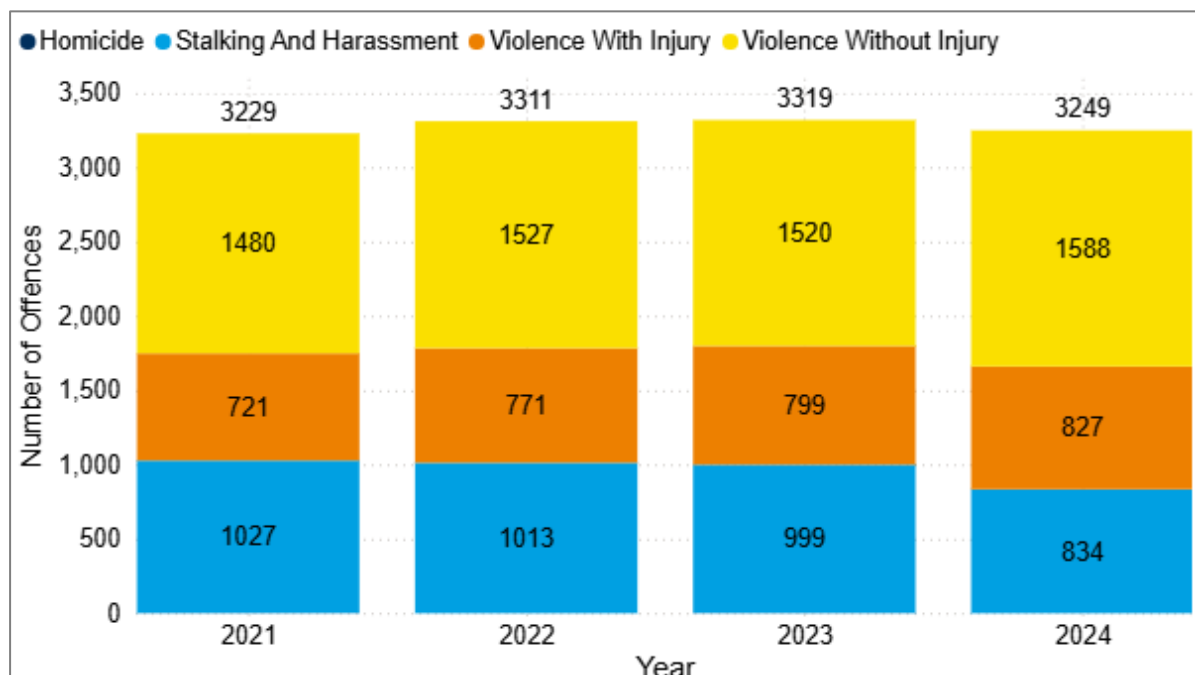
## 6.3. Overview

As indicated earlier in this report, recent CSEW estimates indicate a notable increase in violence with and without injury in England and Wales (+23%) in the last year (YE September 2023 to YE September 2024). This contrasts national police figures showing a small decrease in violence with injury (-5%), and little change in violence without injury (+<1%). Similarly, stalking and harassment also decreased by 9% (ONS, 2025b, p. A5a).

Violence against the person (VAP) offences in Fenland have remained relatively stable since 2021, having increased by 1% between 2021 and 2024 (+20 offences). Between 2023 and 2024, offences decreased by 2% (-70 offences).

- Violence without injury continues to account for the highest proportion of VAP offences with just shy of half (49%) in 2024. Violence without injury reached highest count seen since 2021; this represents a 4% increase compared to 2023 (+68 offences).
- Violence with injury has seen incremental increases since 2021 with a 4% increase in the last year (+28 offences).
- In contrast, stalking and harassment has seen steady decreases since 2022; between 2021 and 2024, offences have decreased by 19% (-193 offences). This may have been impacted further due to the introduction of the 'finished incident' rule for conduct crimes. This is where unless there has been a gap of 3 months between incidents involving the same victim and perpetrator, a new crime will not be recorded, and details will be added to the previous crime (Home Office, 2024a).

**Figure 10: Annual trend in police recorded Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences in Fenland, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

The rate of VAP offences in Fenland was 31.4 per 1,000 population in 2024; this is higher than the countywide 2024 rate of 22.6 per 1,000 population but slightly lower than the national rate of 32.4 per 1,000 population over a similar period (YE September 2024) (ONS, 2025b, p. A6).

## 6.4. Ward Analysis

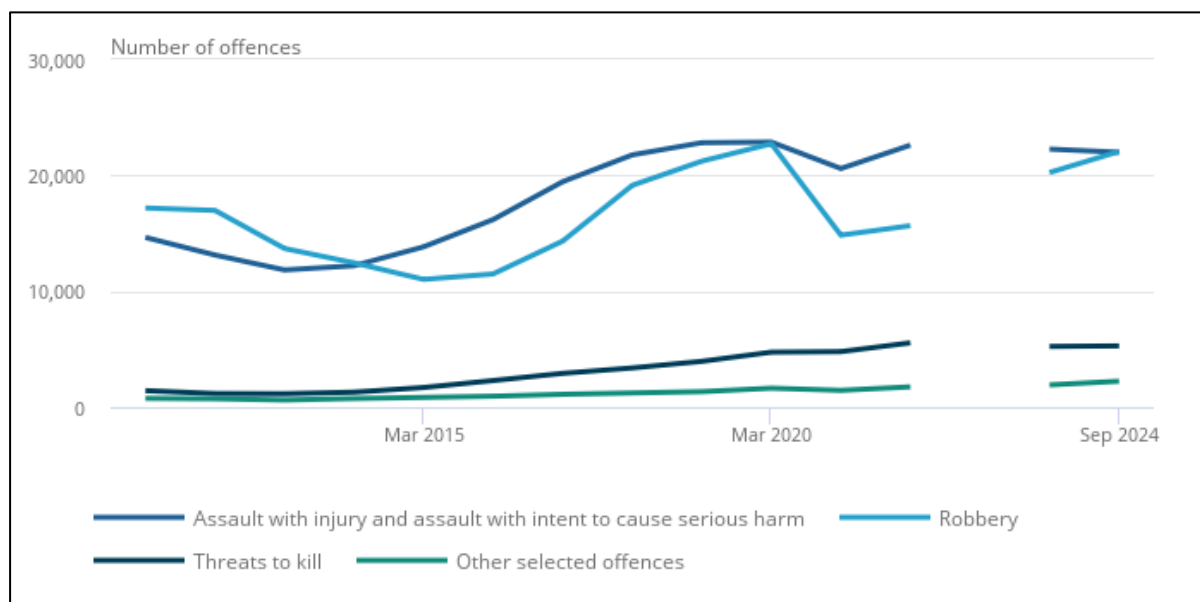
- **Wisbech Riverside** had a rate of 70.9 per 1,000 population; this is the highest rate in Fenland and is notably higher than all other wards (ranging between 14.4 and 52.7) and the county wide rate of 22.6 per 1,000 population. Despite having the highest rate, offence counts have fluctuated slightly since 2021. VAP offence counts are down in the last year between 2023 and 2024 (-7%, -24 offences) and down from 2021 (-8%, -31 offences).
- **Wisbech South** saw the highest number of offences (468 offences) and the second highest rate per 1,000 population in Fenland (52.7). Offence counts have remained relatively stable between 2021 and 2023 with a slight increase in the last year (+3%, +14 offences).
- **Elm and Christchurch** have seen the largest increase in VAP offences since 2021 (+148%, +144 offences).
- **Whittlesey North West** has also seen a large increase in VAP offences since 2021 (+80%, +69 offences).

## 6.5. Weapons

### 6.5.1. National Picture

Nationally (England and Wales), knife-enabled crime has increased by 4% between YE September 2023 and YE September 2024, to a similar level recorded in the pre-pandemic year March 2020 (see Figure 11). The majority of these offences were either assault with injury/intent to cause serious harm (43%), or robbery offences (43%) (ONS, 2025a, p. 5). Knife enabled robber increased by 9% in the last year. It is also worth noting that whilst the number of knife enables sexual assault and rape offences were relatively low, both saw notable increases in the last year (+27%, +19%) (ONS, 2025b, p. B5).

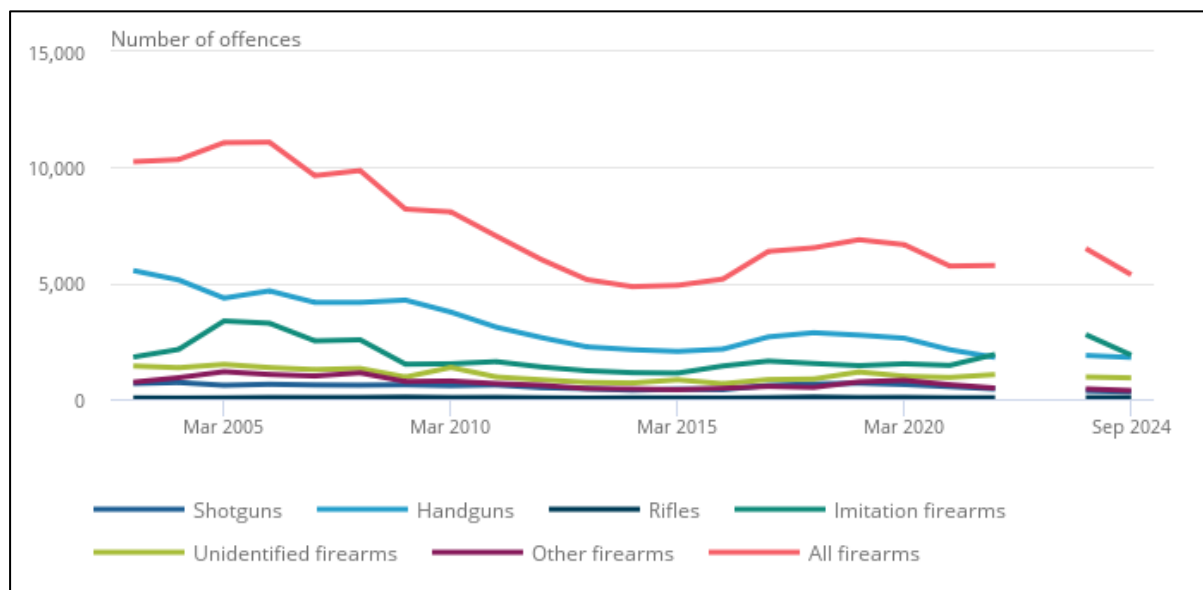
**Figure 11: Police recorded knife enabled crime in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police), year ending (YE) March 2011 to YE September 2024**



Source: Figure 3 in Crime in England and Wales quarterly bulletin for YE September 2024 (ONS, 2025a, p. 5).

The number of offences involving firearms which were recorded by the police decreased by 17% between YE September 2023 and YE September 2024. This was partially due a decrease in offences involving imitation firearms (-32%); which are now at the lowest level recorded since YE March 2016. The two most common types of weapons involved in YE September 2024 were imitation weapons (35%), and handguns (33%) (ONS, 2025a, p. 6).

**Figure 12: Police recorded firearms offences in England and Wales, YE March 2003 to YE September 2024**



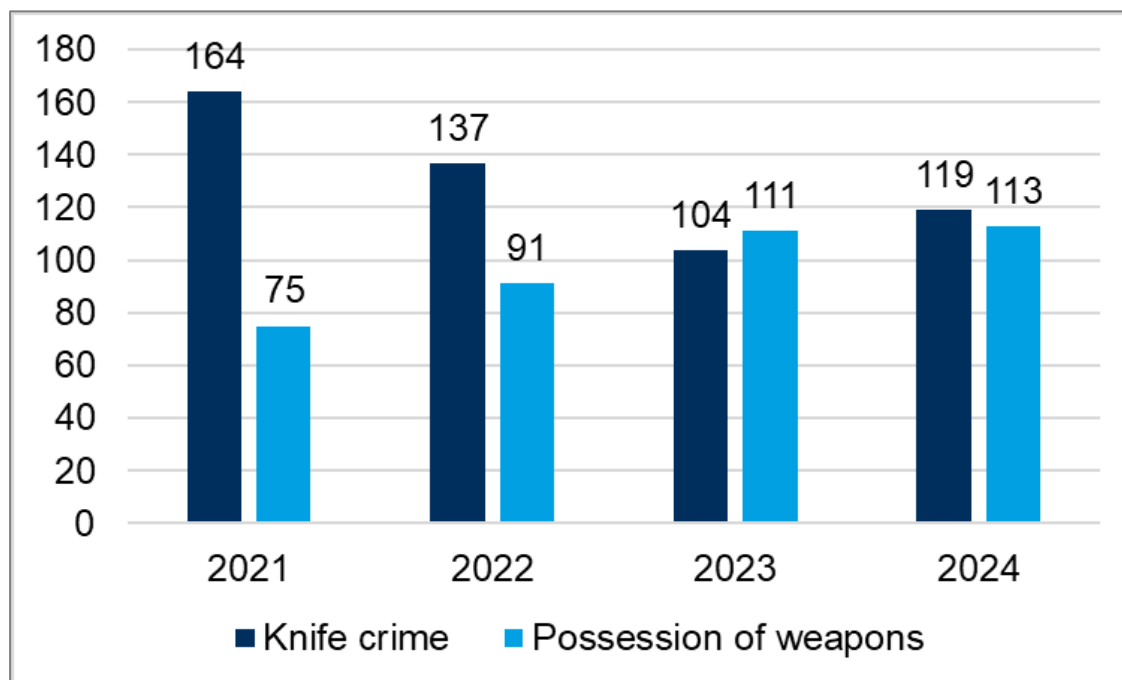
Source: Figure 4 in Crime in England and Wales quarterly bulletin for YE September 2024 (ONS, 2025a, p. 6).

### 6.5.2. Local picture for weapons offences

Possession of weapon offences have seen incremental increases year on year since 2021. In the last year offences remained relatively stable with only a 2% increase (+2 offences); however, since 2021, possession of weapon offences has increased by 51% (+38 offences).

Knife crime marked offences were notably higher than possession of weapon offences in 2021; however, this gap has lessened, as knife crime offences have decreased between 2021 and 2023 (from 164 to 104 offences). In the last year, knife crime marked offences have increased by 14% (+15 offences); despite this, offence counts in 2024 are still lower than seen in 2022.

**Figure 13: Annual trend in knife crime and possession of weapons offences in Fenland, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using CADET data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 6.6. Serious Violence

The CCC Policy and Insight Team have completed the Serious Violence Needs Assessment (SVNA) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for the YE March 2024. The SVNA investigated recorded violent crimes locally, including violence against the person (VAP), robbery, and sexual offences, as well as local risk factors for violence.

Of all the 6 local authorities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Fenland had the second highest rate per 1,000 of suspects of violent offences in the YE March 2024, and the third highest volume (see Table 7).

**Table 7: Number and rate per 1,000 population of suspects of all violence (violence against the person, robbery, and sexual offences), for YE March 2024, by suspects district of residence**

Geography	Number of suspects	Rate of suspects per 1,000 population
Peterborough	3,823	17.5
Fenland	1,586	15.3
Huntingdonshire	1,832	10.0
Cambridge	1,276	8.7
East Cambridgeshire	746	8.3
South Cambridgeshire	1,188	7.2

<b>Geography</b>	<b>Number of suspects</b>	<b>Rate of suspects per 1,000 population</b>
Outside of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and resident locations which were not able to be geocoded	888	N/A
<b>Cambridgeshire Total</b>	<b>6,628</b>	<b>9.6</b>
<b>Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough Total</b>	<b>10,451</b>	<b>11.5</b>
Total	11,339	N/A

Source: Table 14 in the Serious Violence Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for YE March 2024 (CCC PIT, 2025a). Victims data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Population data is mid-2022 population estimates calculated by CCC PIT (CCC PIT, 2024c, p. District).

The majority of suspects of violent offences (including VAP, robbery, and sexual offence) across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were male, accounting for more than two thirds (69%) of suspects in YE March 2024. There was no clear age category that accounted for the majority of suspects.

In contrast, the gender split was more equal amongst victims of these types of offences, with 54% female victims, and 46% male.

Further information on violence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be available in the Serious Violence Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (CCC PIT, 2025a), soon to be available from Cambridgeshire Insight.

## 7. Sexual offences

### 7.1. Summary

In 2024, the number of sexual offences has slightly decreased compared to 2023 but still remains higher than 2021 figures. This decrease in the last year was driven by a reduction in rape offences, whilst other sexual offences saw increases. However, it should be noted that underreporting remains and as such the true scale of sexual offences are likely to be much higher than indicated in police recorded crime figures.

Victim data analysis showed that in 2024 of the victims living in Fenland 85% were female and just over half of victims were aged between 0 to 19 years old (52%).

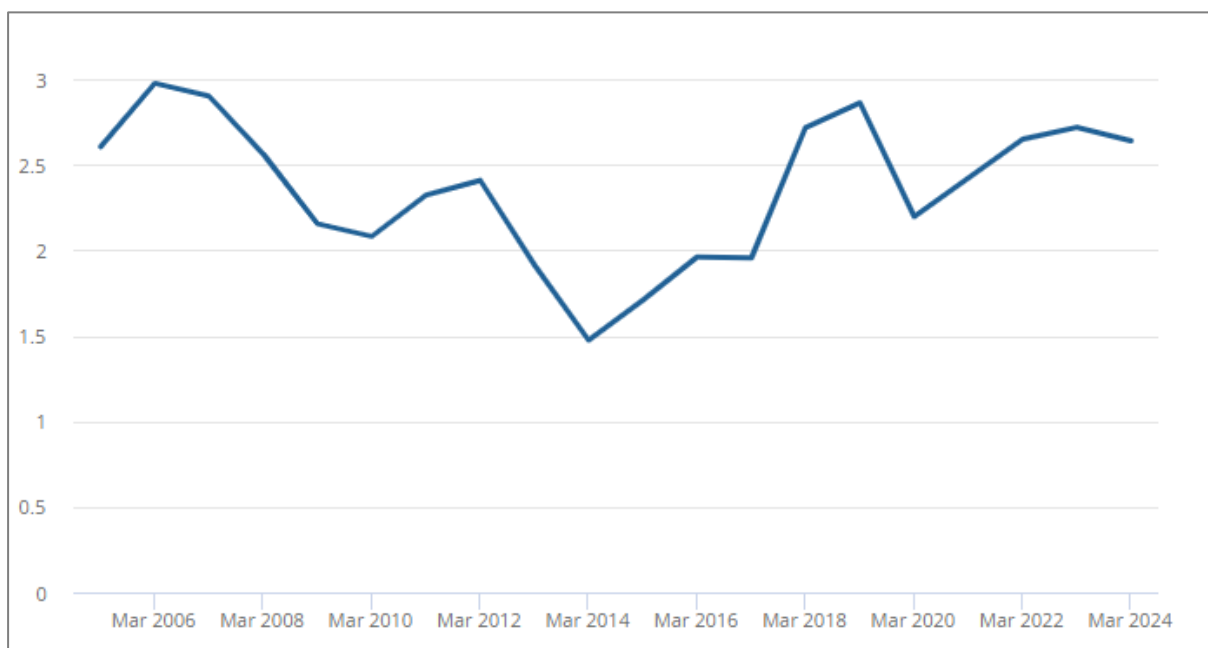
### 7.2. National Trend and Context

Increases in police recorded sexual offences over the last decade have been said by ONS to be linked to improvements in police recording practices (ONS, 2025a). This continued in the YE September 2024, with a 5% increase compared to the previous

year. More than a third of the sexual offences recorded in YE September 2024 were rape offences (35%), a 3% increase compared to the previous year. 21% of sexual offences in YE September 2024 were historical, having taken place more than a year prior to being recorded (ONS, 2025a, p. 9).

The CSEW's stand-alone self-completion module allows individuals to complete questions separate to the interviewer and the data provides important context to police data offences of this nature due to the number of offences that remain unreported to the police (ONS, 2024b). There was no change in the percentage of respondents (aged 16 and over) who reported experiencing actual or attempted sexual assault, between YE March 2023 and YE March 2024 (2.1%) (ONS, 2024b). There have been fluctuations in the percentage of reports for sexual offences, so much so that the prevalence of these offences has returned to the same level as YE March 2005 (2.5%) and with the lowest percentage in YE March 2014 at 1.5% (ONS, 2024c). The overall trend has increased since YE March 2014.

**Figure 14: Prevalence estimates of sexual assault for those aged 16 to 59, Crime Survey for England and Wales YE March 2024**



Source: Figure 7 in the Crime in England and Wales quarterly bulletin, YE March 2024 (ONS, 2024b). See Figure technical notes Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes.

In a previous ONS bulletin about sexual offences for YE March 2022, it was noted that despite the volume of police recorded sexual offences increasing due to improvements in reporting, figures were still lower than CSEW estimates, therefore there is a large proportion of offences being underreported (ONS, 2024b).

The Online Safety Act 2023 included amendments to the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into effect at the end of January 2024 (the start of the period analysed in local trend section) (Online Safety Act, 2023; Sexual Offences Act, 2003). The two amendments include the introduction of an offence known as virtual or online

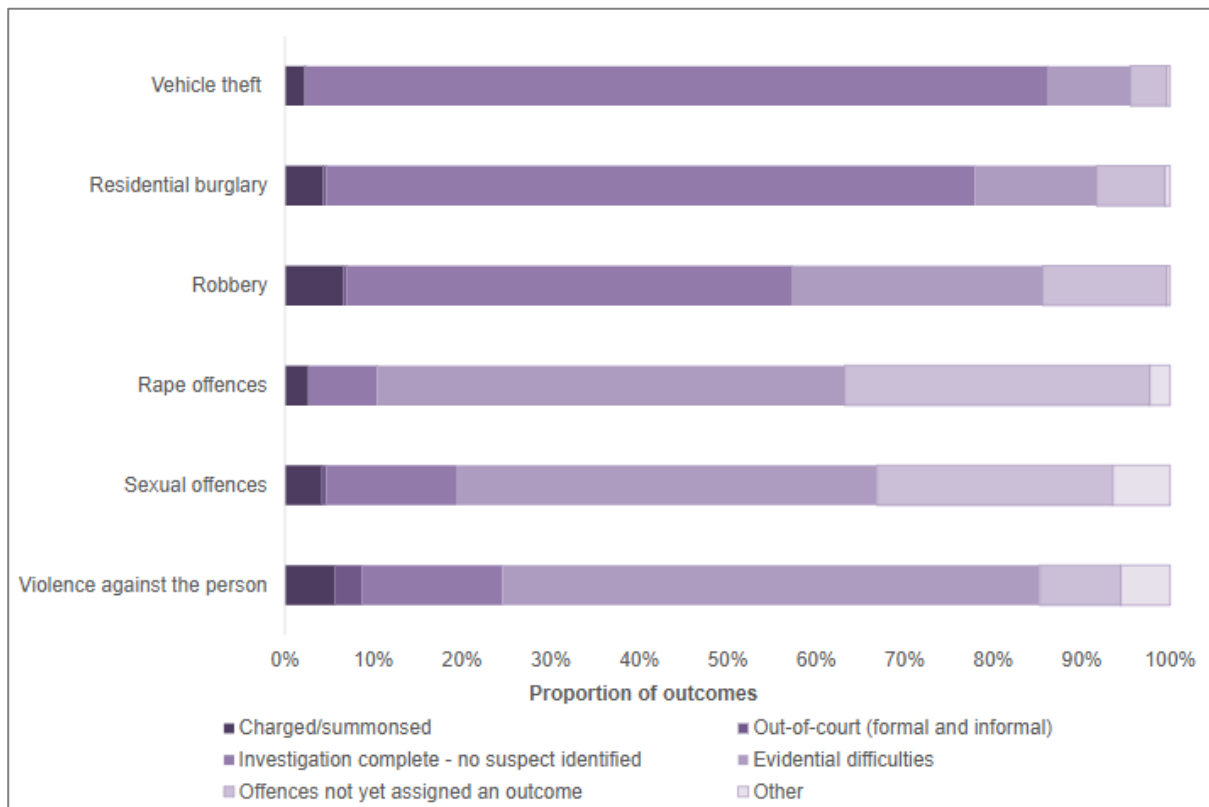


indecent exposure and the replacement of an offence informally known as ‘revenge pornography’ with the non-consensual sharing, or threatening to share, intimate film or images of (or what appears to be of) someone (including artificially created images) (College of Policing, 2024a).

