



COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT:

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT 2021/22

VERSION 1.0

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1. Introduction

1.1. Understanding the wider context – Countywide View

The South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is one of six within the Cambridgeshire police force area alongside county thematic groups that makes up the County Community Safety Board. This Countywide approach encompasses the two-tier area of Cambridgeshire and the unitary authority of Peterborough City Council. It enables a much more developed & joined-up approach to community safety, particularly around thematic areas such as safeguarding, domestic abuse, substance misuse and offending. The complexity of the overall community safety agenda is best tackled in a matrix management approach (see Appendix B for the countywide matrix) allowing for agencies to lead or support where appropriate. This allows the CSP to be heavily involved in developing strategies at a county-wide level whilst also freeing up the CSP itself to tackle local issues.

In May 2021 a new Police and Crime Commissioner was elected. Daryl Preston came into post on 13th May 2021 and began consultation for his Police and Crime Plan in July 2021. The consultation report was published in November 2021 (OPCC for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, 2021). The Police and Crime Plan 2021 to 2024 has subsequently been published (OPCC for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 2021). Included in this plan is an offer of three-year funding to CSP areas with a focus on co-ordination of local problem solving activity. South Cambridgeshire has accepted this offer and is currently in the process of recruiting to a Problem Solving Coordinator post created with this funding. The Problem Solving Co-ordinator is expected to be in post in May 2022. The OPCC also has a 'Communities Fund' available for the CSP to bid for specific projects addressing problems identified via the local problem solving group and problem solving coordinator post.

1.2. Current Context

1.2.1. COVID-19

The COVID-19 lockdown periods are defined throughout this report as shown in the table below. Summary time periods for lockdowns are shown on charts where possible. This provides important context to the figures shown as the impact of lockdown periods on crime and community safety indicators have been wide-ranging and varied.

Whilst COVID-19 restrictions in England have since been removed, there are changes in patterns of behaviour which may be sustained in the medium to long term. For example, working from home more often. These behaviour changes may also influence crime and community safety issues; however, any lasting changes may take some time to fully evidence.

Table 1: Lockdown periods represented in this report

Label	Summary Time Period	Actual Dates	Phase
Lockdown period	Apr – Jun 2020 November 2020 January – March 2021	23rd March 2020 – 15 th June/ 4 th July 2020 5th Nov 2020 - 2nd December 2020 6th January 2021 – 29th March 2021	Stay at home advice
Lockdown easing period	December 2020 April – Jul 2021	14 th October 2020- 4 th November 2020 2nd December 2020 - 6th January 2021 29th March 2021 - 19 th July	Relaxation of restrictions, gradual re-opening of businesses and partial behavioural changes/ restrictions

1.2.2. Economic context

The Resolution Foundation reported that families on low incomes experienced increasing costs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (Resolution Foundation, 2021). Following on from the pandemic lockdown periods, the cost of living in the UK has risen notably in 2021/2022 with further increases forecast. In February 2022 inflation rose to 6.2% which is the highest level recorded since 1992 (Harari, et al., 2022). A number of factors are influencing the cost of living crisis:

- Wages and benefits are rising slower than inflation
- Energy prices – the energy price cap increases by 54% in April 2022. Energy prices have increased as a result of global gas demand and are expected to continue to rise as a result of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.
- Fuel prices: petrol and diesel prices have increased sharply in early 2022, linked to the conflict in Ukraine
- Benefits and tax changes – the removal of the Universal Credit uplift in October 2021, increase in National Insurance contributions and freezing of the Income Tax Personal Allowance are expected to further squeeze households.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) reports that household disposal income will fall by 2.2% in 2022/23, the largest fall in a single year since records began in 1956 (Office for Budget Responsibility, 2022). Some government support has been announced which aims to minimise the impacts. This includes; a household boost to assist with energy bills, a reduction in fuel duty and an increase in the National Insurance contributions threshold. The OBR reports that the measures announced offset a third of the falls in living standards that would otherwise have occurred in the next 12 months (Office for Budget Responsibility, 2022).

The impact of the economic context is likely to place significant pressures on both families and individuals already living in poverty and those who are currently just getting by.

