

Community Safety Strategic Assessment:

East Cambridgeshire

2023/24

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. Existing Priorities

The 2022/23 strategic assessment recommended that the East Cambridgeshire CSP retain the following broad priorities:

Priority 1: Understanding risk and vulnerability of individuals (people) and locations (places) and helping communities respond to this.

Priority 2: Working to tackle local issues of high harm.

There were also a number of specific recommendations which were categorised under the following headings:

- **Greater understanding needed locally**
- **Prioritising high risk and vulnerability**
- **Prioritising high harm issues.**

1.2. Strategic Assessment Analysis Process

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

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

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

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

1.3. Key Findings and Recommendations

1.3.1. Key findings overview

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

Total police recorded crime in East Cambridgeshire reduced slightly (-4%) in 2023 compared to the previous year, but remains 6% higher than pre-pandemic levels. Looking at the crime type breakdown over the last six years, the most notable change in East Cambridgeshire has been an increase in the volume of violence offences, which has resulted in violence accounting for a higher share of all recorded crime. Public order offences showed a similar pattern between 2017 and 2022, although at a lower offence volume. In the last year, however, public order offences reduced by just under a third, the most marked change across all offence sub-types. As a large proportion of public order offences are hate crime related this also drove a reduction in hate crimes in 2023. Overall acquisitive crime increased slightly in 2023, but remains below the pre-pandemic level.

Geographic analysis showed the wards with the highest increases in total crime in the latest year were Fordham & Isleham, Stretham and Haddenham. In contrast, the wards with the largest reductions were Soham North, Sutton, and Burwell. Littleport still accounts for the highest proportion of East Cambridgeshire offences, but saw a slight reduction (-6%) in 2023. Looking across different data sources, Littleport and Ely West had consistently higher incident counts across different police recorded crime offence types, deliberate fires and to a lesser degree ASB incidents. Ely East also saw high incident counts across crime and ASB data compared to most wards.

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

The following section outlines topic specific key findings from the strategic assessment and associated recommendations for 2023/24.

1.3.2. Topic specific key findings and recommendations

Acquisitive Crime

Overall acquisitive crime increased slightly in East Cambridgeshire in the last year, but this was below the countywide increase of 15%. The rates by resident population for acquisitive crime types were also lower in East Cambridgeshire than seen countywide or nationally (where comparable figures are available) and total acquisitive crime remains below pre-pandemic levels in East Cambridgeshire. All four acquisitive crime types (burglary, robbery, theft, and vehicle offences) remained either close to, or below pre-pandemic levels.

The most notable change in the last year was a 24% increase in burglary offences, driven primarily by an increase in residential burglary (up 40%). Despite this marked increase, residential burglary remains down on pre-pandemic levels, possibly linked to a continued protective effect from a shift to hybrid/home working arrangements. There was a small increase in shoplifting offences in the latest year, although the increase was not as large as that seen nationally or countywide. Nevertheless, shoplifting figures are up by 57% when compared to the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

It is not recommended that acquisitive crime is adopted as a priority at this time. However, the CSP should consider if the recent increases seen in residential burglary and shoplifting present an emerging issue, with a view to working to prevent further increases.

Fraud/scams

With high levels of underreporting fraud remains a largely hidden crime. Estimates from the CSEW provide the best indication of the scale of offences as they include offences that have not been reporting via official channels. The CSEW estimates that 5.8% of people aged over 16 experienced a fraud offence in the YE September 2023, with the estimated number of offences down by 13% on the previous year. Applying this percentage to the East Cambridgeshire population gives an estimate of 4,100 victims of fraud in the district in the latest year. Action fraud data, which is available at county level, showed that the age group of 30-39 accounted for the highest proportion of victims, whilst there was a fairly even spread across age groups. This shows that fraud is impacting widely across the population, not just older residents who are typically considered as more vulnerable to fraud and scams.

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

and countywide picture in mind, the CSP should continue partnership activity to tackle this issue in the upcoming year.

Violence Against the Person (VAP)

Overall, it is largely accepted that general levels of violence are decreased since the peak in the mid-90s. The more recent local trends are more stable with a small decrease in police recorded violence offences seen in East Cambridgeshire, countywide and nationally in the latest year. Despite this recent decrease, violence against the person offences were still up by 30% on pre-pandemic levels and accounted for 39% of all crime recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2023. As such, violence remains an issue of concern locally.

In 2023/24 the CSP commissioned a deep dive into violence and public order, following findings in the 2022/23 strategic assessment. The report provided detailed analysis by violence sub-type, geography, and victim/offender demographics.

It is recommended that the CSP utilise the findings in this report and the countywide serious violence needs assessment to inform targeted action to tackle violence, with a particular focus on serious violence within the district.

Sexual Offences and Domestic Abuse (DA)

In the latest year, the number of DA incidents remained stable in East Cambridgeshire, whilst the number of DA offences reduced. Further data work with the police to explore any changes in data recording in the latest year would help to better understand the reduction in offences seen. The level of sexual offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire remained stable in the latest year (2023). A third of these offences were non-recent, meaning they had an offence start date at least 12 months prior to the crime being recorded. Victim data analysis showed that victims were primarily female, with those aged under 18 the most common victim group for sexual offences and those aged 30-39 the dominant victim group for DA. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) commissioned a needs assessment in 2023 which was published in January 2024 (Cambridgeshire County Council, 2024).

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

Exploitation and Vulnerability

The issues of modern slavery, county lines, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) are all interlinked and present high risk of harm to vulnerable individuals. The NCA highlights exploitation of the vulnerable (via CSE, modern slavery and Organised Immigration Crime) as one of three key threats

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nationally. The local data picture is limited, in part due to a lack of available data and also due to the likely extent of underreporting of these offences. It is important for the CSP to access local intelligence to form a more complete picture of how these issues are impacting locally. **The CSP is advised to seek East Cambridgeshire specific insight from Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Serious Organised Crime assessment once it is completed.**

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

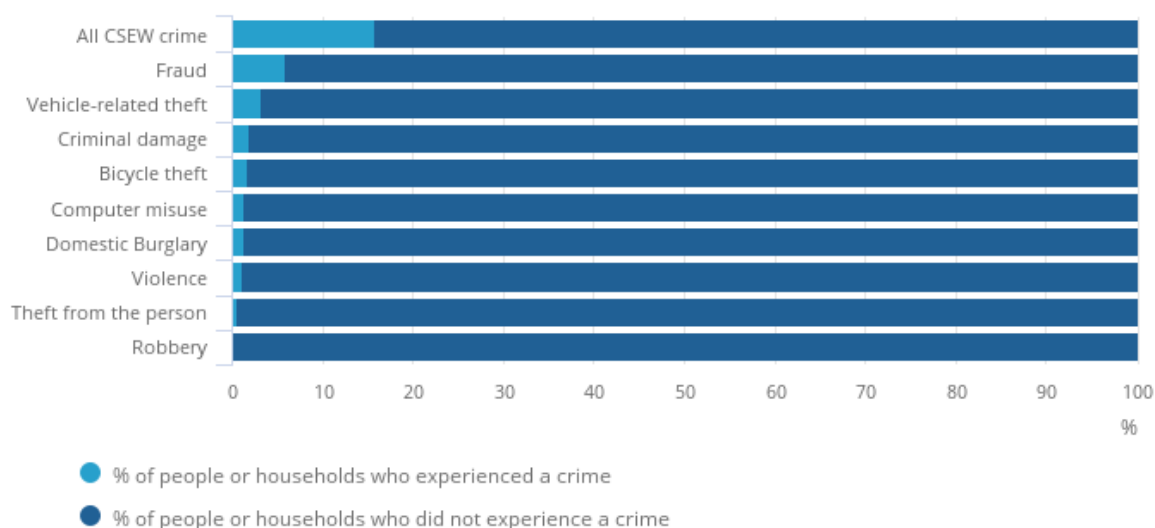
2. Introduction

2.1. National

2.1.1. Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

Nationally, the vast majority of people are not victims of crime each year. According to estimates from the Crime survey for England and Wales (CSEW), approximately 84% of those aged 16 and over in England and Wales had not experienced any of the surveyed crime types. The most common crime types reported in the CSEW were fraud (at 6% of people), or vehicle related theft (at 3%) (ONS, 2023a).

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



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

Source: Figure 2 in Statistical Bulletin for Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) from ONS (ONS, 2023a).

The long-term trend for crime according to the CSEW shows that crime has decreased since a peak in year ending (YE) December 1995 (see Figure 2). Although no data was available for the YE March 2021 due to lockdown restrictions, data for the YE June 2023 appears to show a continuation of these decreases. CSEW estimates suggested that 8.4 million offences were experienced by those aged 16+; a 10% reduction compared to the previous YE June 2022, and an 18% reduction compared to the pre-pandemic YE March 2020. The ONS report that this reduction was mainly driven by decreases in fraud (-13%) and criminal damage (-28%) (ONS, 2023a).

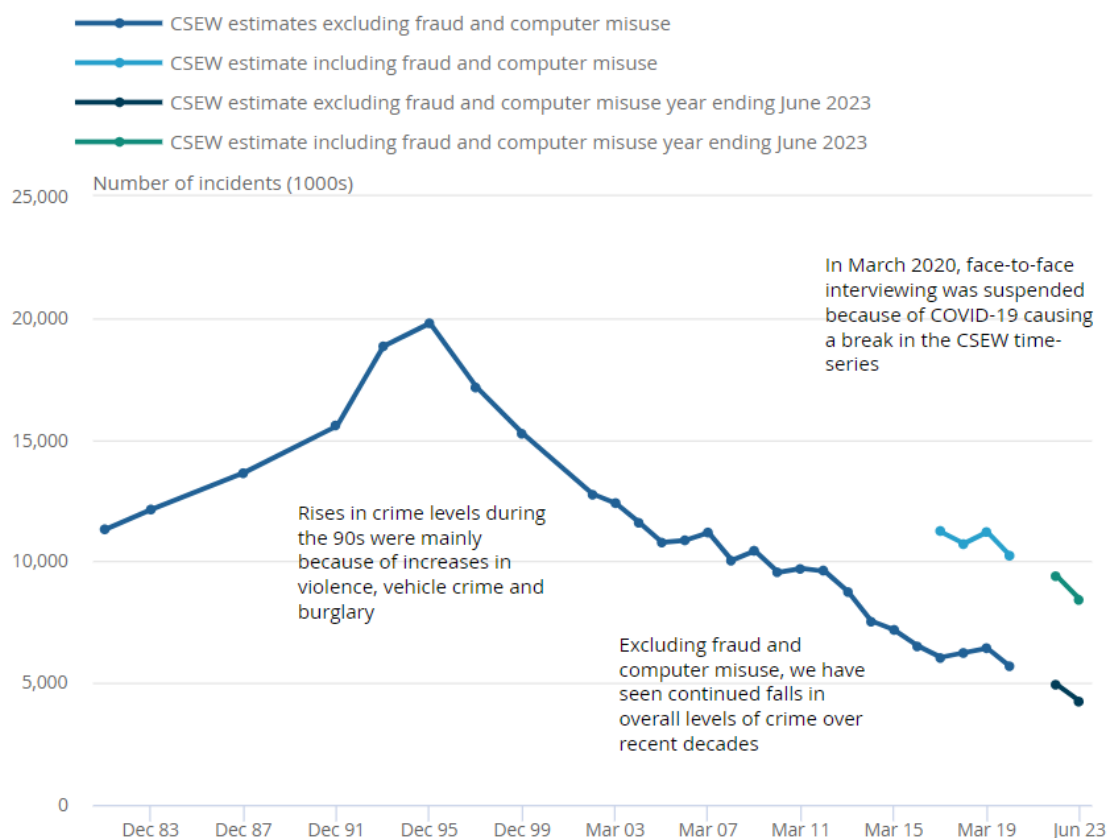
Further notable changes since YE June 2022 included a significant 33% increase in computer misuse, and 23% decrease in violent crime (ONS, 2023a).

When comparing to CSEW data from the pre-pandemic period, key changes for YE June 2023 included a 20% reduction in overall theft compared to YE March 2020. This decrease was seen across most types of theft, with a 21% decrease in theft from the person; a 31% decrease in “other theft of personal property”; a 32% decrease in domestic burglary; and an 18% decrease in vehicle related theft. ASB also saw a decrease of 15% over this period (ONS, 2023a).

Table 1: Percentage change in types of theft according to CSEW from the year ending March 2020 to the year ending June 2023

Crime type	Percentage change
Theft from the person	-21%
“Other theft of personal property”	-31%
Domestic burglary	-32%
Vehicle related theft	-18%

Figure 2: Long term trend for annual crime estimates for England and Wales, from the CSEW from 1981 (year ending December) to 2023 (year ending June)



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

Source: Figure 1 in Statistical Bulletin for Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) from ONS (ONS, 2023a).

2.1.2. Police

Contrary to the 10% reduction estimated in the CSEW between YE June 2022 and YE June 2023, police recorded crime in England and Wales saw a 4% increase, from 6.5 million crimes (YE June 2022) to 6.7 million crimes in the YE June 2023. This increase was primarily driven by increases in shoplifting and fraud offences against business and other organisations; figures that are not picked up by the CSEW.

Between YE June 2022 and YE June 2023, shoplifting increased by 25%, and fraud by 15%. Theft from the person increased by 20%, exceeding pre-pandemic levels by 3%. There was also an 11% increase in robbery, but this remained 14% lower than in YE March 2020.

Burglary saw little change since YE June 2022 (-1%) but remained 29% lower than YE March 2020. Vehicle offences increased slightly (+6%), but also remained lower than pre-pandemic levels (-14%).

No change was seen in violence without injury, but YE June 2023 was 14% higher than the pre-pandemic YE March 2020. Stalking and harassment decreased by 2% in YE June 2023 compared to YE June 2022, but remained 41% higher than pre-pandemic YE March 2020. Similarly, sexual offences were 2% lower than YE June 2022, but remained 18% higher than YE March 2020.

2.2. Economic Context

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

October 2022 saw what was estimated to be the highest inflation in over 40 years, reaching a CPIH (Consumer Price Index including owner occupiers' housing costs; 12 month) rate of 9.6% (ONS, 2023b). Inflation has seen decreases since, with August 2023 seeing the lowest rate since March 2022, with a CPIH of 6.3%, and a CPI (Consumer Price Index) of 6.7% (see Figure 61). OOH (Owner Occupiers Housing costs) however has seen continuing increases since August 2020 when it was 1.1%, reaching 5.0% by September 2023.

The cost-of-living is causing concern for many, with increases in the cost of essentials like food, gas and electricity, although improvements have been seen in fuel costs compared to last year (see Appendix D: UK Economic Updates). As reported by the Resolution Foundation, as well as decreases in inflation, rises in bank rates are expected to end soon at a rate of between 5.5 and 6%, but the full impact of increases are still to come. The cost of new private rents is rising which is expected to affect future average rental costs, and increases in repayments are

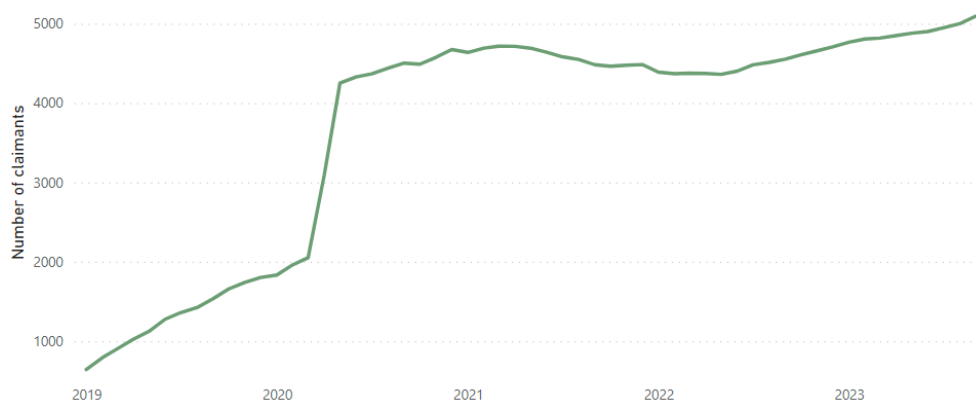
expected for those remortgaging their properties. These increases in interest rates are predicted to slow economic growth; and contribute to increases in unemployment, which has increased from 3.5% in 2022 to 4.2% by the time of the Resolution Foundation’s Summer Update in September (2023). Unemployment is projected to reach 4.6% by the first quarter of 2023. (The Resolution Foundation, 2023).

Economic Context for East Cambridgeshire

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

- The total number of Universal credit claimants in August 2023 is 10.8% higher than was seen in August 2022 (DWP, n.d.).
- Average (median) gross weekly pay increased from £576.70 in 2022, to £611.80 in 2023 (+6.1%), the second lowest median income in the county, and second smallest annual percentage increase (ONS, 2022a; ONS, 2023c).
- Despite the number of food parcel distribution centres in East Cambridgeshire decreasing by two thirds, to just 3 centres between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE March), the total number of food parcels distributed by the Trussell trust food bank increased by 65%, to 4.9 thousand parcels (The Trussel Trust, 2023).
- Average (median) private monthly rent in East Cambridgeshire increased by 6.1% in the year ending September 2023 compared to the previous year, from £825 to £875 (ONS, 2022g, p. 2.7; ONS, 2023l, p. 2.7).

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



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

2.3. Crime Overview for East Cambridgeshire

Overall, the number of police recorded crimes has decreased slightly in the last year, but remains 6% above pre-pandemic (i.e. 2019) counts.

Both violence against the person (VAP) and public order have seen long term increases both in volume, and in their 'share' of the total crimes in East Cambridgeshire between 2017 and 2023 whilst acquisitive crime types decreased (see Figure 5). VAP and public order are 30% and 18% higher than pre-pandemic levels (i.e. 2019) respectively. However, in the last year, a decrease has been seen in both crime types. VAP decreased slightly (3%), but the largest change was seen for public order offences which fell substantially (down 31%) compared to 2022 (see Table 16 in Appendix E for annual counts and changes).

Whilst burglary increased by 24% in the last year, numbers in 2023 remained 27% lower than pre-pandemic levels. Long term decreases have also been seen in arson and criminal damage, which decreased by 21% since 2019, despite a recent increase of 5% in the last year.

Figure 4: Count of offences in East Cambridgeshire by crime type, 2017 to 2023

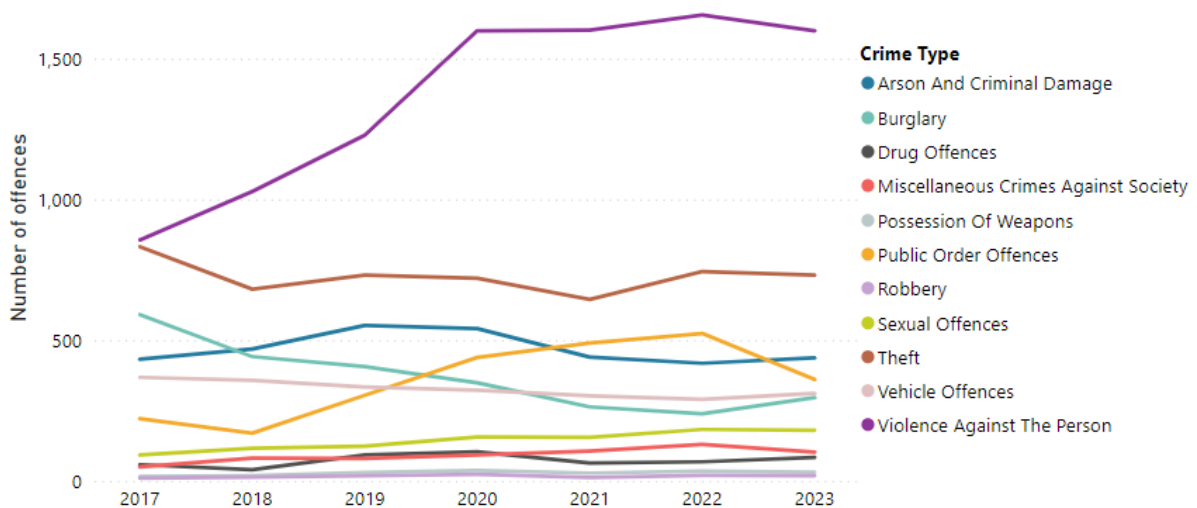
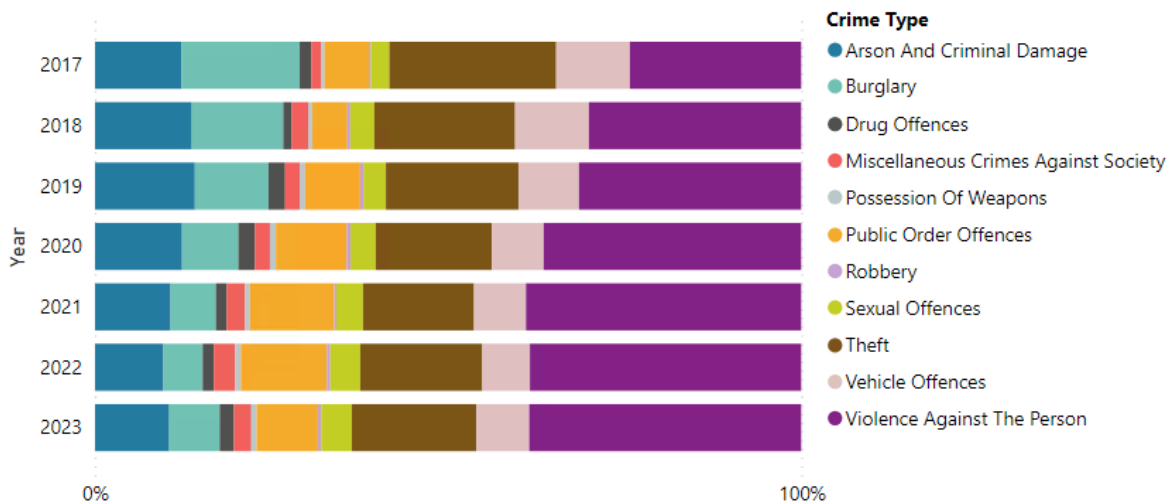


Figure 5: Proportion of offences in East Cambridgeshire by crime type, 2017-2023



The table below displays the total crime count for all East Cambridgeshire wards in the last three years as well as the percentage change in the latest year. Littleport has consistently had the highest crime count in the district, although there was a 6% reduction in offences in the latest year. Ely East and Ely West saw the next highest levels in 2023. The wards with the highest percentage increases in total crime in the latest year were Fordham & Isleham, Stretham, and Haddenham. In contrast, the wards with the largest reductions were Soham North, Sutton, and Burwell.

Table 2: Count of police recorded crime offences in East Cambridgeshire, by ward, 2021-2023

Ward	2021	2022	2023	2022-2023 % change
Littleport	672	764	719	-5.9%
Ely East	479	596	538	-9.7%
Ely West	608	501	510	+1.8%
Soham South	320	342	346	+1.2%
Stretham	252	233	294	+26.2%
Fordham & Isleham	259	226	294	+30.1%
Burwell	214	295	252	-14.6%
Bottisham	191	272	243	-10.7%
Soham North	319	333	228	-31.5%
Sutton	218	237	185	-21.9%
Ely North	162	163	178	+9.2%
Woodditton	172	162	156	-3.7%
Haddenham	118	86	108	+25.6%
Downham Villages	122	96	99	+3.1%

3. Acquisitive Crime

3.1. Summary and Recommendations

National figures for police recorded “theft” showing an increase of 10% between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE June) are not directly comparable to local figures for theft or overall acquisitive crime due to differences in categorisation. However, overall, the picture of acquisitive crime in East Cambridgeshire appears to be better than the countywide picture with a small increase of 5% in the last year (compared to the county increase of 15%). The rates for crime types are also lower in East Cambridgeshire than seen countywide or nationally (where comparable figures are available).

The most notable change in the last year was a 24% increase in burglary offences, driven primarily by an increase in residential burglary. Despite this increase, burglary

numbers for 2023 remained below pre-pandemic levels, reflecting the national picture over a similar period. All four acquisitive crime types (burglary, robbery, theft, and vehicle offences) remained either close to, or below pre-pandemic levels.

At the more detailed acquisitive crime sub-type level, the analysis showed that shoplifting offences in East Cambridgeshire have not increased in the last year to the extent seen nationally, or countywide. Other theft accounts for the most acquisitive crimes in East Cambridgeshire, closely followed by shoplifting, accounting for 25% each. East Cambridgeshire saw a larger percentage increase in residential burglary compared to Cambridgeshire as a whole, but remained below the counts seen in 2019 (-35%).

It is not recommended that acquisitive crime is adopted as a priority at this time. However, the CSP should consider if the recent increases seen in residential burglary and shoplifting present an emerging issue, with a view to working to prevent further increases.