### 7.2.1. Crime Outcomes for Sexual Offences

Crime outcome statistics, which are released annually by the Home Office, highlight the varying outcomes and time scales between different offence groups. Figure 15 details the proportions of outcomes by offence group in the year ending (YE) March 2024. The figure shows outcomes for sexual offences alongside the outcomes of rape offences also. Over a quarter of the recorded sexual offences in YE March 2024 had not yet been assigned an outcome at the end of the year (26.6%).

**Figure 15: Proportion of outcomes by outcome group and offence group in England and Wales, 2023/24 (YE March)**



Source: Figure 2.2 in Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2023 to 2024 bulletin (Home Office, 2025a). See Figure technical notes Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes.

The average number of days to assign an outcome to sexual offences remains high compared to other offence types (such as violence against the person and theft offences). In YE March 2024, the median average number of days was 73, similar to 72 days recorded in YE March 2023. For rape offences, the number of days notably

increases with an average of 120 days in YE March 2024, higher than seen in the previous year at 104 days (Home Office, 2025a).

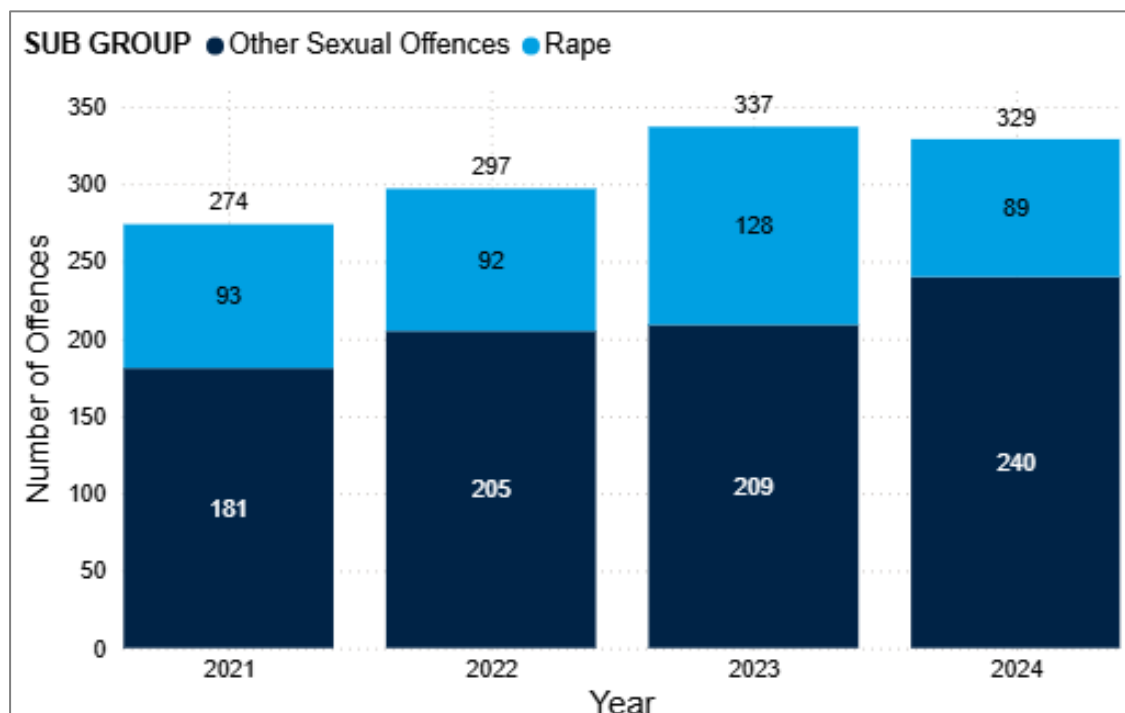
### 7.3. Local Trend and Context

In the last year, the number of sexual offences recorded in Fenland have decreased slightly, from 337 in 2023 to 329 in 2024 (-2%). Despite this decrease, offence counts are still higher than that seen in 2021 and 2022, with a 20% increase since 2021 (+55 offences). In 2024, the overall rate of sexual offences in Fenland was 3.2 per 1,000 population. This was higher than Cambridgeshire rate of 2.5 and highest in comparison to all 5 districts (ranging between 1.9 in South Cambridgeshire to 2.9 in Cambridge) (see section section A.2. Population Estimates for technical notes).

The slight decrease in all sexual offences can be attributed to the decrease in rape offences between 2023 and 2024 (-30%, -39 offences), representing the lowest count over the analysed period (2021 and 2024). Rape offences accounted for 27% of all sexual offences in 2024. This is not only lower than national police recorded crime whereby rape offences accounted for 35% over a similar time period (YE September 2024), but also the lowest proportion seen in Fenland, where rape has consistently accounted for higher than 30% of sexual offences. In 2023, rape offences saw the highest number between 2021 and 2024, in the previous strategic assessment this was suggested to have been influenced by an increase in the reporting of historical offences (CCC PIT, 2024a).

The increasing trend in other sexual offences has continued into 2024; offences have increased from 181 in 2021 to 240 in 2024 (+33%, +59 offences). The most notable increase was seen between 2023 and 2024 (+15%, +31 offences). To some extent this may have been impacted by the amendments to the Sexual Offences Act (2003), as mentioned above (Sexual Offences Act, 2003).

**Figure 16: Annual trend of sexual offences by subgroup in Fenland, 2021 to 2024**

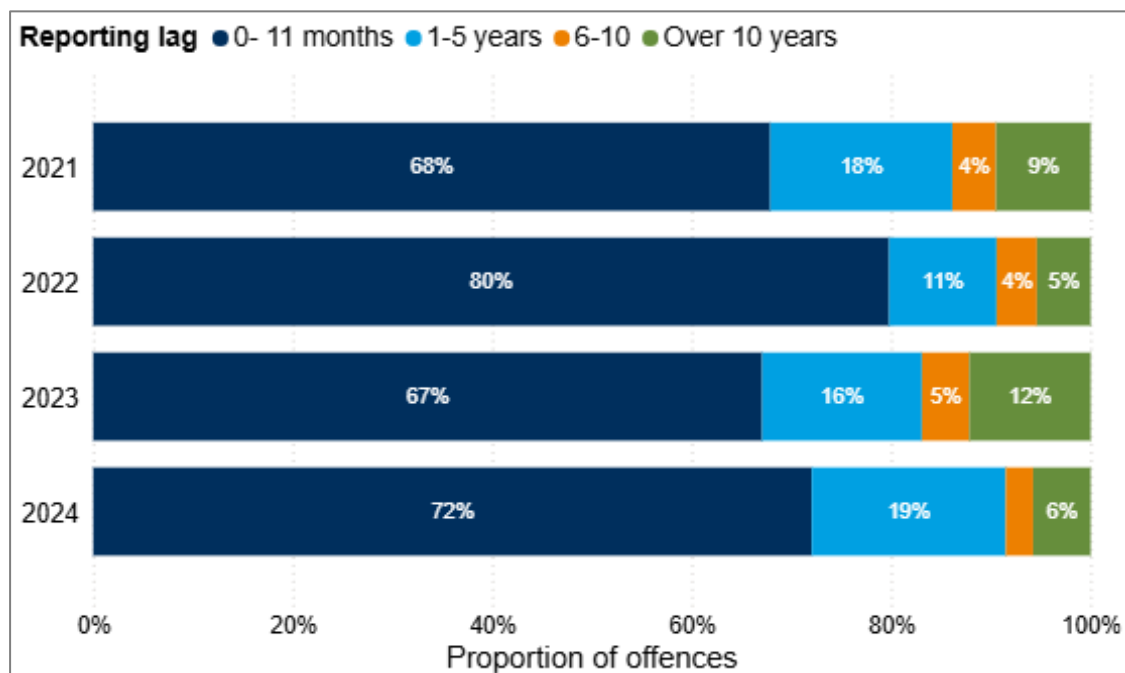


Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

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.

In 2023, 33% of sexual offences occurred over a year prior to reporting; this proportion has increased to 28% in 2024. This is notably higher than the 20% proportion seen nationally over a similar period (YE September 2024) (ONS, 2025a). This proportion increases for rape offences, in 2024, 45% of rape offences occurred over a year prior to reporting. In 2024, 6% of sexual offences recorded had a reporting lag of 10 years or more, this was a decrease from the peak of 12% seen in 2023.

**Figure 17: Number of years between offence start date and offence recorded date for police recorded sexual offences in Fenland, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

### 7.3.1. Crime Markers

Crime markers can be added to any offence type by the police; they can provide further detail about an offence type. It is worth noting that like other markers that can be applied, there is a potential level of inconsistency in the application of the marker. It would be worth investigating how reliable the marker is as an accurate reflection of CSE crimes within the local police data.

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) markers can be added to any offence type by the police. CSA marked sexual offences have reached the highest number in the last four years in Fenland, and in 2024, almost half of sexual offences were CSA marked (49%).

Similarly, a domestic abuse (DA) marker can be added to any offence by the police. By looking at the number of sexual offences, 17% of sexual offences had a DA marker in 2024, this is a smaller proportion than seen in 2023 (20%).

### 7.3.2. Ward Analysis

- **Wisbech Riverside** had a rate of 6.3 per 1,000 population for sexual offences, the highest rate in Fenland. This was followed by **Whittlesey Lattersey** (5.7 per 1,000 population).

- Despite the high rate in **Whittlesey Lattersey**, offence counts are lower in comparison to other ward, ranking 15<sup>th</sup> out of 18 wards.
- 8 wards in total had a higher rate than Fenland (3.2). These wards alongside Wisbech Riverside and Whittlesey Lattersey include; Doddington and Wimblington (5.6), Wisbech North (5.1), Wisbech South (4.7), Elm and Christchurch (4.5), Whittlesey North West (3.5) and March North (3.4).
- **Wisbech South** had the highest count of offences in 2024 with 42.

## 7.4. Victims

This section shows analysis of the demographics for victims of sexual offences recorded in 2024, with a home address recorded in Fenland.

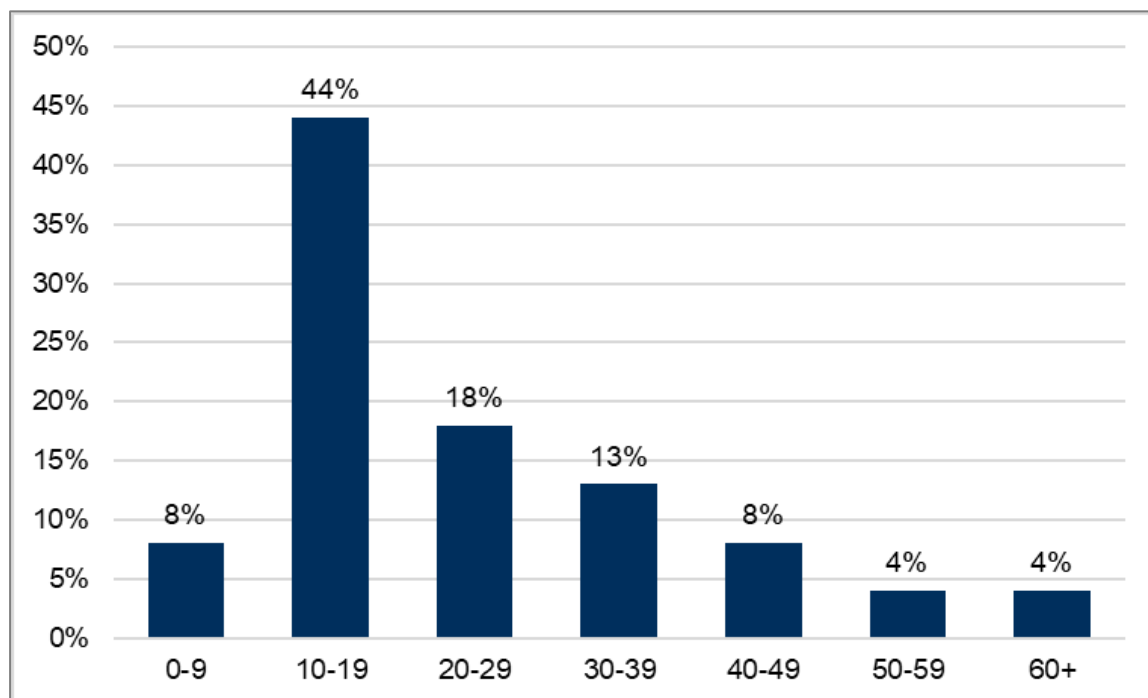
Some victims may have reported multiple offences within the year, so in order to identify individual victims, data was deduplicated by victim and only the first offence in 2024 was returned and used. However, it is important to note that if someone was a victim of multiple offences and had moved outside of Fenland between reporting the offences, they will still be included as residing in Fenland where this includes the first reported offence in 2024.

This is a high-level analysis and doesn't detail types of sexual offences nor does it cross-tabulate different demographics. It does, however, highlight the current demographics of victims of sexual offences in 2024 who are living in Fenland. Further analysis is recommended to gain a more detailed understanding.

The findings are as follows:

- In Fenland, there were 214 individual victims of sexual offences recorded. This represents a rate per 1,000 population of 2.1, the highest rate out of all Cambridgeshire districts, ranging between (1.4 in South Cambridgeshire and 2.0 in Huntingdonshire) (see Appendix A.2. Population Estimates for more details).
- 85% of victims in Fenland were female.
- 44% of victims were aged between 10 and 19 years old at the time of the offence, as highlighted in the figure below.

**Figure 18: Proportion of age groups of individual victims of sexual offences with a home address in Fenland, 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 7.5. Sexual Violence Prevention and Reduction – What works?

This section details some previous research alongside points from a discussion with Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre. The research details examples of interventions to consider when deciding on local interventions for reducing and preventing sexual violence.

### 7.5.1. Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre

A conversation with Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre (CRCC) has informed this section of the report (Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre, n.d.). CRCC, alongside Peterborough Rape Crisis Care Group, make up the Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership (CAPRCP) and together they deliver specialist support services to people in Cambridgeshire who are survivors of rape, sexual abuse and sexual violence. In the year ending 2024, the CAPRCP supported 1,956 survivors across the county. Of these, 1,519 were adults (18yrs+), 334 were young people (aged 13-17yrs) and 103 were children (0 – 12yrs) and 205 survivors were from the Fenland area. CAPRCP provides support across the county and as such the following is not all specific to the Fenland area. CRCC highlighted the following trends and concerns:

- Long waiting times when taking offences through the criminal justice system cause survivors to be re-traumatised.
- There is a general lack of understanding around the re-traumatisation of survivors taking cases through criminal justice system.
- Because statutory mental health services are under huge pressures, meeting the criteria threshold for accessing services is increasingly difficult and so more survivors are seeking support from CRCC and staying in service longer.
- The number of referrals for counselling for children under 12 has nearly tripled since the previous year (from 11 referrals in 22/23 to 30 in 23/24).
- Increase in people seeking support for online sexual violence (e.g. revenge pornography, on-line grooming and child abuse etc). There is a lack of awareness of the impact of these offences.
- With Fenland being rural, accessibility is often a barrier for accessing support services. CRCC is working to ensure support services are brought closer to more rural areas.

When discussing sexual violence prevention, it was acknowledged that there is much work to do. School workshops have been used by CRCC to educate and also offer support. As a result, it was highlighted that these workshops should be facilitated by specialists to ensure that pupils are receiving the correct after care and follow ups where necessary. CRCC also highlighted the value of parents, carers, teachers and school staff in continuing this education and support; so, where possible, sessions are also provided to ensure parents, carers etc. are equipped with necessary resources for prevention.

### 7.5.2. Evidence and Evaluation

#### **Wales Violence Reduction Unit – Systematic Evidence Assessment**

In a Systematic Evidence Assessment published by the Wales Violence Reduction Unit in 2021, a range of studies and literature were discussed when understanding what works in terms of preventing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV) (Wales Violence Prevention Unit, 2021). Some key points on highlighted effective interventions are as follows.

- Interventions within school settings such as Fourth R programme, Safe Dates and Stepping Stones have seen evidence for reducing dating violence.
- Studies on night-time environment often focus on bystander interventions and raising awareness through campaigns. As cited in the report, The Good Night Out Campaign aimed to provide workers with guidance to prevent and respond to sexual violence. It was found that heightened awareness was associated with higher confidence to intervene.
- It was found that working with multiple agencies and through partnerships was effective in building a cohesive and co-ordinated response within the

community to VAWDASV. As well, when interventions utilise an advocacy approach the impact is more sustainable for victims.

To read more about this assessment, alongside the interventions which were evaluated, please see [What works to prevent Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence: Systematic Evidence Assessment](#).

### **Thames Valley Police - Project Vigilant**

Project Vigilant was rolled out by Thames Valley Police with the aim of preventing sexual violence through targeting predatory behaviour during the night-time economy (College of Policing, 2024b). Officers in plain clothes identify the behaviour and uniformed officers will then step in to intervene and prevent the behaviour from escalating. University of Brighton was commissioned to evaluate this project, whilst there was too little data to draw conclusions from police recorded sexual offences, it was highlighted that officers were proactive in intervening in situations with suspected predatory behaviour. University of Brighton did recommend that partnership working should be enhanced (Magill, et al., 2023) (Magill, et al., 2023).

### **Lucy Faithfull Foundation – Protecting Parents Across Communities Programme**

NSPCC were commissioned to evaluate a project which was run by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation called 'Protecting Parents Across Communities (PPAC)' (NSPCC, Williams, M., 2018). As cited in the evaluation, this project ran between June 2009 to June 2012 and formed part of a child sexual abuse prevention initiative called 'Parents Protect' run by Lucy Faithfull Foundation, operating in the UK and Ireland. This programme set to establish an approach to work with non-English speaking communities to prevent child sexual abuse in the home. For this particular project resource was focused on the Somali community. It was found that by working directly with community members, professionals could identify local risks. Also, it was established that parents must be involved in identifying risk and taking action, if prevention techniques and methods are to succeed.

To read more about the initial programme and the information on NSPCC website, please see the following links:

[Parents Protect! Programme | Lucy Faithfull Foundation](#)

[Protecting children from sexual abuse | NSPCC Learning](#)

### **Together for Girls, The Equality Institute and Oak Foundation – Systematic Review**

Organisations including Together for Girls, The Equality Institute and Oak Foundation partnered to undertake a systematic review of research, solutions and best practices used worldwide to respond to and prevent sexual violence against



children and young people. This review is described as “a knowledge springboard for further work” and contains an array of evaluated evidence (Ligiero, et al., 2019a) (Ligiero, et al., 2019a). Below is a summary of effective intervention types, within relevant categories; for further details see the full report and the executive summary cited in this document.

- **Norms and values** - Community mobilisation programmes have proven effective based on evaluation in low and middle income countries (LMICs) in contributing to reducing intimate partner violence and also changing attitudes more broadly around violence. SASA!, an example of this intervention type, was evaluated and highlighted effectiveness with children (Raising Voices, n.d.). However, more research is needed to evaluate for other age groups and for sexual violence against children and young people.
- **Parent and caregiver support** – Parenting programmes to reduce teen violence were found to be effective. Through using multi-component education programmes (delivered to staff, students and their parents), high-risk sexual activities amongst high-school aged young people were reduced along with physical violence within relationships.
- **Education and life skills** – Several types of interventions were highlighted as effective.
  - Programmes that promote healthy relationships are found to be more effective when they are interactive, delivered over multiple sessions, use local sexual violence data and aim to change attitudes over just providing information, amongst other elements which make them more effective.
  - There is a vast amount of research that supports the effectiveness of school-based safe dating programmes, with the understanding that the programmes should be age and gender specific along with culturally and socially appropriate.
  - Experimental evaluations suggests that bystander intervention programmes within schools can result in lower occurrences of harassment and stalking. However, there is no evidence to support that behaviour will change as a result.
  - Studies have shown reduction in sexual violence upon the completion of empowerment and self-defence programmes. This has not yet been researched and evidenced in different contexts.

Source: What works to prevent sexual violence against children: Executive Summary. Together for Girls (Ligiero, et al., 2019b). (Ligiero, et al., 2019b, pp. 26, 34, 43)

For further details about interventions, the link to the full report can be found here: [What Works to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Children: Evidence Review](#)

## 8. Domestic Abuse

### 8.1. Summary

Both DA crimes and incidents have decreased in the last year; these decreases are part of a longer term decreasing trend since 2021. National decreases in police recorded DA have been attributed to the decrease in VAP offences; it is difficult to say this locally as most DA crime types saw decreases in the last year.

Nationally, in YE March 2024, the prevalence of domestic abuse in women (6.6%) was notably higher than men (3.0%).

### 8.2. National Context

Police recorded domestic abuse (DA) related offences have decreased by 6% between YE September 2023 and YE September 2024.

According to the ONS, the 6% decrease of overall domestic abuse related offences was primarily driven by the decrease in VAP offences, which was said to be likely related to changes in recording practices (ONS, 2025a).

As indicated in the Violence Against the Person section of this report (see section 6.2), there have been changes to the Home Office Counting rules for conduct crimes, linking to a 26% reduction in malicious communication offences. This includes threatening or abusive messages, which are commonly reported by DA victims (Domestic Abuse Commissioner, 2024; ONS, 2024d; ONS, 2024b). According to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, these changes have been linked to an 8% reduction in DA crimes recorded nationally, between quarter 1 and quarter 3 in financial year 2023/24 (2024). Whilst there has been a decrease in DA related VAP offences, DA related sexual offences have increased by 7% between YE March 2023 and YE March 2024 (from 33,826 offences to 36,135 offences) (ONS, 2024d, p. F12).

Data from the CSEW's stand-alone self-completion module (as previously mentioned see section 6.2) provides important context to police data offences of this nature due to the number of offences that remain unreported to the police (ONS, 2025a). According to the most recent data (for the YE September 2024 survey period), 4.5% of respondents aged 16 and over had experienced domestic abuse in the last year (ONS, 2025a).

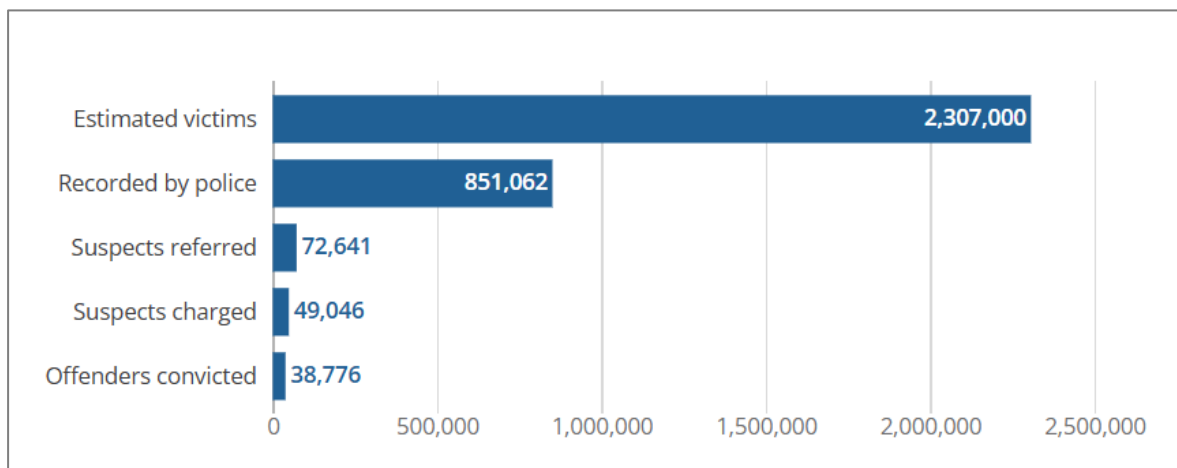
More detailed data is available for the YE March survey periods. This data showed there was little change in the estimated prevalence of domestic abuse between YE March 2023 and YE March 2024 survey periods, from 4.4% to 4.8% (ONS, 2024e, p.