1.3. National trends and the effects of COVID-19

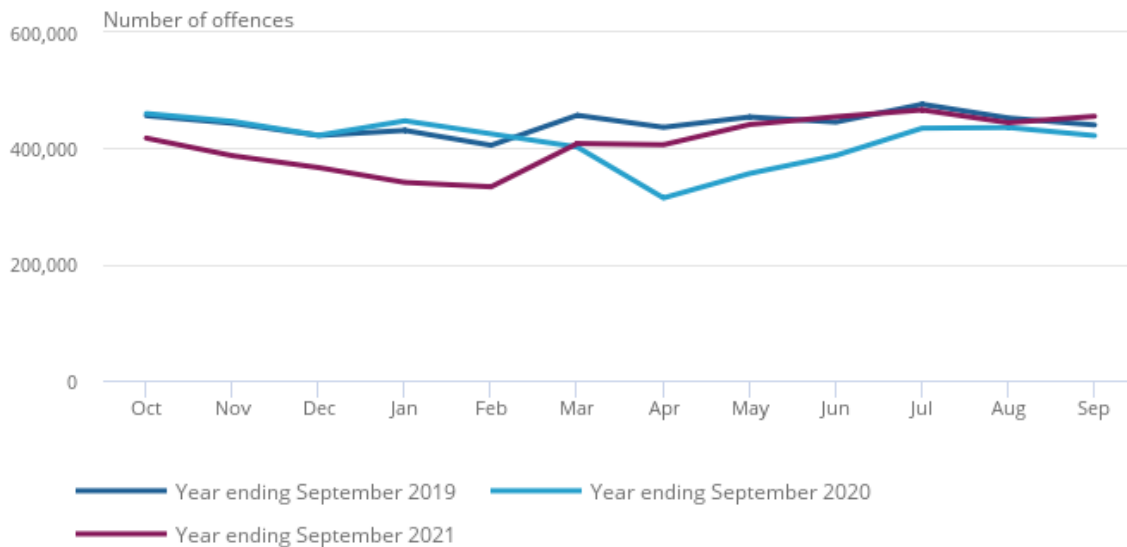
The latest published national statistics for England and Wales includes data to the year ending September 2021 (ONS, 2022).

This publication highlighted that there has been a 14% increase in total crime (as estimated by the Crime Survey for England and Wales), driven by a 47% increase in fraud and computer misuse. A separate section on fraud and computer misuse has been added to this year's strategic assessment in response to this.

When crime figures are viewed without fraud and computer misuse there is a 14% decrease, attributed to an 18% decrease in theft offences.

National lockdowns led to a decrease in a number of crime types, however, overall figures are now returning to (or sometimes surpassing) pre-pandemic levels as shown in the chart below.

Figure 1: Police recorded crime (excluding fraud and compute misuse) year ending September. England and Wales. Source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime



Source: Home Office - Police recorded crime

COVID-19 has given rise to the development of new crime types and trends. A series of papers published by UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science Research highlight the rise of new crime issues. For example, contactless card payments crimes, frauds and the use of face masks as crime facilitators (COVID-19 Special Papers 2022) (UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science, 2022).

2. Executive summary

2.1. Overview

Criminal activity continued to be significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 both nationally and locally. Overall crime in England and Wales was up by 14% in the year ending September 2021, driven by a 47% increase in fraud and computer misuse. Excluding fraud and computer misuse, crime was actually down by 14%, attributed to reductions in crime (particularly theft offences) during lockdown periods. Data shows crime returning pre-pandemic levels in the latter half of 2021.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole, and South Cambridgeshire specifically, saw similar patterns with notable drops in overall crime during the lockdown periods in 2020 and 2021, followed by a return to close to pre-pandemic levels. Overall crime in South Cambridgeshire was down 6% in 2021 compared to 2019. South Cambridgeshire is a relatively low crime area with a crime rate of 43 offences per 1,000 population in 2021, the lowest of all districts in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

2.2. Personal Safety - Key Findings

Acquisitive crime was notably reduced in 2021, linked to limits on offending opportunities as a result of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. The theft of catalytic converters from vehicles showed a contrasting pattern with marked increases seen. The theft of catalytic converters accounted for a quarter of all vehicle crime offences in South Cambridgeshire in 2021. Catalytic converter theft is an organised acquisitive crime type and has been identified as a national issue in recent years.

Violence Against the Person has increased since 2019, driven by a rise in the number of stalking and harassment offences, reflecting national patterns. Violence with injury remains a low proportion of Violence Against the person offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire with healthcare data also indicative of a decline in violence with injury since 2019.

County Lines is a high-harm national issue which involves the exploitation of vulnerable individuals to facilitate the movement of drugs. The extent to which this issue is impacting on South Cambridgeshire is not currently well understood, although Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis has highlighted at-risk young people to be residing in South Cambridgeshire, particularly in areas of recent large-scale housing development.

The number of Child Sexual Exploitation crimes recorded in South Cambridgeshire more than doubled in 2021. Whilst this increase occurred from a low base, CSE is an underreported crime type with the true number of offences likely to be much higher. CSE is a very high harm offence type.

2.3. Community Harm – Key Findings

The total volume of ASB was down in 2021 compared to the previous year and just below the level in 2019. Fluctuations were noted relating to the national lockdowns. Youth-related ASB was found to be highly concentrated in certain locations.