3.2. National Context

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for the year ending June 2023 estimated acquisitive crime (referred to as “theft” by CSEW, including theft offences, burglary, and vehicle offences) at 2.6 million incidents in England and Wales (ONS, 2023a). This was not significantly different from the previous year, but represents a 20% decrease compared to pre-pandemic year ending March 2020 (3.3 million theft offences) (ONS, 2023a). This decrease was seen across most sub-categories, including theft from the person (21%); “other theft of personal property” (31%); domestic burglary (32%); and vehicle related theft (18%) (ONS, 2023a). It also estimated that “Neighbourhood crime” (i.e. robbery, theft from the person, domestic burglary, and vehicle related theft) in England and Wales (1.5 million incidents) was not significantly different from the previous year, but saw a 25% decrease compared to pre-pandemic year ending March 2020 (ONS, 2023a).

Police recorded acquisitive crime (“theft” which includes all categories of acquisitive crime except for robbery) for England and Wales, however, saw an increase of 10% in YE June 2023 compared to the previous year. This increase was primarily driven by increases in theft from businesses, such as shoplifting which was up by a quarter. Similar to the CSEW, police recorded crime data shows a reduction compared to the pre-pandemic period (down 10% from 1.9 million offences in YE March 2020 to 1.7 million offences in YE June 2023) (ONS, 2023a), although the reduction in police recorded crime is less than the reduction in estimated offences from the CSEW. The most notable reduction compared to the pre-pandemic was recorded for burglary, down 29%.

3.3. East Cambridgeshire Acquisitive Crime Types

3.3.1. Acquisitive crime types

Overall, East Cambridgeshire saw a 5% increase in acquisitive crime between 2022 and 2023, below both the countywide increase of 15% in the same time period and the national increase of 10% in “all theft offences” between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE June) (“all theft” offences in England and Wales includes all acquisitive crimes excluding robbery).

Compared to pre-pandemic levels, acquisitive crime in East Cambridgeshire remained 9% lower in 2023 than in 2019 (-132 offences), similar to the 10% decrease seen for “all theft offences” nationally over a similar time period (from 1.9 million offences to 1.7 million).

Whilst the increase in acquisitive offences seen nationally in the last year was primarily driven by offences against businesses, such as shoplifting, the most notable change in East Cambridgeshire was a 24% increase in burglary offences (+57 offences). This contrasts the 1% decrease seen nationally (ONS, 2023d). However, burglary in East Cambridgeshire remained below levels seen in pre-pandemic year 2019 by 27% (-110 offences), with a similar decrease nationally (ONS, 2023d). This sustained decrease compared to pre-pandemic levels suggests that the protective effect of the lockdown period on certain acquisitive offences, which has previously been noted by ONS (2022b), appears to be continuing for burglary offences.

Smaller changes were seen in other acquisitive offences in East Cambridgeshire compared to last year and the pre-pandemic period (see Table 3). The 7% decrease in vehicle offences in East Cambridgeshire compared to the pre-pandemic period was also smaller than the decrease in vehicle offences seen nationally (-14%) (ONS, 2023d). Little change was seen in East Cambridgeshire’s robbery offences, both in comparison to 2022 and 2019, contrasting the 11% national increase in the last year (YE September), and 14% decrease since YE March 2020 (ONS, 2023d).

Theft accounted for the most acquisitive offences in 2023 (54%), followed by vehicle offences (23%), and burglary (22%).

Further details on changes in burglary, vehicle offences, other theft, theft from the person, and shoplifting are detailed in the sections below.

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

Crime type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019-2023 change (%)	2022-2023 change (%)
Burglary	406	349	263	239	296	-110 (-27%)	+57 (+24%)
Robbery	18	24	12	20	19	+1 (+6%)	-1 (-5%)
Theft	731	720	645	744	731	0 (0%)	-13 (-2%)
Vehicle Offences	334	322	302	290	311	-23 (-7%)	+21 (7%)
Total	1489	1415	1222	1293	1357	-132 (-9%)	+64 (+5%)

3.3.2. Acquisitive crime sub-types

'Other theft' offences and shoplifting accounted for the largest proportion of acquisitive offences (by sub-type) in 2023, each accounting for 25%; followed by theft from a vehicle, accounting for 14%.

Table 4: Percentage share of acquisitive offences in East Cambridgeshire in 2023, by acquisitive crime sub-type

Crime sub type	Percentage share
Other Theft	25%
Shoplifting	25%
Theft From A Vehicle	14%
Residential Burglary*	13%
Burglary - Business And Community	9%
Theft Or Unauth Taking Of A Motor Veh	6%
Interfering With A Motor Vehicle	3%
Bicycle Theft	2%
Theft From The Person	1%
Robbery Of Personal Property	1%
Aggravated Vehicle Taking	<1%
Robbery Of Business Property	<1%

Note: *In April 2023 residential burglary was split into "Residential burglary-home" and "Residential burglary – unconnected build". "Residential Burglary" here refers to all three types combined for 2023 figures to aid comparability.

Figure 6 below displays the change in offence counts (by subtype) between 2022 and 2023, as well as the percentage change this represents. The most notable change was a 40% increase in residential burglary (+49 offences). Other notable changes include an increase of "interfering with a motor vehicle" offences from 16 to 38 offences (+138%), and a 30% decrease in bicycle theft (-14 offences).

Figure 6: East Cambridgeshire acquisitive crime count % change by offence sub-type between 2022 and 2023

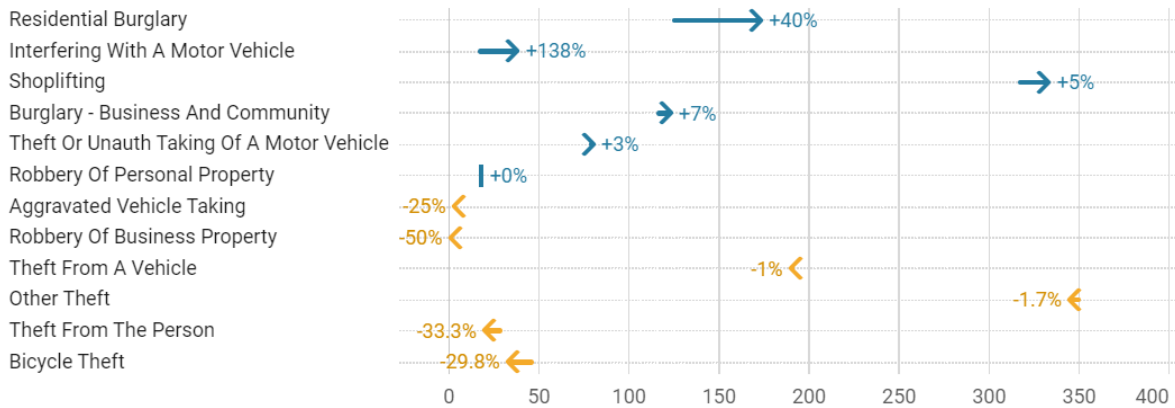
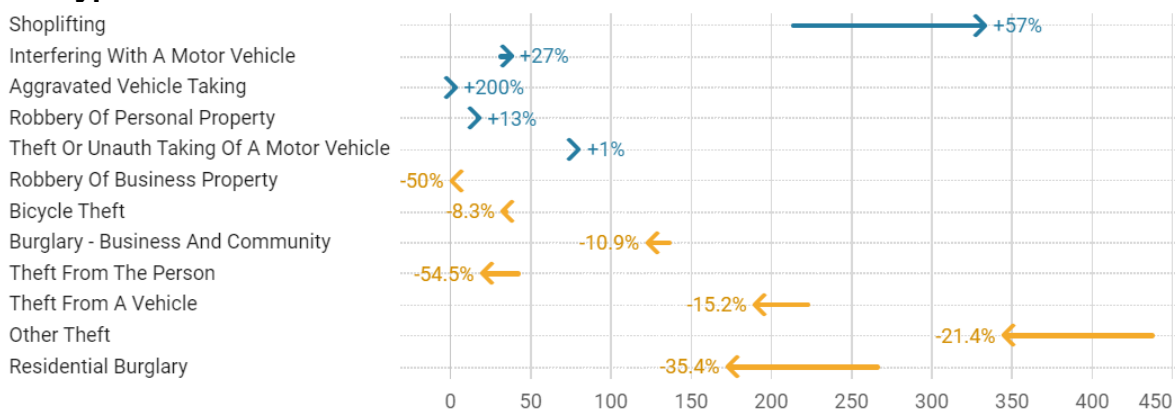


Figure 7 below displays the change in these offence sub-types since the pre-pandemic period, this shows the majority of sub-types to either be below 2019 levels or to have had a small volume increase. The exception was shoplifting, for which offence levels are now up by 57% (+121 offences). Notable decreases were seen in “Other theft” offences (-21%, -94 offences), and residential burglary (-35%, -95 offences). Further details on these trends can be found in the sections which follow.

Figure 7: East Cambridgeshire acquisitive crime count % change by offence sub-type between 2019 and 2023



3.4. Burglary

3.4.1. Burglary technical note

In April 2023 residential burglary was split into “Residential burglary-home” and “Residential burglary – unconnected build”. Examples of offences which would be classified under the new residential burglary – unconnected build would be sheds/outbuildings/garden offices which are within the residential property boundary but are not connected to the main home. Both of these sub-types have been included in the total for residential burglary figures for 2023 to ensure consistency with previous years and comparability with other crime counts for 2023. As this

change was only introduced in April, there is not currently enough data to do separate analyses for the two new sub-types of residential burglary, however, this will be possible in the future.

3.4.2. Burglary analysis

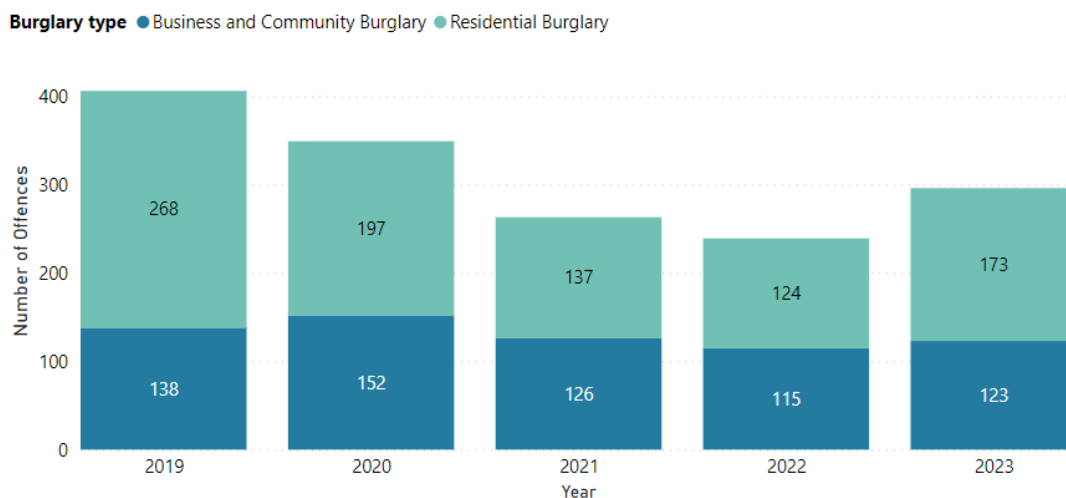
Following the decreasing trend in burglary between 2019 and 2022, 2023 saw a 24% increase compared to the previous year. This was primarily driven by residential burglary, which saw a 40% increase (+49 offences), the largest of any other acquisitive crime sub-type, and larger than the 17% increase seen countywide. Residential burglary offences in 2023 was closer to levels seen in 2020, but remained 35% lower than the pre-pandemic year 2019 (-95 offences). Research has suggested that increased numbers of people staying at home during the lockdown period helped to protect against the number of residential burglaries (Frith, et al., 2022). The sustained decrease in residential burglaries in East Cambridgeshire, compared to the pre-pandemic period, suggests that some protective effects of the changes to people's routine movements which resulted from the pandemic is still impacting on residential burglary locally. However, with offences increasing by approximately a quarter in the last year, it is possible that this protective effect is reducing. Residential burglary levels should continue to be monitored to understand the changing trend.

A similar but muted pattern was seen in business and community burglary, with a 7% increase in the last year, whilst remaining 11% below 2019.

Despite this increase, the residential burglary rate in East Cambridgeshire (based on Census 2021 population figures) remained lower than that seen countywide at 4.7 per 1000 households; compared to 5.4 per 1000 households countywide. No equivalent figure is available for residential burglary nationally, but for all burglary by resident population, the rate in East Cambridgeshire remains lower than the national rate at 3.4 offences per 1000 population, compared to 4.6 per 1000 population for England and Wales (ONS, 2023d, p. A7).

Residential burglary accounted for 58% of burglaries in 2023, up from 52% the year before, but lower than the 66% in 2019.

Figure 8: Annual trend in burglary in East Cambridgeshire from 2019 to 2023, by sub-type



It is not yet clear whether the recent increase in burglary offences mark the beginning of an upward trend, and so they should continue to be monitored.

The most concentrated hotspot of burglary offences in East Cambridgeshire was in Ely, where there is a higher concentration of residential and commercial premises. However, when analysing by ward, the highest numbers were in Stretham and Ely West, both accounting for 13% of burglary offences in East Cambridgeshire in 2023. Whilst Ely West only saw a small increase of 5 offences since 2022, numbers in Stretham almost doubled (from 20 to 39 offences), with increases in both residential and non-residential offences. Littleport accounts for the next highest proportion, at 10%, increasing by 8 offences since 2022 (+35%).

Table 5: Count and change in burglary offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2022 to 2023

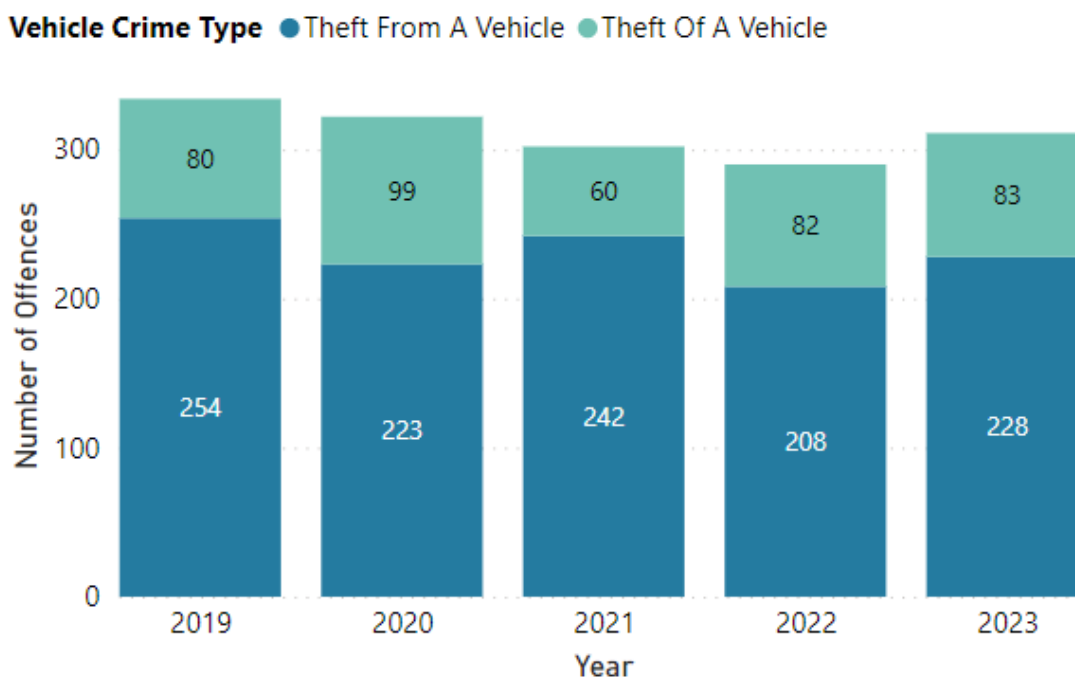
Ward	2022 count	2023 count	2023 % share	Count change	% change
Stretham	20	39	13%	+19	+95%
Ely West	32	37	13%	+5	+16%
Littleport	23	31	10%	+8	+35%
Bottisham	17	21	7%	+4	+24%
Sutton	7	20	7%	+13	+186%
Ely East	13	20	7%	+7	+54%
Soham South	20	20	7%	0	0%
Fordham & Isleham	29	20	7%	-9	-31%
Soham North	16	17	6%	+1	+6%
Woodditton	18	17	6%	-1	-6%
Haddenham	9	16	5%	+7	+78%
Burwell	10	15	5%	+5	+50%
Ely North	18	15	5%	-3	-17%
Downham Villages	7	8	3%	+1	+14%
Total	239	296	100%	+57	+24%

3.5. Vehicle Crime

Local police recorded crime data for East Cambridgeshire shows that after an annual trend of decreasing vehicle offences up to 2022, 2023 saw a 7% increase compared to 2022 (+21 offences), but remained 7% below pre-pandemic year 2019. This reflects the national (England and Wales) increase of 6% seen in the last year (YE June 2023). However, national figures have seen a larger decrease than East Cambridgeshire (-14%) since the pre-pandemic period (when comparing national data for 2022/23 to the pre-pandemic year 2019/20, YE March). CSEW data indicates an even larger decrease of 21% in total estimated vehicle crimes. East Cambridgeshire's decrease was also smaller than the countywide decrease of 11%. However, it should be noted that the rate of vehicle offences remained lower than other districts, at 3.5 per 1000 population (compared to 4.8 per 1000 population for the county), and is almost half the national rate of 6.7 per 1000 population for YE June 2023.

This increase in vehicle crimes was driven by an increase in offences involving theft from vehicles (or attempted thefts, recorded as vehicle interference), accounting for 73% of offences in 2023, rather than the theft of vehicles themselves.

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



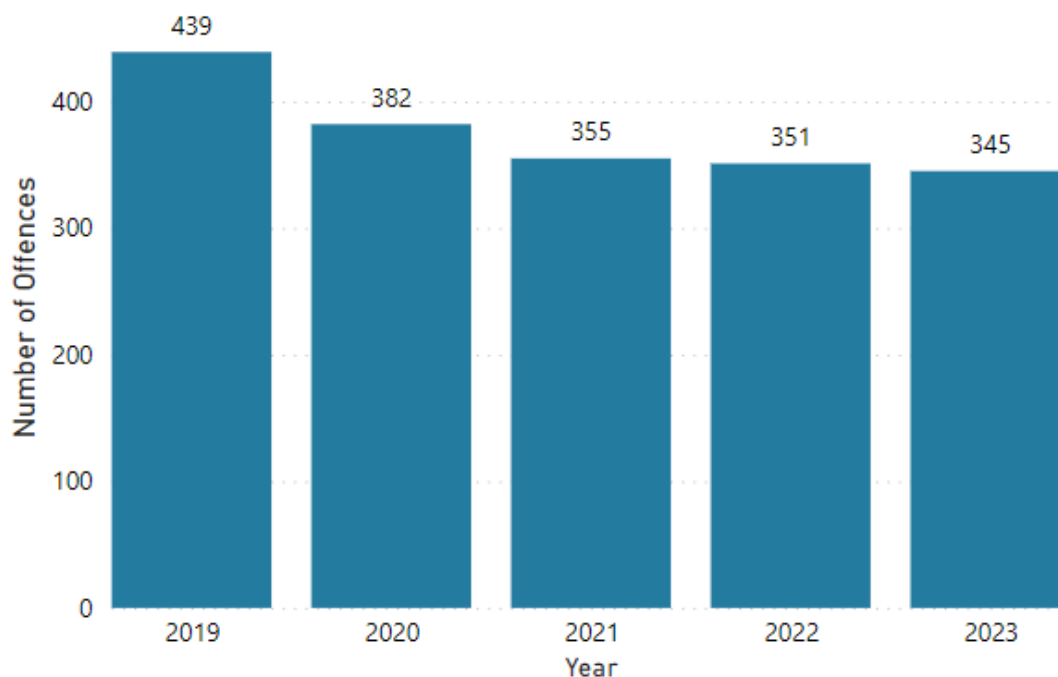
A key word search was carried out for vehicle crime offences that contained the terms “catalytic” or “cat convert” in the MO field, to investigate the number of vehicle offences involving catalytic converter thefts.

Whilst vehicle crime increased in the last year, catalytic converter thefts saw decreases across all districts in Cambridgeshire. Catalytic converter thefts decreased from 70 offences in 2022 down to 40 in 2023 (a 43% decrease). This meant the proportion of vehicle offences accounted for by catalytic converter thefts in East Cambridgeshire decreased from 24% in 2022 down to 13% in 2023; however, this remains higher than the county average of 8%, and reflects the smallest district percentage decrease in the county.

3.6. Other Theft

Whilst other theft accounts for the most acquisitive crimes in East Cambridgeshire, numbers decreased by 2% in 2023 compared to 2022, remaining 21% below the pre-pandemic year 2019. This contrasts with national figures for “all other theft” (in England and Wales) which saw an 11% increase between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE June), remaining only 1% below the pre-pandemic year 2019/20 (YE March) (ONS, 2023d, p. A4a).

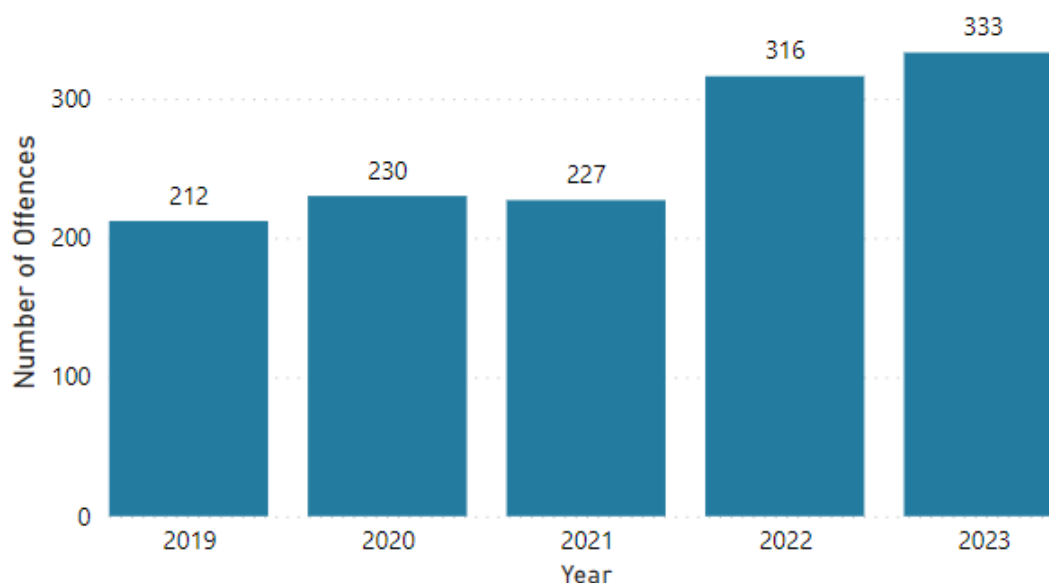
Figure 10: Annual trend in “Other Theft” offences in East Cambridgeshire, from 2019 to 2023



3.7. Shoplifting

Shoplifting offences also accounted for 25% of acquisitive offences in East Cambridgeshire in 2023. A 5% increase in shoplifting offences was seen in 2023 compared to the previous year, up 57% since the pre-pandemic year 2019.

Whilst East Cambridgeshire may have seen larger increases since 2019 than the county average of 38%, the increase in the last year is notably lower than seen in other county districts, with an increase of 51% across Cambridgeshire as a whole. It is also lower than the national increase of 25% between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE June) (ONS, 2023d).

Figure 11: Annual trend in shoplifting offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 to 2023

Whilst East Cambridgeshire has not seen as high an increase in the latest year as surrounding areas, levels are still markedly up on those typically seen in the district since 2018, and as such the CSP should monitor offence levels in the upcoming year. Furthermore, the CSP should be mindful of national reports relating to an increase in aggressive shoplifting incidents which may be having an impact on levels of higher harm shoplifting seen locally.

4. Scams, Fraud and Cyber Crime

4.1. Summary and Recommendations

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

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

4.2. National Context

The NCA national strategic assessment of serious and organised crime (2023) identifies cybercrime and fraud as key threats. In the year ending December 2022, 3.7 million individuals experienced fraud in England and Wales while 40 million individuals were targeted. The NCA suggest the cost-of-living crisis has increased the vulnerability of potential victims which is evident in the use of cost-of-living issues in phishing campaigns. Furthermore, significant underreporting means the true figure is likely to be higher with much fraud remaining undetected and hidden (NCA, 2023). The ever-changing landscape is likely to make fraud, scams, and cybercrime an emerging/growing threat. Factors to be considered include:

- Technological developments, including new potential means of offending and an increased availability of cybercrime-related tools.
- A growing marketplace for cybercrime tools and data.
- Increases in the extent to which people live their lives online and increased technological awareness in the general population.
- Exploiting current issues including the cost-of-living crisis.
- Potential constraints on offending opportunities for non-cyber related acquisitive crime following on from the pandemic.