S42). This is consistent with the possibility that the decreases seen in national police recorded offences may be driven by the changes in recording practices.

When broken down by the sex of respondents, the estimated prevalence of domestic abuse increases to 6.6% for women (YE March 2024); this is more than double the estimated prevalence for men (3.0%) (ONS, 2024e, p. S42).

Figure 19 below shows the higher number of estimated victims, as well as the high number of victims recorded by the police, relative to the number of suspects referred, charged and convicted in England and Wales in the YE March 2024. **These numbers are not directly comparable** as it does not follow specific cases through the criminal justice system. However, as explained by the ONS, looking at data from each stage of the criminal justice system can help to build a picture of what has been happening (ONS, 2024f, p. 3).

**Figure 19: Domestic abuse data from incident to conviction, England and Wales, year ending March 2024**



Source: Figure 1 in the Domestic Abuse in England and Wales overview for November 2024 (ONS, 2024f).

Note: **This data is not directly comparable** as it does not follow specific cases throughout the criminal justice system.

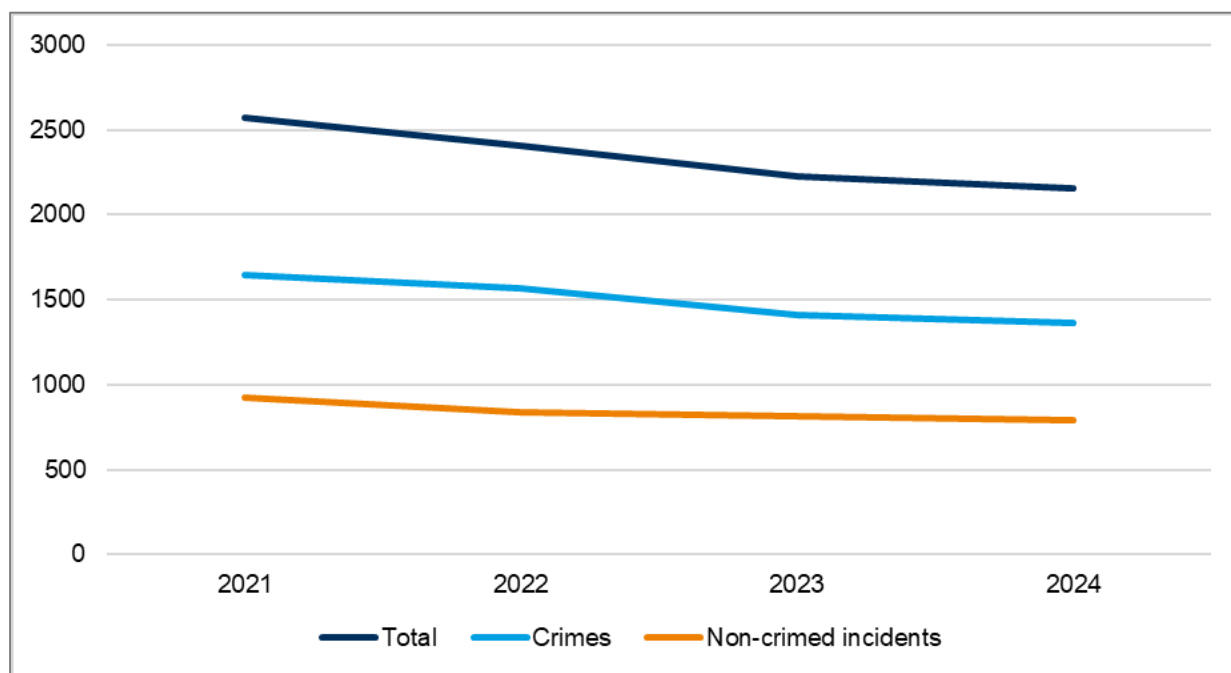
### 8.3. Local Context

Domestic abuse (DA) marked offences decreased slightly in the last year from 1,410 offences in 2023 to 1,362 offences in 2024. This represents a 3% decrease (-48 offences). This is part of a series of annual decreases since 2021; offences have decreased by 17% over this period (-283 offences). Decreases from 2023 are likely to have been impacted by the change in new Home Office counting rules introduced in April 2023 (see section 6.2. Technical note). One of the Home Office rules is the 'finished incident' rule for conduct crimes. This is where unless there has been a gap of 3 months between incidents involving the same victim and perpetrator, a new crime will not be recorded, and details will be added to the previous crime (Home

Office, 2024a). This has also been mentioned previously in the report in relation to stalking and harrassment offences.

Total DA incidents (non-crimed only) have also decreased year on year over the last four years; this represents a 14% decrease between 2021 and 2024 (-133 incidents). Incident numbers in 2024 are the lowest seen across this period. In the last year, incidents decreased by 2% from 812 incidents to 792 (-20 incidents).

**Figure 20: Police recorded Domestic Abuse (DA) crimes and incidents (non-crimed only) in Fenland, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

The proportion of incidents that were 'crimed' has remained relatively stable over the past four years (ranging between 54% and 55%), see Table 8.

**Table 8: DA incidents and crimes recorded in Fenland, 2021to 2024**

<b>Incident category</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Total police recorded DA (incidents & crimes)	2,570	2,405	2,222	2,154
Total DA marked crimes	1,645	1,564	1,410	1,362
Total DA incidents	2,013	1,867	1,764	1,725
Incidents that result in a crime being recorded	1,088	1,026	952	933
Incidents that remain as incident only	925	841	812	792
Proportion of incidents that were 'crimed'	54%	55%	54%	54%
Proportion of total recorded DA that were crimes	64%	65%	63%	63%

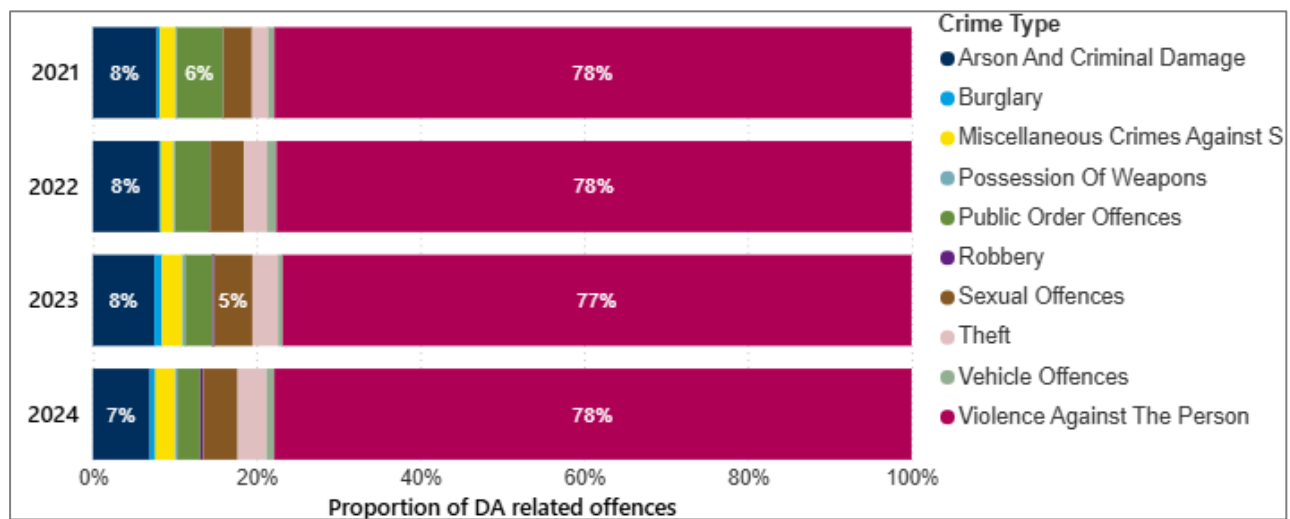
Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 8.4. DA Crime Types

Most DA marked offence types decreased between 2023 and 2024; the exception is from small increases in theft (+9%, +4 offences), robbery and vehicle offences (+63%, +5 offences).

- VAP offences have consistently accounted for the highest proportion of DA marked offences in Fenland. Over the past four years, this proportion has ranged between 77% and 78%.
- Arson and criminal damage offences follows as the second highest proportion with 7% in 2024; this is slightly lower than the proportion for the previous three years of 8%.

**Figure 21: Crime type breakdown of Domestic Abuse (DA) related offences recorded in Fenland, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 8.5. Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs)

At the time of writing this document, there is one Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR), formerly known as Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), currently in progress. This person died in 2022.

No reviews were published in 2024.

## 8.6. Ward Analysis

Both DA crimes and DA non-crimes incidents have been summed to achieve the below findings.

- **Wisbech South** had the highest volume of crimes and incidents in 2024 (263 crimes and incidents). A small increase of 3% between 2023 and 2024 (+8 crimes and incidents).
- **Wisbech Riverside** had highest rate of DA crimes and incidents in 2024 (43.4 per 1,000 population). This is notably higher than Fenland's rate of 20.8. The second highest rate was **Wisbech North** (42.2).
- **Chatteris North & Manea** saw the largest volume increase between 2023 and 2024 (+35%, +38 crimes and incidents); despite this increase, the count of 2024 did not exceed the count of 2021 (-14%, -23 crimes and incidents).
- **March South** saw the largest increase between 2021 and 2024 (+32%, +20 crimes and incidents); however, this is due to year-on-year fluctuations over

the last four years. In 2021 and 2023, counts were 62 and 64 respectively, whereas in 2022 and 2024, counts were 89 and 82 respectively.

## 9. Exploitation and Vulnerability

### 9.1. Summary

Modern slavery, County lines and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) can all be interlinked and continue to pose high risk to vulnerable individuals. The national and local insights highlight the risk to children. Local data still offers a limited picture due to limited available data and potential underreporting; therefore, the true prevalence continues to be hard to gauge. There was one recorded modern slavery in Fenland in 2024. However, organised crime groups are known to move people within the UK, meaning local district boundaries are irrelevant to the trafficking and exploitation of people.

Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough there are a number of partnership workstreams tackling these issues. The Partnership should ensure it is fully engaged with those existing mechanisms and look to identify any gaps in local knowledge or activity.

### 9.2. Modern Slavery

#### 9.2.1. National Picture

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. The end of year summary for 2024 had recently been released at the time of writing this report (Home Office, 2025a). Below are some of the findings:

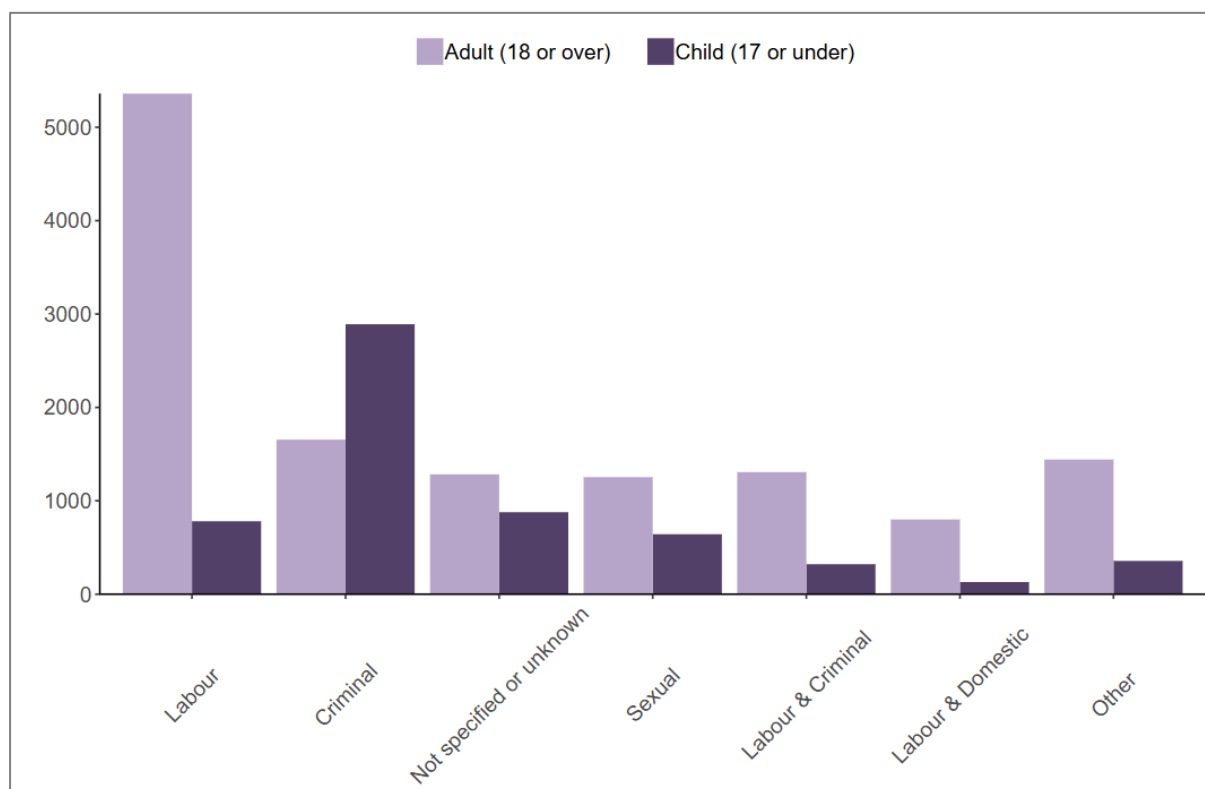
- There was a notable increase in referrals to NRM in 2024, representing a 13% increase compared to 2023.
- Of the referrals made, 68% were adults (18 or over) at the time of referral, a slight increase on the 65% recorded in 2023.
- 74% of referrals were male in 2024. Males have consistently accounted for the largest proportion of referrals.

- The most common type of exploitation referred was labour exploitation at 32%.
- Labour exploitation was most commonly reported in adults (41%), whereas children were most often referred for criminal exploitation (48%), see Figure 22 below.
- The most common nationality referred was UK, with almost a quarter of all potential victims (23%). Followed by Albanian (13%) and the third was Vietnamese (11%).

Sources: (Home Office, 2025a) and (Home Office, 2025b).

Note: See technical notes for NRM data in section Appendix A.7 NRM data.

**Figure 22: Number of NRM referrals, by exploitation type and age at referral, 2024**



Source: Figure 7 in Modern slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, end of year summary 2024 (Home Office, 2025a).

The latest National Crime Agency (NCA) Strategic Assessment for 2024 highlighted issues that are influencing risk of exploitation, which local CSPs should be alert to:

- An increase in labour exploitation in the UK may be linked to ongoing workforce shortages in some sectors. Labour exploitation is most likely to occur in sectors with lower pay, and informal or insecure working arrangements (NCA, 2024).



- A higher number of referrals in the first quarter of 2023 was likely linked to the high number of small boats arrivals in 2022, with irregular migrants being vulnerable to exploitation in the UK.
- Changes to the NRM reporting criteria likely impacted the number of referrals being made and could be linked to a comparatively low number recorded in quarter 2 of 2023.

The CSP should also be aware that changes in 2024 mean that there are now fewer options for Ukrainian refugees wanting to flee to the UK. Refugees who are able to enter the UK on fraudulent VISA applications (i.e. without a legitimate sponsor) may be at risk of exploitation.

### 9.2.2. Local Picture

Whilst district level data is not available, data is available on the NRM referrals made where Cambridgeshire Constabulary was the first responder. The Cambridgeshire Constabulary police force area covers both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. As previously mentioned, the latest end of year summary available is for 2024. Note that this does not necessarily reflect that Cambridgeshire Constabulary was the responsible police force. See technical notes on the NRM process in Appendix A.7 NRM data.

- Of the 63 NRM referrals made by Cambridgeshire Constabulary in 2024, more than three quarters were males, accounting for 76% of referrals, a similar proportion recorded in 2023 (77%).
- When looking at ages (at time of referral), 65% were adults (18 and over). Adult males accounted for almost half of the total referrals (48%).
- Almost half of referrals were from the UK (54%). The next most common nationalities were Albanian (8%), and Vietnamese (8%).
- The most common exploitation type was “criminal exploitation” (56%).
- The next most common exploitation type was “labour and criminal exploitation” (16%).

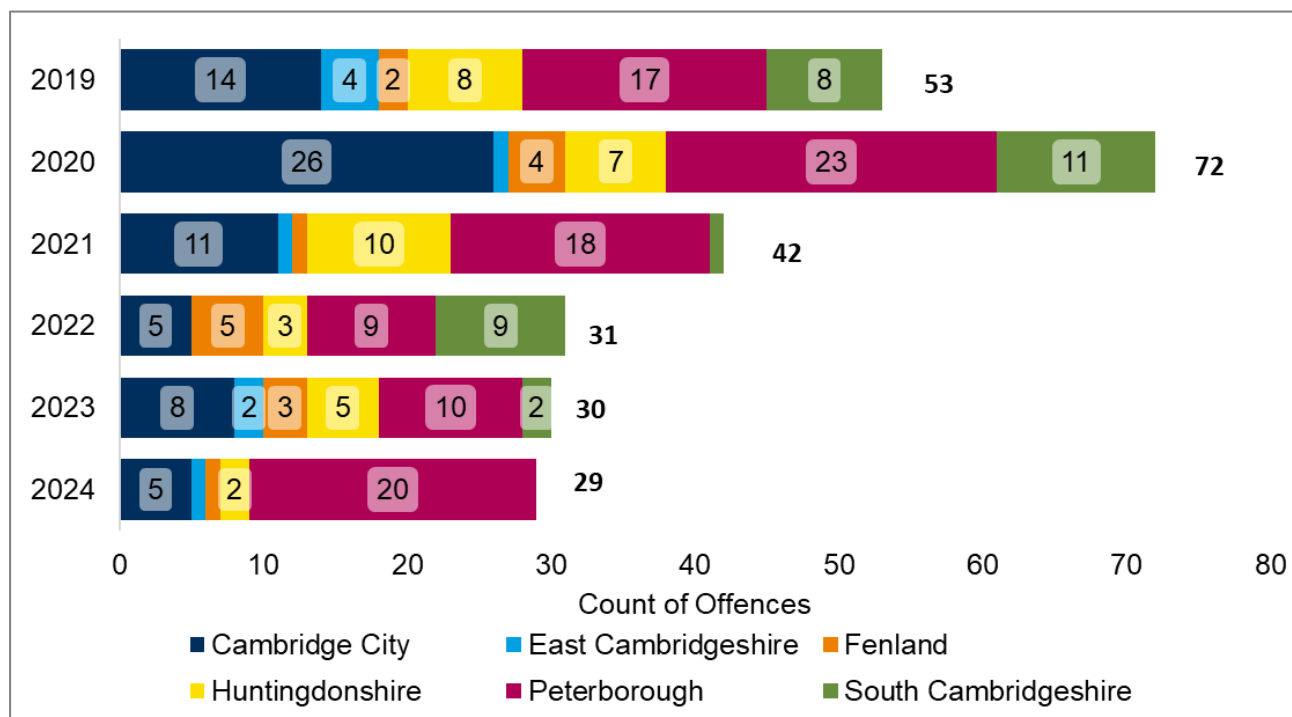
Of the 63 referrals where Cambridgeshire Constabulary were first responders, 89% were investigated by Cambridgeshire Constabulary, this is 56 referrals. In total, Cambridgeshire Constabulary investigated 159 referrals; in 2024, there were no referrals from Fenland District Council in this year.

Source: (Home Office, 2025b).

Another source of data on modern slavery is police recorded modern slavery offences. The overall number of modern slavery offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has seen little change between 2022 and 2024. The total for 2024 represents a 67% decrease compared to the peak seen in 2020. The total for Fenland has remained relatively low in numbers between 2019 and 2024. Following

the peak of 5 modern slavery offences recorded in 2022, 1 offence was recorded in Fenland in 2024. However, these numbers should not be taken as a true representation of the levels of modern slavery offending in Fenland, or across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, due to high levels of underreporting for this crime type. It should also be noted that local district boundaries are irrelevant to the trafficking and exploitation of people as organised crime gangs are known to move people within the UK.

**Figure 23: Police recorded modern slavery offences by district, 2020 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using CADET data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

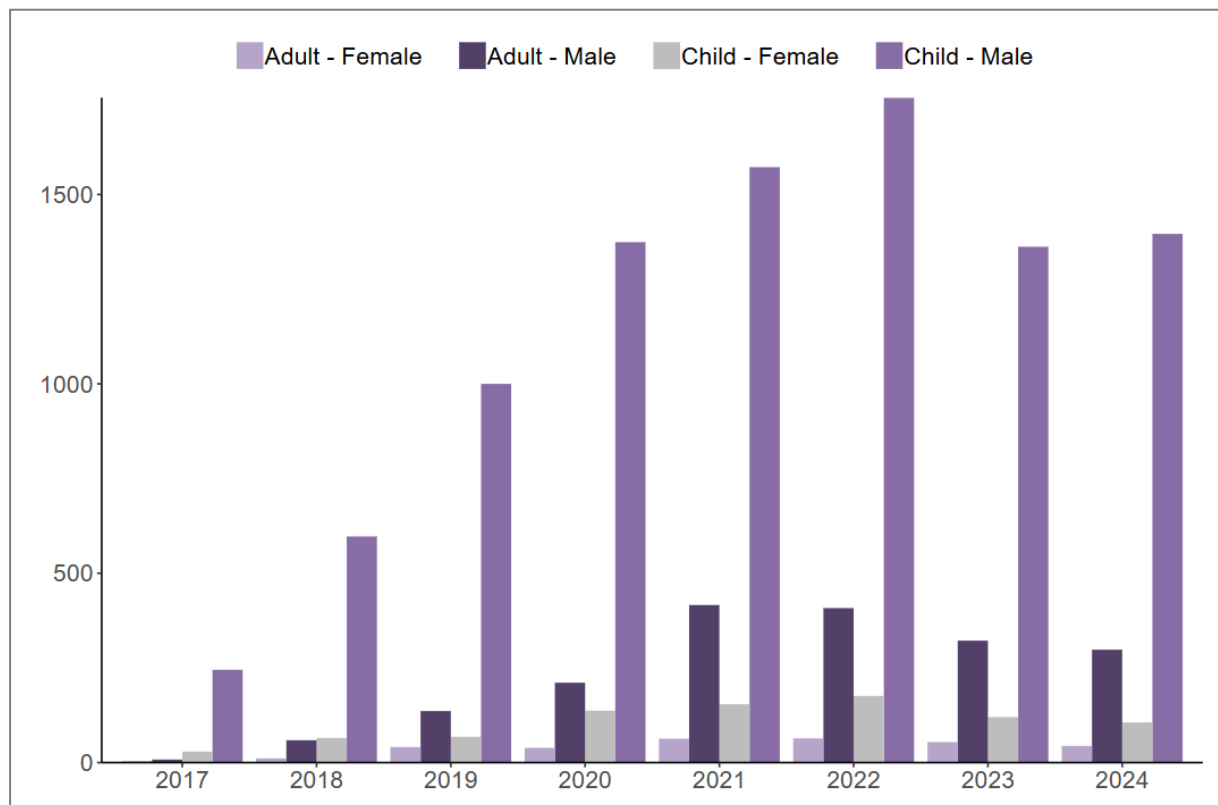
### 9.3. County Lines

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 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. Across the UK, the NCA suggested that heroin and crack cocaine are the drugs most commonly supplied by county lines (NCA, 2024).