There has been an increase in the number of hate crimes recorded in South Cambridgeshire since 2019. Whilst there is a low overall volume of hate crime, these can be high harm and the true number of offences is likely to be higher due to underreporting. Analysis of the records showed that the majority of crimes were not isolated incidents, indicating a high level of harm where individuals are being repeatedly victimised.

From 2019 to 2021 there has been a consistent trend of increase in public order offences in South Cambridgeshire. Fluctuations have however occurred with marked decreases in the national lockdown periods

Nationally notable increases in fraud and computer misuse offences have driven overall increases in total crime. Local data shows police recorded cybercrime has increased, albeit from a low base. Underreporting is a significant issue for cybercrime, as such the true volume of offences is likely to be much higher.

2.4. Recommendations

2.4.1. Existing priorities 2020/21 – 2021/22

Priority 1: It was recommended that for 2021/22 the Partnership prioritised a thematic issue in developing the toolkit within the Transformation Topic that focused on communities helping themselves and each other. This priority can be summarised as **Community resilience - Areas where communities are galvanising energy into action and can share their experiences with others to tackle issues of local importance.**

Priority 1 has been in place for two years and can now be discharged as the two toolkits developed under this priority have now been completed.

Priority 2: It was recommended that priority areas were driven by data and informed by professional judgement and were organised under the following headings:

Emerging - Areas where multiple issues are presenting and/or where escalating issues have been identified.

Preventing - Growth areas and/or existing communities where vulnerabilities are predicted to be an issue for the future.

Sustaining - Areas where work has been / is being done to tackle known issues and supported to improve future resilience is provided

The CSP has been working under priority 2 for the past two years, with this approach to risk assessment and place-based working now established. This priority should be retained and developed in 2022/23. Specific areas recommended for further development are outlined in the priority description below.

2.4.2. New recommended priorities 2022/23

The Research Group recommends the following priorities are adopted from April 2022.

Priority 1: Priority areas continue to be driven by data whilst also being informed by a wider range of professional judgement

Professional judgement: Professional concerns are routinely gathered at the quarterly review stage which feeds into the risk matrix via the professional concern flag. The professional concerns that have been gathered to date via the Tasking & Coordination Group have predominantly been from a policing perspective. The CSP should work to identify a wider range of professionals outside of the Tasking & Coordination Group membership who could feed into the quarterly data reviews to ensure a broader spectrum of professional inputs are being considered. Professional input from those with insight into issues raised within this assessment (e.g. at-risk young people) should be sought.

Community empowerment: The community resilience priority from 2021/22 has been discharged with the completion of the two toolkits. There is scope for the community resilience element (whereby communities are empowered to solve problems of local importance) to be incorporated within this priority for 2022/23. The CSP should consider how community concerns could feed into the quarterly reviews, potentially via results of the police survey/engagement events and the work of the Cambridgeshire County Council Think Communities team. Community engagement is already underway in priority areas, this should be continued and developed within all priority areas in 2022/23 to ensure that communities are involved and have agency in tackling local issues.

Priority 2: Protect those vulnerable to high harm

Vulnerability in relation to high harm crime types is a common emerging theme within this Strategic Assessment.

Children and young people are a vulnerable group highlighted in this year's strategic assessment, with increases noted in child sexual exploitation offences as well as young people in the district being at risk of criminal exploitation relating to county lines. It is recommended that the CSP work to establish robust prevention across the district. As a starting point, the CSP should access resources developed by Cambridge City CSP to help raise children's awareness of the risks of County Lines exploitation.

An increase in police recorded hate crime has been observed in South Cambridgeshire. Victims of hate crime are vulnerable to experiencing high harm. Analysis of hate crime records showed that the majority of offences were not isolated incidents, indicating a high level of harm where individuals are being repeatedly victimised. In response to these findings, the CSP should explore the issue of hate crime to develop a better understanding of the problem in South Cambridgeshire.

The current economic context is putting people under increasing financial strain with the cost of living up as a result of inflation and forecast to continue increasing in 2022. Individuals living in poverty are at high risk of significant financial related harm. A number of families and individuals who are financially stable currently are likely to face increasing struggles as the cost of living rises. The CSP should look to develop methods to identify those people who are at risk, as overall vulnerability can lead to a reduction in community resilience. There is likely to be overlap with activity taking place within the wider system to address these issues that the CSP can collaborate with.

Additional recommendations to note

In response to the increasing levels of catalytic theft offences it is recommended that:

- Monitoring of offences is included in quarterly data reviews completed by the Cambridgeshire Research Group.
- Activities to raise public awareness and provide crime prevention advice are conducted.

It is recommended that youth-related ASB feeds in to the risk matrix analysis for future quarterly data reviews.