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

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

4.3. Trend

The CSEW provides the best indicator of national fraud prevalence due to high levels of underreporting for this crime type. The latest CSEW estimated that fewer than one in seven victims reported to the police or action fraud. The latest CSEW estimates for the YE September 2023 showed 3.2 million fraud offences, a 13% decrease compared to the previous year (ONS, 2024a). Action fraud similarly recorded a reduction in the latest year (-4%), however, police recorded crime showed a 6% increase compared to the YE September 2022. This increase has primarily been attributed to a rise in reports to UK Finance which saw a 22%

increase, linked to improved reporting. An explanation of police recorded fraud offences is provided in Appendix A: Technical Notes.

Based on CSEW data showing 5.8% of respondents aged 16 and over reported being a victim of fraud in the YE September 2023 (ONS, 2024b, p. A3), this could mean an estimated 4,100 people in East Cambridgeshire were victims of fraud in the YE September 2023 (based on 2021 Census population figures).

Police recorded cybercrime offences in East Cambridgeshire are shown in the figure below. Offence levels have fluctuated month-by-month, but the monthly average in 2023 (12.9 offences) was consistent with the previous year 13.1 (offences). This is still notably higher than during the pandemic with a yearly average of 9 offences recorded in the year 2020.

Figure 12: Police recorded cybercrime offences in East Cambridgeshire, January 2020 – December 2023

Image redacted

Source: CADET

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

4.4. Action Fraud Data (Cambridgeshire)

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

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

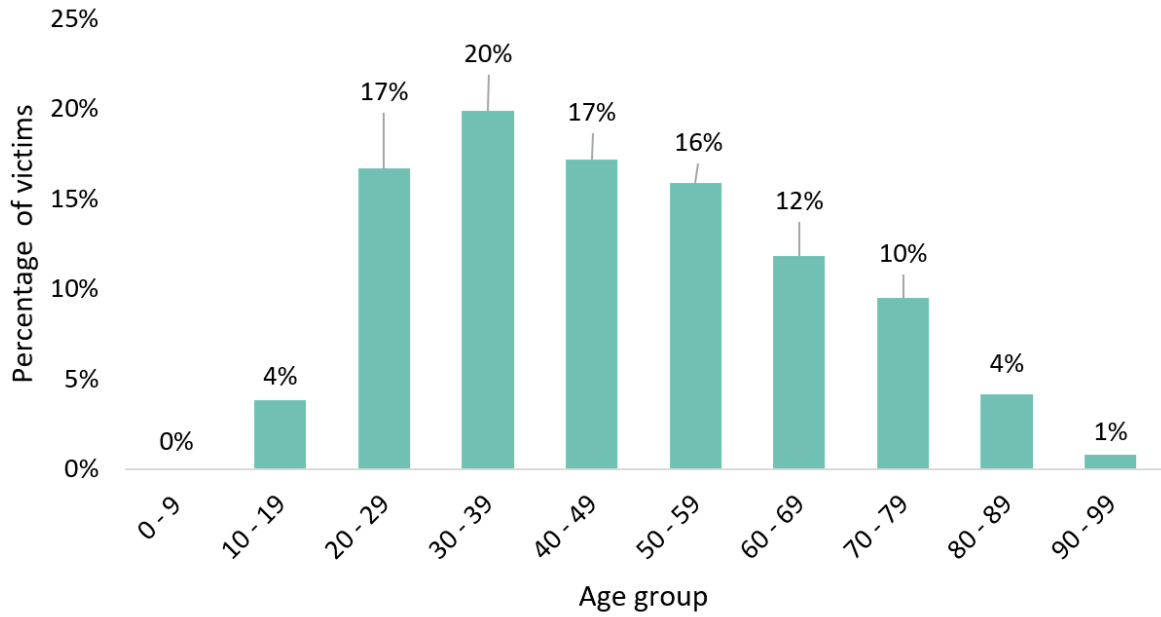
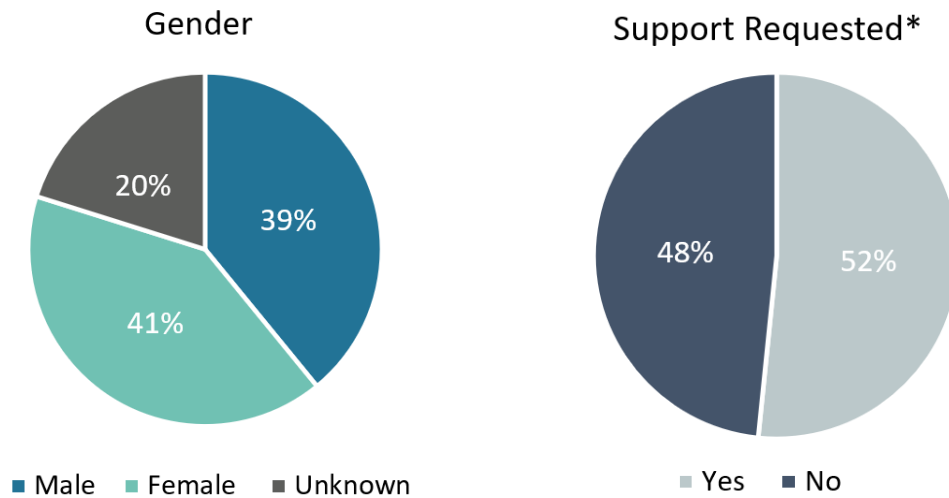


Figure 14: Action Fraud figures for individual victims of cybercrime and fraud by gender and support requested, Jan 2023 to Dec 2023 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough



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

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

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



5. Violence Against the Person

5.1. Summary and Recommendations

Overall, it is largely accepted that general levels of violence are decreased since the peak in the mid-90s. The more recent trends are more stable with a small decrease in police recorded violence offences seen in East Cambridgeshire, countywide and nationally in the latest year. Despite this decrease, violence against the person offences still accounted for 39% of all crime recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2023. As such, violence remains an issue of concern locally.

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

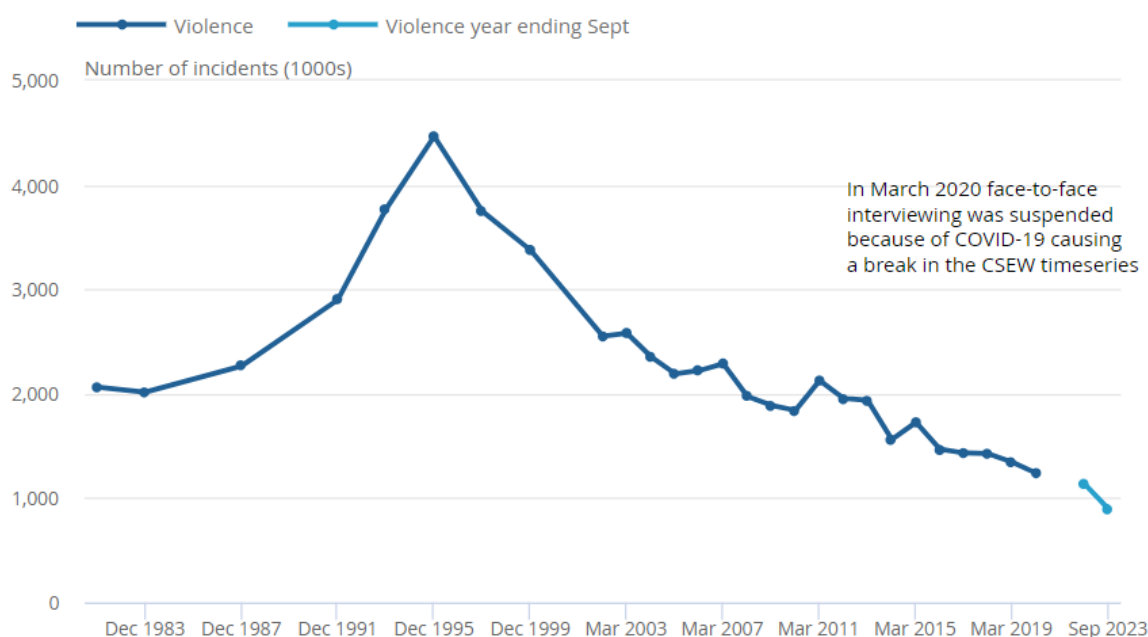
5.2. Trends Over Time

The CSEW estimates show a long-term downward trend in violent crime over the last two decades, as illustrated in the figure below. There were an estimated 0.9 million violence offences in England and Wales in the year ending September 2023. Whilst

down on the previous year, the change was not significant, however, levels were 23% below pre-pandemic levels (year ending March 2020) indicating a continuation of the long-term downward trend. This trend has been mostly driven by a reduction in violence with injury offences since the pre-pandemic period, this is typically the more high-harm violence sub-type (ONS, 2024a).

Figure 16: CSEW annual estimates of violence offences

England and Wales, annual estimates



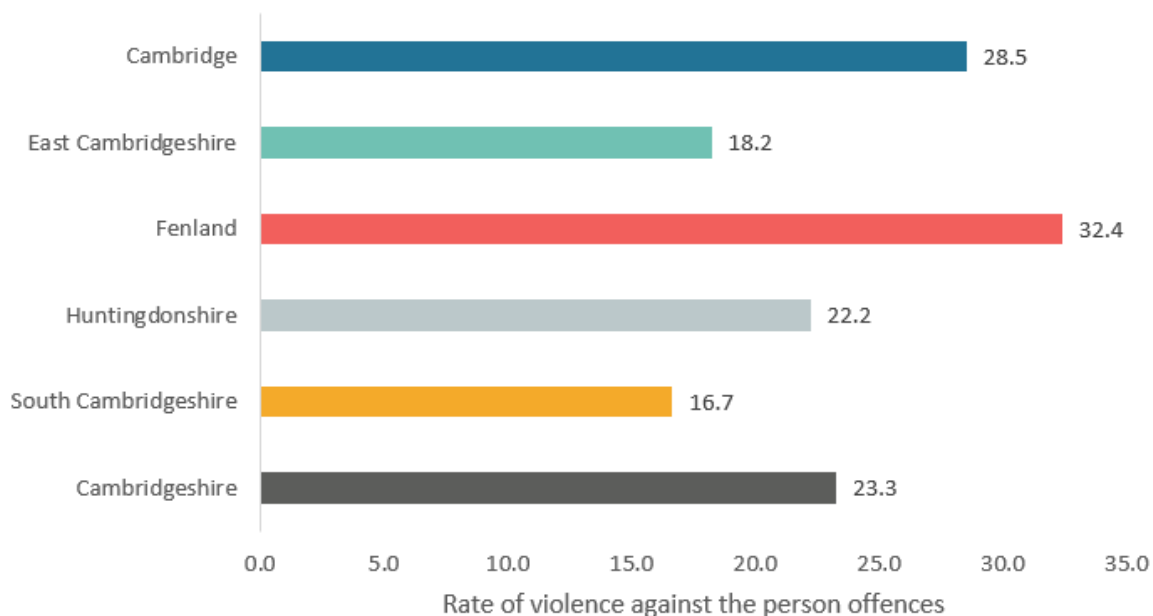
Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) from the ONS – Figure 6; “The number of incidents of violent crime continues to trend downwards”

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

Local data shows that levels of violence against the person offences have remained relatively stable in East Cambridgeshire in the past four years, following a notable increase between 2019-2020. There were 1,599 violent offences recorded in 2023, which marked a slight (3%) reduction on the previous year (reflecting national patterns), whilst remaining 30% higher than the pre-pandemic levels seen in 2019. Violence against the person offences accounted for 39% of all crime in East Cambridgeshire in 2023.

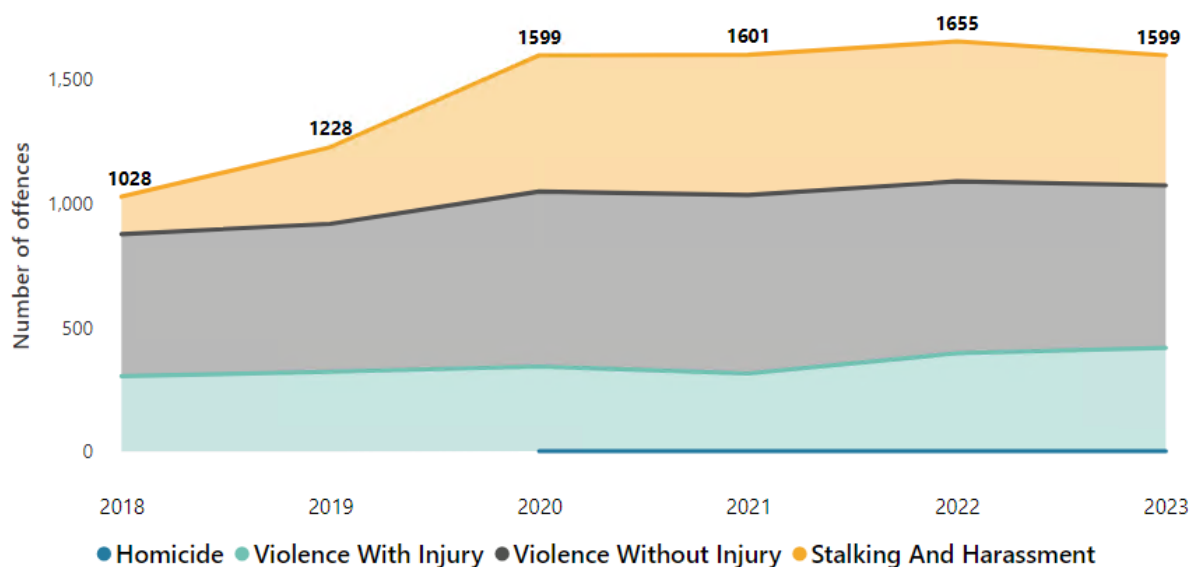
The rate of violence against the person offences in East Cambridgeshire in 2023 was 18.2 offences per 1,000 population. As illustrated in the figure below, this is below the countywide rate and is the second lowest district rate in Cambridgeshire after South Cambridgeshire. The East Cambridgeshire rate is also notably below the national rate of 34.7 violence against the person offences per 1,000 population for the year ending September 2023 (ONS, 2024b, p. A7).

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



The VAP crime group is broken down into 4 crime sub-types; homicide, violence with injury, violence without injury, and stalking and harassment. The breakdown in offence count by sub-type over time is displayed in the figure below. Stalking and harassment has accounted for the highest proportion of the increases seen since the pre-pandemic period, with the offence count increasing by 70% between 2019-2023.

Figure 18: Annual trend in VAP offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2018 to 2023



5.3. Violence With Injury

The sub-type of violence with injury typically contains the more high harm offences, and is most likely to include serious violence. There were 417 violence with injury offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2023, accounting for just over a quarter (26%) of all violence against the person offences. This was an increase of 5%, from 397 offences in 2022. The majority of violence with injury offences were ABH (66%). Offences involving allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control constituted the next highest category at 7% (30 offences).

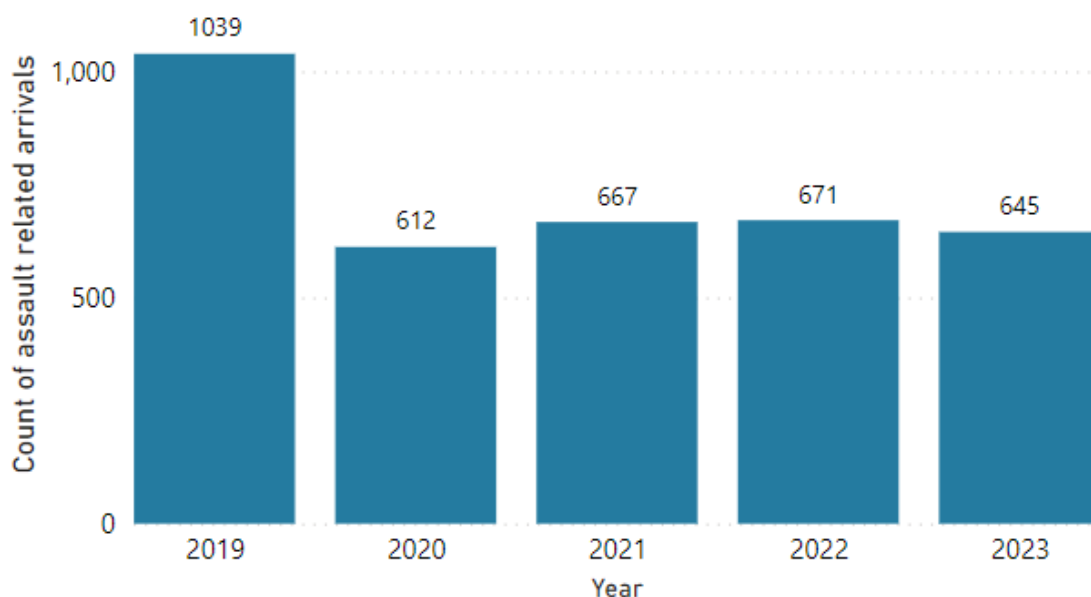
5.3.1. Health data

While police data captures some violent crime it is understood that alternative data sources from the health sector are also needed to build a more complete picture of violence with injury locally. Data on arrivals at Addenbrooke’s Emergency Department gives insight into the nature of some of the assaults occurring in Cambridgeshire. Addenbrooke’s is based in Cambridge City, but patients could come from anywhere in the surrounding area. It is also a Major Trauma Centre serving patients from across the Eastern Region (East of England Trauma Network, n.d.). As such the data for assault related arrivals at Addenbrookes Emergency Department will not exclusively reflect assaults occurring within East Cambridgeshire. This data set does include a free-text field to record where the assault incident occurred. However due to gaps in more recent recording (41% of records missing this location information in YE September 2023) it is not possible to assess the trend relating to East Cambridgeshire specifically.

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

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

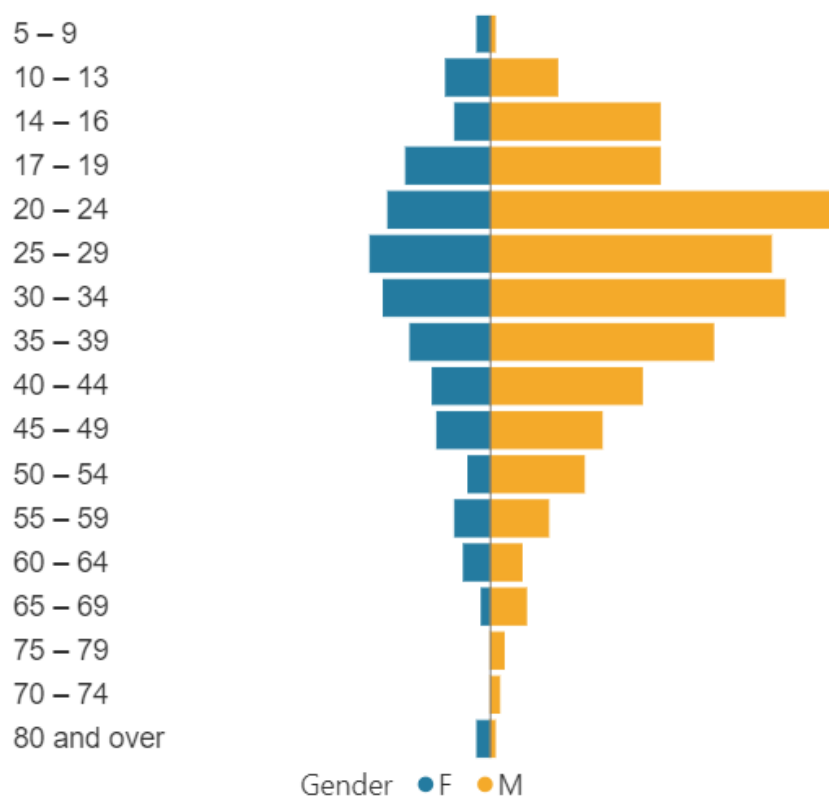
Figure 19: Annual trend in all assault related arrivals at Addenbrooke's Emergency Department from 2019 to 2023



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

Similar to previous years, males accounted for the majority of assault related arrivals at Addenbrooke's in 2023 at 72% (of all assault related arrivals, including those with unknown age and gender). The most common age group was those aged 20 to 24, accounting for 16%, followed by age groups 25 to 29, and 30 to 34, accounting for 14% each. The age and gender distribution for all those with known age and gender is shown in Figure 20.

Figure 20: Number of assault related arrivals at Addenbrooke's Emergency Department in 2023, by age and gender (for those with known age and gender)



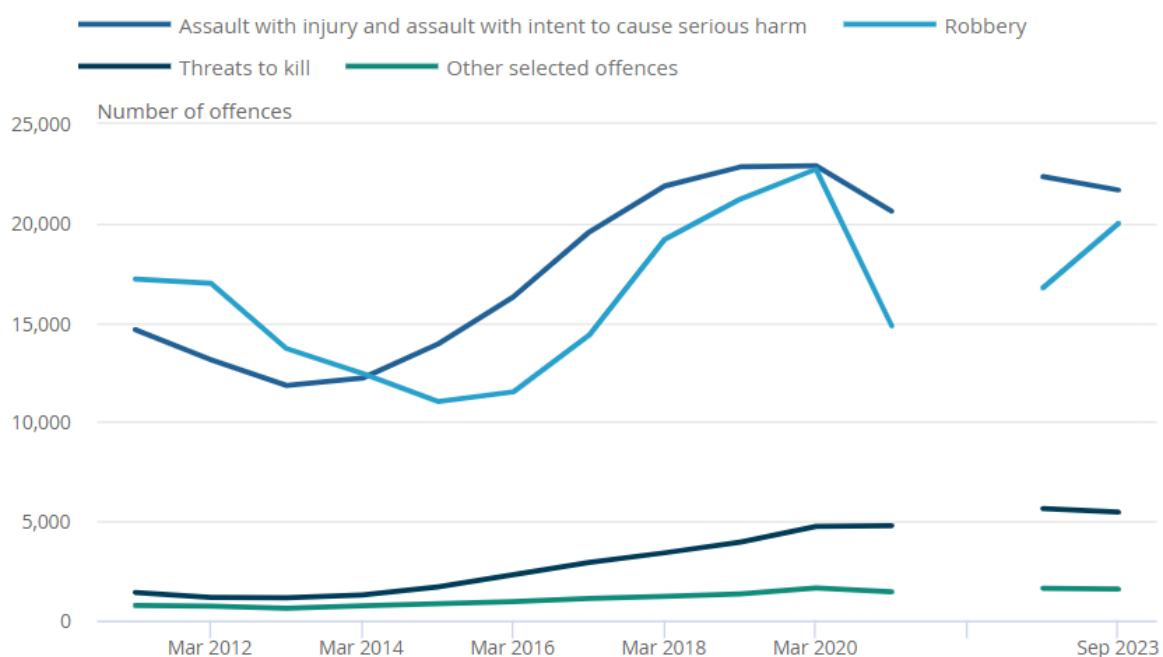
The most recent estimates by the National Violence Surveillance Network (NVSN) on serious violence in England and Wales are available for calendar year 2022, based on violence related attendances at a sample of 88 Emergency Department (ED), MIUs (Minor Injuries Units), and Walk-in Centres (Sivarajasingam,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

6. Knife Crime

Nationally police recorded knife-enabled crime remains 5% below pre-pandemic levels, however, there has been an increase of 5% from the year ending September 2022 to the year ending September 2023. Within this increase the ONS note an increase in robberies involving a knife or sharp instrument (ONS, 2024a).

Figure 21: Police recorded knife enabled crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2011 to year ending September 2023

England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police), year ending March 2011 to year ending September 2023



Source: Home Office – Police recorded crime. Figure 4; “Knife enabled crime recorded by the police increased in the last year. England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police), year ending March 2011 to year ending September 2023 (ONS, 2024a).

In East Cambridgeshire, the volume of police recorded crime that involves knives is very low. And it should be noted that police activity can influence knife crime figures, for example recording of possession offences resulting from police activity to tackle knife crime. As the figures are very low, they have been displayed as annual counts and the percentage of the total crime count for the district. Knife crime accounted for 1.1% of total crime in East Cambridgeshire in 2023, slightly down on recent years and the pre-pandemic year of 2019. The 32% reduction in police recorded knife crime in East Cambridgeshire in 2023 is in line with countywide picture where the number of knife crimes decreased by 30%, in contrast to the rise seen at a national level.

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



Source: CADET

7. Sexual Offences

7.1. Summary and Recommendations

The volume of police recorded sexual offences has increased over recent years, both nationally and locally, with a potential link to increases in reporting and police improvements in recording. Despite this, underreporting remains and as such the true scale of sexual offences are likely to be much higher than indicated in police recorded crime figures.

The count of sexual offences in East Cambridgeshire increased by 18% between 2021 and 2022, with offence levels then remaining stable in the latest year. A third of offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2023 were non-recent, meaning they had an offence start date at least 12 months prior to the crime being recorded. Victim data analysis showed that victims were predominantly younger females, with those aged under 18 accounting for just under half of all victims.