The NRM referral system flags referrals that relate to county lines. In 2024, nationally, 10% of all referrals received were flagged as county lines. The majority of these referrals were for male children (76%), as shown in Figure 24, this cohort have

consistently accounted for the majority of county lines flagged referrals (Home Office, 2025a).

**Figure 24: Number of NRM referrals flagged nationally as county lines, by age group at exploitation and gender, 2017 to 2024**



Source: Figure 8 in Modern slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, end of year summary 2024 (Home Office, 2025a).

Training on County Lines provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary to local organisations in the last year has highlighted the importance of gathering information from third party sources as cases involving modern slavery and county lines are often complex. Partners are encouraged to communicate any information they have on modern slavery or county lines activity to the police.

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

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse whereby a child is coerced, manipulated, or deceived into sexual activity – see Glossary for more details.

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 included in the previous strategic assessment. This is the most recent version of this

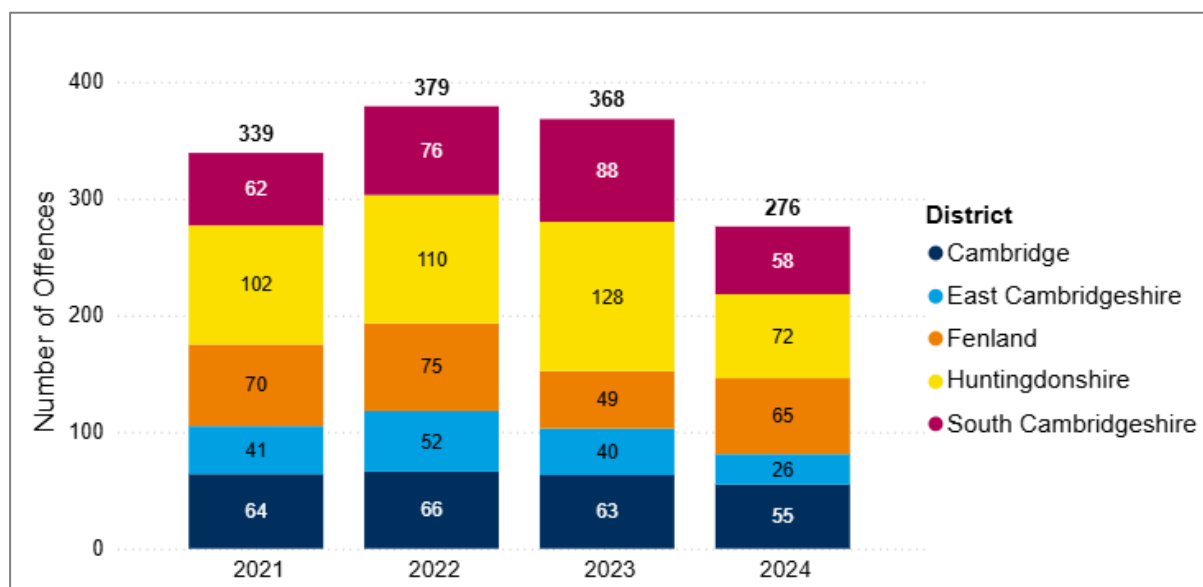
report. It should be noted that the report flags that figures do not account for underreporting on this crime type, particularly for boys, minority communities, migrant groups, and those with disabilities (Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Programme, 2024).

CSE is a marker that can be applied to any offence that fits the criteria for CSE by police. It is worth noting that like other markers that can be applied there is a potential level of inconsistency in the application of the marker. It would be worth investigating how reliable the marker is as an accurate reflection of CSE crimes within the local police data.

CSE offences in Cambridgeshire have decreased since 2021 (-19%, -63 offences). In Fenland, CSE marked offences increased in the last year, from 49 in 2023 to 65 in 2024 (+33%, +16 offences). Despite this increase, the number of offences remains lower than seen in both 2021 and 2022. Fenland was the only district in Cambridgeshire to have recorded an increase in the last year and also had the higher rate compared to other Cambridgeshire districts at 0.6 per 1,000 population, with others ranging between 0.3 and 0.4 (see Appendix A.2. Population Estimates for more details).

Any police recorded offence can be marked as CSE related. When broken down by subgroup of offence type, the majority of CSE offences in Fenland were consistently either “Other sexual offences” (58% in 2024) or “Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society” (25% in 2024). However, due to the nature of these crimes, and the levels of underreporting as suggested in the Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Programme report, this decrease in recorded CSE should be treated with caution.

**Figure 25: Annual trend of police recorded child sexual exploitation (CSE) offences in Cambridgeshire by district, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 10. Substance Misuse

### 10.1. Summary

Locally, police recorded drug offences increased in the last year, higher than the increase seen nationally over a similar period (YE September 2024). The increase in Fenland was driven by both trafficking and possession of drug offences, which saw increases. The proportion of trafficking offences has increased since 2023 but is notably lower than 2021 and 2022 proportions.

Despite the total number of clients in treatment slightly decreasing between 2023 and 2024, the number of clients in treatment for opiate substance abuse saw an increase over this period. Those in treatment for opiate substance abuse have consistently accounted for the highest proportion of clients in treatment.

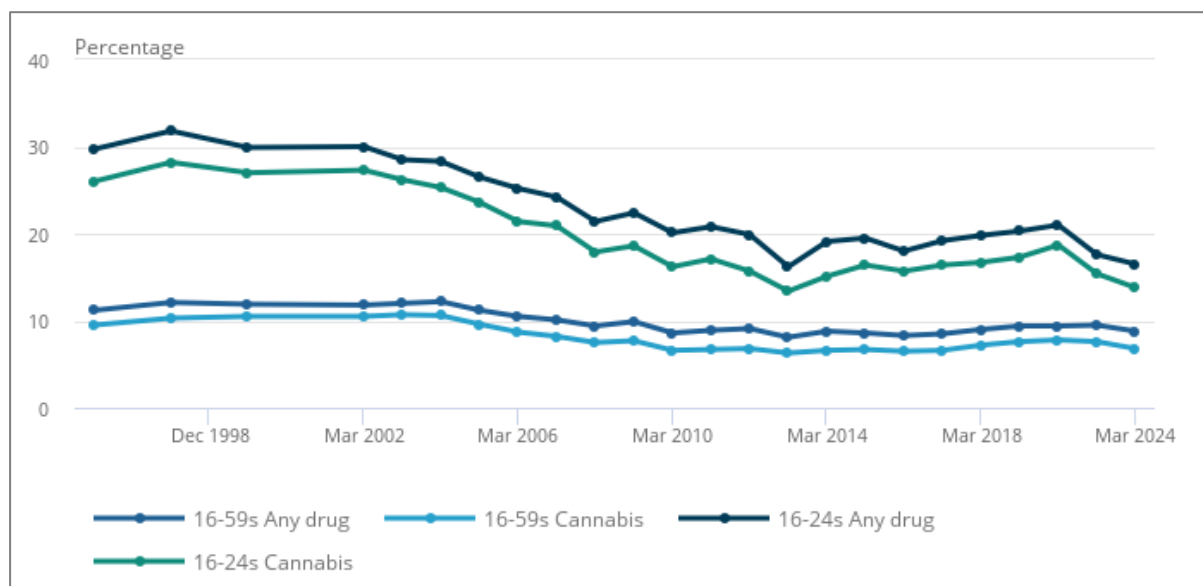
### 10.2. National Trends

Nationally, police recorded drug offences have seen little change between YE September 2023 and YE September 2024 (+1%). When broken down by subgroup, drug trafficking offences increased by 9%, whilst drug possession offences decreased by 2%. Possession of drugs offences accounted for 70% of drug offences in YE September 2024 (ONS, 2025b, p. A5a).

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 be acknowledged within police recorded offences. The latest published Drug Misuse bulletin by ONS is for YE March 2024 (ONS, 2024).

As shown in Figure 26, estimates from the CSEW has indicated that there has been an overall decrease in drug use amongst 16 to 24 year olds since December 1995; except for a temporary increase between March 2013 and March 2020 (ONS, 2024).

**Figure 26: Annual trend in estimates of drug use prevalence in England and Wales from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, year ending December 1995 to year ending March 2024**



Source: Figure 1 in Drug Misuse in England and Wales report for the year ending March 2024 (ONS, 2024, p. 2).

Note: “Data for 1995, 1997 and 1999 are for YE December. All other years are for YE March.” (ONS, 2024, p. 2).

Marginal, but statistically significant decreases were seen in the estimated prevalence of some drug types in the last year amongst 16 to 59 year olds, including nitrous oxide (1.3% to 0.9%), crack cocaine (0.1% to <0.1%), and cannabis (7.6% to 6.8%) (ONS, 2024, p. 1.02).

Amongst 16- to 24-year-olds, marginal but statistically significant decreases were seen in the prevalence of Ecstasy (2.4% to 2.2%), amphetamines (0.8% to 0.3%), and nitrous oxide (4.2% to 3.3%). There was a small but statistically significant increase in the use of mephedrone (<0.1% to 0.2%). A small but statistically significant increase was seen in the use of magic mushrooms for both 16 to 24 year olds (1.9% to 2.3%), and 16 to 59 year olds (0.8% to 1.1%) (ONS, 2024, pp. 1.02, 1.08).

In the latest NCA strategic assessment, it has been suggested that “there has never been a more dangerous time to take drugs”, due to the increasing criminal use of ‘nitazenes’ to strengthen drugs, particularly heroine. Nitazenes are a synthetic opioid, often taken unintentionally; in the UK, they were linked to 230 fatalities between 01 June 2023 and 01 June 2024 (NCA, 2024).

## 10.3. Local Trends

### 10.3.1. Police Recorded Drug Offences

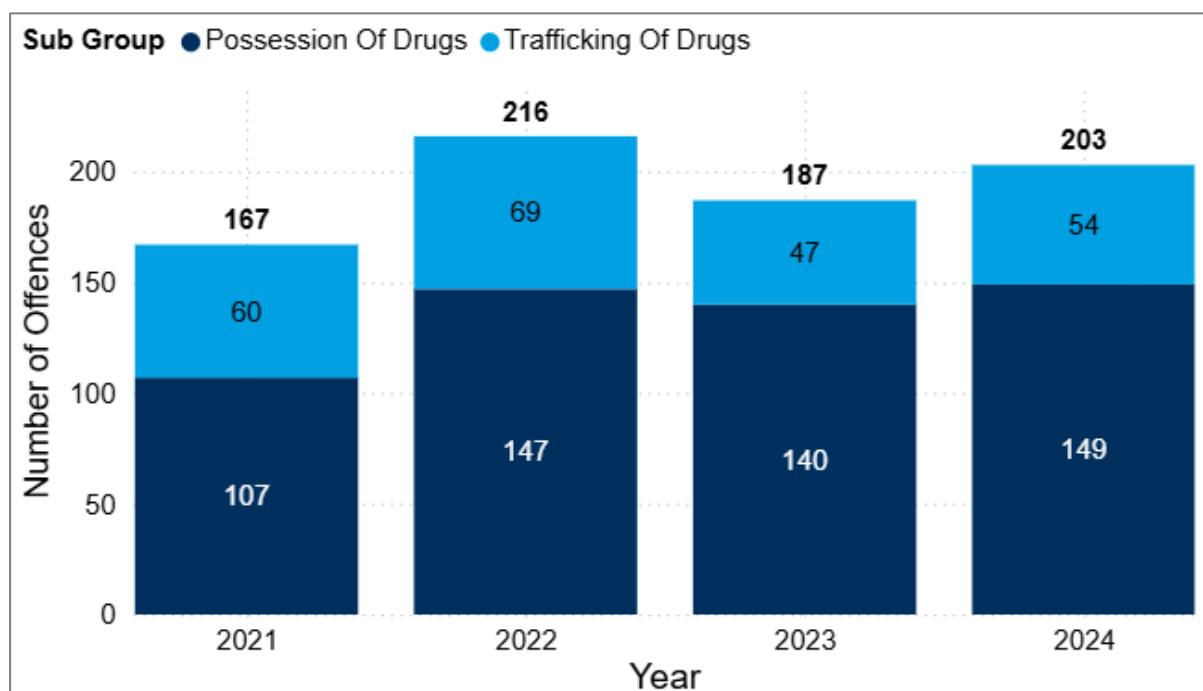
It should be noted that police recorded drug offences are largely driven by police activity and does not necessarily represent the overall drug misuse in an area. The number of drug offences has fluctuated over the last four years with a total of 203 recorded offences in 2024. This is an increase of 9% on 2023 (+16 offences) and a 22% increase compared to 2021 (+36 offences). Despite this, offence counts in 2024 are slightly lower than in 2022 where 216 drug offences were recorded.

Fenland had a rate 2.0 per 1,000 population in 2024. This is slightly higher than Cambridgeshire's rate of 1.6 and ranks third out of all five districts behind Cambridge (2.3) and Huntingdonshire (2.1).

In 2024, 73% of drug offences were for possession of drugs compared to 27% were for trafficking of drugs. The proportion of trafficking offences has increased compared to 2023 (25%) but is notably lower than 2021 (36%) and 2022 (32%) proportions.

- Trafficking offences increased in the last year (+15%, +7 offences); however, it is 10% lower than in 2021 (-6 offences).
- Possession offences reached highest count in 2024 in the last four year (149 offences), and this is similar to numbers recorded in 2022 (147 offences) and 2023 (140 offences). However, there has been an overall 39% increase since 2021 (+39 offences) due to the 37% between 2021 and 2022.

**Figure 27: Annual trend of police recorded drug offences in Fenland by subgroup, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

#### 10.3.1.1. Ward Analysis

- **Wisbech South** had the highest count of drug offences out of all wards in Cambridgeshire. Offence counts have fluctuated in the last four years; however, 51 offences in 2024 is the highest annual count seen across period. This represents an increase of 34% in the last year (+13 offences).
- **Wisbech Riverside** had the highest rate at 7.6 per 1,000 population, and this is notably higher than the rate in Fenland (2.0 per 1,000 population) and countywide (1.6 per 1,000 population).

#### 10.3.2. 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. In 2024, there were 576 clients in receipt of treatment, residing in Fenland. This is a 2% decrease on the previous year (-12 clients). 41% of people were receiving treatment for opiate substances in 2024, and this was followed by 33% for alcohol. Those in treatment for opiate substance abuse have consistently accounted for the highest proportion of clients in treatment.

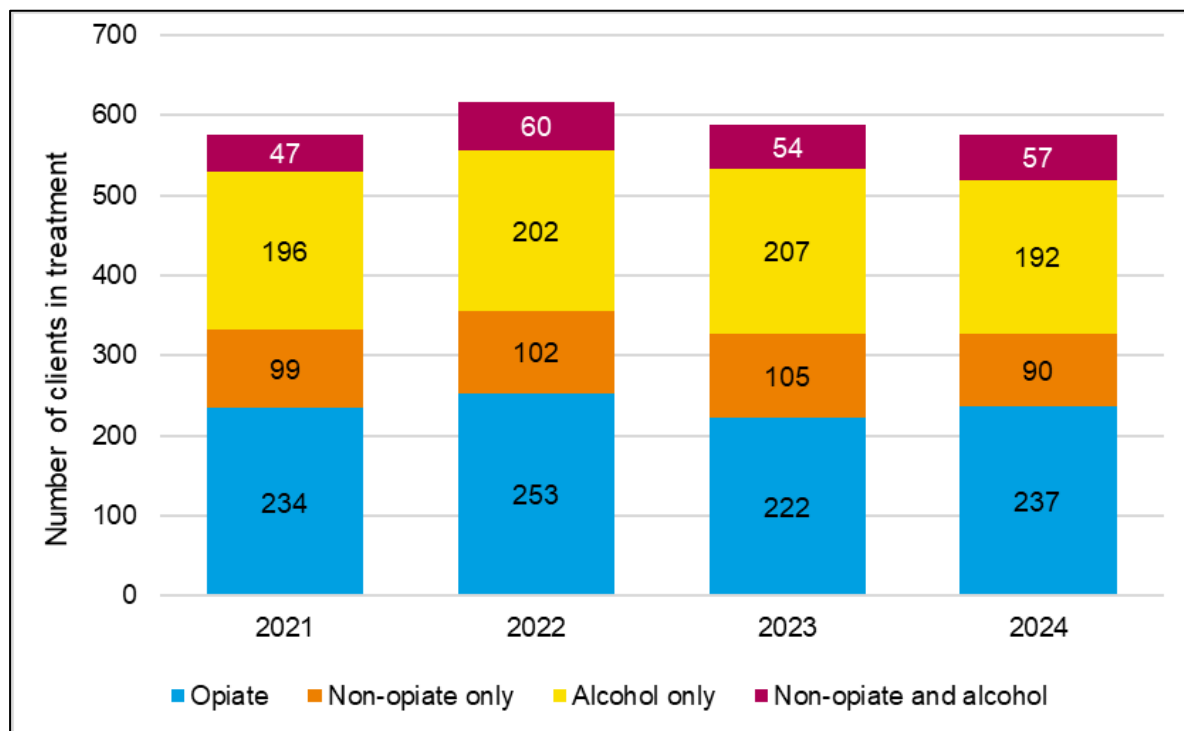
Figure 28 shows below that the number of clients in treatment for opiate substance abuse saw the largest volume increase from 222 people receiving treatment in 2023



to 237 people receiving treatment in 2024 (+7%). Despite some minor fluctuations, the number of clients receiving treatment for non-opiate substance abuse has slightly decreased in the last four years (-9%, -9).

It cannot be concluded whether these statistics reflect true trends in the number of people mis-using these substances in Fenland, or whether they only reflect trends in the number of people accessing treatment.

**Figure 28: Number of Fenland residents in treatment for substance misuse by substance type, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Change Grow Live (CGL).

## 11. Offending

### 11.1. Summary

For adult offenders, as of 11/08/2024, there was 296 offenders on the probation cohort residing in Fenland, with the majority of the cohort aged between 20 and 49 years old. National reoffending statistics highlight that the proportion of female reoffenders has increased overall in Fenland since YE March 2019, despite this the proportion of male reoffenders is still higher in YE March 2023.

For the Youth Justice Service (YJS) cohort, 88 children who offend received a total of 110 outcomes in Fenland during the 2024. However, the numbers of offenders have decreased by 27% from 112 YE December 2022 to 88 YE December 2024.

There was also a decrease in Court Sentences between 2022 and 2024, and total offences committed has seen 35% decrease since YE December 2022 and a 50% decrease since YE December 2023. Children who offend in the analysed cohort were predominately male. There was a decrease in males between 2023 and 2024; females, however, have seen an increase over this period.

## 11.2. Adult Offenders

### 11.2.1. Probation Cohort Profile

In 2024, the Policy and Insight Team produced a deep dive report with the focus of offending in Fenland. As part of this, the Probation Service provided snapshot data of the cohort as at 11/08/2024. In order to prevent the repetition of work, a small summary is below. The full deep dive report can be found on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Insight (CCC PIT, 2024b).

- There were 296 offenders in the probation cohort whose latest known address was in Fenland as at 11/08/2024.
- Just under a third of offenders are aged between 30 to 39 (31%), with the majority of the cohort aged between 20 and 49 years old (78%).
- White British are under-represented within the probation cohort (76%) in comparison to the overall 18+ Fenland population from Census 2021 (87%). White / Other Nationals are largely over-represented within the current probation cohort at 16%, when compared to both the Fenland population at 9% and the total 18+ Cambridgeshire population at 11% (ONS, 2023a).

### 11.2.2. Proven Reoffending Statistics

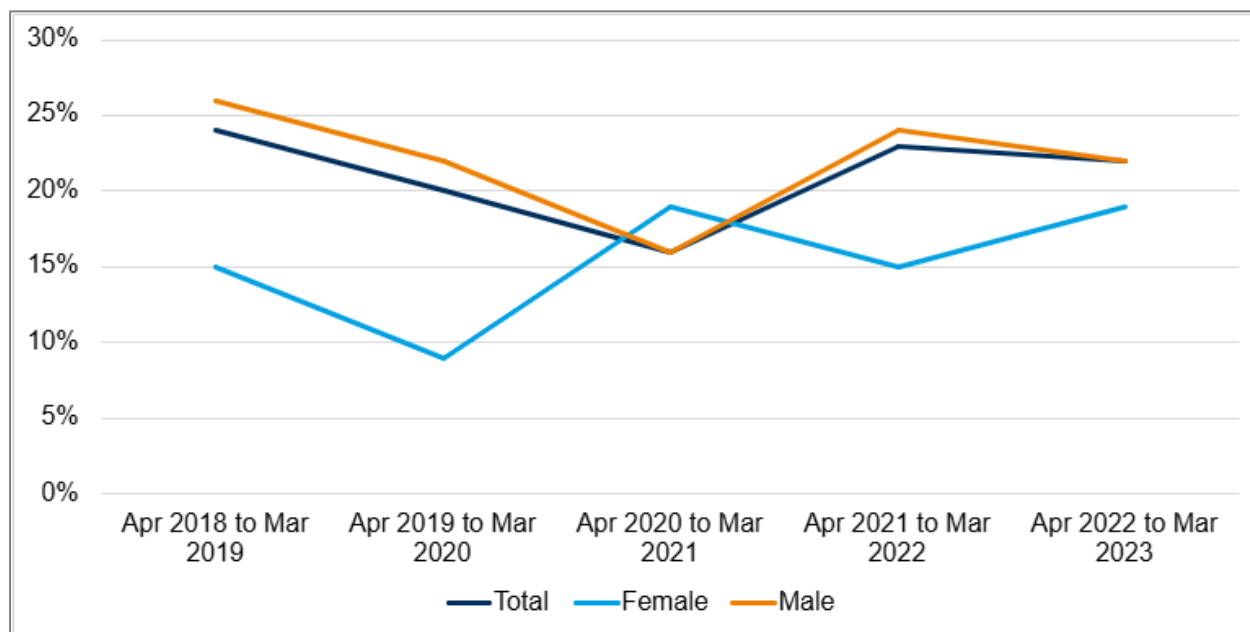
Publicly available figures on reoffending have been calculated down to lower tier local authority level. At the time of writing this report, the latest statistics available were year ending (YE) March 2023 (Ministry of Justice, 2025) (see technical note in Appendix A.6. Proven Reoffending Statistics for details on calculating statistics and caveats). The geography relates to the most recent known address of the offender, based on the postcode provided on the date they received a caution or conviction.

Out of a cohort of 607 offenders in YE March 2023, 22% of offenders in Fenland reoffended; this is a lower proportion than across Cambridgeshire (25%). The majority of the cohort are male offenders at 82%, and females make up 18% of the cohort in this instance.

Figure 29 below shows that the proportion of males who reoffend is often higher than the proportion of females. However, in the YE March 2021, the proportion of female reoffenders was higher than the proportion of male reoffenders (19% compared to

16%), this may be due to a decrease in the number of offenders in the total female cohort. This was also the year inclusive of lockdowns during the pandemic. In YE March 2023, the proportion of males who reoffended was 22% and the proportion of females was 19%.

**Figure 29: Proportion of offenders who reoffended by sex in Fenland, April 2018 to March 2023**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data from Ministry of Justice – Proven Reoffending Statistics (Ministry of Justice, 2025).