Cambridgeshire constabulary has recommended that South Cambridgeshire CSP and partners (including police, as appropriate) implement a public awareness campaign around Organised Immigration Crime. This could include signs and public service announcements at services, lorry stops and lay-bys where confirmed OIC incidents have occurred, to alert the public to this issue and to encourage reporting of suspected OIC events.

Some additional items for the CSP to note in future plans are listed below.

- Changes in national policy, namely the Serious Violence Duty and the National Drugs Strategy are expected to influence the work of the CSP in the coming year and the CSP should be kept up to date with their progression.
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary are completing analysis of the local drug market, the CSP should allow space in their action plan to respond to the results in due course.

3. Summary of CSP activities

South Cambridgeshire CSP has been working under two priorities for 2021/22, the activities carried out relating to these priorities are summarised below.

Priority 1: It is recommended that for 2021/22 the Partnership prioritises a thematic issue in developing the toolkit within the Transformation Topic that focuses on communities helping themselves and each other. This priority can be summarised as ***Community resilience - Areas where communities are galvanising energy into action and can share their experiences with others to tackle issues of local importance.***

Update:

The two toolkits have now been completed under this priority.

1. Community Engagement toolkit

The Community Engagement toolkit has been developed and launched on the South Cambridgeshire District Council website: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/CSP>. A form has been created to allow people to express their particular needs. Further publicity is required before gathering feedback on the toolkit.

2. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) Inclusion toolkit

All sessions have now been delivered. Evaluation is in progress.

Priority 2: It is recommended that priority areas are driven by data and informed by professional judgement and will be organised under the following headings:

Emerging - Areas where multiple issues are presenting and/or where escalating issues have been identified.

Preventing - Growth areas and/or existing communities where vulnerabilities are predicted to be an issue for the future.

Sustaining - Areas where work has been / is being done to tackle known issues and supported to improve future resilience is provided

Update:

Work under this priority continued throughout 2021/22, with analysis conducted by the Cambridgeshire Research Group and update reports produced in April 2021, July 2021, December 2021 and March 2022. These reports were used to inform discussions at the Tasking & Co-ordination group and to update (where required) the selected priority locations. A dynamic approach has been employed to ensure that effectiveness is maximised under this workstream. Examples of changes include the consideration of new data subsets and the development of an area specific briefing document for wider circulation in priority areas.

A range of work has occurred in these priority areas including; analysis, scoping and engagement with both communities and professionals. The Cambridgeshire County Council's Think Communities team have been involved in this community work in a number of areas. A summary of the priority areas active during 2021/22 is presented overleaf.

Additional activities

- Two separate Problem Solving Groups were set up, one for adults and one for young people and families.
 - Hoarding has been a recurring theme at the adults PSG
 - Review of PSG's starting February 2022
- Survey - police survey completed in early 2022.
- Events – in-person events have been limited by COVID-19 during 2021/22. An event has been held in Orchard Park with further events planned for priority areas in 2022/23.
- Information campaigns – numerous information campaigns shared including with CSP partners, the community (e.g. via the South Cambs quarterly magazine) and businesses as appropriate. Topics covered include: Violence Against Women & Girls, Domestic Abuse, PREVENT, ASB, CSP toolkits and grants.



Orchard Park (Histon & Impington)
Emerging

Concerns: Crime and ASB hotspots, deliberate fires, financial need.

Activities: Multi-agency partnership set up with an additional youth-specific sub-group. Funding secured for targeted youth work. Action plan developed. Community engagement event held.

Date adopted: February 2020

Melbourn
Emerging

Concerns: DA, deliberate fires and financial need. One flag for ASB.

Activities: Melbourn underpass improvement plan being developed. Plans to expand existing youth focused community group or create a new group under the Think Communities approach. Mapping of youth activities.

Date adopted: April 2021

Cambourne
Sustaining (from emerging in 2020/21)

Concerns: Consistent Crime and ASB hotspot in the district. Specific concerns around domestic abuse and violent crime.

Activities: Engagement with Cambourne Town Council (area briefing produced) and bi-monthly Community Partnership Meeting set up. Plans for community engagement (potential survey/attendance at community events).

Date adopted: February 2020

Northstowe (Longstanton) - Discharged
Preventing

Concerns: New growing community with need to mitigate risk. Crime, ASB and domestic abuse. Concerns and data flags reduced during 2021/22.

Activities – Place-based stakeholder group (Northstowe Support Partnership) in place. Voluntary-led youth organisation set up. Partners addressing issues of ASB.

Date adopted: February 2020 **Date discharged:** July 2021

Milton & Waterbeach
Emerging - Discharged

Concerns: Crime, ASB, deliberate fires, financial need.

Activities: Scoping to identify professional/community concerns. Detailed analysis to explore issues where data flags occurred.

Date adopted: September 2020 **Date discharged:** March 2022

Fen Ditton & Fulbourn
Emerging - Discharged

Concerns: Crime (in part linked to Fulbourn hospital), ASB, deliberate fires and financial need.