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

7.2. National Trend

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

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

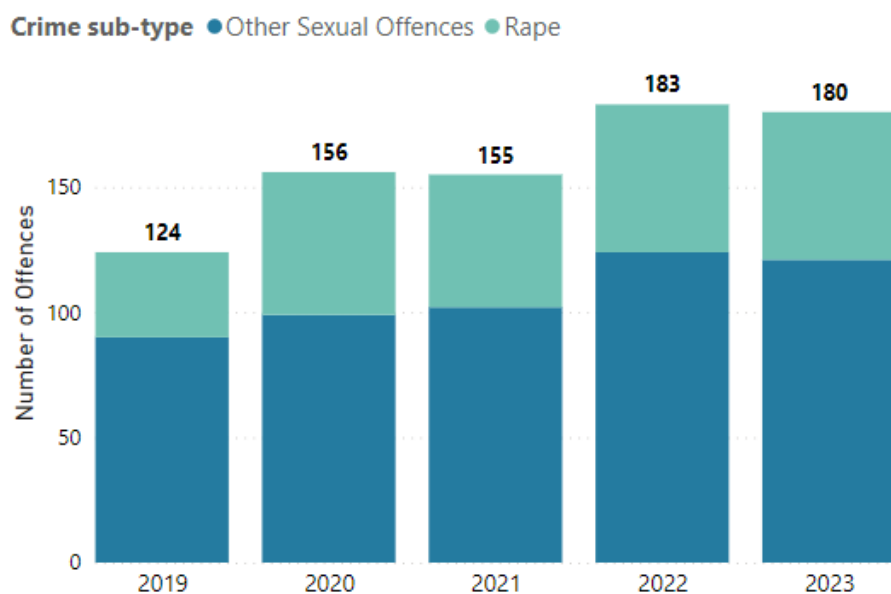
The fact that CSEW prevalence estimates have remained relatively stable since the pre-pandemic period whilst police recorded offences have increased notably suggests that increases in the reporting and recording of sexual offences is likely to have played a role in the increases observed, however, it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

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

7.3. Local Trend

The most recent local police recorded crime data showed that 180 sexual offences were recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2023, in line with levels seen in the previous year. This follows notable increases seen between 2019 – 2022, and as such the number of offences recorded in 2023 is still 45% higher than the pre-pandemic year of 2019. Rape accounted for a third (33%) of sexual offences in 2023 (59 offences), this proportion has remained stable over the past three years, having increased from 27% in 2019. The breakdown is in line with that seen in Cambridgeshire County as a whole (33%), and nationally (36% in the year ending September 2023).

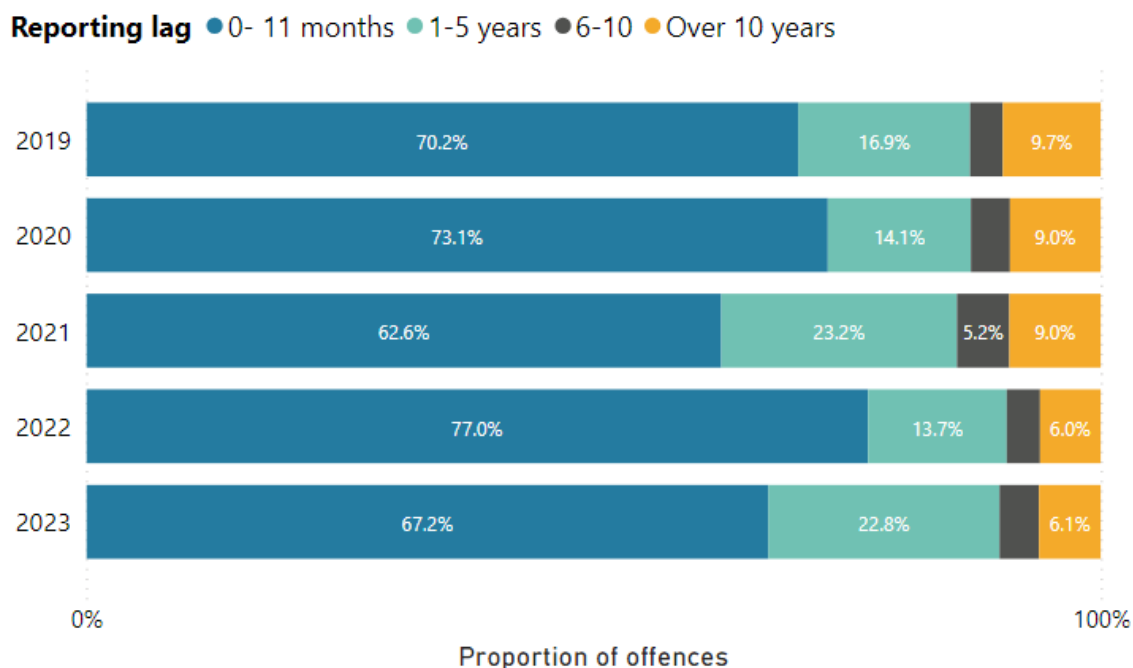
Figure 23: Number of police recorded sexual offences in East Cambridgeshire, by sub-type, 2019-2023



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

A third of offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire in 2023 had an offence start date that was at least 12 months prior to the crime recorded date, a slightly higher proportion than seen for Cambridgeshire as a whole (29%). This also marks an increase in the proportion of non-recent offences compared to the previous year (22%), although the proportion in 2021 was higher still at 37%. As displayed in the figure below, 6% of sexual offences reported in East Cambridgeshire in 2023 had an offence start date that was over 10 years earlier than the offence recorded date.

Figure 24: Number of years between offence start date and offence recorded date for all police recorded sexual offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 - 2023

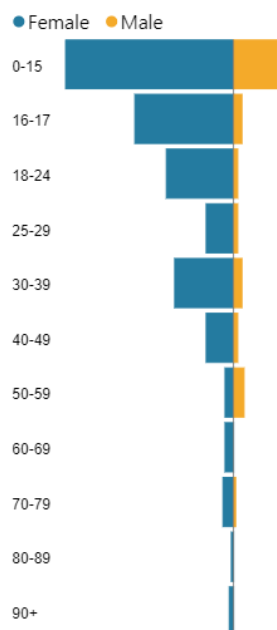


7.4. Victim Profile

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

As it is possible for victims to experience more than one offence in any given time frame unique victims of a sexual offence in East Cambridgeshire have been identified to ensure that repeat victims do not impact on the demographic profile presented. There were 278 unique victims who reported a sexual offence in East Cambridgeshire between April 2021 – March 2023, 82% were female, 15% were male and 3% had an unknown or unspecified gender. The count of victims by age and gender (where both was recorded) is presented in the figure below. Victims were predominantly younger females, with those aged under 18 accounting for 47% of all victims.

Figure 25: Age (at the time of offence) and gender breakdown, where known, for unique victims who reported at least one police recorded sexual offence in East Cambridgeshire between April 2021 - March 2023



Self-defined ethnicity was unknown for 42% of unique victims. With such a high level of missing data it is challenging to draw accurate conclusions about this victim cohort. Of the 161 victims where self-defined ethnicity was recorded, the majority (94%) were white, in line with the local population breakdown (based on Census 2021 figures).

8. Domestic Abuse

8.1. Summary and Recommendations

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

As seen in previous years, DA offences were predominantly VAP offences. The majority of DA victims in East Cambridgeshire were females aged between 30-49, with those aged 30-39 accounting for 20% of all victims.

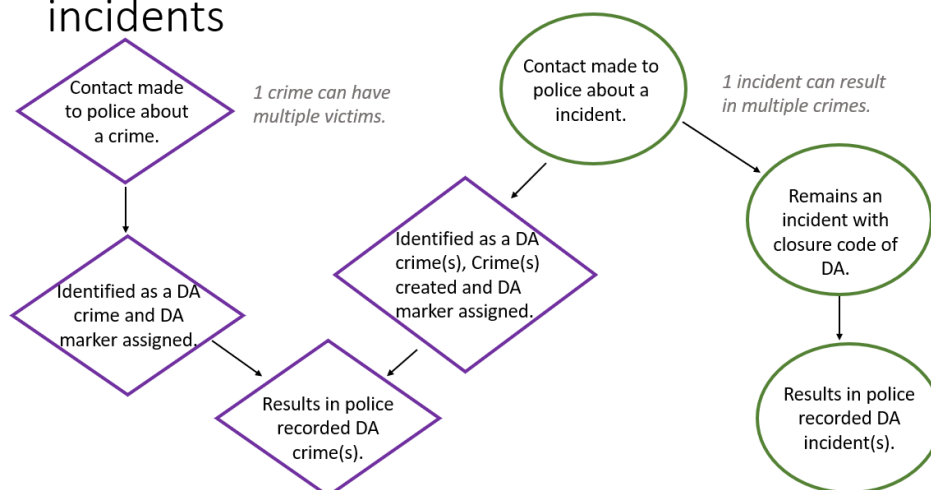
It is recommended that the CSP utilise the findings of the Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment, alongside the analysis presented in this assessment, to work with the County Partnership to develop appropriate actions for East Cambridgeshire.

8.2. DA Data Note

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

Figure 26: Flow of police recording – DA crimes and DA incidents

Domestic abuse police recorded crimes and incidents

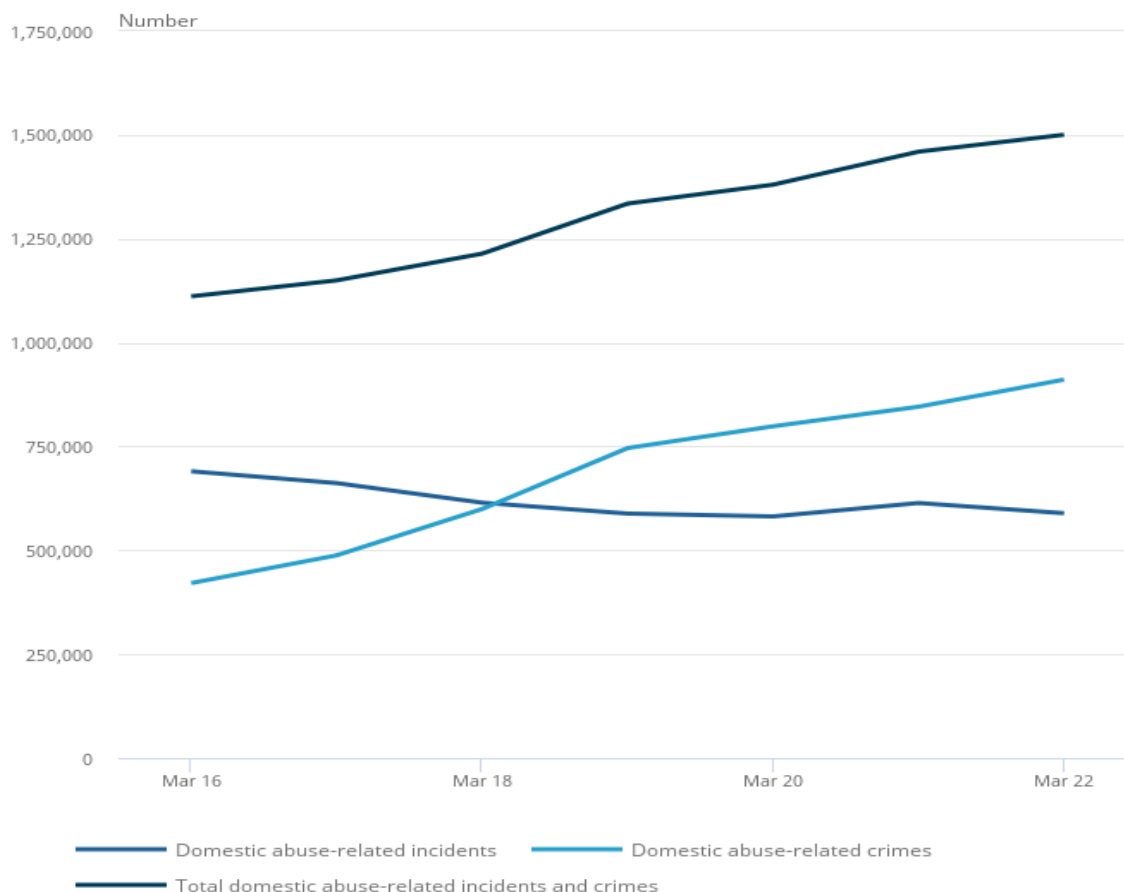


8.3. Domestic Abuse Trends

Nationally DA incidents have been decreasing in recent years, with a contrasting increase seen in the number of DA crimes recorded as illustrated in the figure below. The latest available police recorded crime data released by the ONS showed a small decrease number of crimes recorded in the YE September 2023 (-4%) compared to the previous year (ONS, 2024a). Increased willingness of victims to report and improved recording by the police have both been cited as factors which may have

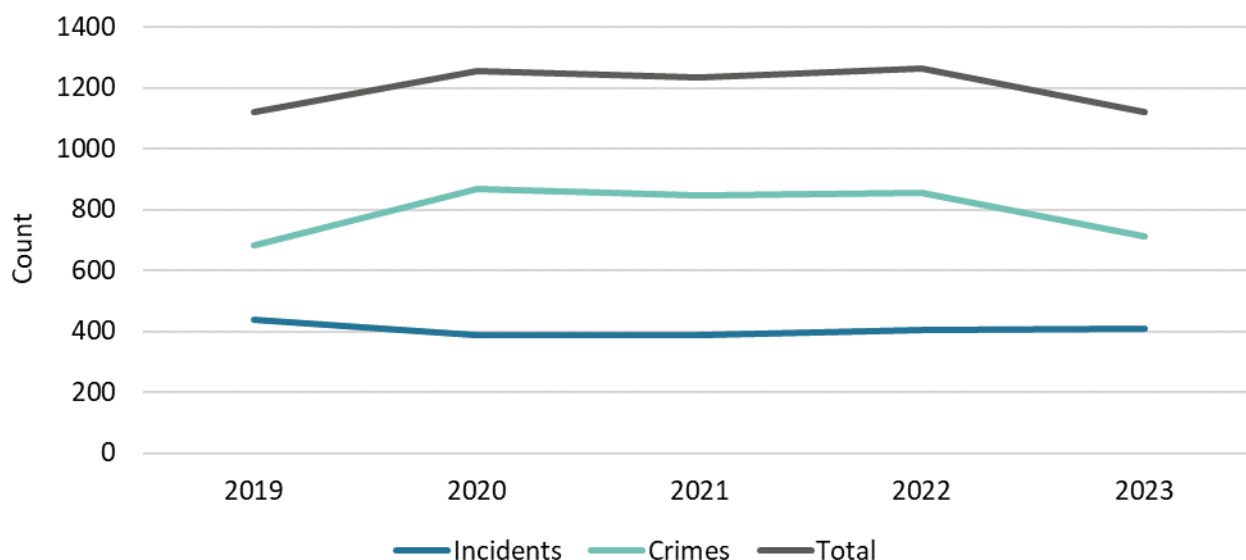
influenced the recent increases in previous years (ONS, 2023a). Figures will need to be monitored over the long term to determine whether this reflects variation within stabilised figures (i.e. a plateauing in the impact of these factors), or whether this is the beginning of a downward trend.

Figure 27: National police recorded domestic abuse incidents and crimes, March 2016 to March 2022



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

Local police recorded crime data following the same methodology as the ONS (only counting DA incidents which did not go on to be recorded as a crime) is presented in Figure 28 below. Whilst national data showed a small decrease in DA related offences in the most recent year (-4%), in East Cambridgeshire the count of offences tagged as DA related has decreased by 17% in the last year, down to 713 (from 857 in 2022). This remains slightly higher (up 5%) compared to the number of DA related crimes seen in 2019 (+31 offences). The number of incidents has seen little change (a 1% increase in the last year). This means that total level of police recorded DA has reduced by 11% (matching 2019 levels). A similar pattern was seen for Cambridgeshire, which decreased by 13% in the last year (-972 offences), matching levels seen in 2019 (-4 offences).

Figure 28: Police recorded Domestic Abuse (DA) crimes and incidents (non-crimes only) in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 to 2023

As displayed in the table below, the proportion of DA incidents which resulted in a DA related crime being recorded reduced in the last three years, down to 54% in 2023 from 60% in 2020. Whilst this may reflect a higher volume of incidents that do not meet the threshold for recording a crime, it is also possible that this reflects lower levels of police recording. Improved police recording has been cited nationally as potential explanation for increases seen in DA crimes whilst incidents either reduced or plateaued. Further data work with the police to explore any changes in data recording in the latest year would help to better understand the reduction in offences seen.

Table 6: DA incidents and crimes recorded in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 to 2023

Incident category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total police recorded DA (incidents & crimes)	1122	1255	1234	1262	1122
Total incidents	950	984	946	958	896
Incidents that result in a crime being recorded	510	595	558	553	487
Incidents that remain as incident only	440	389	388	405	409
Proportion of incidents that were 'crimed'	54%	60%	59%	58%	54%

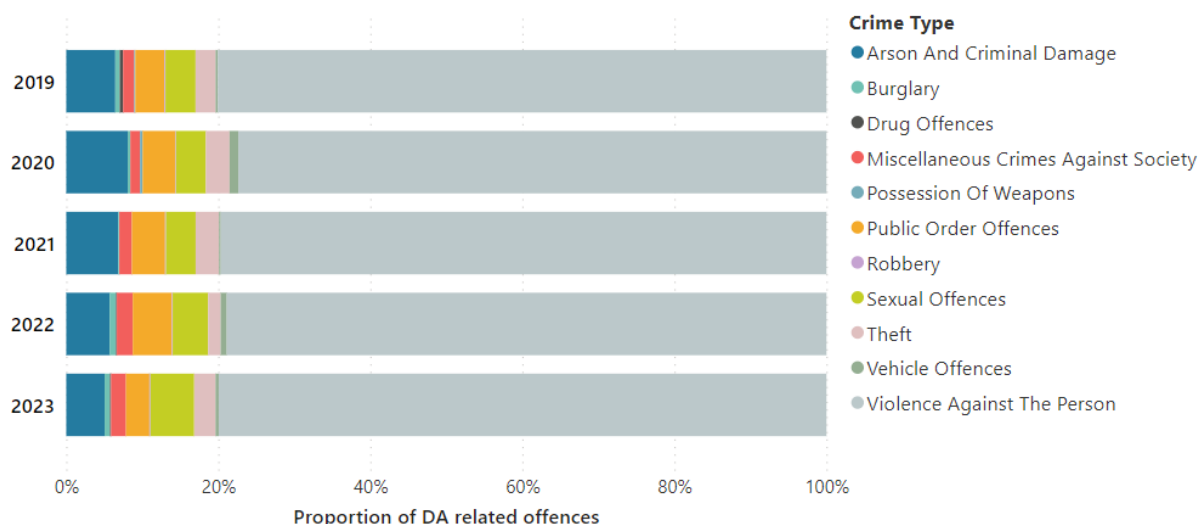
8.4. DA Crime Types

In 2023, 17% of offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire were marked as DA related, down from 20% in the previous year.

Violence against the person (VAP) continues to be the primary offence type, accounting for more than three quarters of DA offences (80%) in East Cambridgeshire in 2023. The breakdown for the past 5 years (see

Figure 29 below) shows a fairly consistent pattern, with only minor changes (no more than 2 percentage points difference) in the distribution of offences between 2022 and 2023.

Figure 29: Crime type breakdown for Domestic Abuse (DA) related offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 to 2023

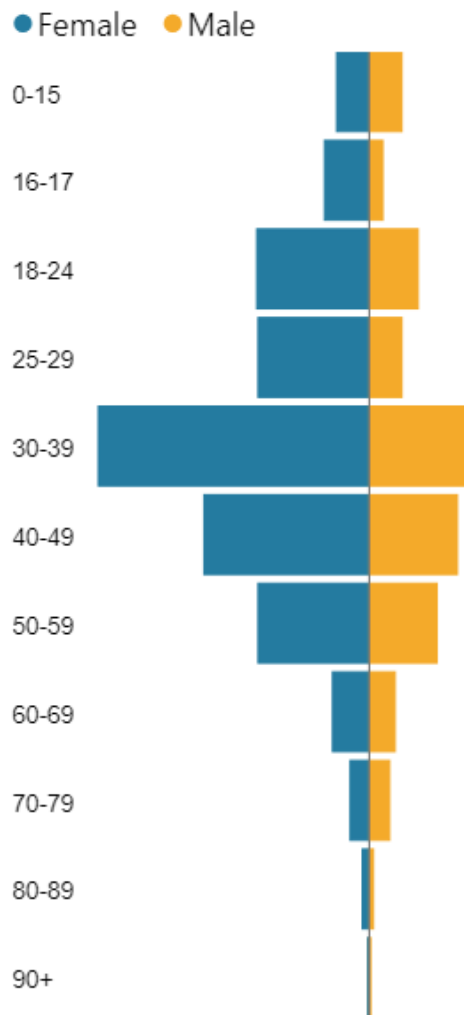


8.5. Victim Profile

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

As it is possible for victims to experience more than one offence in any given time frame, unique victims of a DA offence in East Cambridgeshire have been identified to ensure that repeat victims do not impact on the demographic profile presented. There were 1006 unique victims who reported a DA offence in East Cambridgeshire between April 2021 – March 2023, 67% were female, 32% were male and 1% had an unknown or unspecified gender. The count of victims by age and gender (where both was recorded) is presented in the figure below. Victims were predominantly females aged between 30-49. Females aged 30-39 accounted for a fifth (20%) of all victims (where age and gender were known). Looking specially at male victims, the highest proportion were also aged 30 to 39 (7% of all victims).

Figure 30: Victim age and gender breakdown for DA offences in East Cambridgeshire between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE March)



Self-defined ethnicity was unknown (either not stated or not recorded) for a third (34%) of unique victims who reported a DA related offence in East Cambridgeshire between April 2021 – March 2023. The breakdown of self-defined ethnicity for the 668 victims where data was available showed that 96% of the population identified as White. This is similar to the Census 2021 population for East Cambridgeshire, where 94% of the population identified as white (see Table 7). Caution must be used when drawing conclusions due to the levels of missing data.

Table 7: Breakdown in ethnic group for unique victims of DA offences in East Cambridgeshire from April 2021 to March 2023, and East Cambridgeshire Census 2021 population count

Ethnicity category	% DA victims	% Census population
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	1%	2%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	1%	1%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	1%	2%
Other ethnic group	0%	1%
White	96%	94%

9. Exploitation and Vulnerability

9.1. Summary and Recommendations

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

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

9.2. Modern Slavery

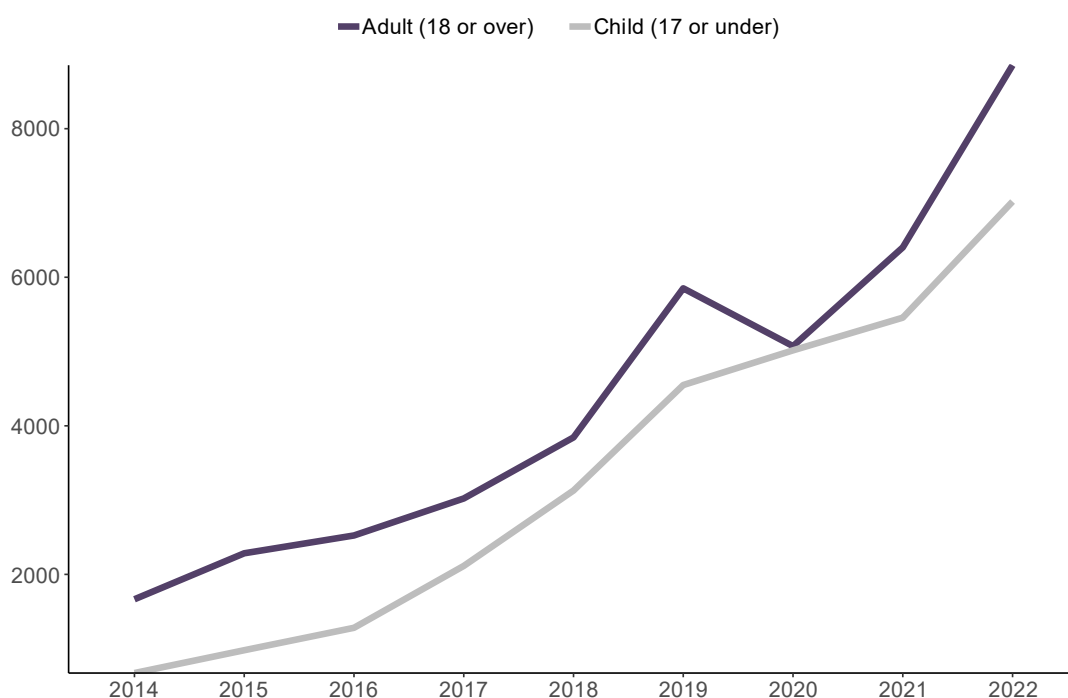
The ONS provides a comprehensive definition of Modern Slavery and how it relates to various offences and harms:

“Modern slavery is a complex crime that covers all forms of slavery, trafficking and exploitation. Trafficking includes transporting, recruiting or harbouring an individual with a view to them being exploited. Modern slavery crimes may involve, or take place alongside, a wide range of abuses and other criminal offences such as grievous bodily harm, assault, rape or child sexual abuse. Victims of modern slavery

can be men, women and children of any age across the world. There is an assumption that victims of modern slavery are often trafficked to the UK from other countries, but residents of the UK are also among the victims that are exploited in the UK and other countries.” (ONS, 2020)

Due to the hidden nature of Modern Slavery, it is difficult to assess the prevalence of Modern Slavery in the UK. A key measure of Modern Slavery comes from the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). First responder organisations can refer potential victims of Modern Slavery that they encounter in order to seek support. This includes local authorities, specified non-governmental organisations (NGOs), police forces and some government agencies. While local level statistics for this are not currently available, we can be informed by key demographics shown by analysis of NRM referrals. Overall NRM referrals continue a long-term trend of increase in volume. The latest available NRM referral statistics shows that a majority (78%) of potential victims in 2022 were male and 52% of all potential victims referred were over 18 years old. For the first time since 2016 the most common nationality referred was not UK; instead, Albanian nationals formed 27% of potential victims in 2022 (UK nationals 25%).