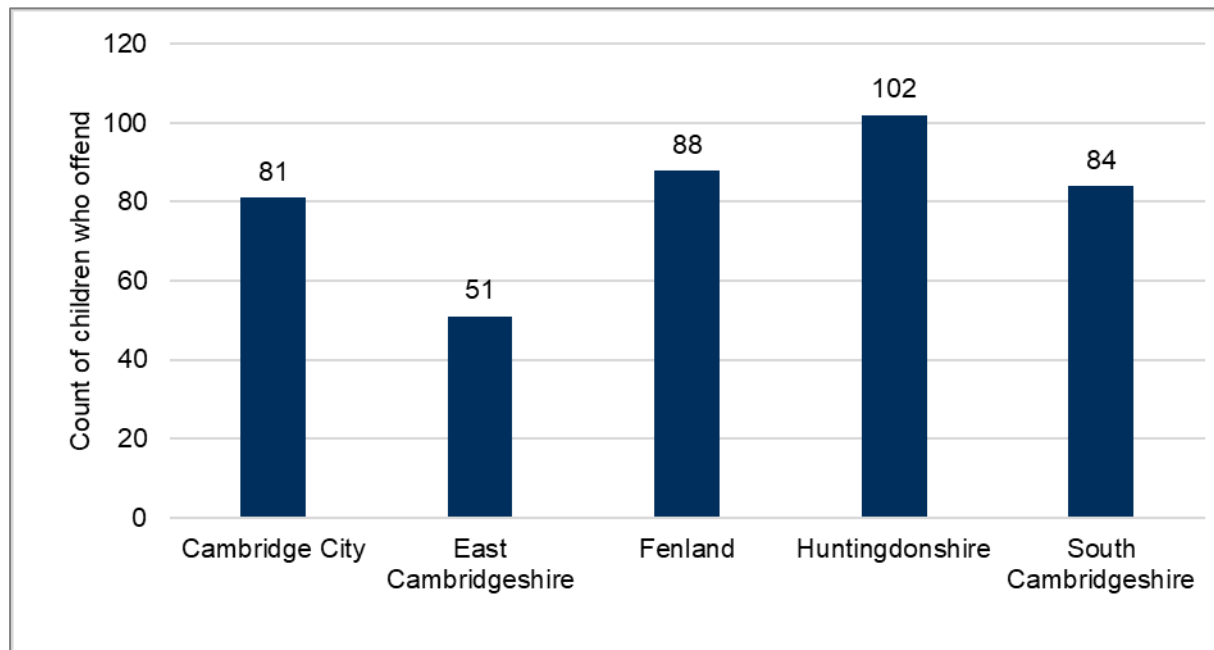
### 11.3. Youth Justice Service (YJS) Cohort Profile

**88 children who offend received a total of 110 outcomes in Fenland during the YE December 2024.**

There was a total of 88 children who offend in the YE December 2024. The number of children who offend in a year represent open cases and not new cases each year. The total of 88 children who offend received a total of 110 outcomes. This can be broken down into 81 children receiving 89 Out of Court Disposals (OOCs), 11 First Time Entrants (FTEs), and 9 children receiving 10 Court Sentences.

Figure 30 below shows that Fenland has the second highest number of children who offend in YE December 2024 compared to the other districts in Cambridgeshire. Huntingdonshire is the highest at 102 children who offend, and East Cambridgeshire is the lowest at 51 children who offend.

**Figure 30: Count of children who offend by district in Cambridgeshire, from January 2024 to December 2024**

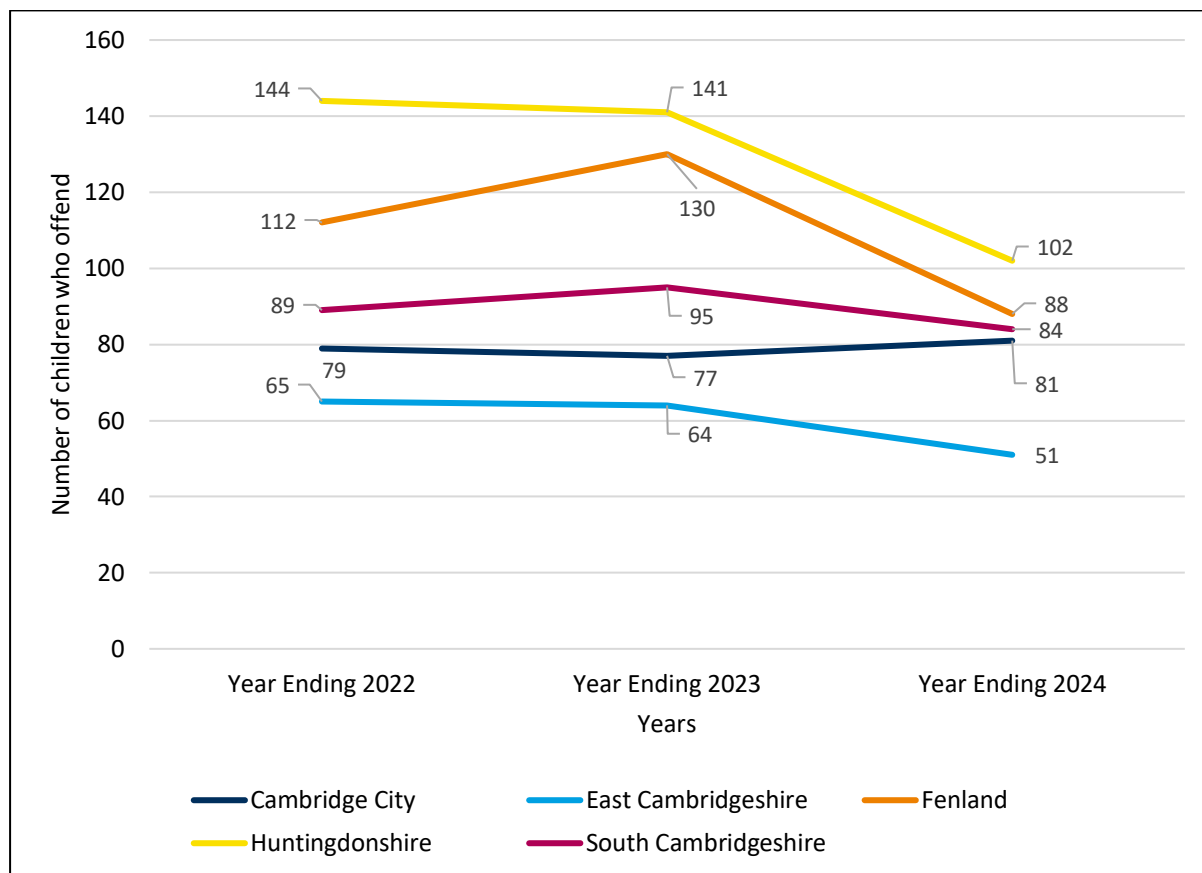


Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

Figure 31 below shows that Fenland has the second highest number of children who offended during the past 3 years compared to the other districts in Cambridgeshire. However, the number of offenders has decreased by 27% since YE 2022.

Huntingdonshire has remained the highest for children who offend over the past 3-year period although this has also seen a 29% decrease. Cambridge City is the only district with a slight increase of 5% since YE 2022.

**Figure 31: Count of children who offend by district, from January 2022 to December 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

Table 9 shows the outcomes by Cambridgeshire districts. Fenland has the third highest outcomes in all areas with 110 outcomes. Huntingdonshire has the highest with 136 outcomes, and East Cambridgeshire has the lowest with 59 outcomes.

**Table 9: Cambridgeshire districts by outcomes, from January 2024 to December 2024**

<b>Outcome Type</b>	<b>Cambridge City</b>	<b>East Cambridgeshire</b>	<b>Fenland</b>	<b>Huntingdonshire</b>	<b>South Cambridgeshire</b>
First Time Entrants	16	3	11	14	8
Out of Court Disposals	76	49	89	103	77
Court Sentences	21	7	10	19	17
<b>Total Outcomes</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>102</b>

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

Table 10 below shows the Out of Court Disposals (OOCs) administered in Fenland for YE December 2024. Community Resolutions represents the largest proportion of the cohort at 52%.

There has been a 24% decrease of OOCs from 117 to 89 between YE December 2022 and YE December 2024. Between YE December 2022 and YE December 2023, there was a 7% increase, but between YE December 2023 to YE December 2024, there was a 29% decrease.

**Table 10: Out of Court Disposals by outcome for children who offend in Fenland, from January 2024 to December 2024**

<b>OOCs by Outcome</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024 – Percentage of total OOCs</b>
Community Resolution	46	52%
Outcome 20	<5	<6%
Outcome 21	8	9%
Outcome 22	10	11%
Youth Caution	<5	<6%
Youth Conditional Caution	6	7%
Youth Restorative Disposal	12	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

<b>District</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>% change 2022 to 2024</b>	<b>% change 2023 to 2024</b>
-----------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------------------------	------------------------------

Cambridge City	28	24	21	-25%	-13%
East Cambridgeshire	15	9	7	-53%	-22%
Fenland	23	26	10	-57%	-62%
Huntingdonshire	26	18	19	-27%	-6%
South Cambridgeshire	15	17	17	13%	-0%
Overall	107	94	394	-31%	-21%

Table 11 below shows there was a 57% decrease in Court Sentences in Fenland from 23 to 10 between YE December 2022 and YE December 2024. Between YE December 2023 and YE December 2024, there was a decrease of 62% from 26 to 10. This decrease has also been the case for the other Cambridgeshire districts except South Cambridgeshire; South Cambridgeshire had a 13% increase since YE December 2022 but remained the same for YE December 2023.

**Table 11: Court Sentences Cambridgeshire districts from January 2024 to December 2024**

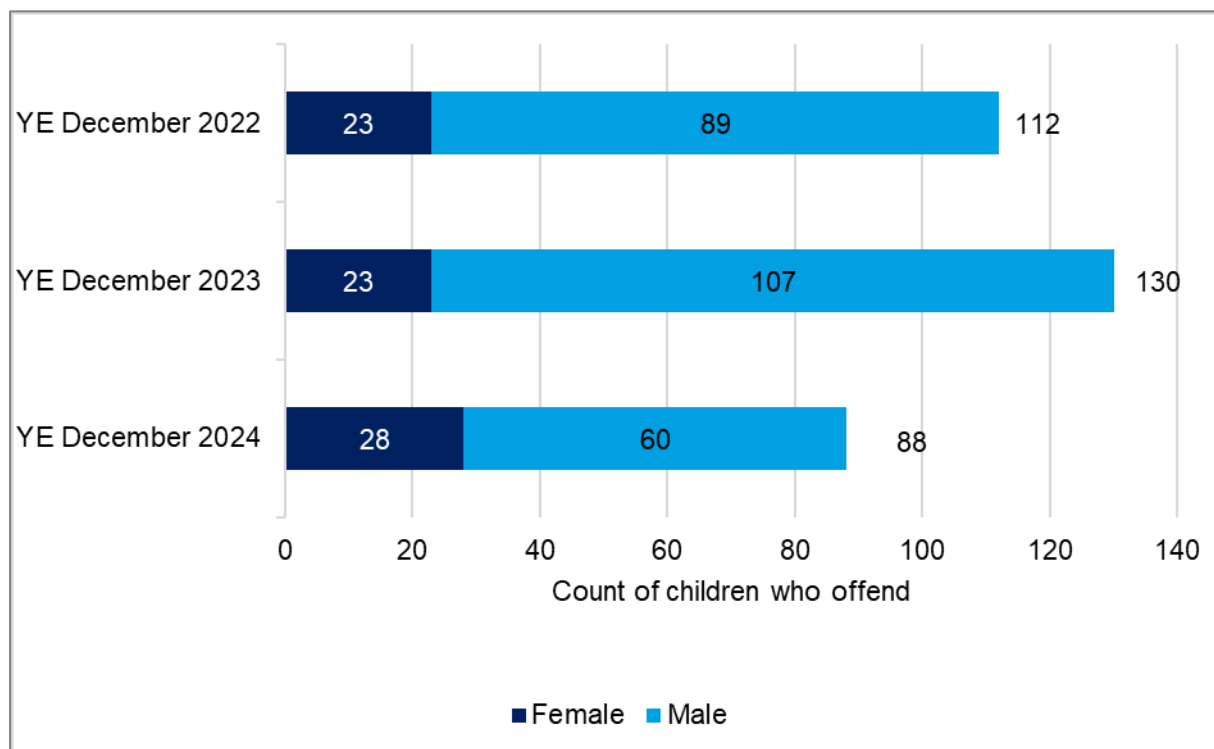
<b>District</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>% change 2022 to 2024</b>	<b>% change 2023 to 2024</b>
Cambridge City	28	24	21	-25%	-13%
East Cambridgeshire	15	9	7	-53%	-22%
Fenland	23	26	10	-57%	-62%
Huntingdonshire	26	18	19	-27%	-6%
South Cambridgeshire	15	17	17	13%	-0%
Overall	107	94	394	-31%	-21%

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

As far as Court Sentences, Referral Orders represent the highest proportion of Court Sentence outcomes at 60% (6 out of 10). There was a 57% decrease in Court Sentences in Fenland from 23 to 10 between YE December 2022 and YE December 2024. Between YE December 2023 and YE December 2024, there was a decrease of 62% from 26 to 10.

Figure 31 also shows that children who offend are predominately male. There was a 33% decrease in males (89 to 60) since YE December 2022, and there was a 44% decrease in males (107 to 60) since YE December 2023. Females, however, have seen a 22% increase from 23 to 28 since YE December 2022. The number of females remained the same from YE December 2022 for the YE December 2023 at 23.

**Figure 31: Children who offend in Fenland by gender, from January 2024 to December 2024**

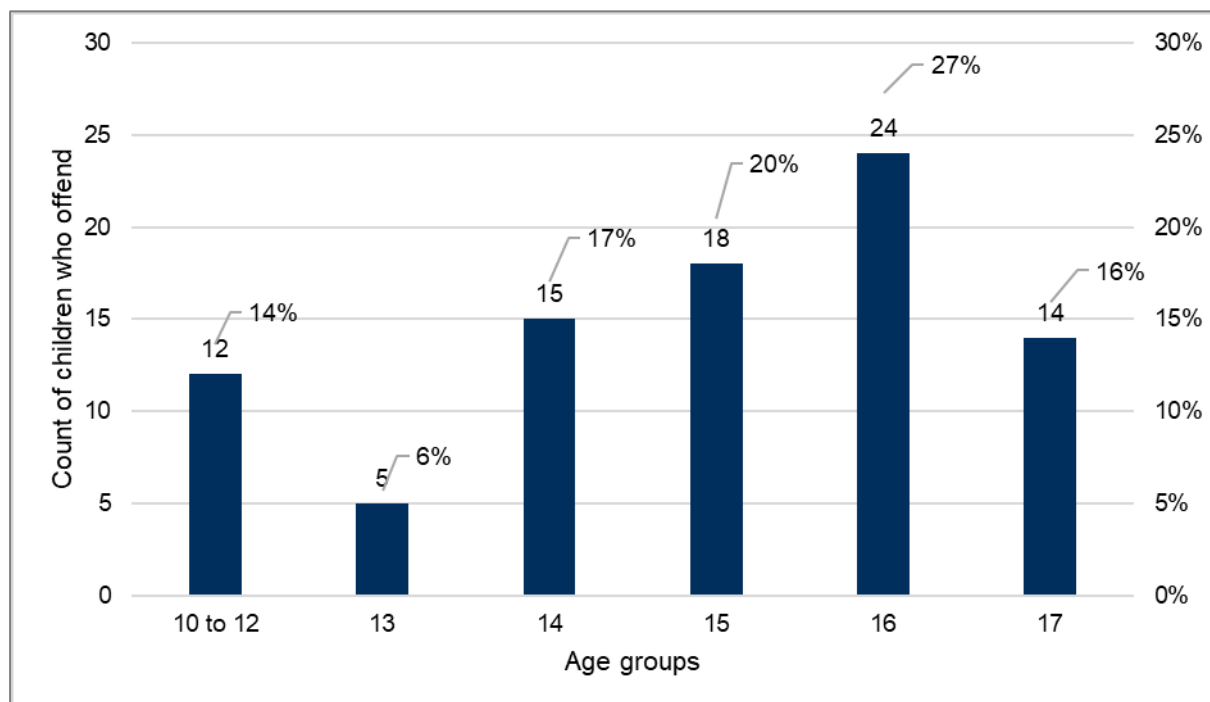


Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

Figure 32 below shows that age 15 and 16 represents the most common ages at 47% of the cohort. Children aged 10-14 represent 36% of the cohort, and children aged 15+ represent 64%.



**Figure 32: Children who offend in Fenland by age group, from January 2024 to December 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

In terms of ethnicity, the top 2 ethnic groups from the 2024 Fenland cohort are White British at 75% and White/ Other Nationals at 20%.

White British at 75% are under-represented compared to 83% White British for the overall Fenland 10-17 population and 77% White British for the overall 10-17 Cambridgeshire population. In contrast, White/Other Nationals YJS cohort at 20% is overrepresented compared to the 10% White/Other Nationals for the overall Fenland 10-17 population and 11% White/Other Nationals for the overall 10-17 Cambridgeshire population. Proportions of other ethnic groups are small and therefore have not been included in this report.

Table 12 below shows the percentage of children in care who offend in each district in Cambridgeshire. Fenland had 9 children in care who offend, and this represents 10% of the total children who offend cohort in Fenland. Although the numbers are small, Fenland has the highest number of children in care who offend as well as the highest percentage of children in care to the total cohort among districts in Cambridgeshire.

**Table 12: Children in care who offend by district in Cambridgeshire, from January 2024 to December 2024**

District	Children in care who offend	Total Cohort (Including children in care who offend)	% of total cohort who were children in care
Cambridge City	<5	81	<6%
East Cambridgeshire	<5	51	<10%
Fenland	9	88	10%
Huntingdonshire	8	102	8%
South Cambridgeshire	6	84	7%

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

In terms of contact with mental health services, 7% of children who offend had contact with mental health services, and in terms of evidence of substance misuse, 16% of children who offend had evidence of substance misuse. (Information taken from main recording Assessment for Youth justice team Assetplus).

Table 13 below shows that Violence Against the Person (VAP) has the highest proportion of total offences for the current period at 43% (51 of 119). VAP has also had the highest proportion of total offences for the previous 2 years at 40% (72 of 182) for YE December 2022 and 35% (82 of 236) for YE December 2023.

The overall number of total offences committed has seen 35% decrease since YE December 2022 and a 50% decrease since YE December 2023.

**Table 13: Offences by type for children who offend from Fenland, from January 2024 to December 2024**

Offence Type	2022	2023	2024	2024 – Percentage share of total offences
Violence Against the Person	72	82	51	43%
Theft And Handling Stolen Goods	14	38	13	11%
Criminal Damage	25	15	10	8%
Public Order	7	14	7	6%
Sexual Offences	7	8	7	6%
Other	<5	11	7	6%
Vehicle Theft / Unauthorised Taking	<5	8	6	5%
Drugs	17	19	<5	<4%
Robbery	<5	5	<5	<4%
Fraud And Forgery	<5	<5	<5	<4%
Racially Aggravated	5	<5	<5	<4%

Offence Type	2022	2023	2024	2024 – Percentage share of total offences
Non-Domestic Burglary	<5	10	<5	<4%
Arson	<5	0	<5	<4%
Motoring Offences	14	19	<5	<4%
Domestic Burglary	<5	<5	<5	<4%
Breach Of Bail/Breach of Statutory Order	9	<5	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

Table 14 shows the number of offences committed by a district. Fenland total offences committed has seen 35% decrease since YE December 2022 and a 50% decrease since YE December 2023. Other district areas have also seen a decrease except for South Cambridgeshire; South Cambridgeshire has seen a 47% increase since YE December 2022 and a 19% increase since YE December 2023.

**Table 14: Total offences for children who offend in Cambridgeshire Districts YJS cohort, from January 2022 to December 2024**

District	2022	2023	2024	% change 2022 to 2024	% change 2023 to 2024
Cambridge City	147	139	142	-3%	2%
East Cambridgeshire	149	98	107	-28%	9%
Fenland	182	236	119	-35%	-50%
Huntingdonshire	221	195	149	-33%	-24%
South Cambridgeshire	103	127	151	47%	19%
Overall	802	795	668	-17%	-16%

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

## 12. Issues that impact the community

### 12.1. Summary

Not all types of crime and incidents in this section, whilst it may have high visibility in the public, will bring about the same level of harm. In the last year, there were increases in commercial loss, ASB, hate crime marked offences and deliberate fires.

- Increases in commercial loss offences were primarily driven by shoplifting with main hotspots in Wisbech South ward.
- ASB in Fenland increased in the last year (between 2023 and 2024). However, this is a decrease compared to 2021 figures.
- Hate crime marked offences have slightly increased in the last year.
- Deliberate fires have increased in the last year, from 59 fires in 2023 to 80 fires in 2024.

There has been a small decrease in criminal damage offences between 2021 and 2024, but overall numbers of offences have remained relatively stable since 2021. Public order offences have almost halved since 2021 and saw notable decreases between 2023 and 2024.

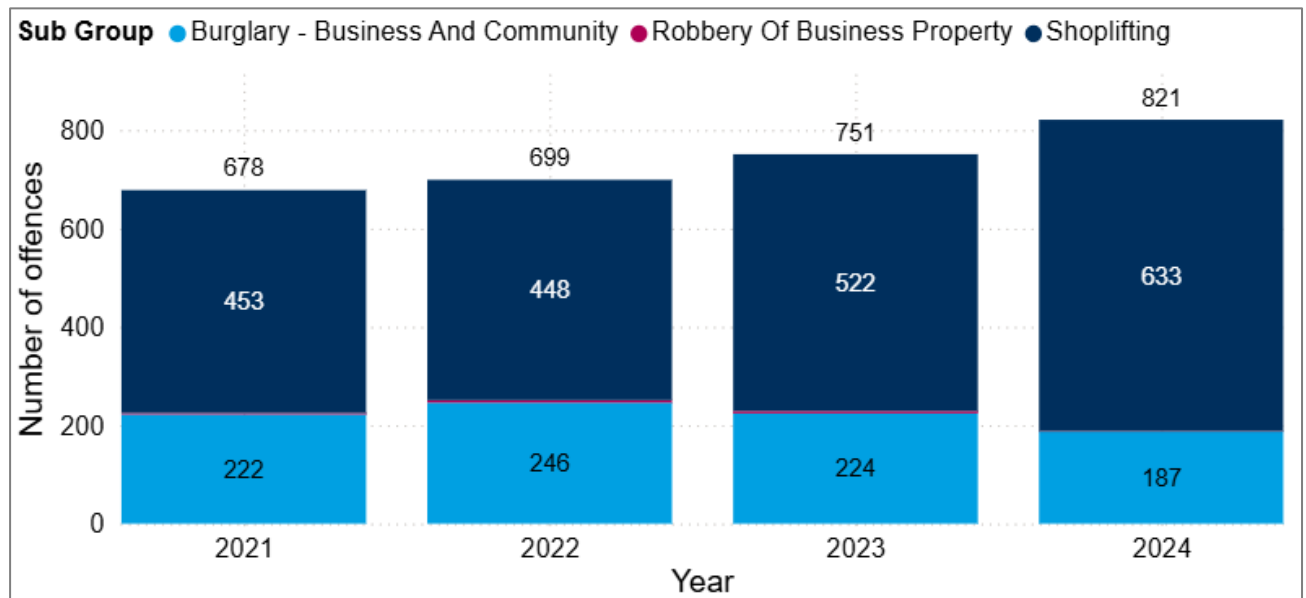
## 12.2. Commercial Loss

The following section includes an overview of offences for which the subgroup relates to commercial loss. This includes business and community burglary, robbery of business property, and shoplifting offences. These figures do not include all offences against businesses; for example, vehicle crimes involving vehicles owned by organisations are not included in these figures.

Offences related to personal loss have seen increases since 2021 (+21% +143 offences). In the last year, these increases continued with a 9% increase (+70 offences). The increases since 2022 have been solely driven by shoplifting offences (+41%, +185 offences); in contrast, business and community burglary has decreased in this period (-24%, -59 offences) and robbery of business property remains low.