Activities: Detailed crime analysis to enhance understanding of issues and extent to which specific sites (Fulbourn Hospital and Tesco) influence ward level statistics. Scoping issues in the community.

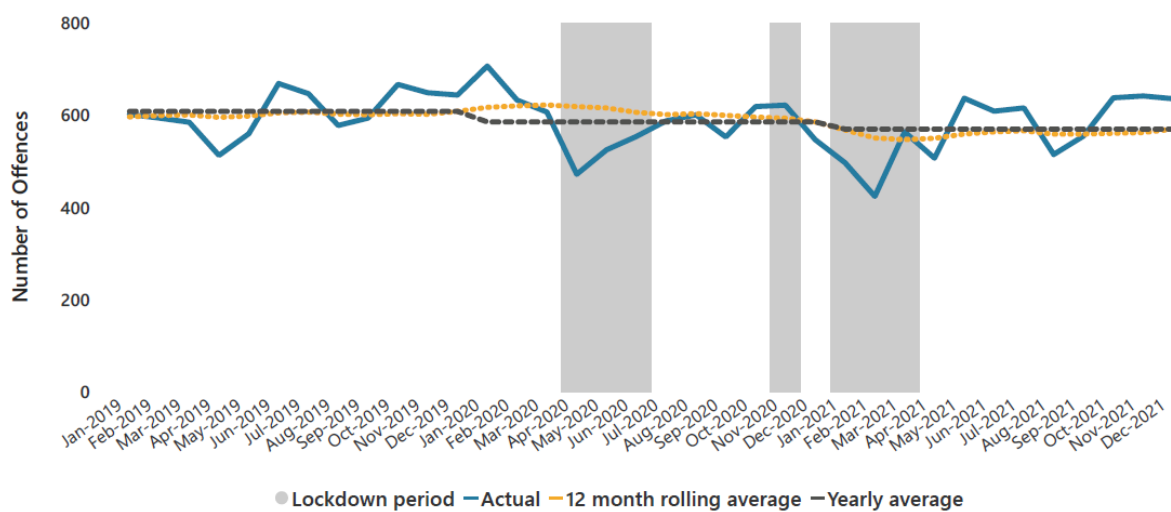
Date adopted: January 2020 **Date discharged:** July 2021

4. Crime Overview

In line with national patterns, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have seen overall reductions in crime in 2021 compared to the pre-pandemic year (2019). Crime in South Cambridgeshire is down by 6%.

This overall decline has been driven by reductions in crime during the COVID-19 lockdowns as illustrated in Figure 2 (below). Since the easing of restrictions in spring 2021 the total monthly offence count has returned close to pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 2: Police recorded crime in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 - December 2021



South Cambridgeshire remains a relatively low crime area with a crime rate of 43 offences per 1,000 population in 2021, the lowest of all districts in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Table 2: Police recorded crime rate per 1,000 population, 2021

District	Total crime rate per 1,000 population
Cambridge	105
East Cambridgeshire	46
Fenland	78
Huntingdonshire	56
Peterborough	108
South Cambridgeshire	43

*With reference to ONS mid-2020 population estimate, the latest available at time of writing.

5. Personal Safety

Acquisitive Crime: - The volume of acquisitive crime in South Cambridgeshire in 2021 was notably lower in 2021 compared to the pre-pandemic year (2019), reflecting national patterns. Theft, burglary and vehicle crime were all decreased due to the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions on crime opportunities. Catalytic converter thefts from vehicles showed a contrasting trend, with marked increases recorded in 2021 resulting in catalytic converter thefts accounting for a quarter of all vehicle offences in South Cambridgeshire.

Domestic Abuse: There were fluctuations in police recorded domestic abuse around the national lockdown periods. There has been an overall trend of increase in DA crimes and DA incidents in South Cambridgeshire since 2019. The relatively new offence of coercive control is also described in this section with South Cambridgeshire having a somewhat lower rate of coercive control offences (0.44 per 1000 population) than Cambridgeshire as a whole (0.48 per 1000 population).

Modern Slavery: Police recorded Modern Slavery offences are low in comparison to records in other districts for recent years. This is contrary to the national growth in Modern slavery investigations and referrals of potential victims via the National Referral Mechanism for potential victims of Modern Slavery (NRM). Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis has highlighted people smuggling involving lorries in the main thoroughfares of South Cambridgeshire (e.g. A14 and A428).

County Lines: County Lines is a high-harm national issue which involves the exploitation of vulnerable individuals to facilitate the movement and supply of drugs. The extent to which this issue is impacting on South Cambridgeshire is not currently well understood, although there are likely at-risk young people residing within the district. Work to improve awareness is recommended as both a preventative measure and to enhance reporting.