Figure 31: NRM referrals nationally by age group of exploitation: (count of potential victims referred nationally)

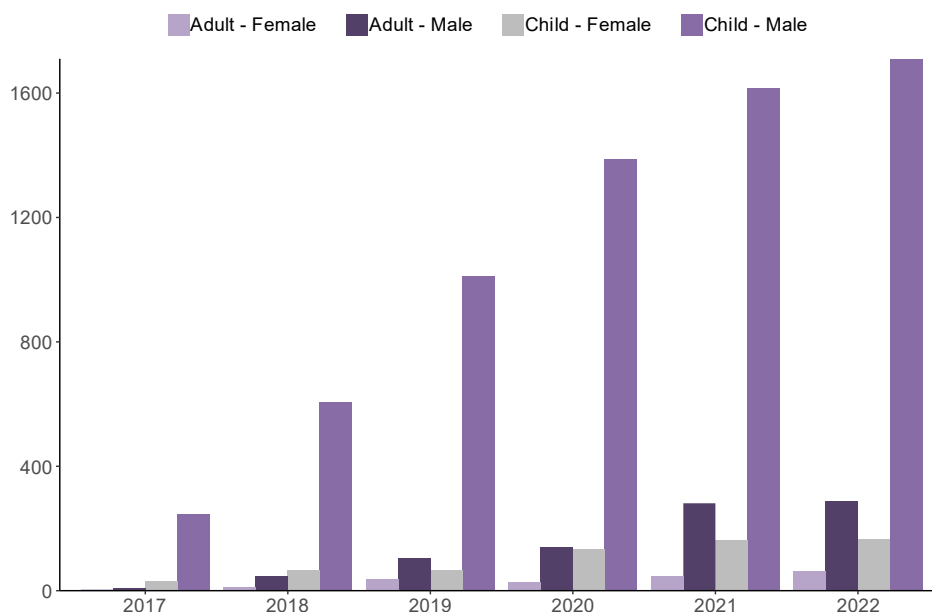


Source: Home Office

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

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

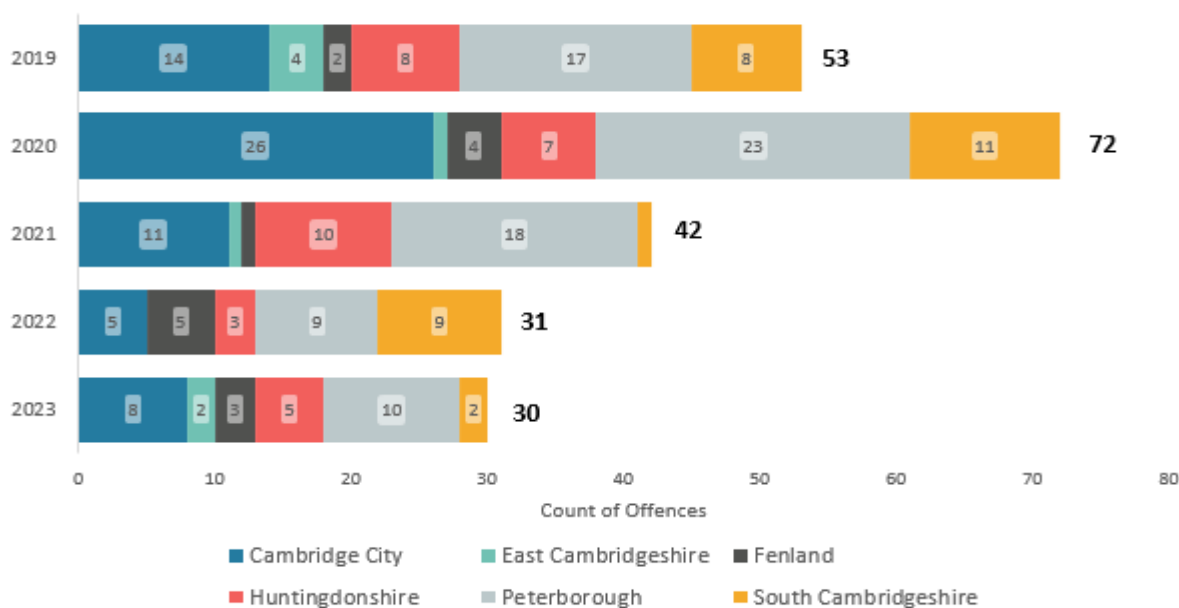
Figure 32: National Number of NRM referrals flagged as county lines, by age group at exploitation and gender



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

NRM figures are not available at local geography level, however, we are able to consider police recorded modern slavery offences. The chart below displays the total count of modern slavery offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for the past 5 years, broken down by district. This shows that there were 30 offences recorded in 2023, down from the peak of 72 recorded in 2020. East Cambridgeshire saw just two offences in 2023 and no offences were recorded in 2022. These numbers should not be taken as a true representation of the levels of modern slavery offending in East Cambridgeshire, or countywide, due to high levels of underreporting for this crime type.

Figure 33: Police recorded Modern Slavery Offences by district 2019-2023



Source: CADET

9.3. County Lines

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

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

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

“Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial

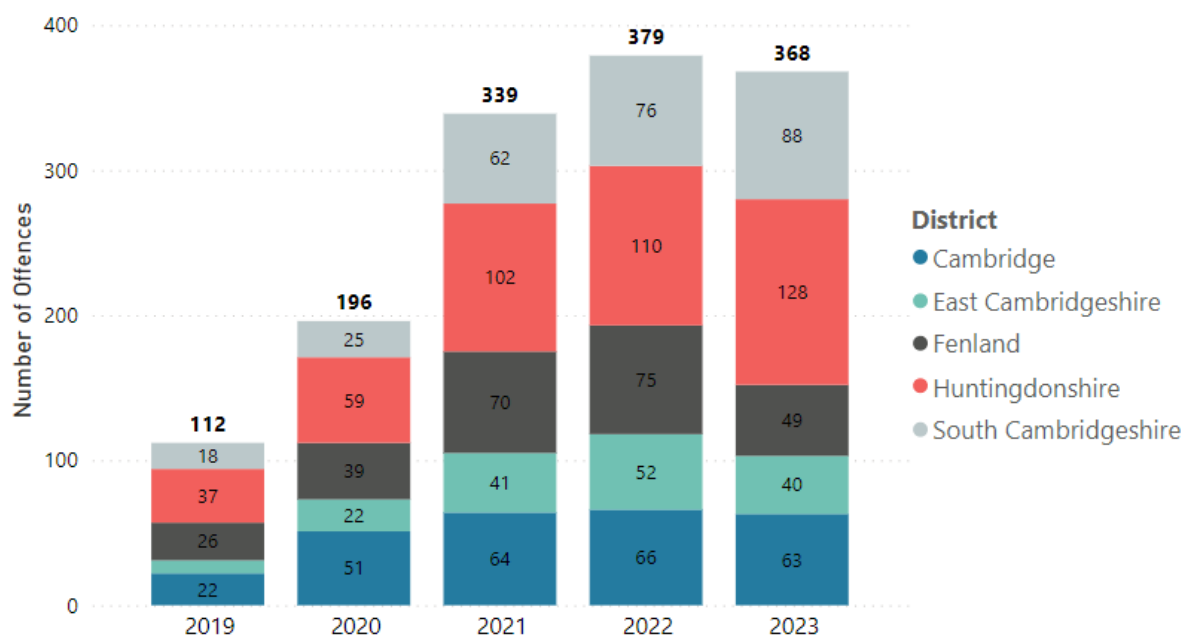
advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology." (HM Government, 2016)

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

- Offences in 2022 were up 7.6% on the previous year
- Many offences remain unreported
- Around three quarters of offences were committed against children whilst a quarter related to indecent images of children
- Child-on-child offences account for an increasing high proportion of offences (just over half in 2022)
- Males account for 82% of perpetrators with females accounting for 79% of victims
- It is estimated that a third of CSAE offences occur within the family environment
- Group-based child exploitation accounted for 5% of CSAE
- The volume of online CSAE continues to grow, accounting for a third of CSAE (The Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme, 2024).

Any police recorded offence can be marked as CSE related. Police recorded CSE crimes were on an upward trajectory in East Cambridgeshire between 2019 – 2022, but have fallen slightly in the latest year to 40 offences, down from 52 offences in 2022. This reflects the pattern seen countywide.

Figure 34: Police recorded CSE offences in Cambridgeshire by district 2019 - 2023



In order to better understand the types of offences being recorded locally, analysis has been completed on the offence sub-type and short title fields for the 164 offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire between 2019 – 2023. As displayed in the table below, the most common offence type was ‘other sexual offences’ accounting for 49%, followed by Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society which accounted for 36%. Examination of the short title field showed that all Miscellaneous crimes against society offences involved the possession, creation, or distribution of indecent photographs of children. This percentage is slightly higher than seen the latest release of national data which showed a quarter of offences related to indecent images of children in 2022 (albeit the time periods are not directly comparable).

Table 8: CSE offences in East Cambridgeshire by short title, 2019 to 2023

Offence Sub-Type	Count of offences January 2019 – December 2023	Percentage of offences
Other Sexual Offences	80	48.8%
Misc Crimes Against Society	59	36.0%
Rape	11	6.7%
Other Theft	6	3.7%
Stalking & Harassment	5	3.0%
Other offences	<5	1.8%
Total	164	100%

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It should be noted that CSE has been linked to county lines activity and as such needs to be seen in the broader picture of exploitation and harm potentially occurring locally. There is currently no marker for CCE related offences, so this remains a data gap.

The Childrens Social Care assessment process, which takes place after a referral has been received, records where CSE or CCE was identified. In Cambridgeshire 4.3% of assessments completed in 2022/23 (financial year ending March) identified CSE as a factor for the child being assessed (a total of 155 assessments) and 4.6% of assessments identified CCE as a factor (a total of 168 assessments). To be clear, these figures relate to the proportion of assessments rather than numbers of individual children as a single child could potentially be assessed more than once within the year (DFE, 2023). Unfortunately, these figures are not available at district level, but do indicate a relatively small proportion of assessments identifying this issue locally.

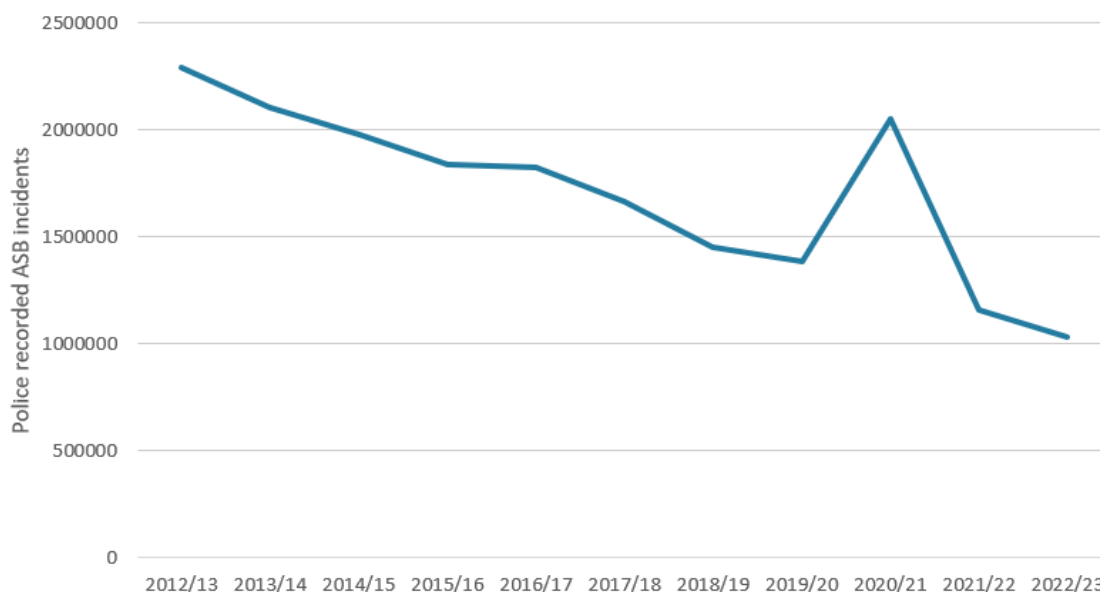
There is a need for greater understanding of both CSE and CCE occurring locally in order to better inform the work of the CSP around these issues.

10. ASB

10.1. National Trend

The most recent Office for National Statistics (ONS) report states there were 1 million police recorded ASB incidents in England and Wales in the year ending June 2023; down from 1.2 million incidents the year before; a 11% decrease (ONS, 2023a).

Figure 35: Police recorded ASB incidents in England and Wales, 2012/13 – 2022/23, financial year (year ending March)

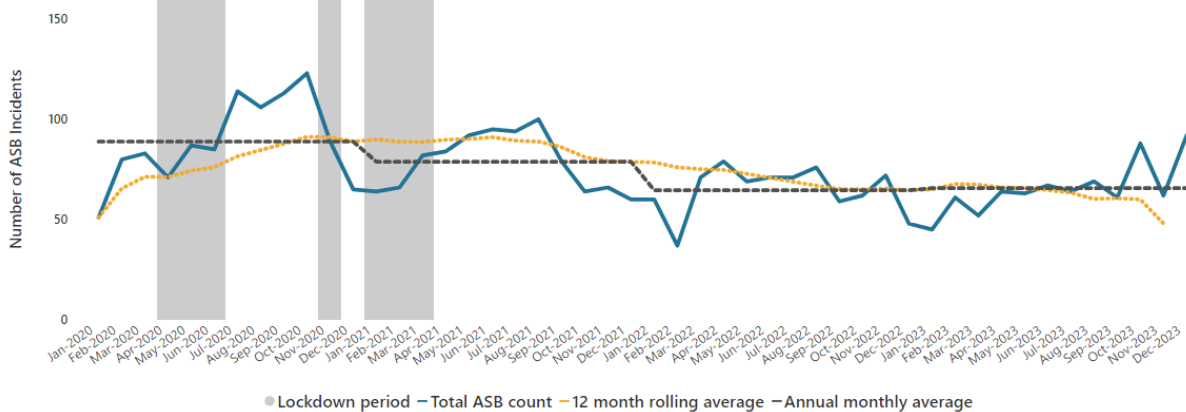


Source: (ONS, 2023d)

10.2. Local Trend

Since fluctuations linked to the Covid-19 pandemic seen in 2019/20, ASB has been on a downward trajectory in East Cambridgeshire until a spike in cases during October and December 2023. The average number of monthly ASB incidents for East Cambridgeshire in 2023 was 65.6, just slightly higher (up 1.7%) compared to 2022 (64.6 incidents per month). The rate of ASB incidents per 1,000 population in East Cambridgeshire district was 9.0 in the year ending December 2023. This is lower than Cambridgeshire which had 10.8.

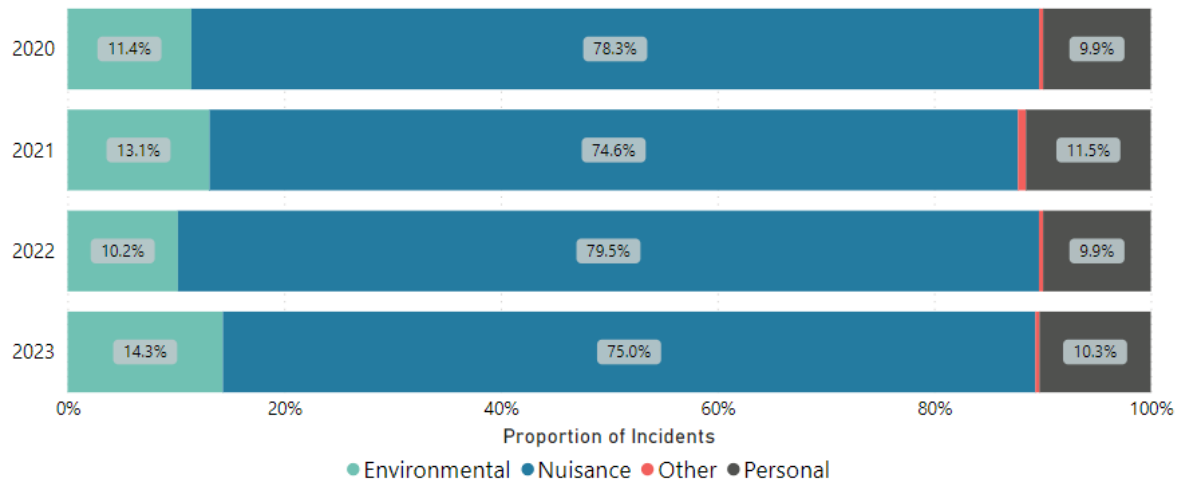
Figure 36: Police recorded ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire, January 2020 to December 2023



10.3. ASB Type

Nuisance, which refers to incidents which impact on the local community in general, account for the majority of ASB recorded in East Cambridgeshire. There has been a notable increase in the proportion of environmental incidents between 2022 and 2023 (see figure below), along with a small increase in the proportion of personal ASB.

Figure 37: Police recorded ASB by incident type, East Cambridgeshire, 2020 – 2023



The majority of personal ASB incidents in the year ending December 2023 were categorised as either ‘no risk’ or ‘standard risk’ (93%). 7% of incidents were classified as ‘medium risk’.

10.4. Geographical Analysis

Ward level analysis shows that Ely West ward had the highest proportion of ASB incidents at 13.8% in the year ending December 2023, down from 15.5% in 2022.

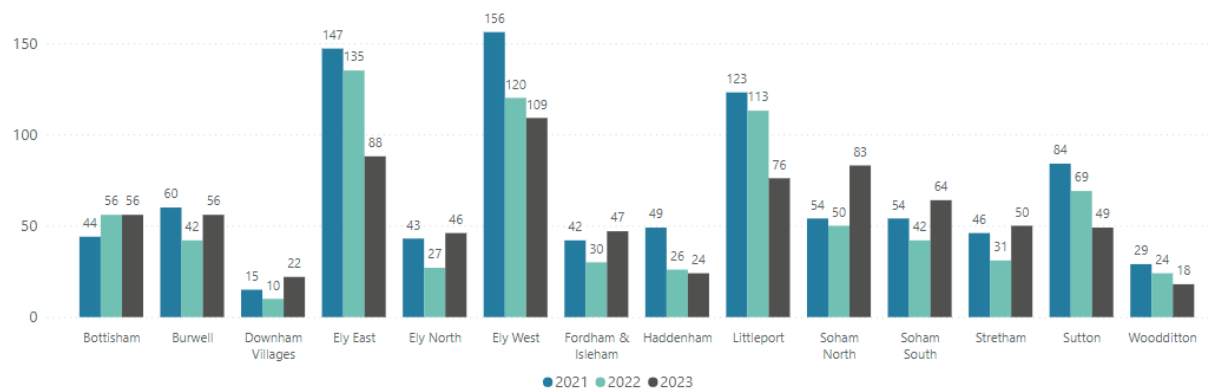
There have been some notable changes in the proportion of ASB accounted for by any individual ward compared to the previous year. Soham North ward saw the largest proportion increase of 4.1% while Ely East had the largest decrease with 6.3%.

Table 9: ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire wards in 2022 and 2023

Ward	2022 Count	2022 Percentage	2023 Count	2023 Percentage	Percentage point change between 2022 and 2023
Bottisham	56	7.2%	56	7.1%	-0.1%
Burwell	42	5.4%	56	7.1%	+1.7%
Downham Villages	10	1.3%	22	2.8%	-1.5%
Ely East	135	17.4%	88	11.2%	-6.3%
Ely North	27	3.5%	46	5.8%	+2.4%
Ely West	120	15.5%	109	13.8%	-1.7%
Fordham & Isleham	30	3.9%	47	6.0%	+2.1%
Haddenham	26	3.4%	24	3.0%	-0.3%
Littleport	113	14.6%	76	9.6%	-4.9%
Soham North	50	6.5%	83	10.5%	+4.1%
Soham South	42	5.4%	64	8.1%	+2.7%
Stretham	31	4.0%	50	6.3%	+2.3%
Sutton	69	8.9%	49	6.2%	-2.7%
Woodditton	24	3.1%	18	2.3%	-0.8%
Total	775	100.0%	788	100.0%	-

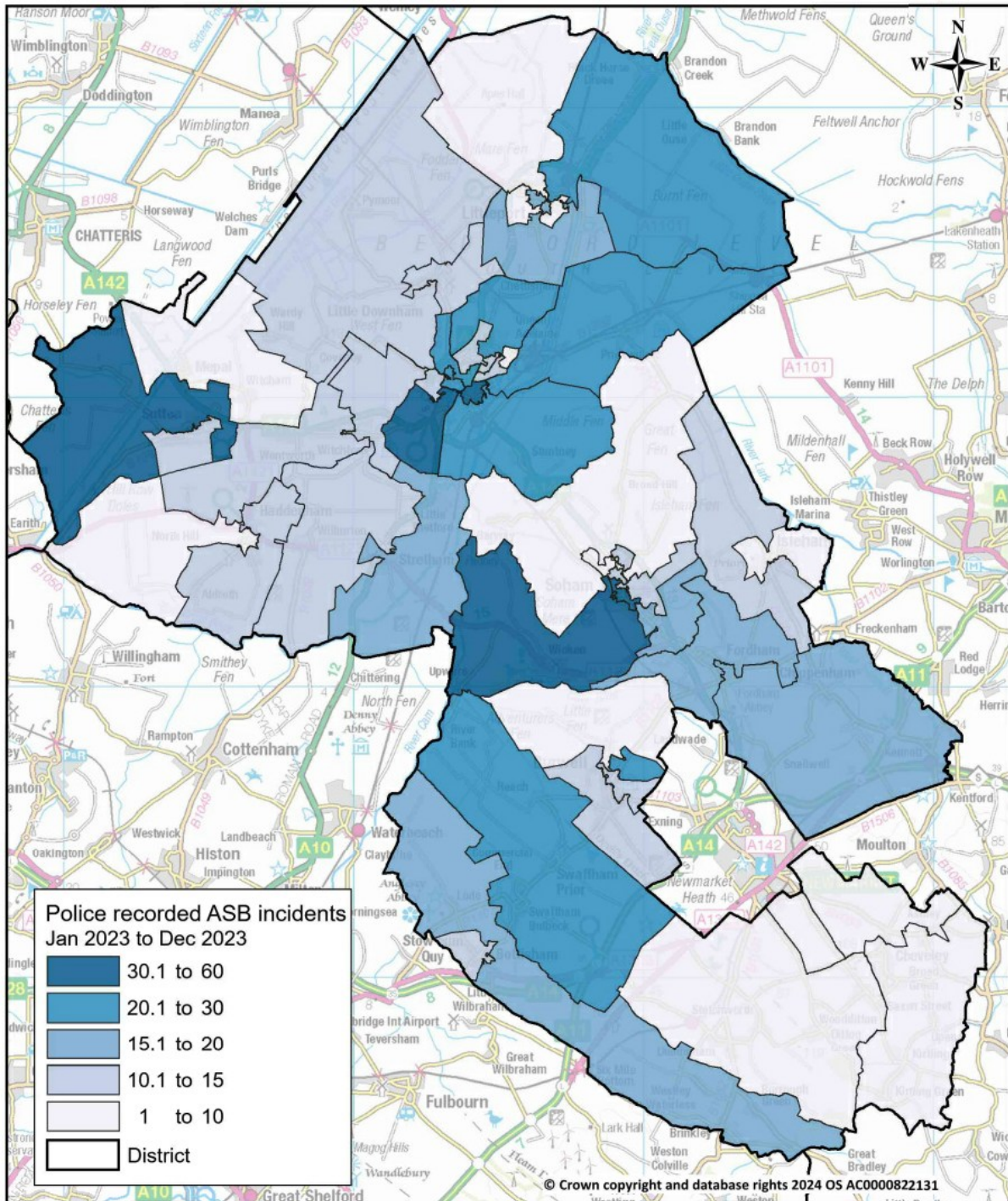
The figure below shows the change in incidents yearly between 2021 and 2023 by ward. The wards around Ely have seen a notable decrease; with Ely East and Ely West decreasing by 59 and 47 respectively while Ely North has remained stable. This is in comparison to the two wards around Soham which have seen a large increase in incidents. Soham North and Soham South ASB offences increased by 29 and 10 respectively.