Fenland had the second highest rate in Cambridgeshire at 7.9 per 1,000 population. This is lower than the countywide rate of 9.1, which is potentially driven by the notably higher rate for Cambridge City (20.8) (see Appendix A.2. Population Estimates for more details).

**Figure 33: Annual trend of police recorded offences related to commercial loss in Fenland by subgroup, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data from Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 12.2.1. Shoplifting

### 12.2.1.1. Trends in Shoplifting

In the latest release of the ONS bulletin, it was stated that shoplifting offences increased by 23% between YE September 2023 and YE September 2024. Figures seen in YE September 2024 were the highest recorded national shoplifting figures since the YE March 2003, where current police recording practices began (ONS, 2025a).

Nationally there continues to be high levels of media coverage referencing the increases in not only shoplifting but an increase in the violence directed towards retail workers. The British Retail Consortium (BRC) published its 2024 Crime Survey report, reporting on from September 2022 to August 2023. In this report, it indicated that out of 2 common triggers for violent attacks on retail workers, one is stopping someone who is believed to be stealing (British Retail Consortium, 2024, p. 14). Respondents to the survey also noted several issues regarding violence and abuse:

- Shoplifters have become more violent.
- Many shoplifters are unphased if they injure staff in the process.
- Some shoplifters taunt staff, suggesting they can't stop them.
- Cost of living has impacted the quantity of goods stolen at one time.
- Increases in threats to attack staff outside of work.

The report also indicated that many incidents of violence and abuse towards shopworkers are under-reported due to lack of confidence in the police and belief nothing will come from reporting. According to the BRC, this perception may also be carried by repeat offenders and therefore they are willing to take the risk in offending (British Retail Consortium, 2024, p. 20).

In Fenland, there were 633 shoplifting offences recorded in 2024. This represents an increase of 21% in comparison to 2023 (+111 offences), which is a slightly smaller increase than what was seen nationally over a similar period (YE September 2024, +23%). The number of shoplifting offences also increased between 2021 and 2024 (+40%, +180 offences). Over the analysed period (between 2021 and 2024), the highest recorded monthly count was in April 2024 with 71 offences. The annual monthly average has increased in the last year from 44 offences in 2023 to 53 offences in 2024.

#### 12.2.1.2. Dip Sample Analysis

A dip sample was conducted to provide further insight into the nature of shoplifting offences in 2024. 63 shoplifting offences were analysed (roughly 10% of the total 633 offences). It should be noted that insights are dependent on the level of detail included in the offence description fields; for example, not all offences have details of the item stolen. The key findings from the dip sample analysis were the following:

- 14% of the analysed offences noted alcohol as the stolen property type whilst 13% noted food. In some cases, both food and alcohol were stolen together.
- 10% of offences involved stolen property with a value of £100 or over.
- The largest proportion of shoplifting offences in the sample occurred in discount stores (25%), including stores such as QD and Savers. Of the offences which occurred in discount stores, 69% were in QD.
- Other product types included cleaning products, which were mentioned in 14% of analysed offences.
- 14% of offences involved people previously known to shop staff.

#### 12.2.1.3. Ward Analysis

**Wisbech South** recorded the highest count of offences in 2024 (360 offences), accounting for 57% of the total shoplifting offences in Fenland. In 2024, the rate of offences was 40.5 per 1,000 population, notably higher than other Fenland wards (ranging between 0.0 and 11.2) (see Appendix A.2. Population Estimates for more details). Number of offences have double between 2021 and 2024 (+118%, +195 offences).

Whilst Wisbech South accounted for a large proportion of offences, **Wisbech Riverside** and **March North** also had higher rates higher than Fenland rate of 6.1

per 1000 population (11.2 per 1,000 population and 7.8 per 1,000 population respectively).

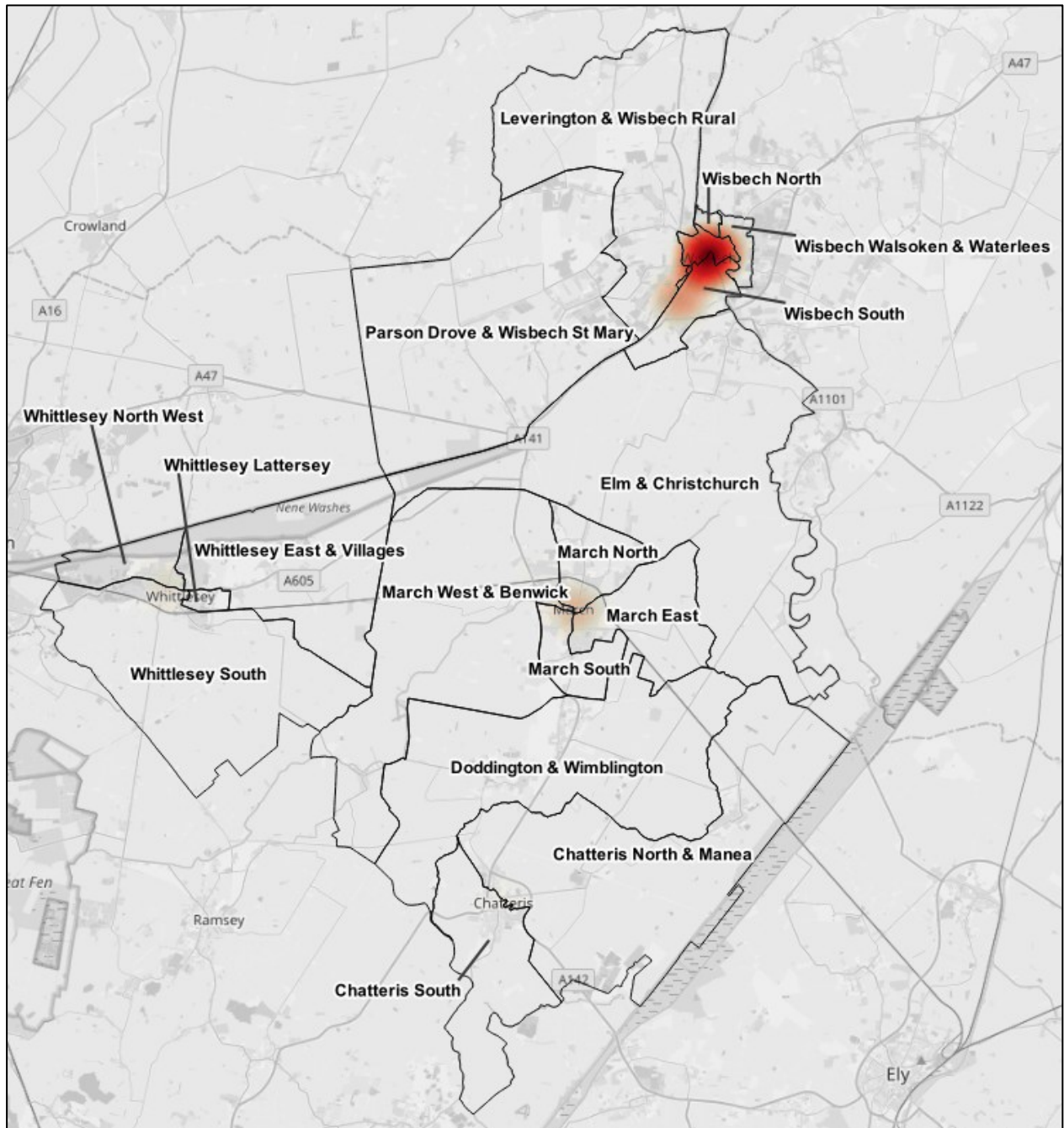
- **Wisbech Riverside** saw a 77% increase of shoplifting offences in the last year (+23 offences). Despite this increase, the number of offences was 44% lower than 2021 (-42 offences).
- **March North** has seen year on year fluctuations in the number of offences increase from 71 offences in 2022 to 98 offences in 2023 and then a decrease to 67 offences in 2024. 2024 represents the lowest count seen in March North in the last four years.

**Wisbech Walsoken and Waterlees** has seen a 371% increase since 2021 (+26 offences); this increase was driven by a 200% jump from 10 offences in 2022 to 30 offences in 2023.

#### 12.2.1.4. Hotspot Mapping

As previously mentioned, 57% of all shoplifting offences in Fenland occurred in Wisbech South (360 offences); this ward encompasses LSOAs which saw the most shoplifting activity: Wisbech Town Centre (E01033112, Fenland 003I) and Wisbech Retail Park (E01018070, Fenland 003B). Hotspot maps below aim to offer an insight into the places with the highest level of reported shoplifting.

**Figure 34: Hotspot mapping of police recorded shoplifting offences in Fenland, 2024**



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Note: Black line indicates ward boundaries.

The main hotspot in Wisbech South is similar to the previous strategic assessment, the town centre (Market Place/ Horse Fair area) (CCC PIT, 2024a). Other hotspot areas shown in Figure 35 include the retail park situated on Cromwell Road.



**Figure 35: Hotspot mapping of police recorded shoplifting offences in the Wisbech area, 2024**

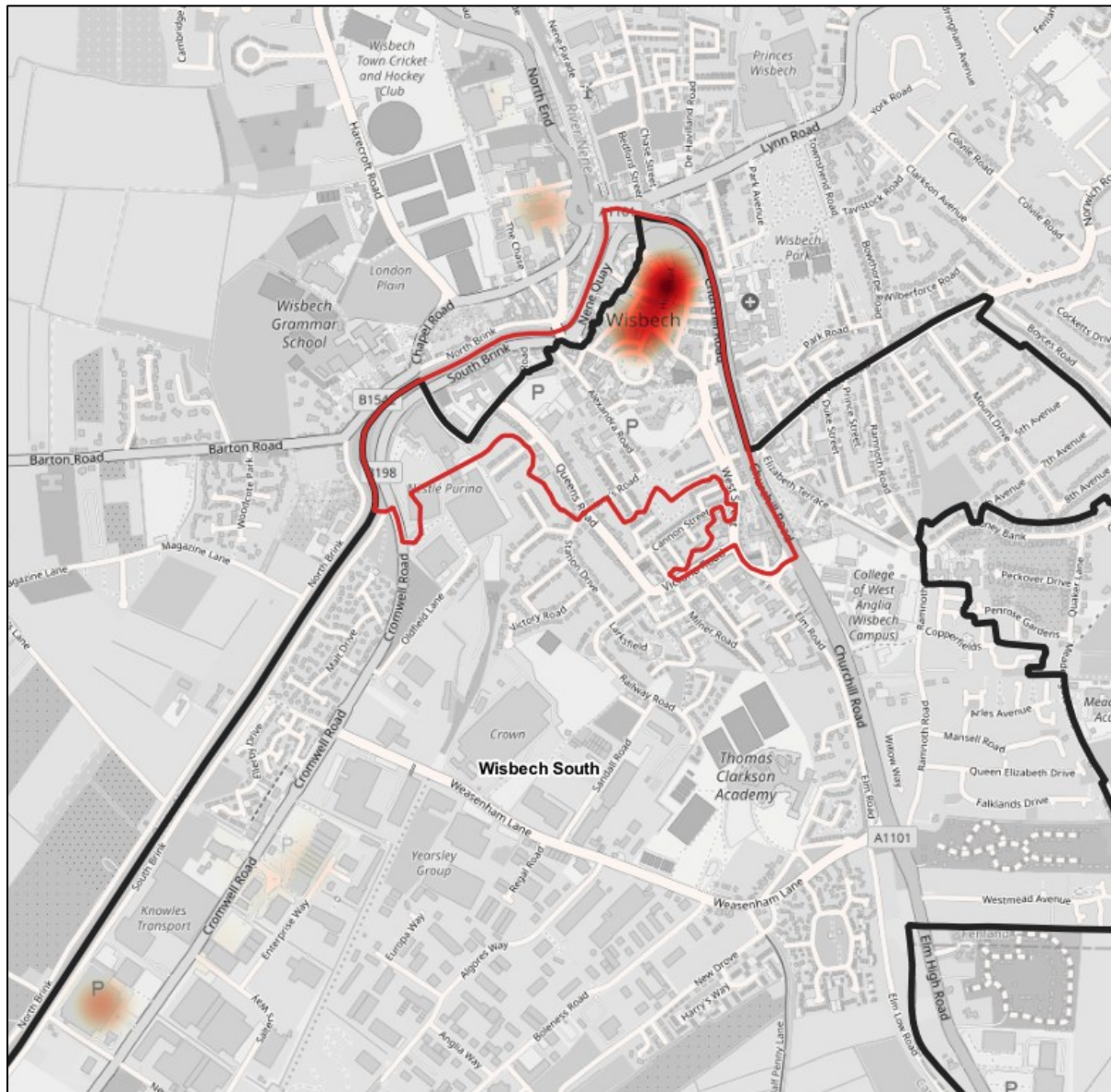


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Note: Black line indicates ward boundaries.

237 offences occurred in Wisbech Town Centre LSOA in 2024. Offences in this LSOA alone accounted for 37% of the total shoplifting offences in Fenland. More specifically, in this area, hotspots are more prevalent in stores such as QD.

**Figure 36: Hotspot mapping of police recorded shoplifting offences in Wisbech South, specifically zoomed on Wisbech Town Centre LSOA, 2024**



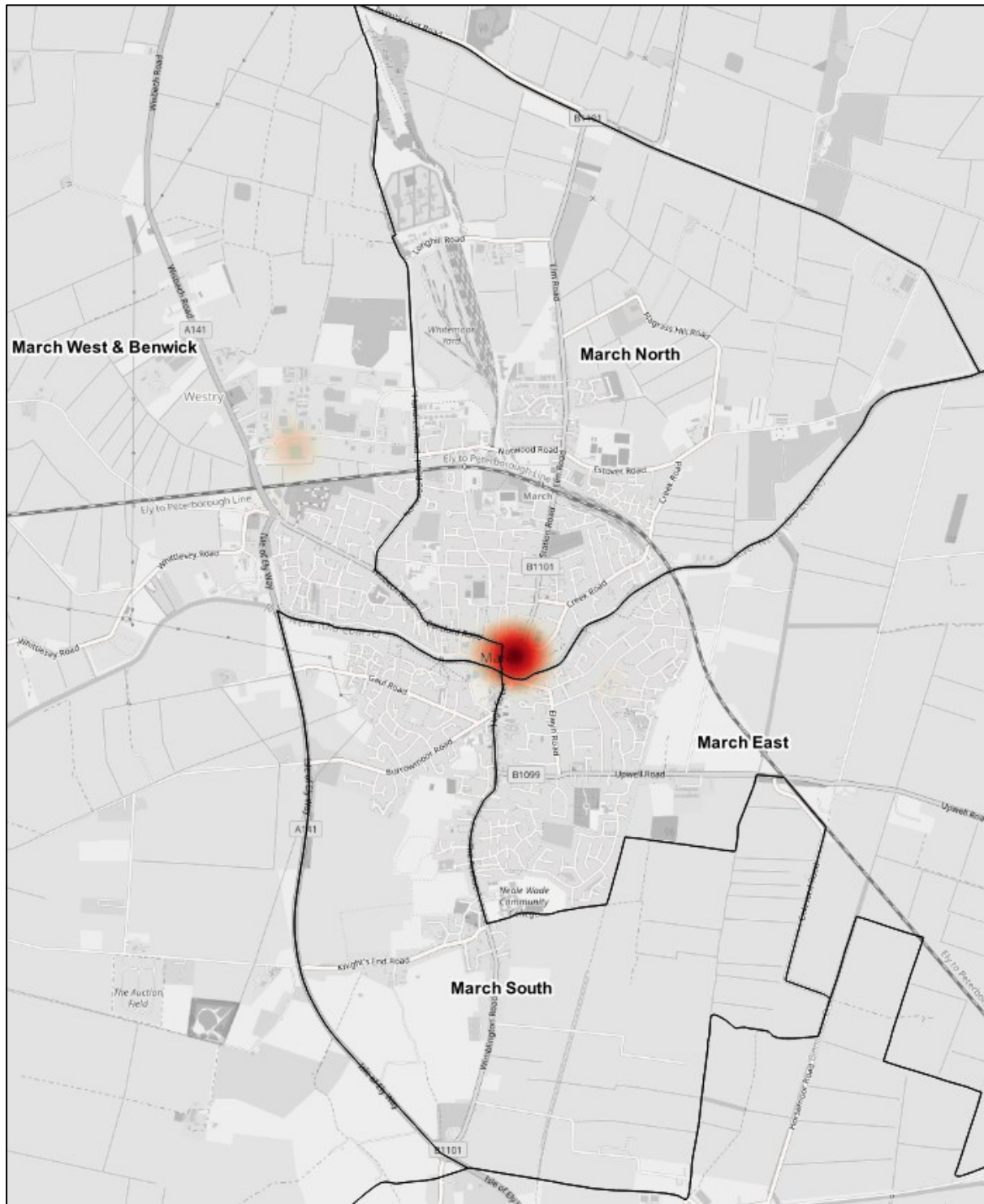
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Note 1: Black line indicates ward boundaries. Red line indicate LSOA boundary.

Note 2: See Appendix A.8. Local LSOA Names for details on LSOA names.

March North had the second highest count of offences; these hotspots primarily include supermarkets in the highlighted area including Sainsbury's, Tesco Express and Lidl.

**Figure 37: Hotspot mapping of police recorded shoplifting offences in the March area, 2024**



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Note: Black line indicates ward boundaries.



## 12.3. ASB

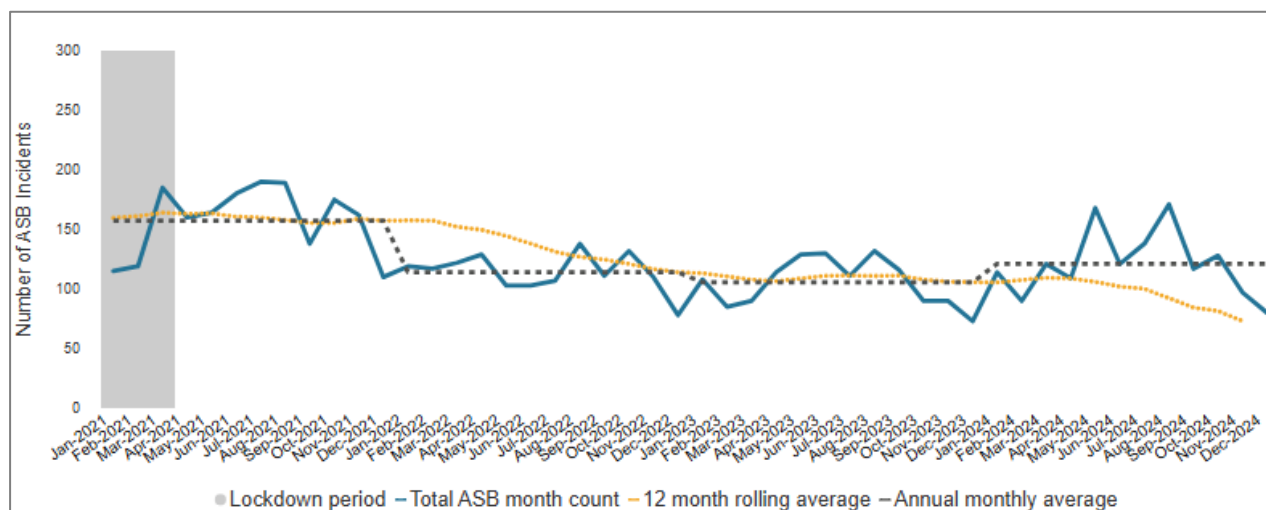
### 12.3.1. Trends in ASB

There was approximately 1 million ASB incidents recorded by the police in England and Wales in the YE September 2024, little change compared to previous year (<-1% between YE September 2023 to YE September 2024, including British Transport Police figures). ASB figures remained 21% lower than the 1.3 million recorded in YE March 2022 (ONS, 2025b, p. D4). Similarly, in the most recent CSEW (for the YE September 2024 survey period), 36% of respondents had personally experienced or witnessed anti-social behaviour in their local area, close to the 34% recorded the previous year.

In contrast to national data, ASB in Fenland increased by 15% between 2023 and 2024 (+186 incidents). However, this is a 23% decrease compared to 2021 (-433 incidents). The annual monthly average of ASB incidents increased from 106 in 2023 to 121 in 2024; this was an increase on the annual monthly average in 2022 (114 incidents), but notably lower than 2021 (157 incidents).

The rate of ASB incidents in Fenland was 14.0 per 1,000 population for 2024; this is higher than the countywide rate of 12.6 (see Appendix A.2. Population Estimates for more details).

**Figure 38: Monthly trend in ASB incidents in Fenland, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data from Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

### 12.3.2. Ward Analysis

- Only 5 wards out of 18 saw decreases in ASB incidents between 2023 and 2024. These wards saw mostly small decreases and include Whittlesey East &

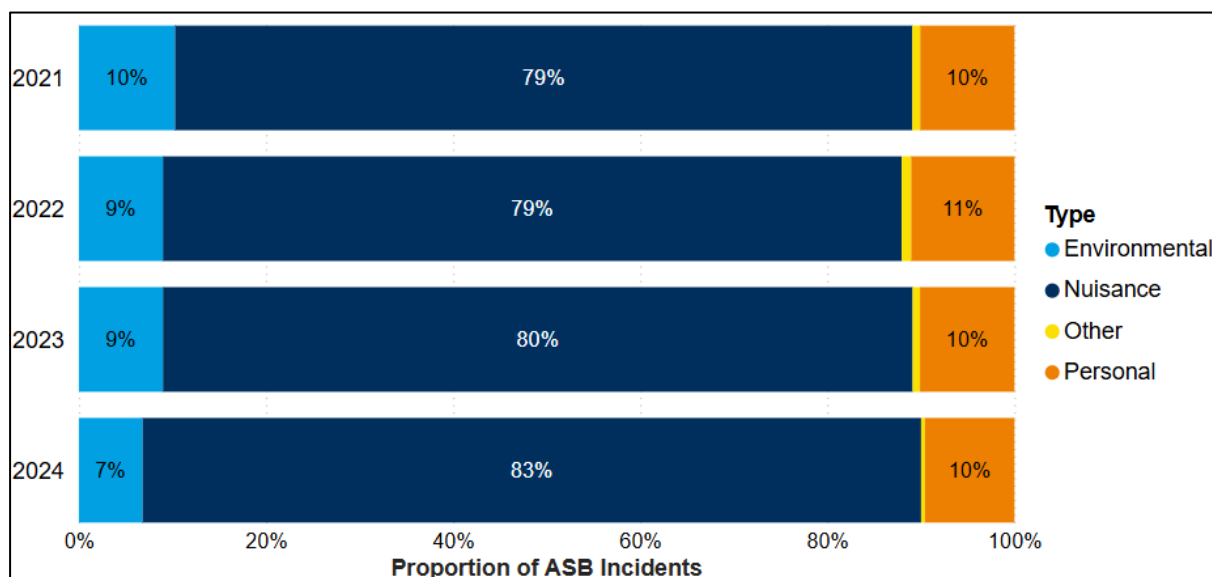
Villages (-3%, -1 incident), Whittlesey Lattersey (-7%, -1 incident), Whittlesey South (-22%, -14 incidents), Wisbech Riverside (-1%, -2 incidents), and Leverington & Wisbech Rural (-4%, -4 incidents).