Violence: National statistics show that an increase in Violence Against the Person has been driven by a rise in the number of stalking and harassment offences. This pattern is reflected locally in South Cambridgeshire with a marked volume increase since 2019. Violence with injury remains a low proportion of Violence Against the person offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire. Indeed, broadly speaking healthcare data also reflects a reduced volume of violence with injury locally since 2019.

Knife Crime: National lockdowns saw a lower level of police recorded knife crime both nationally and in South Cambridgeshire. However, in 2021 knife crime has been above the pre-pandemic (2019) levels in South Cambridgeshire.

Child Sexual Exploitation: South Cambridgeshire did not see marked increases in this offence type between 2018 – 2020. However, in 2021 the number of Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes recorded more than doubled. Whilst CSE crimes are low in total volume, CSE is an underreported and high harm crime type. The true extent of this issue is therefore likely much higher.

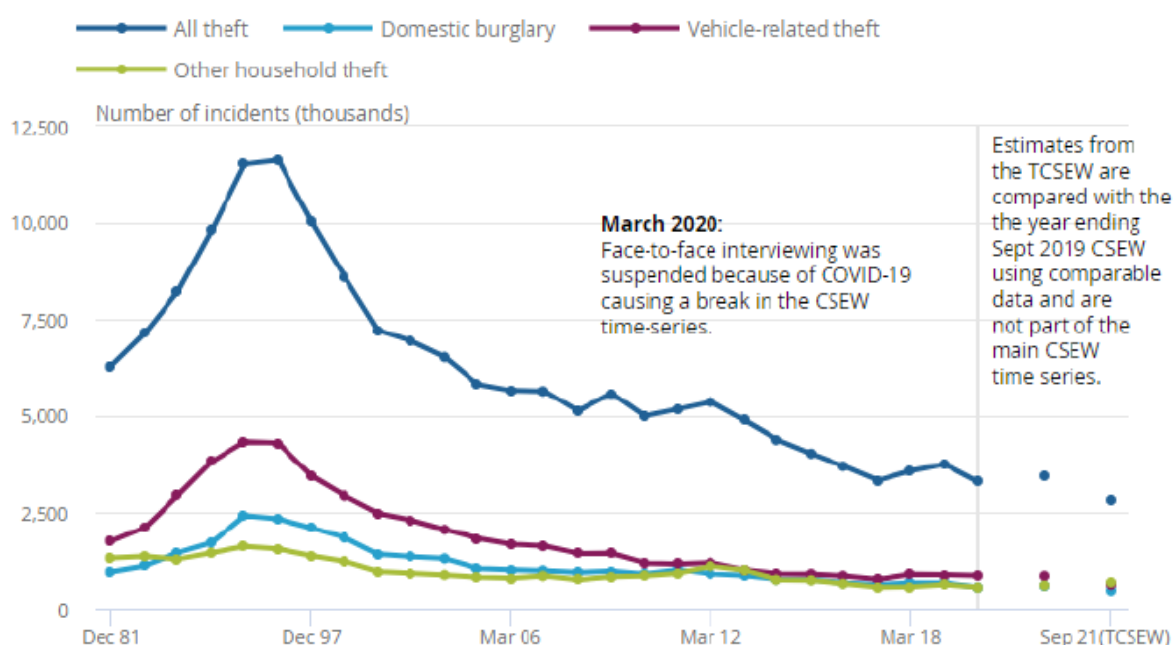
5.1. Acquisitive crime

Acquisitive crime is a broad crime category, encompassing a wide range of offences which vary considerably in the level of associated personal harm, for example, from shoplifting to personal robbery. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides the best estimates of long-term trends in high volume crime such as theft and shows long-term reductions in these crime types as illustrated in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: National statistics – Theft (Source: ONS)

Figure 9: The CSEW shows long-term reductions in theft offences

England and Wales, annual estimates



National data has shown substantial reductions in acquisitive crime during the past two years, linked to reduced opportunities for offending because of the pandemic and associated government restrictions. The TCSEW (Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales) showed an 18% fall in theft offences in the year ending September 2021 compared to the pre-pandemic year ending September 2019. Reductions were seen in most sub-categories with the greatest falls recorded for theft from the person (53%), vehicle-related offences (26%) and bicycle theft (23%). The reduction in theft offences was the primary driver for the overall reduction in crime (when excluding fraud and computer misuse) seen in the TCSEW for this time period.