Figure 38: Police recorded ASB in East Cambridgeshire annually by Ward 2021 to 2023



The thematic map overleaf presents the annual count of ASB incidents at the lower-level geography of LSOA. This illustrates that the LSOA's with the highest levels of ASB (over 20 incidents) are primarily located within the Sutton, Soham, and Ely area. Specifically central/South-West Ely and the rural LSOA's in the North-East of the district. High ASB count LSOA's can also be seen in Soham and Sutton ward.

Figure 39: Police recorded ASB in East Cambridgeshire, 2023



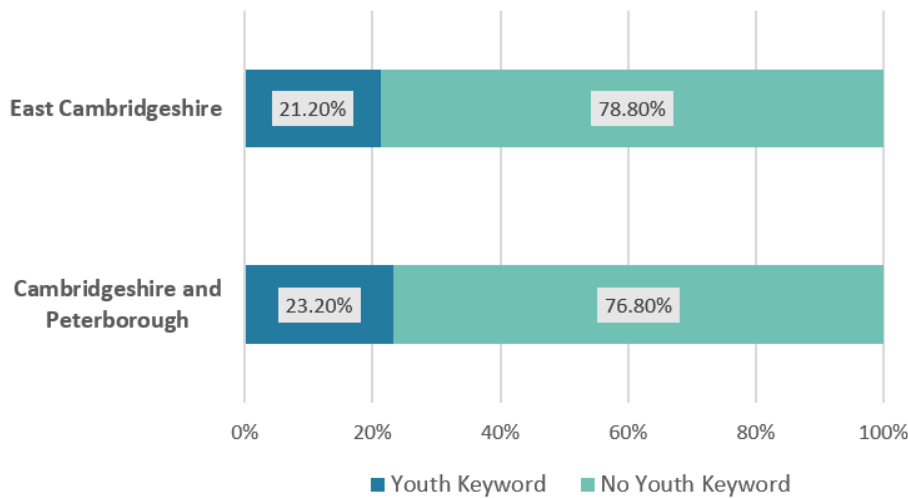
10.5. ASB Involving Young People

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

this limitation it represents the best available indicator of police recorded youth related ASB.

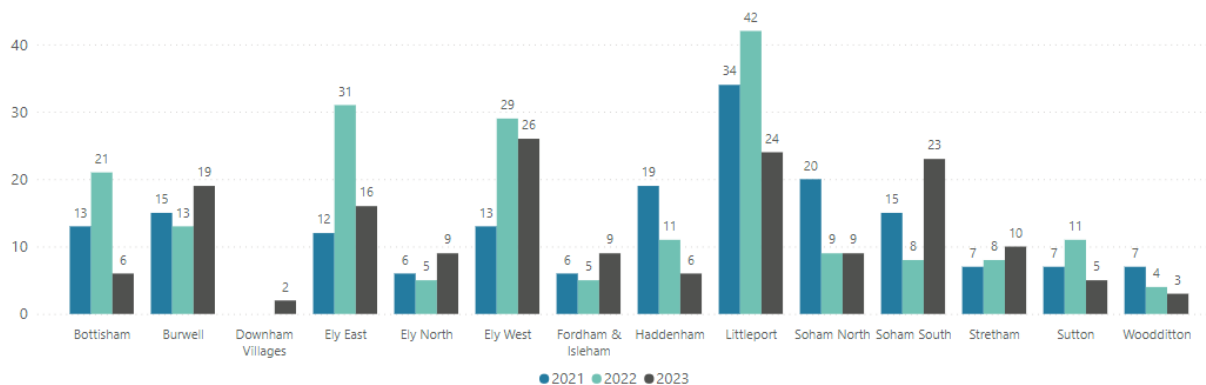
As highlighted in the figure below, just under a fifth (21.2%) of ASB recorded in East Cambridgeshire in the year ending December 2023 had a youth related keyword. This is slightly below the proportion for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole (23.2%). This proportion has remained fairly stable in recent years, although it is slightly lower than seen in 2022 where youth keyword incidents accounted for 25.4% of all ASB.

Figure 40: Proportion of police recorded ASB incidents in 2023 which contain a youth related keyword



As seen below, there were notable wards that digressed from the trend seen in Figure 38. Bottisham for example, saw a large decrease in youth related incidents from 21 in 2022 to 6 in 2023 while overall incidents remained the same. Soham North is another ward where youth related incidents remained the same between 2022 and 2023 while overall incidents increased during the same period.

Figure 41: Police recorded youth ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire annually by Ward, 2021 to 2023



11. Substance Misuse

11.1. National Trends

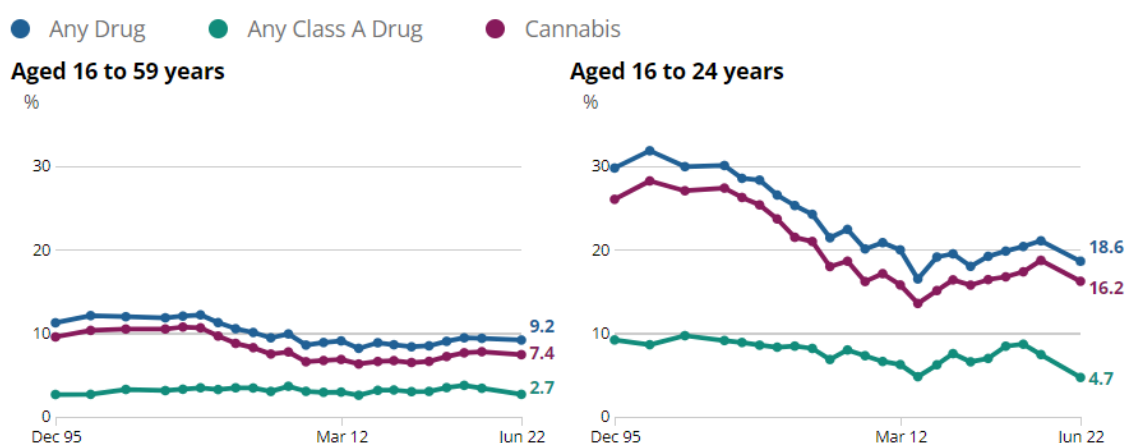
The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides a useful indicator of national patterns in drug use, as many instances of drug use will not typically come through in police recorded crime statistics. No data has yet been published for 2022/23, but the data below indicates trends up until 2021/22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

When looking those aged 16 to 24, despite temporary increases within the last decade, long-term trends show clear decreases in drug use, with recent years (since 2019/20, YE March) returning to this trend (see Figure 42). These changes were mostly driven by changes in cannabis use, although a general decreasing trend is also seen in Class A drug use.

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

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

Figure 42: Long term trend in the proportion of CSEW respondents reporting drug use in England and Wales, from 1994/95 (YE December) 2021/22 (October-June)



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

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

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

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

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

11.2. Local Trends

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

Cambridgeshire:

The data indicated that there was an increasing trend in the number of adults needing treatment for non-opiates, but with a 4% decrease between 2020/21 and 2021/22. There was also a decreasing trend in the number of adults in treatment for opiates in Cambridgeshire (2023a, p. 28). Whilst non-opiates accounted for a third of new presentations, a higher rate of successful completions (compared to opiates) meant they accounted for only 18% of all those in treatment (2023a, p. 28). Compared to England as a whole, Cambridgeshire saw a higher proportion seeking treatment for crack cocaine (2023a, p. 28). Cambridgeshire also saw a higher proportion of self-referrals than England, with females (7%) being more likely to be referred through social services than males (1%).

Young people in Cambridgeshire

A school survey in Cambridgeshire showed 11% of year 10 pupils reported that they had taken drugs to get high; with more females reporting this than males (2023a, p. 58). Females also reported higher alcohol consumption within the last 7 days

compared to males (2023a, p. 58). Cambridgeshire saw higher rates of alcohol use in children (2023b, p. 12); however the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol use was similar to England, and mirrored the decreasing trend seen nationally (2023a, p. 58).

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

East Cambridgeshire

Drug related deaths in East Cambridgeshire were very low between 2018 and 2020, (2023a, p. 56). The percentage of people owed statutory homelessness duty who had a drug dependency support need in FY 2021/22 was in line with the county and country average, at 6.1% (vs 6.3% for England, and 6.9% for Cambridgeshire) (2023a, p. 45).

Whilst East Cambridgeshire had the highest incidence rate of alcohol related cancers amongst males at 37.4 per 100,000 (for males aged 16 and over, between 2017 and 2019), it remained slightly lower than the country average of 39.4 per 100,000. The rate for females was in line with the county average (2023a, p. 25).

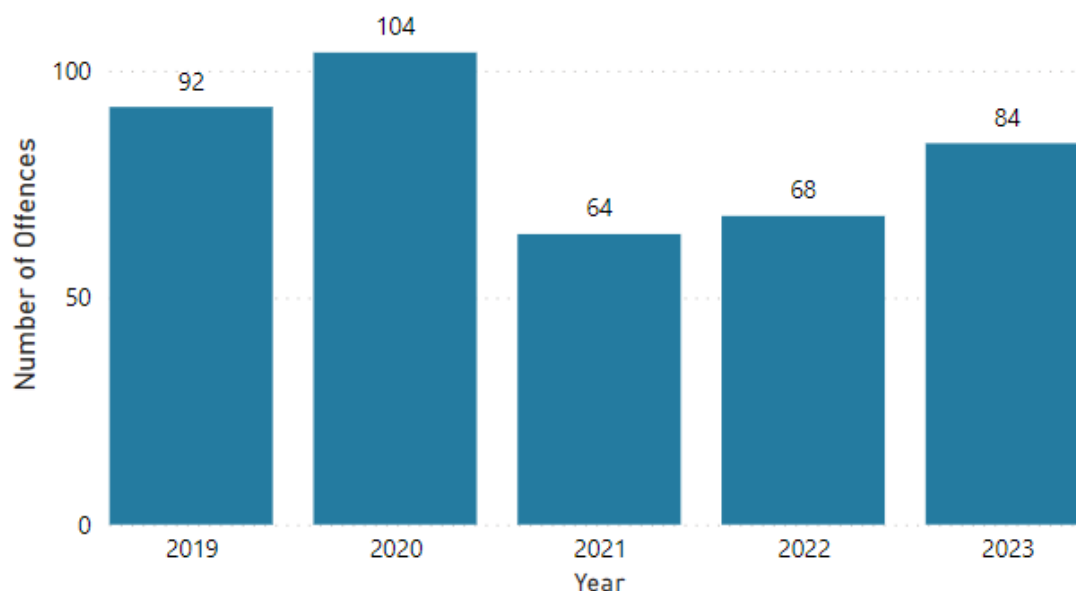
Alcohol related hospital admissions and mortality rates were also low in East Cambridgeshire. Alcohol related hospital admissions in 2021/22 was the second lowest in the county at 374.8 per 100,000 population; compared to 420.0 per 100,000 for Cambridgeshire, and 494.0 per 100,000 for England (2023a, p. 8). Alcohol related mortality in East Cambridgeshire in 2021 (at 28.0 per 100,000 population, all ages) was below the county average of 30.7 per 100,000 population, and the country average of 38.5 per 100,000 population (2023a, p. 26)

11.2.1. Police recorded drug offences

Nationally, police recorded drug offences saw a 2% increase between years ending September 2022 and 2023 (ONS, 2024b, p. A4a). In East Cambridgeshire, the number of drug offences is fairly low, meaning that small changes in the count can inflate percentage changes, and comparisons should be treated with caution. East Cambridgeshire saw an increase in drug offences since 2022 (+24%, +16 offences), contrasting other districts in the county which saw decreases (with a county decrease of 18%, -237 offences). Despite this increase, the count of offences in 2023 remained below the 2019 count (9%, -8 offences); contrasting the countywide increase of 17% since 2019. The national trend reflected a muted but similar trend to that seen in East Cambridgeshire, with a small increase in the last year (+2%, 2021/22 to 2022/23 YE June), remaining 2% below the pre-pandemic year ending

March 2020. Moreover, East Cambridgeshire’s rate of drug offences (1.0 per 1000 population) was lower than the county rate (1.6 per 1000 population) and was a third of the national rate (3.0 per 1000 population) of drug offences over a similar period (ONS, 2023d).

Figure 43: Annual trend in police recorded drug offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 to 2023



11.2.2. Treatment services

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

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

Local CGL data has shown a 16% decrease in the number of clients in treatment for substance misuse in the last year (-28 clients). This decrease was reflected across treatment for each substance type, excluding those in treatment for both non-opiates and alcohol, which increased slightly. It cannot be concluded whether this reflects a lower number of users than in the previous year, or a smaller proportion of users accessing treatment. Similar to previous years, those in treatment for opiates accounts for the largest proportion of service users (52%).

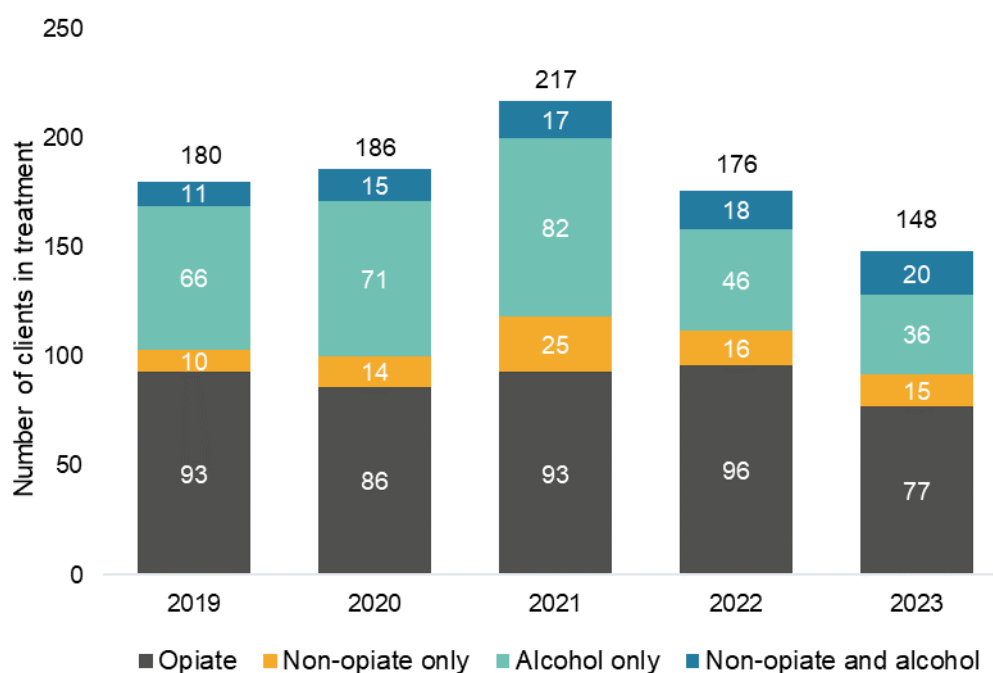
Table 10: Clients residing in East Cambridgeshire and in treatment or who successfully completed treatment in 2023

Clients grouped by substance	Count of clients in 2022	Count of clients in 2023	Percentage of clients in 2023	% change between 2022 and 2023
Opiate	96	77	52%	-20%
Non-opiate only	16	15	10%	-6%
Alcohol only	46	36	24%	-22%
Non-opiate and alcohol	18	20	14%	11%
Total Number in Treatment	176	148	100%	-16%
Successful completions	45	28	-	-38%

Source: Change Grow Live (CGL)

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

Figure 44: Clients in treatment in East Cambridgeshire, by year and substance type



Source: Change Grow Live (CGL)

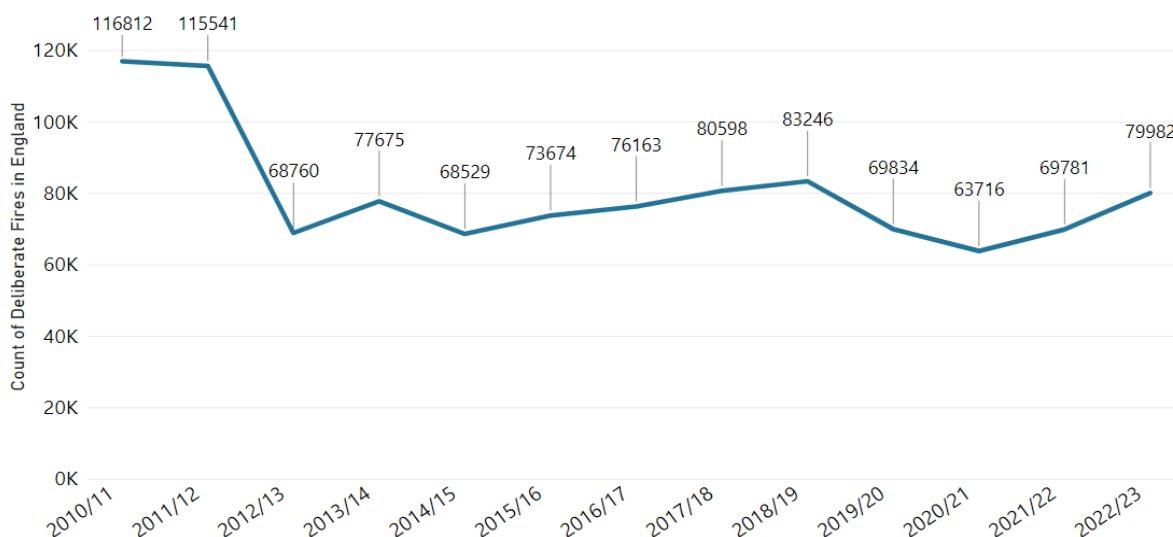
12. Fire

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

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The latest available national data from the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) (reported by year ending March) shows that the total number of fires attended in the 2022/23 was 178,737. This is 17% higher than seen in the previous year (Home Office, 2023b). The national figures for deliberate fires attended have remained relatively stable since 2011/12. Between 2021/22 and 2022/23 the number of deliberate fires attended increased by 15% to 79,982 (Home Office, 2023b).

Figure 45: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England yearly between 2010 and 2023 (Year ending March)

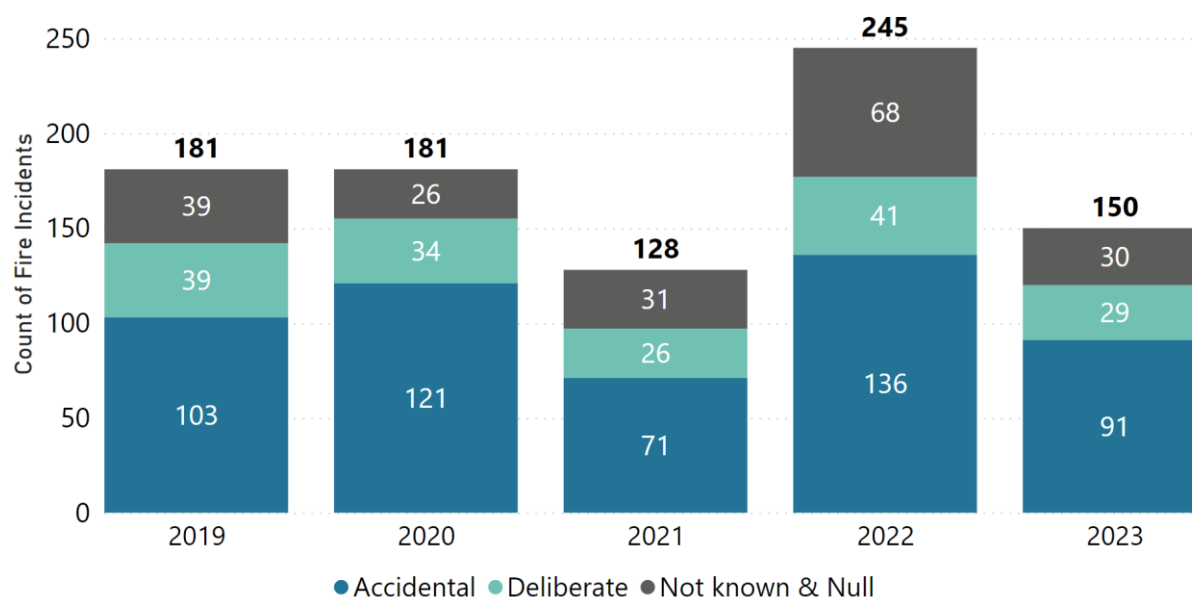


Source: (Home Office, 2023b)

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue service recorded 150 fires in East Cambridgeshire between January 2023 and December 2023. This is down 39% compared to 2022 when 245 fires were recorded. East Cambridgeshire accounted for 8.6% of the total fires in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and 6.2% of deliberate fires in 2023.

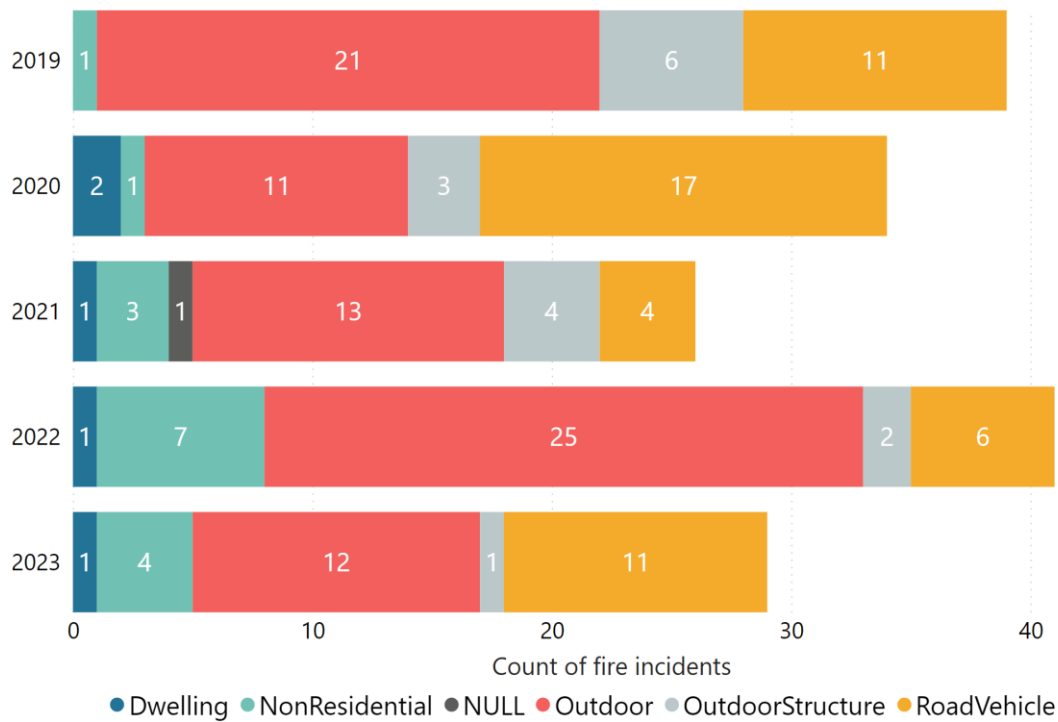
The figure below displays the number of fires in East Cambridgeshire broken down by cause for the past five years, this shows that all fire types saw a reduction in the last year. Deliberate fires decreased by 29%, down from 41 in 2022 to 29 in 2023. Deliberate fires accounted for 19% of all fires in 2023 compared to 17% in 2022.