- Only 4 wards had a rate higher than Fenland district rate of 14.0: Wisbech South (34.1), Wisbech Riverside (28.4), March North (14.3), and Wisbech North (14.1).
- **Wisbech South** had the highest rate of ASB incidents in 2024 (34.1). Incident counts increased by 13% increase since 2023 (+35 incidents); however, incident counts were slightly lower than seen in 2021 (-6%, -18 incidents).
- Despite having the second highest rate in 2024 with a rate of 28.4 per 1,000 population, **Wisbech Riverside** saw lowest count of ASB incidents in 4 years (134 incidents). There has been a 40% decrease in ASB incidents since 2021 (-94 incidents).
- **Whittlesey North West** saw the highest percentage increase between 2021 and 2024 (+43%, +15 incidents).

### 12.3.3. ASB Type

‘Nuisance’ ASB accounted for the highest proportion of ASB incidents in 2024 (83%). ‘Nuisance’ ASB has consistently accounted for the highest proportion of ASB incidents over the last four years. ‘Environmental’ ASB has decreased in proportion from 10% in 2021 to 7% in 2024.

**Figure 39: Police recorded ASB by incident type in Fenland, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data from Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

#### 12.3.4. ASB involving young people

Youth-related ASB has been analysed by applying a keyword search to the incident description field to identify incidents that are likely to be youth-related. Key words included “youth/s”, “young”, “teenage/teenager/s”, and “kids”. 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 directly attributable to young people. Despite this limitation, it represents the best available indicator of police recorded youth related ASB.

A breakdown of youth related and non-youth related ASB is shown in

Table 15. Youth-related ASB has almost halved since 2021 from 575 to 293 in 2024. This represents a 49% decrease (-282 incidents). Youth-related ASB accounted for 20% of all ASB in 2024; this is a notable decrease on 2021 (-10 percentage points) and 2023 (-5 percentage points).

**Table 15: Annual trend of total ASB incidents broken down by non youth-related and youth-related ASB in South Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**

<b>ASB</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023-24 change % (count)</b>	<b>2021-24 change % (count)</b>
Youth keyword	575	405	323	293	-9% (-30)	-49% (-282)
No youth keyword	1312	964	945	1161	+23% (+216)	-12% (-151)
<b>All ASB</b>	<b>1887</b>	<b>1369</b>	<b>1268</b>	<b>1454</b>	<b>+15% (+186)</b>	<b>-23% (-433)</b>
Proportion of youth-related ASB	30%	30%	25%	20%	N/A	N/A

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data from Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

### 12.3.5. Fenland District Council

#### 12.3.5.1. ASB Reported to Fenland District Council

Fenland District Council (FDC) has a recording system for ASB cases called Uniform. It adopted the system in mid-May 2023. The data supplied to the Team covers year ending December 2024. The data shows similar patterns as the police data with the majority of cases categorised as nuisance (59%).

**Figure 40: Number of ASB Cases recorded by FDC by type, 2024**

<b>ASB Type</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>	<b>Proportion of total</b>
Environmental	29	21%
Nuisance	80	59%
Personal	26	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data from Fenland District Council.

#### 12.3.5.2. Fenland Community Safety Survey

Fenland District Council provided analysed results for the most recent Community Safety Survey in Fenland for February to March 2025. In the survey, when asked what the CSP should focus on, of those who answered, 21% said youth ASB. This was the most selected answer, followed by drug dealing (18%).

## 12.4. Criminal Damage

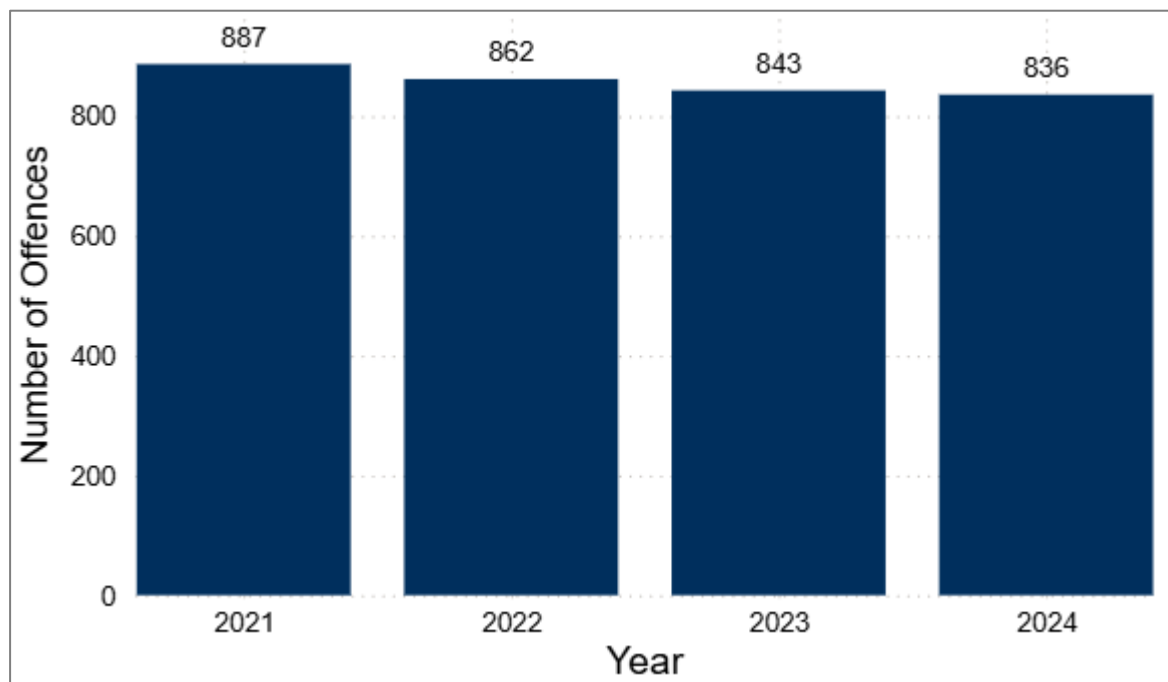
There were 836 criminal damage offences in Fenland in 2024. Offence counts saw little change between 2023 and 2024, decreasing by 1% (-7 offences), this follows a



trend of small year-on-year decreases since 2022. Criminal damage offences have decreased by 6% since 2021 (-51 offences).

Fenland had the joint highest rate for criminal damage in the county for 2024, at 8.1 per 1,000 population, alongside Cambridge City. This is higher than the county rate of 6.1 per 1,000 population (see A.2. Population Estimates for details on rate calculations).

**Figure 41: Annual trend in police recorded criminal damage offences in Fenland, 2021 to 2024**



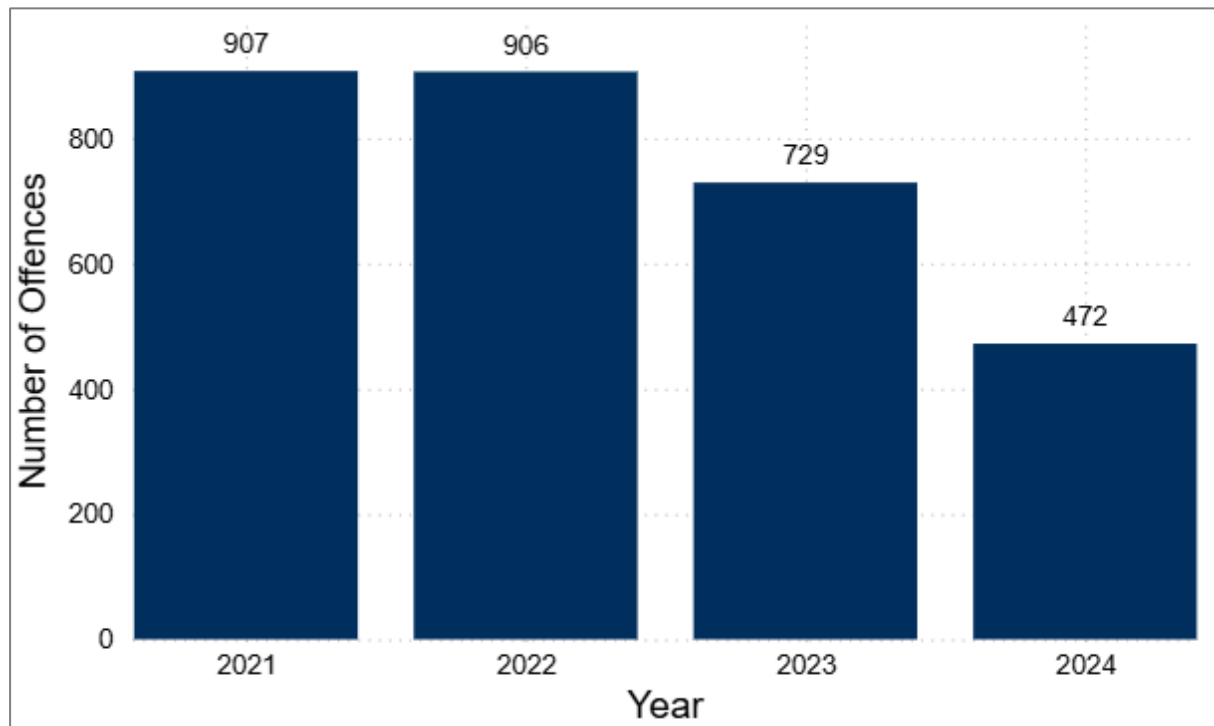
Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 12.5. Public Order

In Fenland, there were 472 public order offences in 2024. The number of offences has almost halved since 2021 (-48%, -435 offences), decreases in offence counts only became notable from 2023 onwards. In the last year, offences have decreased from 729 to 472 (-35%).

Fenland had a rate of 4.6 per 1,000 population in 2024, this is only slightly below the county wide rate of 4.8 per 1,000 population.

**Figure 42: Annual trend in police recorded public order offences in Fenland, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 12.6. Hate Crime

### 12.6.1. National Context

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, 2024b). The police can apply a hate crime related marker to any offence where it appears to be motivated by 1 or more of the 5 monitored hate crime 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 (at the time of writing) of national data shows that levels of hate crime fell slightly (-5%) in 2023/24 (YE March); this is the second consecutive reduction noted since comparable records were first collected in 2013 (Home Office, 2024b). Similar to previous years, racially motivated offences accounted for the majority of hate crimes (70%). There was a 5% reduction compared to the previous year (from 103,625 offences to 98,799 offences) (Home Office, 2024b). Religious hate crimes have seen an 25% increase compared to the previous year, reaching the highest annual count in these offences since the hate crime collection began in YE March 2012. This increase contrasts with the trends seen in other strands of hate crime: transgender hate crime (-2%), disability hate crime (-18%) and sexual orientation hate crime (-8%).

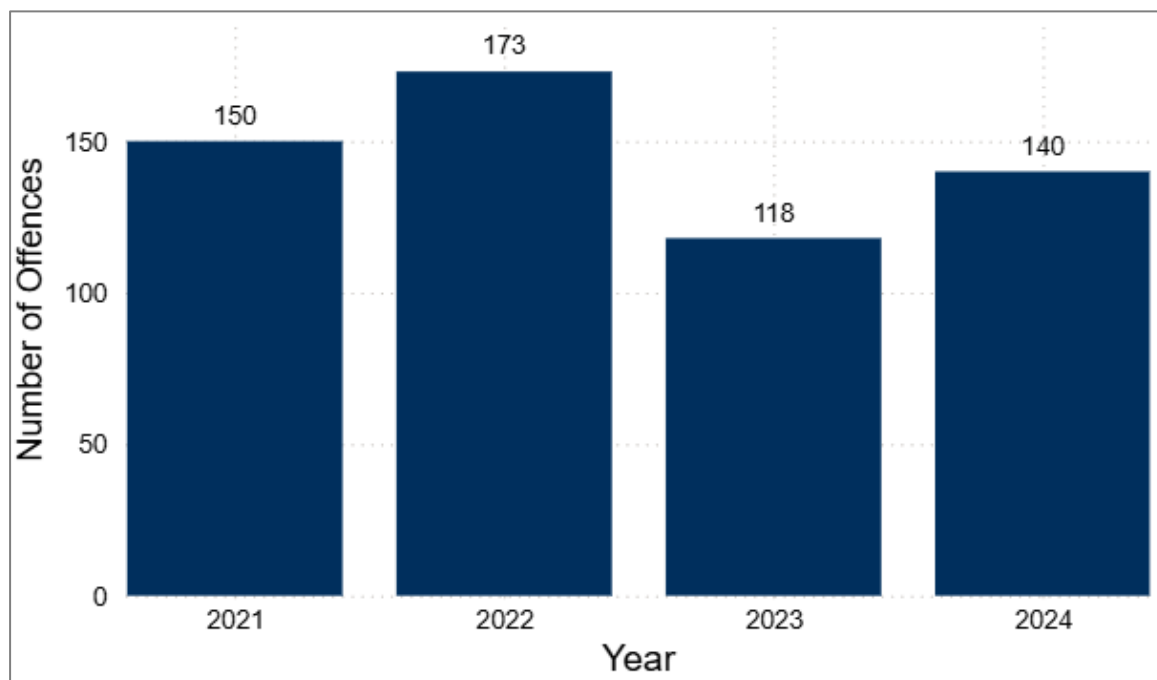
It is important to note that hate crimes may have multiple motivating factors; in the YE March 2024, the Home Office estimated 6% of hate crimes to have involved more than one motivating factor. An estimation that was based on the data supplied by 31 forces (Home Office, 2024b).

### 12.6.2. Local Context

There were 140 recorded hate crime offences in Fenland in 2024; this represented a 19% increase on 2023 (+22 offences), it appears to contrast with the national trend over a similar period (YE March 2024). Despite this increase locally in the last year, offences did remain lower than 2021 (-7%, -10 offences).

The rate of 1.4 per 1,000 population for hate crime marked offences in Fenland, this only slightly higher than the countywide rate of 1.3. This is slightly higher than the other Cambridgeshire districts (ranging between 0.8 (South Cambridgeshire) to 2.5 (Cambridge)).

**Figure 43: Annual trend of hate crime marked offences in Fenland, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

The largest proportion of hate crime marked offences were VAP offences, in 2024 VAP offences accounted for 52% of hate crime marked offences, followed by public order offences at 41%. Previously (2021 and 2022), public order offences accounted for the largest proportion of hate crime marked offences, this proportion shifted from 49% in 2022 to 41% in 2023.

In the previous strategic assessment, it was recommended that the CSP consider ways to engage with residents to better understand experiences of hate crime. The aim was to offer a better understanding of the local picture (CCC PIT, 2024a). At a recent CSP meeting, it was established that a multi-agency working group will be formed.

#### 12.6.2.1. Ward Analysis

**Wisbech South** had the highest count of hate crime marked offences in 2024 (30 offences); this was an 11% increase compared to 2023 (+3 offences), but a 12% decrease compared to 2021 (-4 offences).

Both Wisbech South and **Elm & Christchurch** had a rate per 1,000 population of 3.4; this is the highest compared to other wards in Fenland.

Numbers of hate crime marked offences have notably increased since 2021 in **Elm & Christchurch** with a 70% increase (+7 offences).

**March North** saw the third largest number of hate crime marked offences in 2024 (13 offences); this was an increase of 63% since 2023 (+5 offences) and an increase of 117% since 2021 (+7 offences),

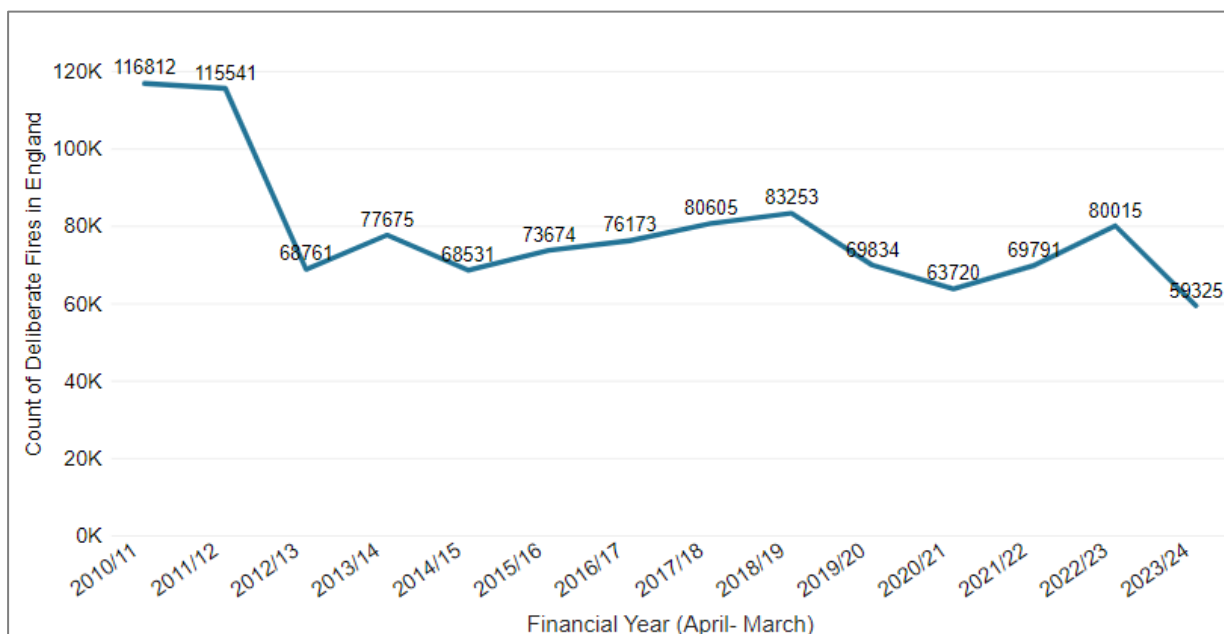
These percentages will have been inflated due to smaller recorded numbers.

## 12.7. Fires

### 12.7.1. National Context

Long term national data from the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) is available for YE March, up to YE March 2024. This data shows that over the last ten years the total number of deliberate fires, whilst fluctuating, have remained relatively stable, but has seen a notable decrease in the last year (-26%), from 80,015 in YE March 2023, down to 59,293 in YE March 2024. More recent data available for the years ending September 2023 and 2024 showed that this decrease has continued but is showing signs of slowing with an 11% reduction from 62,732 in YE September 2023 to 55,825 in YE September 2024 (Home Office, 2024c).

**Figure 44: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England annually between 2010 and 2024 (YE March)**



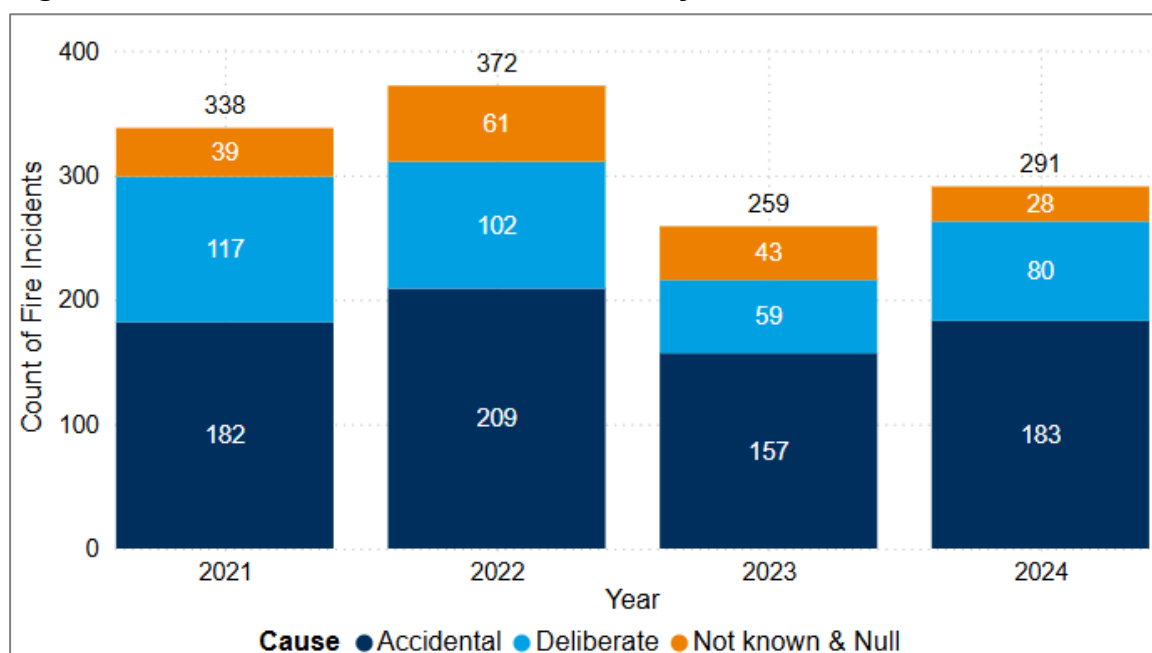
Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from “Fire statistics table 0401; Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority” in Fire and rescue incident statistics for England, year ending September 2024 data tables (Home Office, 2024c).

## 12.7.2. Local Context

As shown in Figure 45, there were 291 fires in 2024; this is an increase of 12% on 2023 (+32 fires). Despite this increase, total number of fires remains lower than a peak of 372 fires in 2022 (-22%, -81 fires).

- Accidental fires account for the highest proportion of fires in Fenland in 2024 (63%); this is followed by deliberate fires (27%).
- Both accidental and deliberate fires increased in volume in the last year. Accidental fires increased by 17% (+26 fires) and deliberate fires increased by 36% (+21 fires).

**Figure 45: Annual trend of fires in Fenland by cause, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Further analysis on deliberate fires follows as these types of fires are more associated with risk taking behaviour.

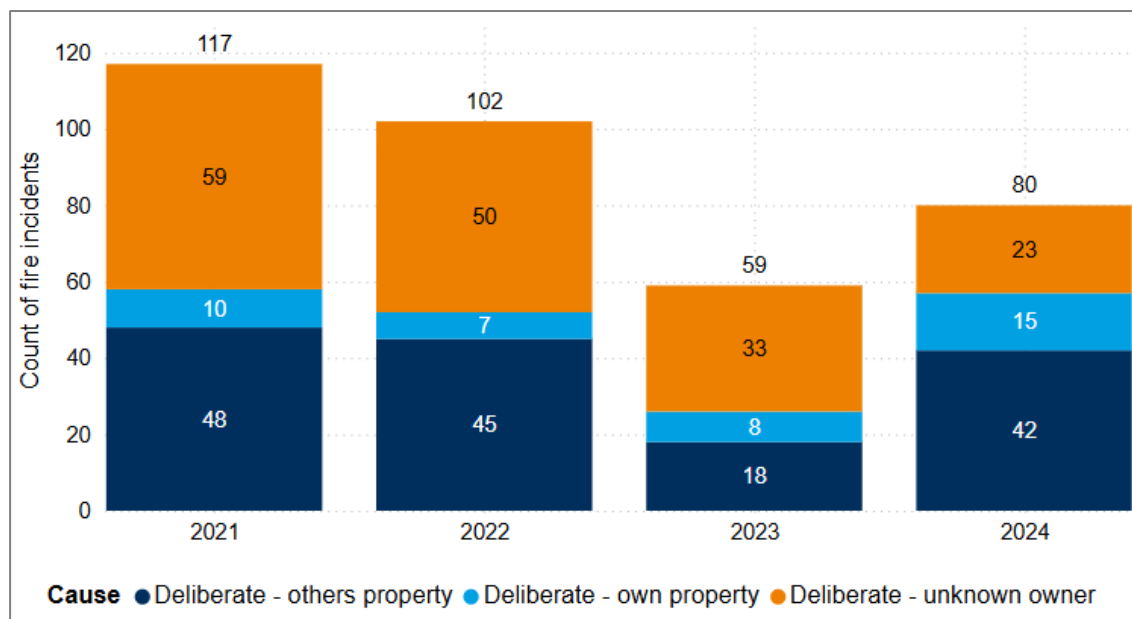
- There has been an increase in deliberate fires in the last year from 59 fires in 2023 to 80 fires in 2024; this comes after a period of decreases between 2021 and 2023.
- Despite the increase between 2023 and 2024, the 80 deliberate fires in 2024 still remain lower than 2021 (117 fires) and 2022 (102 fires).