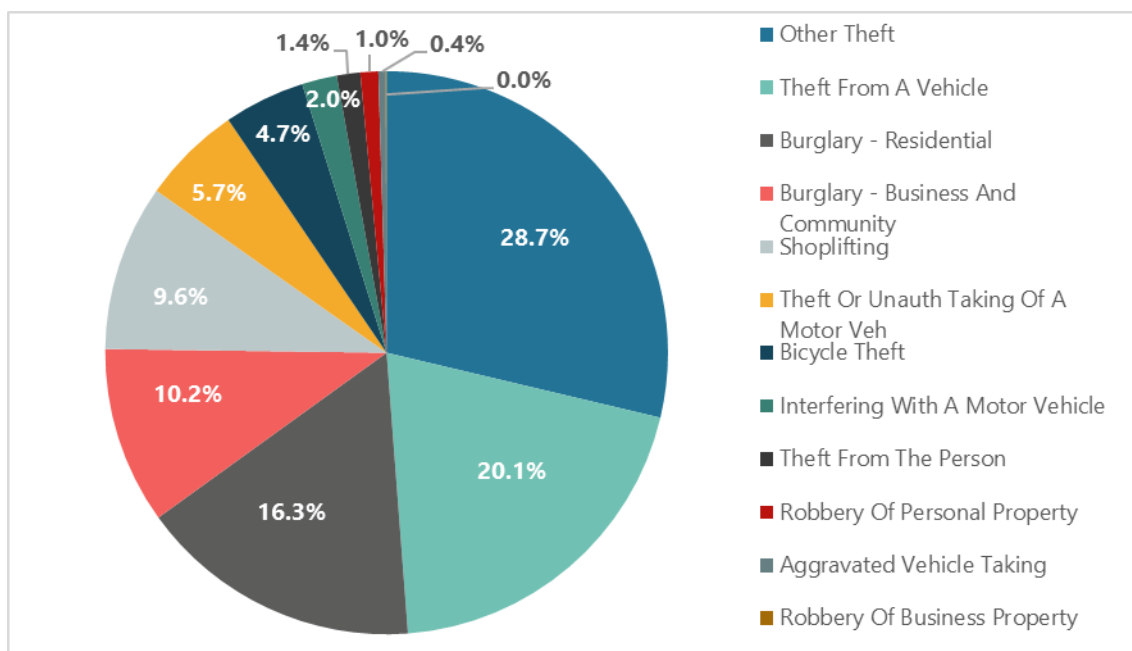
National police recorded crime data also reflects this pattern with a 14% reduction in theft offences in the year ending September 2021 compared to the previous year. The greatest decreases were seen in burglary (21%), theft from the person (20%), vehicle offences (14%)

and shoplifting (13%). A 9% increase in metal theft was recorded nationally which has been linked to improvements in the recording of catalytic converter thefts by the Metropolitan Police.

Local police recorded crime data shows a similar pattern in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with an overall decrease of 32% in the number of acquisitive crimes recorded in 2021 compared to 2019. For South Cambridgeshire specifically, there was a fall of 35% in total acquisitive crime between 2019 and 2021, with burglary falling by 44%, theft falling by 33% and vehicle offences falling by 26%.

Figure 4 (below) shows the proportion of all acquisitive crimes accounted for by the range of offence sub-groups. 'Other theft' accounted for the highest proportion of acquisitive crime in South Cambridgeshire in 2021 at 29%. The next most prevalent acquisitive crime types were 'theft from a vehicle' (20%), 'burglary - residential' (16%), 'burglary business and community' (10%) and 'shoplifting' (10%). The breakdown of crime types has remained fairly consistent over the past three years. The main changes to note were a reduction in the proportion of residential burglary from 21% in 2019 to 16% in 2021, likely linked to lockdown restrictions and the shift to home working increasing the presence of 'suitable guardians' at residential dwellings and consequently reducing the opportunities for offending. There was a slight increase in the proportion of theft from a vehicle and shoplifting offences.

Figure 4: Police recorded acquisitive crime in South Cambridgeshire, 2021, crime sub-type breakdown



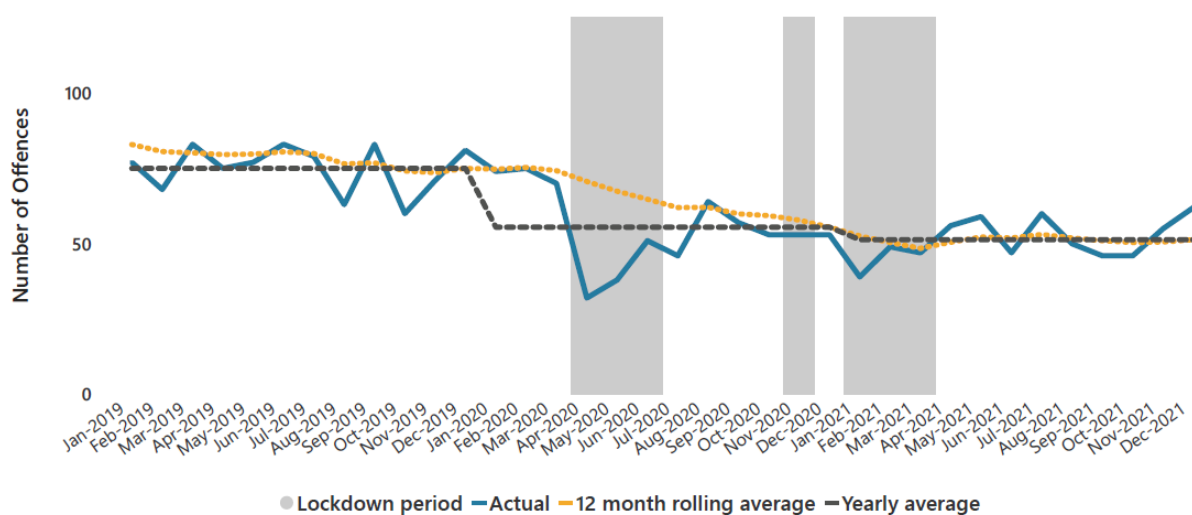
The following section outlines the three-year trend for the most prevalent acquisitive crime types in South Cambridgeshire; Other theft, Vehicle Crime and Burglary (residential and business and community).