Figure 46: Count of fires in East Cambridgeshire by cause, 2019-2023



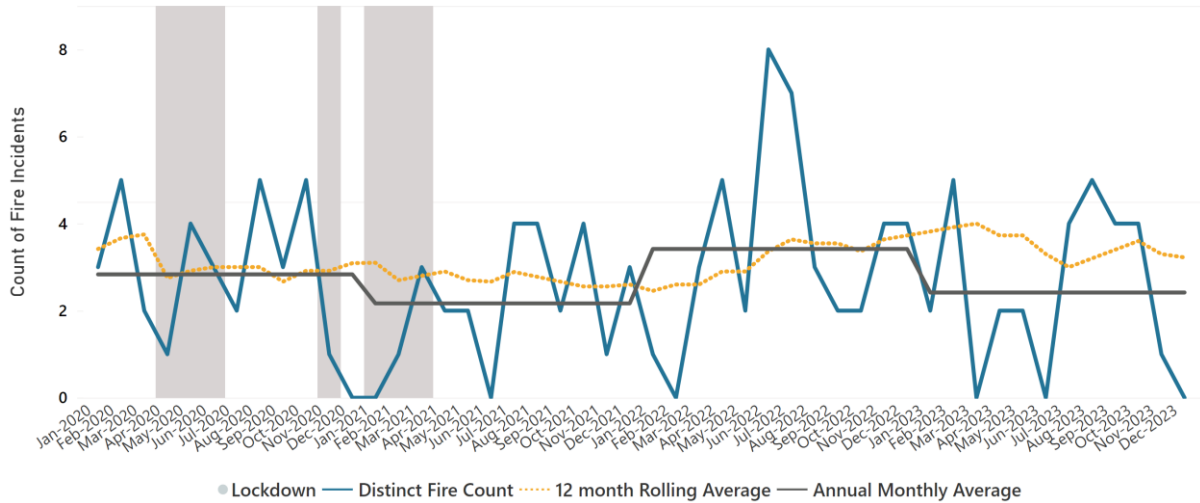
All deliberate fires (other property, own property, and unknown owner) saw a reduction or remained the same as the year before. Fires classified as ‘deliberate – unknown owner’ reduced from 23 in 2022 to 12 in 2023. The figure below shows the property category for deliberate fires and shows that ‘outdoors’ and ‘road vehicle’ were the biggest categories, at 12 and 11 recorded respectively in 2023. Outdoor fires saw a notable reduction in the latest year, likely linked to the summer heatwave in 2022, whilst vehicle fires increased from 6 in 2022 to 11 in 2023.

Figure 47: Breakdown in property category of deliberate fires in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 – 2023



The monthly trend of deliberate fires is displayed in the chart below. In 2023, the number of fires fluctuated between 0 and 5 incidents each month. Between March and June 2023, the number of fires was below average with 2 of those months reporting 0 incidents. This is notably different compared to the previous year in 2022 when there was a spike in fires most likely due to the heatwave in the summer.

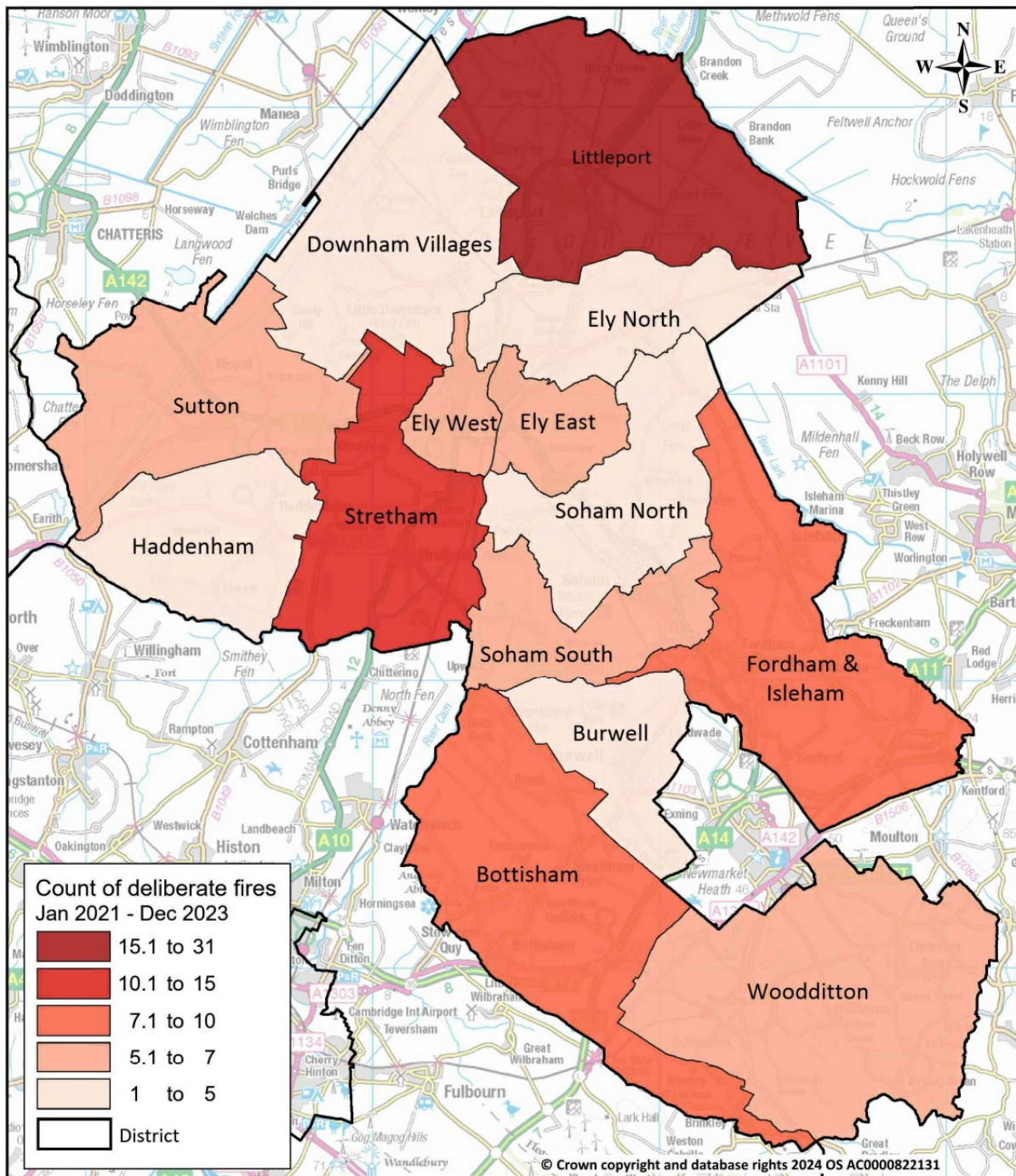
Figure 48: Monthly count of deliberate fires in East Cambridgeshire, January 2020 - December 2023



12.1. Geographic Analysis

The map below displays the count of deliberate fires between January 2021 and December 2023 by ward in East Cambridgeshire. This highlights the highest count of deliberate fires were in Littleport and Stretham.

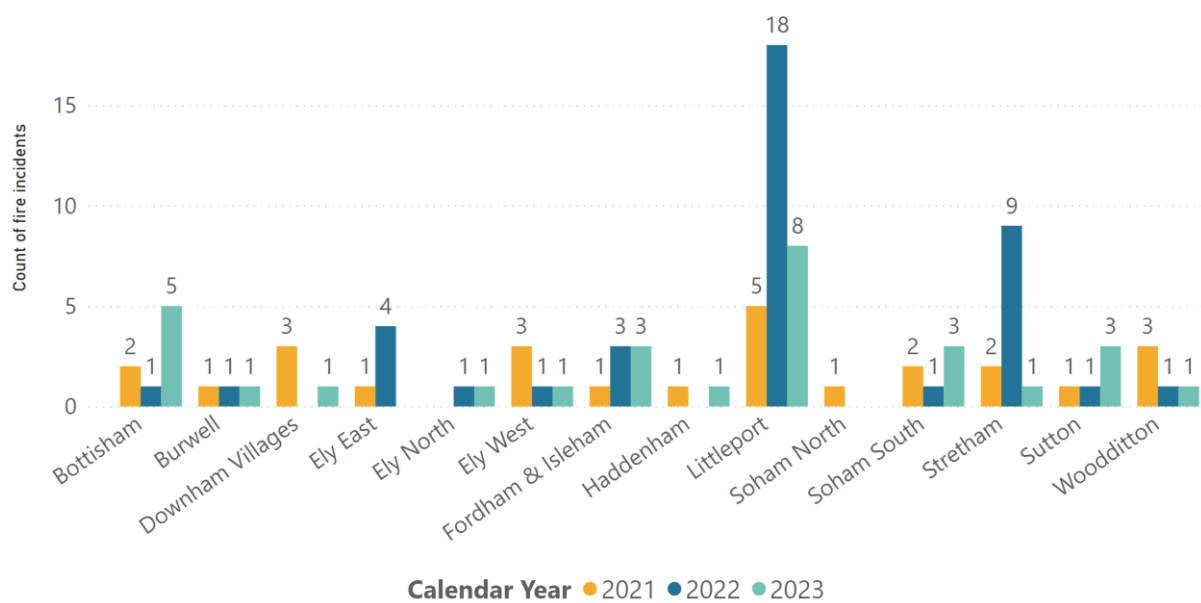
Figure 49: Thematic map of deliberate fires in East Cambridgeshire by ward, 2021 to 2023



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When comparing deliberate fire incidents in the last 3 years, there has been some large drops in specific East Cambridgeshire wards. Littleport ward for example saw a decrease from 18 incidents in 2022 to 8 in 2023. Another previous hotspot to note is Stretham ward where in 2022 there was 9 deliberate fire incidents compared to just 1 in 2023.

Figure 50: Yearly count of deliberate fires in East Cambridgeshire by ward, January 2021 - December 2023



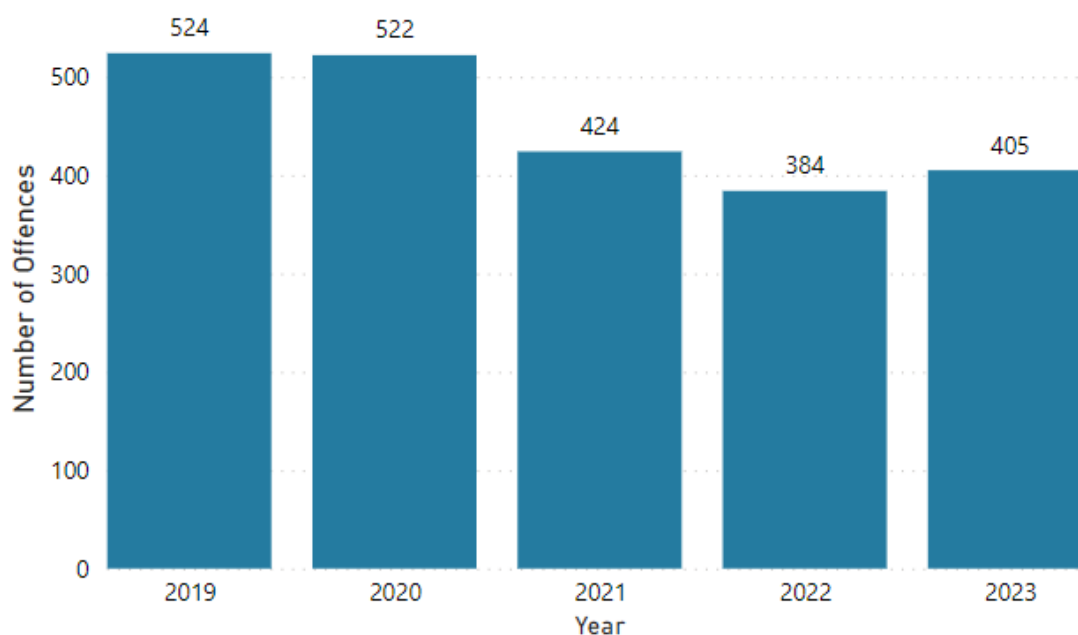
13. Criminal Damage

The CSEW report for the year ending September 2023 estimated that the prevalence of criminal damage incidents in England and Wales saw a 21% decrease, from approximately 850,000 incidents for the YE September 2022, to 674,000 for the YE September 2023. Police recorded criminal damage in England and Wales saw a smaller decrease of 5% between years ending September 2022 and September 2023 (from 514,322 to 491,017 offences) (ONS, 2024a).

Locally, after a decreasing trend in criminal damage offences between 2019 and 2022, 2023 saw a 5% increase compared to the previous year (+21 offences), but remained 23% below counts for 2019.

Criminal damage offences were the fourth most common offence sub-type in East Cambridgeshire (after violence without injury, stalking and harassment, and violence with injury) accounting for 10% of all offences in 2023. Just 7 of the 405 offences in 2023 were tagged as hate crimes (2%).

Figure 51: Annual trend in the number of Criminal Damage offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 to 2023



Geographical analysis of the data shows that these offences are concentrated in the following wards:

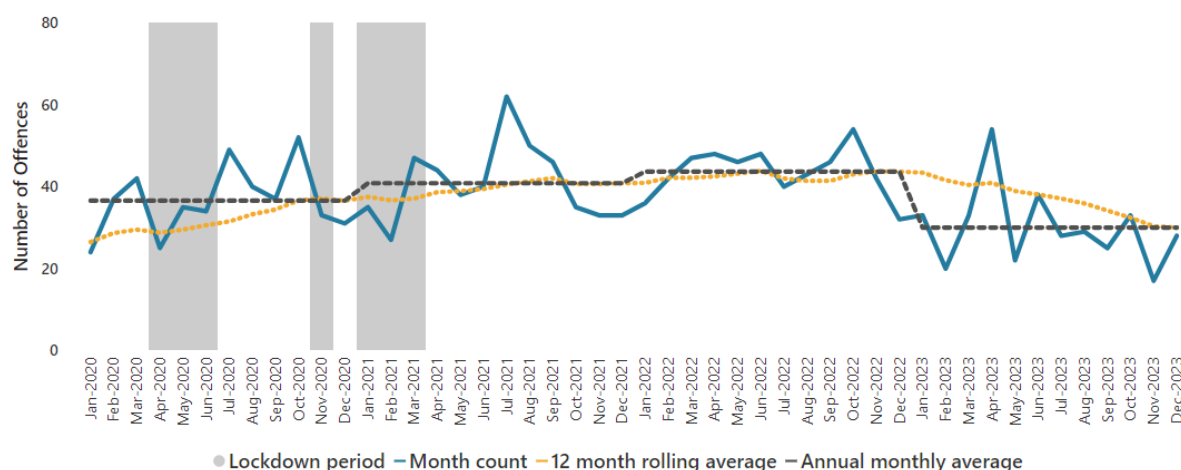
- Littleport (14% in 2023, down from 20% in 2022)
- Ely East (12% in 2023, little change from 2022)
- Stretham (11% in 2023, up from 6% in 2022)

14. Public Order

Public order offences refer to incidents of violence and/or intimidation committed by individuals or groups in public. One of the offence sub-types is 'Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress' and as such there is a notable cross over with racially motivated hate crimes.

Public order offences in East Cambridgeshire have notably decreased in the last year. There were 360 offences recorded in 2023, down 31% from 2022. This is in contrast to the year-on-year increases seen between 2019 and 2022 and marks the most notable year-on-year change seen in East Cambridgeshire across all crime types. Countywide there was a smaller reduction of 11% compared to 2022.

The figure below displays the monthly count of public order offences to explore how levels have fluctuated through the year. This illustrates that, excluding a spike in April 2023, public order offences have been on a downward trajectory in 2023. Despite these reductions the average monthly offence count of 30 offences in 2023 still remains slightly above the pre-pandemic average of 25 offences seen in 2019.

Figure 52: Monthly count of police recorded public order offences in East Cambridgeshire, January 2020 – December 2023

In order to give an insight into the type of offences within this crime category, the breakdown in short title for public order offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire between January 2023 – December 2023 is displayed in the table below. Offences relating to harassment, alarm and distress accounted for the majority of offences, followed by fear or provocation of violence and breach of non-molestation order.

Table 11: Count of public order offences by Short Title, East Cambridgeshire, January 2023 - December 2023

Offence Short Title	Count of Offences
Sec 4a POA Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress/ Sec 5 POA Harassment, alarm or distress	197
Sec 4 POA Fear or provocation of violence	106
Breach of non-molestation order	15
Racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress/ Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress	12
Affray	11
Breach of a criminal behaviour order	6
All other offences	13
Total	360

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

14.1. Geographical Analysis

The table below shows the count of public order offences by ward for 2022 and 2023 in addition to the offence count change and proportion change. This illustrates that offence reductions were seen across most wards in East Cambridgeshire. The

largest reductions were seen in Soham North (-46 offences), down 70% and Burwell (-39 offences) down 68%.

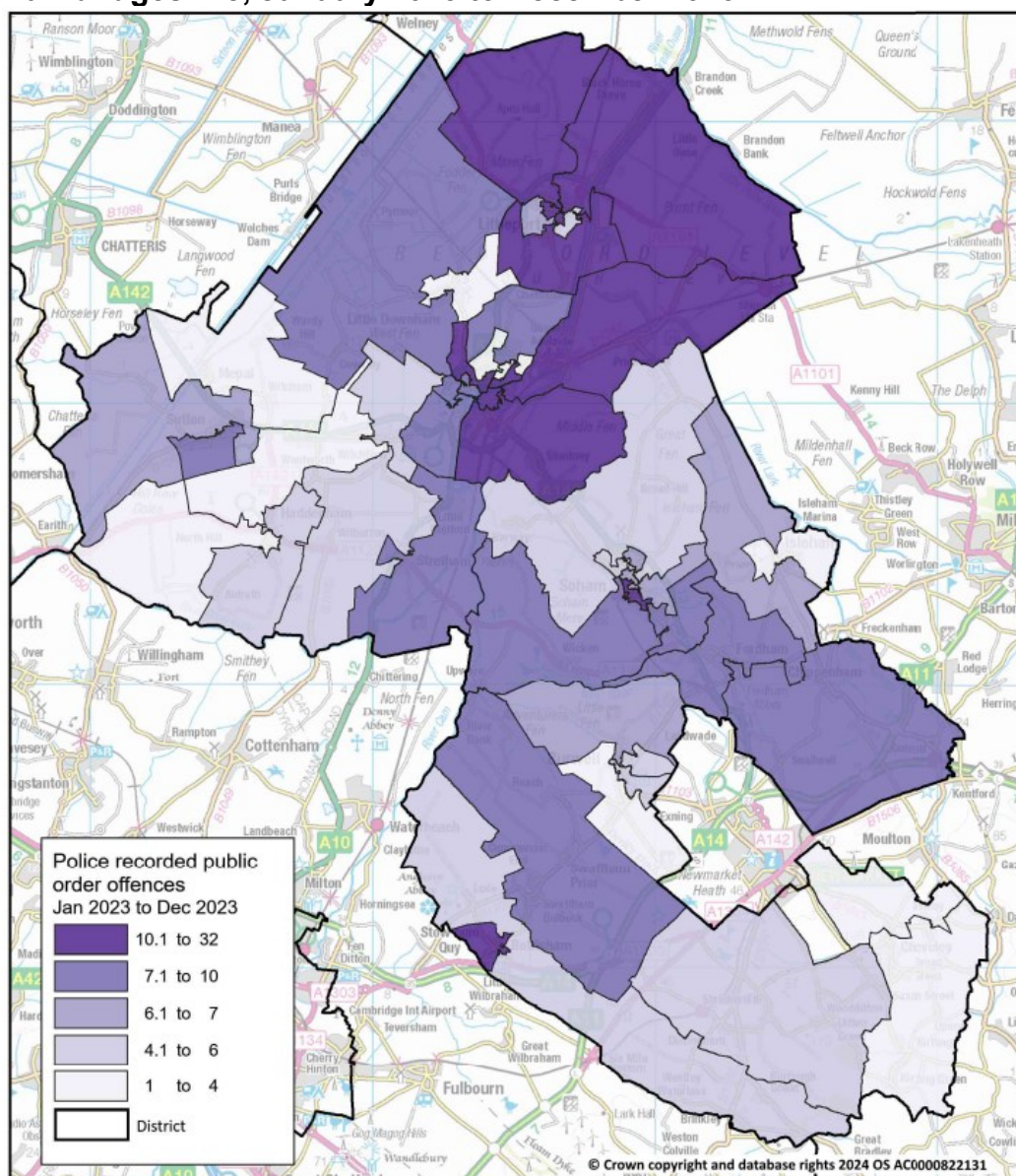
Littleport and Ely East accounted for the highest proportion of public order offences in the district in 2023 and saw relatively small reductions on the previous year.

Table 12: Public order offences in East Cambridgeshire wards in 2022 and 2023

Ward (2023 Ward Boundary)	2022 Count	2023 Count	Offence count change 2022-2023	Percentage change 2022-2023
Bottisham	44	23	-21	-47.7%
Burwell	57	18	-39	-68.4%
Downham Villages	13	9	-4	-30.8%
Ely East	68	61	-7	-10.3%
Ely North	13	14	1	7.7%
Ely West	68	47	-21	-30.9%
Fordham & Isleham	20	24	4	20.0%
Haddenham	7	7	0	0.0%
Littleport	68	65	-3	-4.4%
Soham North	66	20	-46	-69.7%
Soham South	37	33	-4	-10.8%
Stretham	23	16	-7	-30.4%
Sutton	33	15	-18	-54.5%
Woodditton	7	8	1	14.3%
Total	524	360	-164	-31.3%

The thematic map overleaf presents the annual count of public order offences at the lower-level geography of LSOA. This illustrates that the LSOA's with the highest level of offences (over 10 incidents) were primarily located to the North of the district around Littleport and Ely while the lowest levels were around Sutton and South-East.

Figure 53: Thematic map of public order offences by LSOA in East Cambridgeshire, January 2023 to December 2023



15. Hate Crime

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

15.1. National Trend

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

Table 13: Hate crimes recorded by the police by monitored strand, year ending March 2019 to year ending March 2023, England and Wales (excluding Devon and Cornwall)

Hate crime strand	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	% change 2021/22 to 2022/23
Race	77,850	-	90,909	108,476	101,906	-6%
Religion	8,460	-	6,288	8,602	8,241	-4%
Sexual orientation	14,161	-	18,239	25,639	24,102	-6%
Disability	8,502	-	9,690	13,905	13,777	-1%
Transgender	2,253	-	2,728	4,262	4,732	11%
Total number of motivating factors	110,776	-	127,854	160,884	152,758	-5%
Total number of offences	104,765	112,633	122,256	153,536	145,214	-5%

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

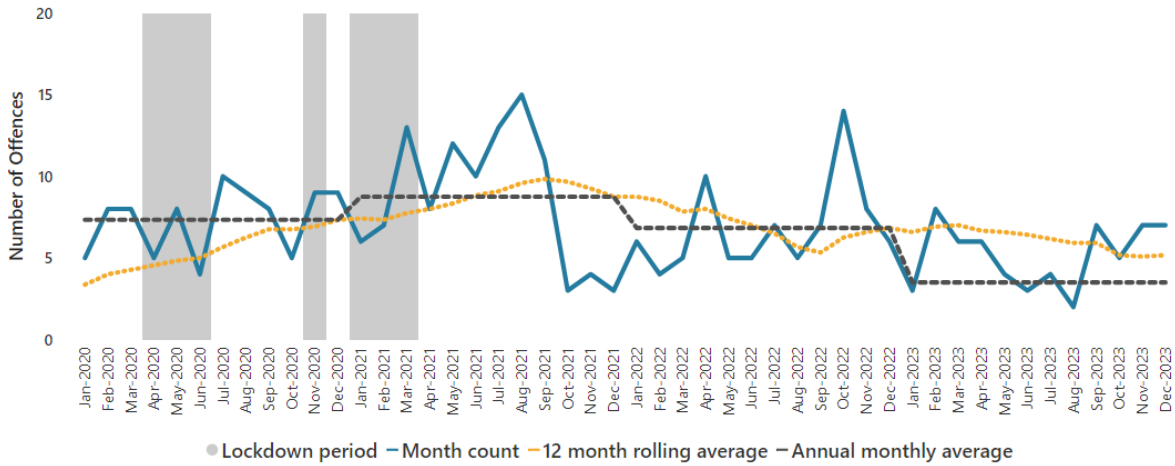
Prevalence estimates based on the CSEW are not currently available, with the next estimates (based on a 3-year average) expected to be published in 2025. As such it is not possible to know the true scale of hate crimes nationally, as many offences will go unreported.

15.2. Local Trend

Local police recorded crime data shows that there were 62 offences in East Cambridgeshire in 2023 that were marked as hate crimes. This was a decrease of just under a quarter (24%) on the previous year (-20 offences), beyond the decrease of 7% seen for Cambridgeshire as a whole. This represents a continued reduction in offence levels from the peak recorded in 2021, as illustrated in the figure below.

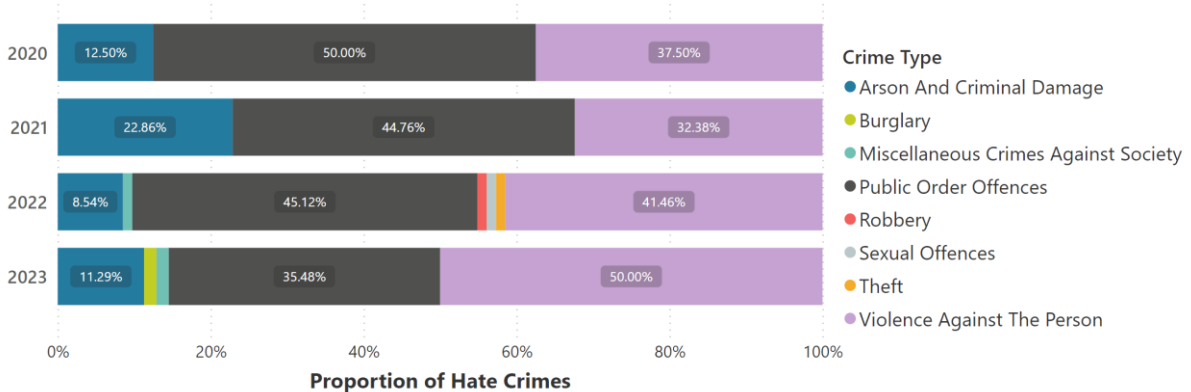
Monthly counts of hate crimes can be seen in the figure below, this shows fairly consistent levels during 2022 and 2023, apart from a spike seen in October 2022 (14 offences). Examination of the MO field for the 62 offences recorded in 2023 did not show any clear linked series.