Deliberate fires are broken down into 3 types: 'other's property', 'own property' and 'unknown owner'.

- 'Other's property' fires accounted for just over half of all deliberate fires in 2024 (53%).

- 'Other's property' fires increased by 133% in the last year (+24 fires).
- 'Own property' fires remain smaller in proportion at 19% in 2024; however, the 15 'own property' fires in 2024 is the largest recorded figure in the last four years. This is an increase of 88% in the last year (+7 fires).
- Despite an increase in the last year, fires which were 'unknown owner' decreased in the last year (-30%, -10 fires). This decrease is part of a series of decreases between 2021 and 2024.

**Figure 46: Annual trend of deliberate fires in Fenland by type, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

#### 12.7.2.1. Ward Analysis

- **Elm & Christchurch** had the highest rate per 1,000 population in 2024 with 1.6; this is notably higher than the rate per 1,000 for Fenland of 0.8.
- The second highest rate per 1,000 population was **March North** with 1.5. **March North** recorded the highest count of deliberate fires in comparison to other Fenland wards with 13.

## 13. Geographic Analysis

The following crime types were individually analysed at ward level: acquisitive crime (shoplifting, personal loss, crimes against the business), VAP, public order, drug offences, sexual offences, hate crime, ASB incidents, DA (incidents and crimes) and deliberate fires. This section looks to consolidate the wards which appeared notable across the individual analysis and also for total crime, which is referenced in the Section 3. Crime Overview of the report.

- **Wisbech South** had the highest rate in 7 out of the 12 analysed offence/incident types. Details can be found in the relevant sections above.
- **Wisbech Riverside** also ranked within the top 3 for 9 out of the 12 analysed offence/incident types based on highest rate. Details can be found in the relevant sections above.

## 14. Glossary

**Table 16: A glossary of terms and acronyms used in this report**

Term/acronym	Definition
ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour)	“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.)
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.).</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.
CCC PIT	Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team
Claimant rate	$\frac{\text{number of claimants}}{\text{population of claimant area (16 – 64)}}$



Term/acronym	Definition
County Lines	“A term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into 1 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, 2023)
CPIH	Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers’ housing costs
CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation)	“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)
CSEW	Crime Survey for England and Wales
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
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

Term/acronym	Definition
	abuse incidents result in a crime being recorded.” (Home Office, 2011, p. 19)
Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR)	<p>Formerly known as a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR).</p> <p>“A Domestic Homicide Review is a multi-agency review which seeks to identify and implement lessons learnt from deaths which have, or appear to have, resulted from domestic abuse. Their aim is to better protect victims in future and prevent further tragedies – by highlighting to the police and other agencies what can be done in future to strengthen the response.” (Home Office, Farris, L., 2024)</p> <p>The name was changed in order to “better recognise deaths from domestic abuse related homicides”. (Home Office, Farris, L., 2024)</p>
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
Hate Crime	<p>“A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone’s: race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability. These aspects are known as ‘protected characteristics’. A hate crime can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and damage to property. A hate incident is behaviour which isn’t a crime but which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on the 5 protected characteristics.” (HM Government, n.d.)</p>
HMICFRS	Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services
Modern Slavery	<p>“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</p>

Term/acronym	Definition
	<p>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)</p>
National Referral Mechanism (for Modern slavery) (NRM)	<p>“The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support”. 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)</p>
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PIT	Policy and Insight Team (formerly the Cambridgeshire Research Group)
VAP (Violence against the person)	<p>Violence against the person is an offence group. “Includes a range of offences from minor offences such as harassment and common assault, to serious offences such as murder, actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm. Minor types include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assault with injury</li> <li>• Common assault</li> <li>• Harassment</li> <li>• Offensive weapon</li> <li>• Other violence</li> </ul> <p>Major types include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Murder (homicide)</li> <li>• Wounding/GBH” (Police.uk, n.d. )</li> </ul> <p>It includes the offence sub groups of Homicide, Stalking and Harassment, Violence Without Injury, and Violence With Injury.</p>

<b>Term/acronym</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Ward	Wards (or electoral wards), are geographical areas used to elect local authority councillors (ONS, 2023b).
YE	Year Ending
YJS	Youth Justice Service

## Appendix A: Technical Notes

### A.1. Census 2021

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

### A.2. Population Estimates

Unless otherwise stated, local rates have been calculated based on CCC mid-year 2022 population estimates, the most recent population estimates available (CCC PIT, 2024c).

The estimate number of victims of fraud offences in Fenland cited in section 5.3.1 has been calculated using the percentage of respondents who had been a victim of fraud offences in the CSEW, and the CCC mid-year 2022 population estimates. This estimate has been rounded to the nearest 100.

CCC mid-year 2022 population estimates have been rounded to the nearest 5.

### A.3. CSEW Quarterly Bulleting

Further technical notes, including information on the strengths and limitations of CSEW data is available on the ONS website: [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#).

#### CSEW data

Technical notes for the CSEW data used in this report are shown below:

Further notes for data obtained from YE September appendix tables are on the Notes A1-A4 tab, also available for download from the ONS website: [Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables - Office for National Statistics](#).

- “Change in CSEW fraud was statistically significant at the 5% level.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 3)

- “The CSEW is primarily an interviewer-administered face-to-face victimisation survey in which people (aged 16 years and over) resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of selected crimes in the 12 months before the interview. It tracks long-term crime trends from year ending (YE) December 1981 to YE September 2024.
- The latest figures are based on interviews between October 2023 and September 2024, covering crimes that occurred between October 2022 and August 2024.
- The interview-administered questions give headline estimates of CSEW crime and include theft, robbery, criminal damage, fraud, computer misuse, and violence with or without injury. They are reported as both incidents (the estimated number of crimes) and prevalence (the estimated proportion of the population that were victims).
- Questions on domestic violence and sexual assault are included but may underestimate these crimes, as victims might not disclose them to an interviewer. Therefore, domestic abuse and sexual assault are better measured through a self-completion section of the survey and reported separately. While sexual assault estimates from the interviewer-administered questions are excluded from CSEW headline crime, domestic violence is included as it is a form of violence with and without injury.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 19)
- “The survey excludes crimes against commercial or public sector bodies, tourists, or those living in communal establishments (such as care homes, student halls of residence and prisons). The survey does not cover "victimless" crimes, such as drug possession and other crimes against the state.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 2)

## Police data

Technical notes for the national police recorded data used in this report are shown below:

- “The Home Office collects crime data from the 43 police forces in England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. These data are sent monthly for each crime on their notifiable offence list. These figures are updated continuously and represent a snapshot taken on 13 December 2024, covering data up to September 2024.

The National Data Quality Improvement Service (NDQIS) tool now helps automatically flag offences involving knives, domestic abuse, and child sexual abuse. By March 2024, 42 police forces had switched to NDQIS for knife or sharp instrument offences, 37 forces for domestic abuse-related offences and 31

for child sexual abuse-related offences. Since April 2024, 28 police forces have started to use NDQIS for identifying offences that have an online element. Further forces will adopt this tool in the future, including for hate crime data.

For more information on NDQIS methodology, please see our [Police recorded offences involving knives or sharp instruments: methodology changes](#).” (ONS, 2025a, p. 19)

- “Police recorded crime are not designated as accredited official statistics.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 3)
- “PRC data include crimes against individuals (including children), households, businesses, and society.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 3)
- “PRC figures are actual counts, not estimates, so they are not tested for significance.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 3)
- “Police recorded crime figures cover a wider range of offences and populations (for example, residents of institutions, tourists, and crimes against commercial bodies) but do not capture all crimes. Figures are restricted to a subset of notifiable offences that have been reported to and recorded by the police. Changes in recording practices have affected the reliability of these figures, particularly for violent crime, making them better indicators of police activity than crime trends. For further information, see [Section 19: Data sources and quality](#).” (ONS, 2025a)

Further notes for data obtained from YE September appendix tables are on the Notes A5-A7 tab, also available for download from the ONS website: [Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables - Office for National Statistics](#).

## A.4. Fraud and Cyber Crime Data

Some of the data on fraud and cyber crime offences used in this report were obtained from a public facing dashboard created to Action Fraud (see Figure 8 and Figure 9). This dashboard holds 13 months of data only. Data covering the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 used in this report was retrieved from the dashboard on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (Action Fraud, 2025).

The following data note is provided by action fraud:

"These figures are based on a rolling 12 months of data from Action Fraud. Only fraud and cyber crime offences amounting to a crime under the Home Office Crime Recording rules are included. Victim is indicated as an individual based on selection during the reporting process and this has not been verified." (Action Fraud, 2025)

The following data notes refer to the group crime categories:

- "The NFIB have grouped crime codes according to the types of fraud committed. This is based on professional judgement and does not align to the groupings recorded by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). For more information relating to different types of fraud and cyber crime please see the Action Fraud and NFIB A-Z of fraud section on the Action Fraud website." (Action Fraud, 2025)
- Figures of 1000 and above have been rounded to the nearest 100, due to rounding present on the NFIB dashboard.

## A.5. Burglary Offences

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 subtypes have been included in the total for residential burglary figures for YE December 2024 to ensure consistency with previous years and comparability. As this change was only introduced in April 2023, there is not currently enough data to do separate analyses for the 2 new subtypes of residential burglary, however, this will be possible in the future.

## A.6. Proven Reoffending Statistics

"A proven reoffence is defined as any offence committed in a one-year follow-up period that leads to a court conviction, caution, reprimand, or warning in the one-year follow-up or within a further six-month waiting period to allow the offence to be proven in court." (Ministry of Justice, 2025b)

Caveats explained within the 'Proven Reoffending Geographic Data Tool':

"1. Annual figures have been produced by aggregating the 4 preceding 3-monthly cohorts. Please note that this may result in a single offender being included in the annual cohort more than once.

2. From October 2015 onwards, reoffending data are collected using different data sources to previous quarters and so users should be careful when using figures from this point to compare to previous years. For example, the April 2016 to March 2017 cohort should not be compared to the previous cohorts in this data tool.

3. Numbers of offenders are suppressed if based on 5 or fewer offenders. This is to prevent the disclosure of individual information.



4. Adult and juvenile offenders combined and pivot table totals exclude these suppressed cases and might not match those published in the proven reoffending tables as a result.” (Ministry of Justice, 2025a).

Further details on the data sources used to calculate the statistics and other caveats can be found in the ‘Guide to Proven Reoffending Statistics’ (Ministry of Justice, 2024).

## A.7. NRM data

“Data was taken from a live case management system on 8 January 2025, and figures may change if data is updated.” (Home Office, 2025b)

### **Nationality**

“Please note, a change to data recording from October 2019 means that NRM data reflects the dual nationality of potential victims in separate categories. To see total counts of a particular nationality, please refer to the data tables. A potential victim’s nationality is based on information provided by the first responder upon referral; however case workers may update this as further information is gathered.” (Home Office, 2025a).

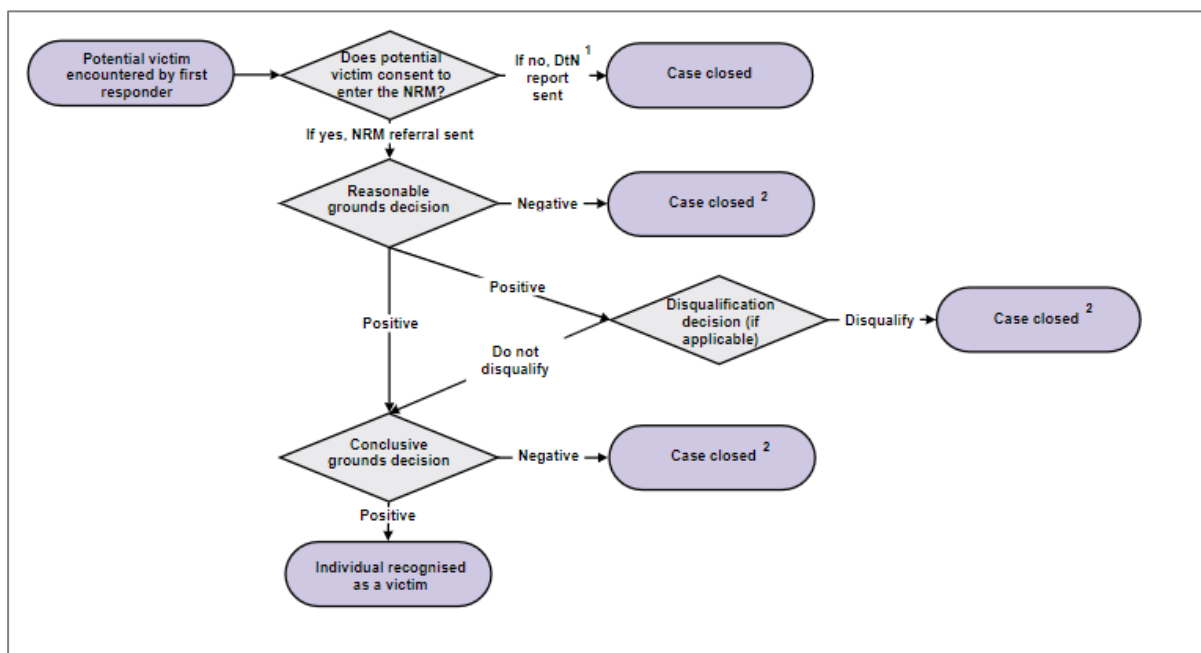
### **County lines**

“County lines referrals were classified as a subtype of labour exploitation prior to October 2019. Since January 2020, a ‘flag’ within the NRM digital casework system identifies county lines referrals.” (Home Office, 2025a)

### **Victim identification process**

The victim identification process for the NRM is shown in the figure below.

**Figure 47: Victim identification flowchart for the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)**



Source: Figure 2 in Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, end of year summary 2024 (Home Office, 2025a)

The following figure notes were provided by the Home Office for the above figure:

“Notes:

1. The DtN is only open to adults in England and Wales (as opposed to the NRM which covers the UK). Consent is not needed for children to enter the NRM.
2. Decisions may be reconsidered, which may mean some cases are reopened after being closed.
3. Some cases may not follow this flowchart. For instance, some may be suspended, and others may be devolved pilot cases which can receive combined reasonable and conclusive grounds decisions.” (Home Office, 2025a).

## A.8. Local LSOA Names

“This dataset has been created to provide a more accessible and recognisable place name for each LSOA.

Cambridgeshire has 395 LSOAs, each of which has a LSOA code and a LSOA name. However, these names and codes do not correspond to any place and are simply a reference identifier. Instead they have standard ONS codes (e.g. ‘E02006827’) and schematic names relating to the local authorities where they are

located (e.g. 'Cambridge 004').

The names in this dataset have been designed and consulted on locally and correspond to actual local places within each LSOA. The aim is to make it easier to describe data that has been produced at an LSOA level.” (CCC PIT, 2025b).

## A.9. Knife crime and sharp instrument offences

There is no official Home Office definition of “knife crime”. The local knife crime offence counts presented in this report are provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary and consist of a collection of different offences within which a knife is used, as well as knife possession offences. This includes offences where the victim was threatened with an offensive weapon, where the victim was convinced that a knife was present during the offence, and where someone was used to look after an offensive weapon.

Possession of weapons offence counts are a count of specific offence types, including possessions of weapons; possession of firearms; possession of other weapons; possession of articles with blade or point; other firearms offences; and other knives offences.

A note from the CSEW report on national police recorded data:

“Data on knife or sharp instrument offences exclude Greater Manchester Police for the whole time series back to the year ending March 2011 and exclude Devon and Cornwall Police for the years ending December 2022 to December 2023.” (ONS, 2024d).

## Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes

### **Figure 1: Long term trend in CSEW estimates of offences in England and Wales, YE December 1981 to YE September 2024**

1. “Data on the chart cover different time periods: 1981 to 1999 data are for calendar years; from year ending (YE) March 2002 onwards data are for the 12 months before the interview.
2. Fraud and computer misuse estimates are available from YE March 2017.
3. Annual estimates for YE March 2021 and YE March 2022 are not available, as there was a break in the CSEW because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic” (ONS, 2025a).

Figure 5: Trend in CSEW estimates of theft, YE December 1981 to YE September 2024

1. “Data on the chart cover different time periods: 1981 to 1999 data are for calendar years; from year ending (YE) March 2002 onwards data are for the 12 months before the interview.
2. Annual estimates for YE March 2021 and YE March 2022 are not available, as there was a break in the CSEW because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 12).

Figure 11: Police recorded knife enabled crime in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police), year ending (YE) March 2011 to YE September 2024

1. “Greater Manchester Police found they were under-counting knife-enabled crime in December 2017. Therefore, data from Greater Manchester Police are excluded to allow for comparison over time.
2. Data before YE March 2020 have been adjusted for police forces using the National Data Quality Improvement Service (NDQIS) tool. For details, see our methodology note [Police recorded offences involving knives or sharp instruments: methodology changes](#).
3. Other selected offences include rape, attempted murder, homicide, and sexual assault.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 5)

Figure 12: Police recorded firearms offences in England and Wales, YE March 2003 to YE September 2024

1. “Excludes conventional air weapons, such as air rifles, and offences recorded by the British Transport Police. Includes crimes where a firearm was fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.
2. Imitation firearms include replica weapons and low-powered guns that fire small plastic pellets, such as BB guns and soft air weapons.
3. Other firearms include CS gas and pepper spray, stun guns and other weapons.”

More detailed data on offences involving firearms are available for YE March 2024 in our [Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables](#). (ONS, 2025a, p. 6)

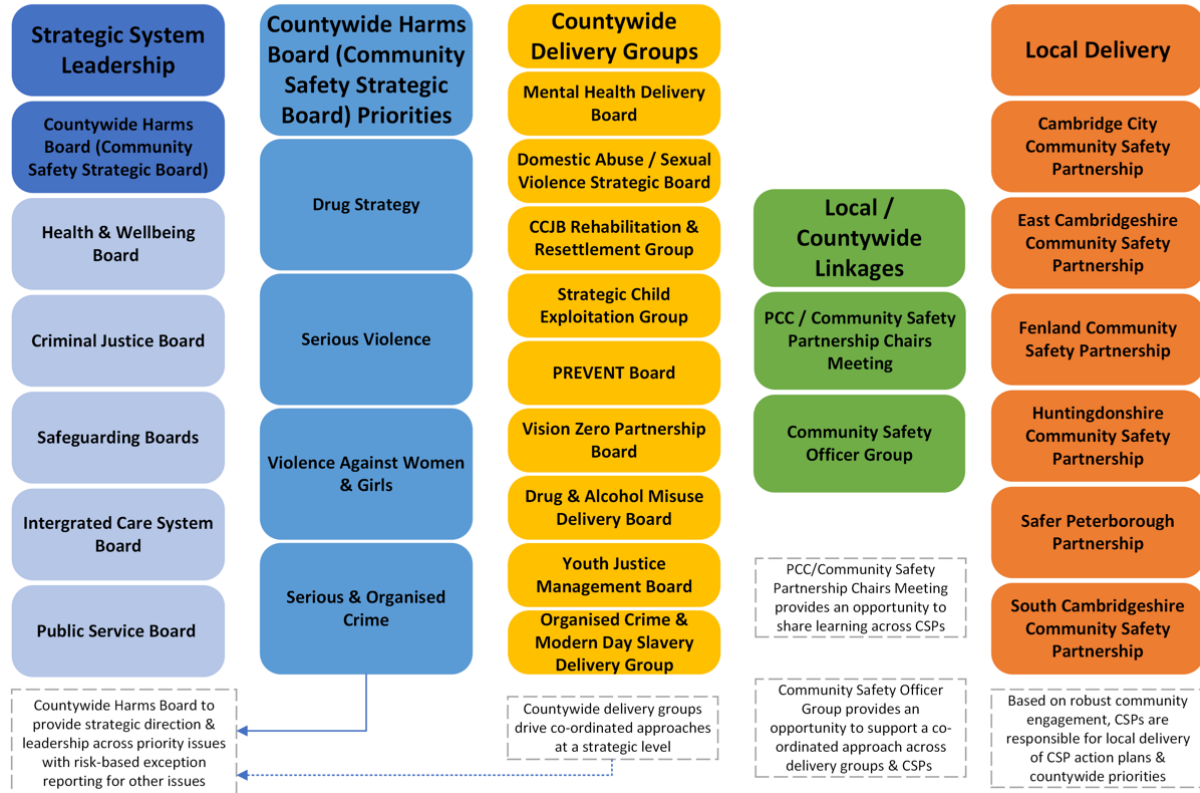
**Figure 15: Proportion of outcomes by outcome group and offence group in England and Wales, 2023/24 (YE March)**

1. “Data excludes fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.
2. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).
3. Includes caution - adults; caution - youths; Penalty Notices for Disorder.

4. Includes cannabis/khat warnings and community resolutions.
5. Includes not in the public interest (CPS); Not in public interest (Police); Offender Died; Prosecution prevented (suspect under age; suspect too ill; victim/key witness dead/too ill); Prosecution time limit expired.
6. Includes evidential difficulties where the suspect was/was not identified and the victim does not support further action.
7. Outcome 21 (Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest) was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis and became mandatory from April 2016.
8. Outcome 22 was introduced on a voluntary basis from April 2019.
9. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year receiving each outcome.
10. Based on data from 42 forces (plus the British Transport Police). Data excludes Devon and Cornwall. Following the implementation of a new IT system in November 2022, Devon and Cornwall Police have been unable to supply outcomes data for the quarters, October 2022 to March 2023.” (Home Office, 2025a)

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

## Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Countrywide Agreement 2022 - 25



## Appendix D: CSP OPCC Activity Review

### **Fenland CSP Delivery Linked to OPCC Plan 2021/24**

Fenland Community Safety Partnership's primary objective is Keeping Communities Safe which is aligned to the Crime Plan of the Police & Crime Commissioner

The work of the CSP directly supports the OPCC Priority Areas of:

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.

To a lesser degree it indirectly supports the priority areas of Supporting Victims and Witnesses as well as Robust Enforcement.

Some of the work completed by Fenland CSP during 2024/25 includes.

- Domestic Abuse: Improved awareness of Domestic Abuse amongst the community and professionals working within the community across Fenland.
- Domestic Abuse: Working with the DASV Partnership to ensure DHR recommendations are delivered as outlined within the respective DHR Overview report.
- Domestic Abuse: Working with the DASV Partnership to ensure Fenland CSP and its members contribute towards the outcomes of the DASV Needs Assessment and their Strategic Assessment.
- Domestic Abuse: Fenland District Council working towards DAHA accreditation.
- Serious Violence Duty: Worked in partnership with Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the OPCC to deliver projects focused on young people and diversion away from violent crime and ASB. This included After School Outreach work and more focused activity linked to diversion such as mentoring, sport, outdoor activities and drama.
- Hate Crime: Working with partners through the Fenland Diverse Communities Forum to improve trust and confidence in reporting Hate Crime to appropriate authorities. This included upskilling those partners who operate 'third party reporting'
- Scams, Fraud & Cybercrime: In addition to educating the community through engagement and sharing specialist media activity, the CSP also enabled the provision of training for professionals who work within the community and therefore better equipped to identify potential victims, offer support and signpost.

- Exploitation: Facilitated the provision of training for professionals who work within the community and therefore better equipped to identify potential victims, offer support and signpost.
- Safety Zones: Working with Cambs Fire and other partners delivered Safety Zone for those pupils about to transition from Primary to Secondary School in some key subject areas linked to personal safety. Approximately 680 pupils from 15 schools attended and subjects covered included Fire Safety, Water Safety, Dog Safety, Personal Safety and Cybercrime.
- Working with the Fire Service to deliver Fire Break sessions for young people at greater risk of not entering further education or employment.



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