Figure 54: Police recorded hate crimes in East Cambridgeshire, January 2020 – December 2023



The figure below shows the offence type breakdown for all hate crimes recorded in East Cambridgeshire in the last four years. The majority of hate crimes in 2023 were violence against the person and public order offences, which combined accounted for 85% of offences. The breakdown has fluctuated over time with a notable increase in violence against the person in the last three years, from accounting for a third (32.4%) of offences in 2021 to half (50.0%) of offences in 2023. Variation in crime type breakdown in recent years may be linked to the differing degrees of impact that lockdown restrictions had on different crime types.

Figure 55: Proportion of offence types for all Hate Crimes, East Cambridgeshire, 2020 – 2023



16. Offending

New data has been sourced from the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and Probation Service for inclusion in this strategic assessment to provide the CSP with an insight into the local young offender profile in East Cambridgeshire.

16.1. Probation Cohort Profile

The Probation Service have provided a caseload profile for individuals on probation in East Cambridgeshire as of 18/01/2024. There were 142 people on probation with a home location in East Cambridgeshire.

The table below presents the probation assessed risks of reoffending/causing serious harm throughout Cambridgeshire. Just over a third (34.5%) of individuals in the East Cambridgeshire probation caseload were assessed as at high or very high risk of reoffending. No individuals were assessed as at very high risk for serious harm, but 28.2% were assessed as high risk.

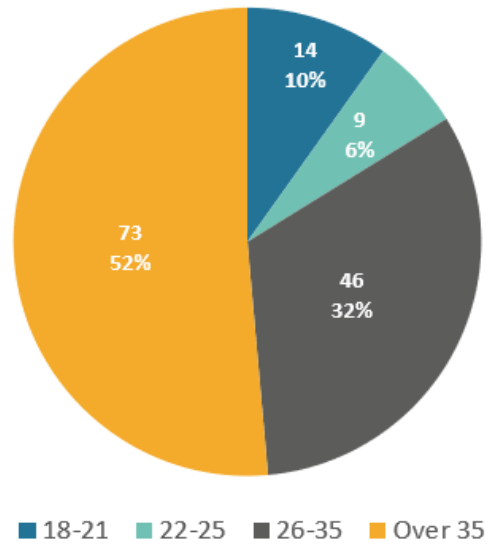
Table 14: Probation assessed risk of reoffending/serious harm for East Cambridgeshire's probation caseload

Statistic	Low	Medium	High	Very High	Not assessed
Risk of reoffending - count	57	36	31	18	N/A
Risk of reoffending - percentage	40.1	25.4%	21.8%	12.7%	N/A
Risk of serious harm - count	16	85	40	0	1
Risk of serious harm - percentage	11.3%	59.9%	28.2%	0.0%	0.7%

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

The age profile for the East Cambridgeshire cohort is presented in the chart below. Over 35's account for just over half (52%) of the caseload. Almost a third (32%) of the cohort were aged 26-35 with 16% being in the younger age groups between 18-25.

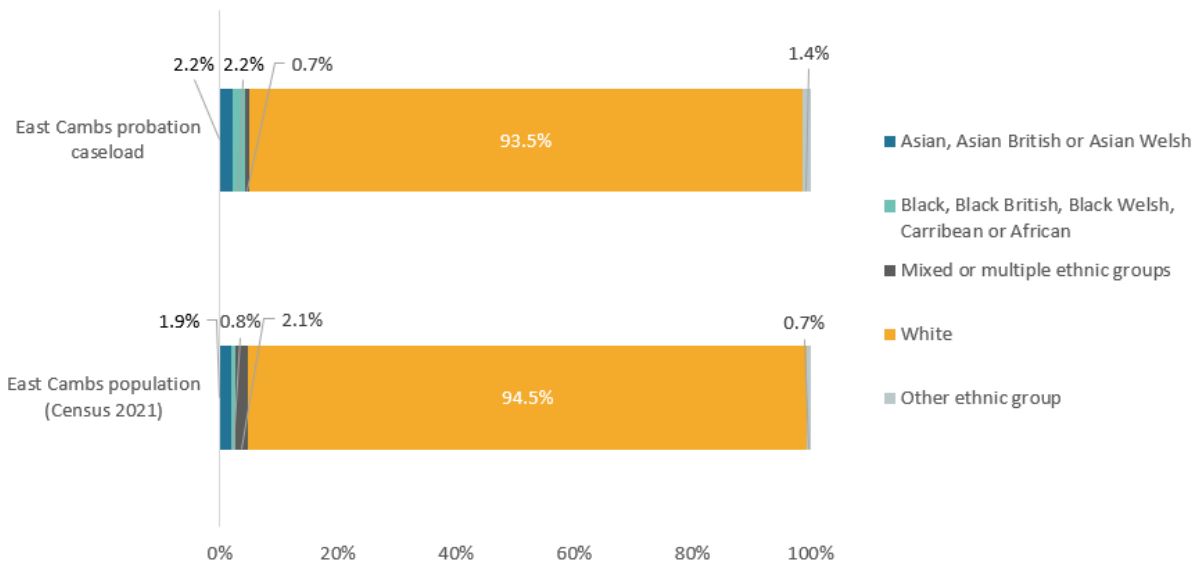
Figure 56: Age breakdown for individuals active on the East Cambridgeshire probation caseload (as of 18/01/2024)



Males account for the majority of individuals on the East Cambridgeshire probation caseload at 86%.

Ethnic group was either not stated or refused for 3% of individuals on the East Cambridgeshire probation caseload. The figure below shows the ethnicity breakdown for the 138 individuals where ethnic group was recorded, alongside the breakdown for the East Cambridgeshire population (2021 census). This shows that the ethnic group breakdown for the probation caseload broadly reflects the local population. There is a slight overrepresentation of Black ethnic groups and a slight underrepresentation of Mixed ethnic groups.

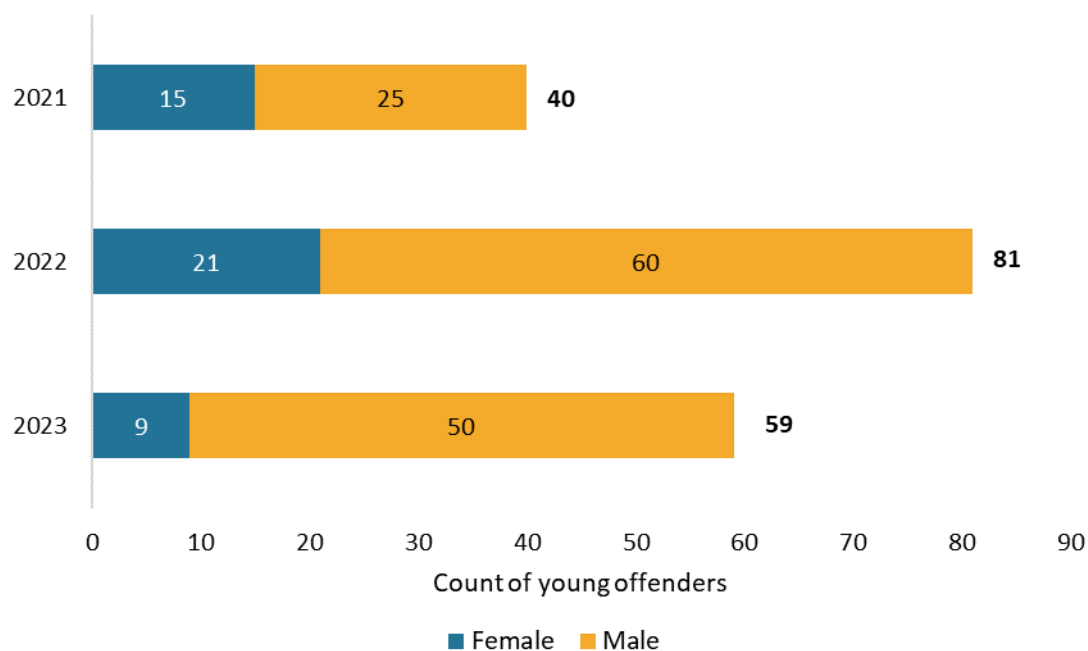
Figure 57: Ethnicity breakdown for individuals active on the East Cambridgeshire probation caseload (as of 18/01/2024) and the Census 2021 population



16.2. YOS Cohort Profile

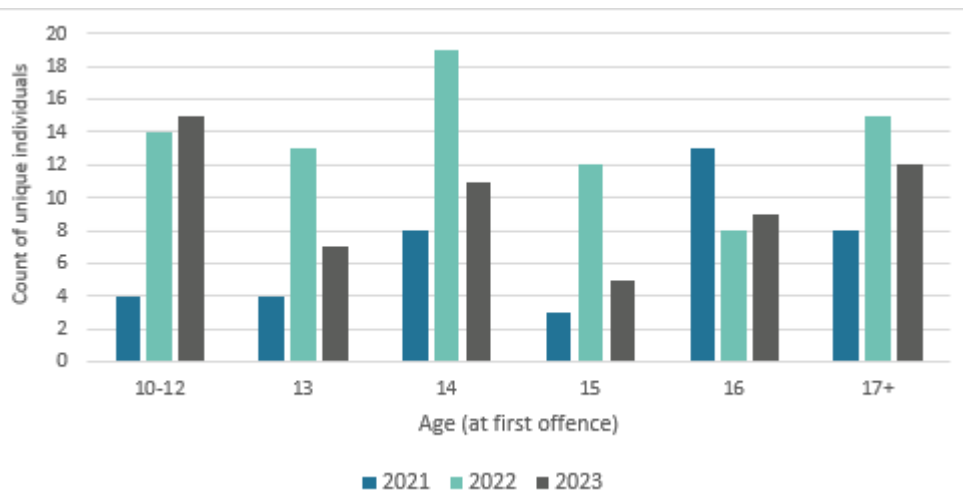
The total count of unique offenders in the YOS cohort doubled in 2022 rising from 40 in the previous year to 81. In the latest year, this count reduced to 59 individuals. As illustrated in the figure below, the cohort has been predominantly male over the past three years with the percentage of male offenders increasing from 63% in 2021 to 85% in 2023.

Figure 58: The total annual counts of unique offenders in the East Cambridgeshire YOS cohort from the 2021-2023



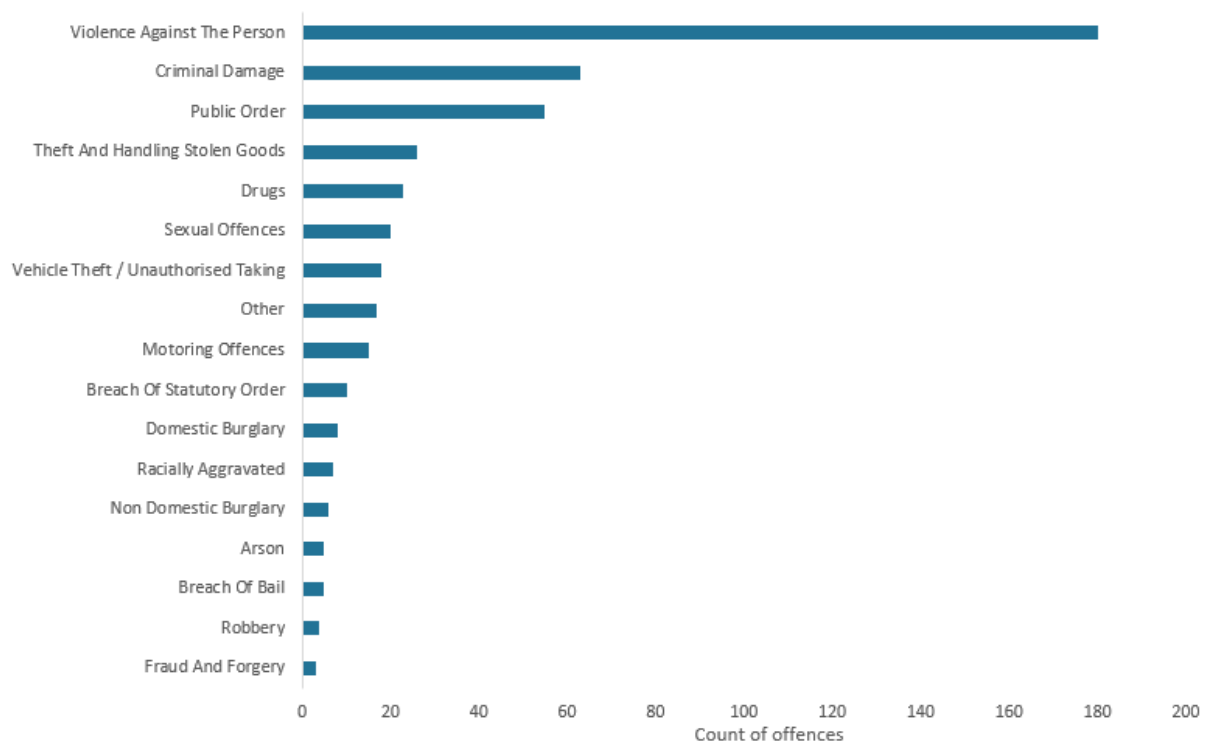
The age profile (at the time of first offence) for the YOS cohort is presented in the figure below. This shows that individuals are fairly evenly spread between the ages, with a notable proportion of younger offenders aged under 13, 14 in 2022 and 15 in 2023. The median average age reduced from 16 in 2021 to 14 in 2022 and 2023.

Figure 59: Age of first offence for East Cambridgeshire YOS cohort for 2021-2023



The figure below shows the offence count by offence type for the YOS cohort in in the last three years (2021-2023). This highlights that violence against the person is the primary offence type for young offenders, accounting for 39% of all offences. Criminal damage and public order are the next most common offence type accounting for 14% and 12% respectively.

Figure 60: Primary offence type for young offenders in East Cambridgeshire YOS cohort, 2021-2023



16.3. Re-offending

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

17. Glossary

Table 15: Glossary

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

Term	Definition
	<p>advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology". (Department for Education, 2018)</p>
Coercive Control	<p>"...act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim." (Women's aid, n.d.)</p>
County Lines	<p>"A term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons." (Home Office, 2023d)</p>
CSEW	Crime Survey for England and Wales
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DA	Domestic Abuse
DASVP	The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership
Deliberate Fires	<p>"Where the motive was thought to be or suspected to be deliberate." Whilst deliberate fires can include arson incidents, not all deliberate fires are arson (Home Office, 2023e).</p>
Domestic Abuse Crime	<p>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'.</p>
Domestic Abuse Incident	<p>"A (police recorded) report of a domestic incident, which occurs in either a public or private place." Recording such incidents enables data to capture those incidents where the circumstances do not amount to a notifiable crime i.e., not all domestic abuse incidents result in a crime being recorded." (Home Office, 2011, p. 19).</p>

Term	Definition
ED	Emergency Department
FRS	Fire and Rescue Service
Hate Crime	“A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone’s: race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability. These aspects are known as ‘protected characteristics’. A hate crime can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and damage to property. A hate incident is behaviour which isn’t a crime but which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on the 5 protected characteristics.” (HM Government, n.d.)
HMICFRS	Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services
IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisers)	“IDVAs provide emotional and practical advice, guidance and support to help you and your family to become and remain safe. They will seek ways to empower you to make positive safe choices and they will liaise with other professionals on your behalf. The support they provide could include help for you through a court process, help to access safe accommodation and advocate on your behalf.” (Safer Futures, n.d.).
LSOA; Lower Super Output Area	An LSOA is a geographical area, usually comprising of between 400 to 1200 households, and a resident population of between 1000 and 3000 people (ONS, 2023e).
Modern Slavery	“Modern slavery is a complex crime that covers all forms of slavery, trafficking and exploitation. Trafficking includes transporting, recruiting or harbouring an individual with a view to them being exploited.” The 5 main types of exploitation that victims of modern slavery may experience are: labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting (ONS, 2020).
National Referral Mechanism (for Modern slavery) (NRM)	“The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support”. Only staff at designated first responder organisations can make online NRM or Duty to Notify (DtN) referral. An NRM referral is made for those under 18, and for adults who have consented to be referred. A DtN referral is for those who

Term	Definition
	have not consented to a NRM referral (Home Office; UK Visas and Immigration, 2022).
NCA	National Crime Agency
ONS	Office for National Statistics
Other Theft	Other theft offences involve the theft of property which is not taking directly from a person or shop. Some subcategories include; blackmail, theft by an employee, theft of mail, making off without payment etc.
PIT	Policy and Insight Team, formerly the Cambridgeshire Research Group
Substance misuse: Opiate and Non-opiate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opiate – e.g., heroin • Non-opiate – e.g., cannabis, crack and ecstasy (Public Health England, 2020).
Theft offences	In this document, when discussing figures from the CSEW report, theft offences are defined as theft from the person, other theft of personal property, domestic burglary, vehicle theft, and other household theft (ONS, 2023a). When discussing police recorded theft offences, “theft”, or “all theft offences”, includes all acquisitive offences except for robbery (ONS, 2023d). When discussing local police recorded theft offences, this refers to the acquisitive crime group called “theft offences”, which includes bicycle theft, “other theft”, shoplifting and “theft from the person”.
Ward	Wards (or electoral wards), are geographical areas used to elect local authority councillors (ONS, 2023e).
YE (Year ending)	The final month of the 12 month period measured.

Appendix A: Technical Notes

A.1. Census 2021

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

A.2. Crime Rates

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

A.3. CSEW Data

The CSEW remains the best estimate of long-term trends in crimes against the household population. However, estimates for the year ending June 2022 and June 2023 should be interpreted with additional caution. The CSEW estimates presented for the year ending June 2022 are based on nine months of data collection rather than the normal 12-month interview period, and both years are subject to lower response rates, which may affect the quality of the estimates. CSEW estimates have been temporarily suspended of their National Statistics status while we assess data quality since the pandemic. For more information, see the [Office for Statistics Regulation's Temporary suspension of National Statistics status for estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales note](#) (ONS, 2023a).

A.4. Fraud Offences

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

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

Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes

Figure 1

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

Figure 2

1. “Data from the CSEW for the year ending March 2023 are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Data on this chart refer to different time periods: 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year; and from the year ending March 2002 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that year.
3. New questions on fraud and computer misuse were incorporated into the CSEW from October 2015. The questions were asked of half the survey sample from October 2015 until September 2017 and have been asked of a full sample from October 2017.
4. There is a break in the CSEW time series because of the suspension of face-to-face interviewing between March 2020 and October 2021, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) data collected during this period are not directly comparable and not part of the main CSEW timeseries” (ONS, 2023a).

Figure 42

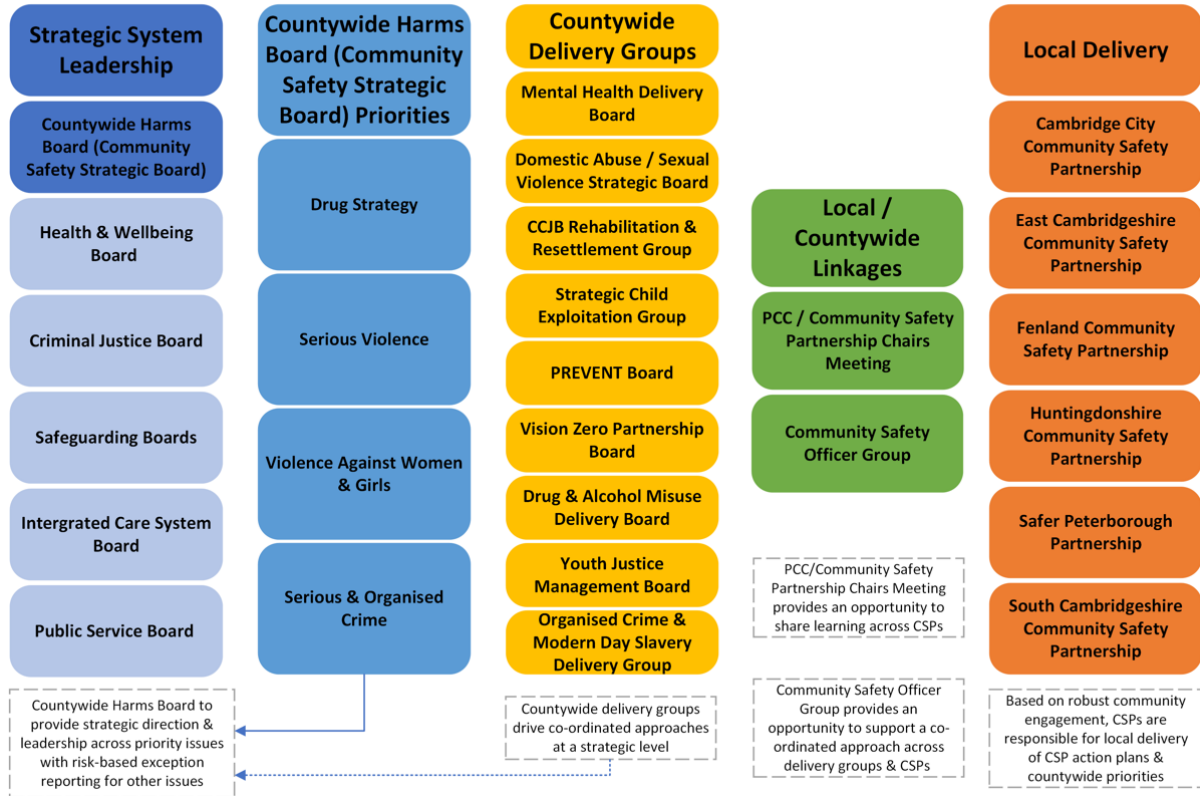
1. “Data for 1995, 1997 and 1999 are for the year ending December, data for 2022 are for the year ending June, all other years included are year ending March.
2. Any Class A Drug is defined as “The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 classifies controlled drugs into three categories (Classes A, B and C), according to the harm that they cause, with Class A drugs considered to be the most harmful. For drugs and their classifications, please see the Home Office List of most commonly encountered drugs currently controlled under the misuse of drugs legislation (Home Office, 2022b).

The Crime Survey for England and Wales asks questions on the use of specific drugs. Any Class A drug use is a composite variable that combines individual drugs; these include powder cocaine, crack cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, and methadone. Methamphetamine has also been included since the year ending March 2009.” (ONS, 2022d)

3. Any drug is defined as: “The Crime Survey for England and Wales asks questions on the use of specific drugs, any drug use is a composite variable that combines individual drugs, these include amphetamines, anabolic steroids, cannabis, powder cocaine, crack cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, ketamine, LSD, magic mushrooms, mephedrone, methadone, methamphetamine, and tranquillisers. In addition to these named drugs, respondents are also asked whether they have taken something else in the same period, that is: pills or powders (not prescribed by a doctor) when the respondent did not know what they were; smoked something (excluding tobacco) when the respondent did not know what it was; and, taken anything else that the respondent knew or thought was a drug (not prescribed by a doctor). These are included in the composite measure of "any drug", but not presented individually in tables. The definition of any drug has changed over time. For more detailed descriptions on what drugs are included in each year, see Section 1 of the accompanying dataset” (ONS, 2022e).

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

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Countrywide Agreement 2022 - 25



Appendix D: UK Economic Updates

Further economic updates for the UK include:

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

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

Figure 61: CPI, OOH component and CPI annual inflation rates for the last 10 years, UK, September 2013 to September 2023



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

Appendix E: Appendix Tables

Table 16: Change in police recorded crime counts between 2019 and 2023 in East Cambridgeshire, by crime type

Crime type	2019 count	2020 count	2021 count	2022 count	2023 count	2019 - 2023 % change	2019-2023 count change	2022- 2023 % change	2022-2023 count change
Arson and Criminal Damage	552	541	440	418	437	-21%	-115	+5%	+19
Burglary	406	349	263	239	296	-27%	-110	+24%	+57
Drug Offences	92	104	64	68	84	-9%	-8	+24%	+16
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	80	92	106	130	102	+28%	+22	-22%	-28
Possession of Weapons	30	37	28	35	31	+3%	+1	-11%	-4
Public Order Offences	304	439	490	524	360	+18%	+56	-31%	-164
Robbery	18	24	12	20	19	+6%	+1	-5%	-1
Sexual Offences	124	156	155	183	180	+45%	+56	-2%	-3
Theft	731	720	645	744	731	0%	0	-2%	-13
Vehicle Offences	334	322	302	290	311	-7%	-23	+7%	+21
Violence Against the Person	1228	1599	1601	1655	1599	+30%	+371	-3%	-56
Grand Total	3899	4383	4106	4306	4150	+6%	+251	-4%	-156

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