5.1.1. Other Theft

The category of other theft covers offences which involve the theft of property which is not taken directly for a person or shop. The predominant sub-type offences under this category of offences in South Cambridgeshire in 2021 were ‘theft if not classified elsewhere’, ‘making off without payment’, ‘theft in a dwelling other than from an automatic machine or meter’ and ‘blackmail’.

Other theft offences dropped sharply at the start of the first national lockdown, decreasing by 54% in April 2020 compared to March. This reflects the limitation in opportunities for offending whilst the strictest limits on mobility were in place. The number of offences did start to increase towards the end of the lockdown and as the restrictions were eased, however, the levels have remained broadly below pre-pandemic levels to the end of 2021. Spikes of theft of fuel from specific petrol stations within the district have been flagged under the quarterly review data work and will have contributed to these figures under the ‘making off without payment’ offence type.

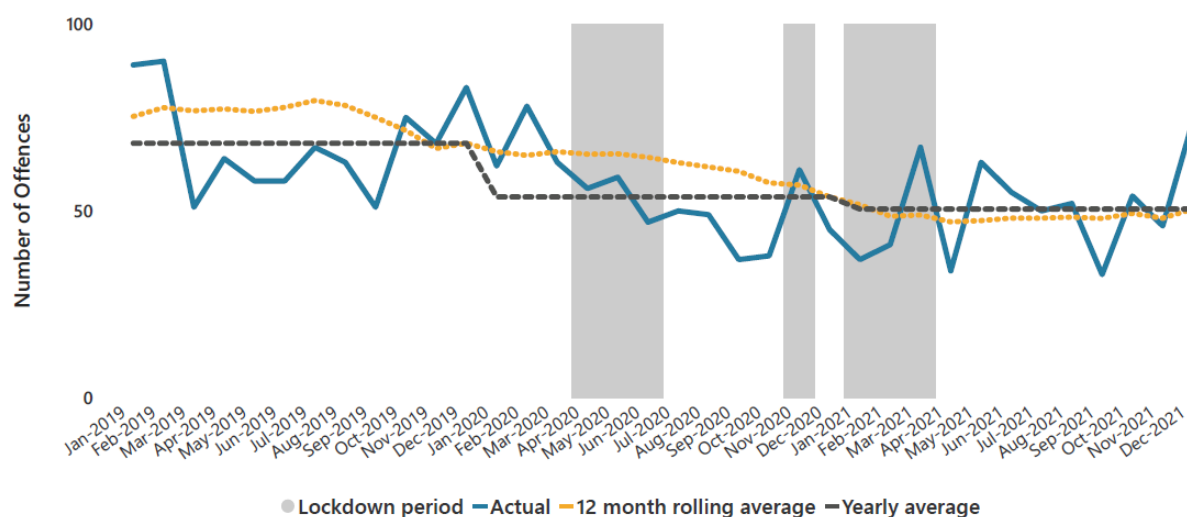
Figure 5: Police recorded ‘Other Theft’ in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



5.1.2. Vehicle Crime

The main category of vehicle offences includes the theft of vehicles, theft from vehicles and interference with a vehicle. Theft from vehicles accounted for most of the vehicle crime in South Cambridgeshire between 2019-2021 (70%). The monthly trend data for vehicle offences (Figure 6) show reductions during the first and third lockdown periods, although the same pattern was not seen in November 2020 (lockdown two) where vehicle crime increased. A spike in catalytic converter thefts in March 2021 was the main driver for the overall increase seen during that month of the third lockdown. Catalytic converter thefts are analysed in more detail below. A spike in the number of offences recorded in December 2021 (driven mostly by 'theft from a vehicle' offences) marks a return to pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 6: Police recorded Vehicle Offences in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



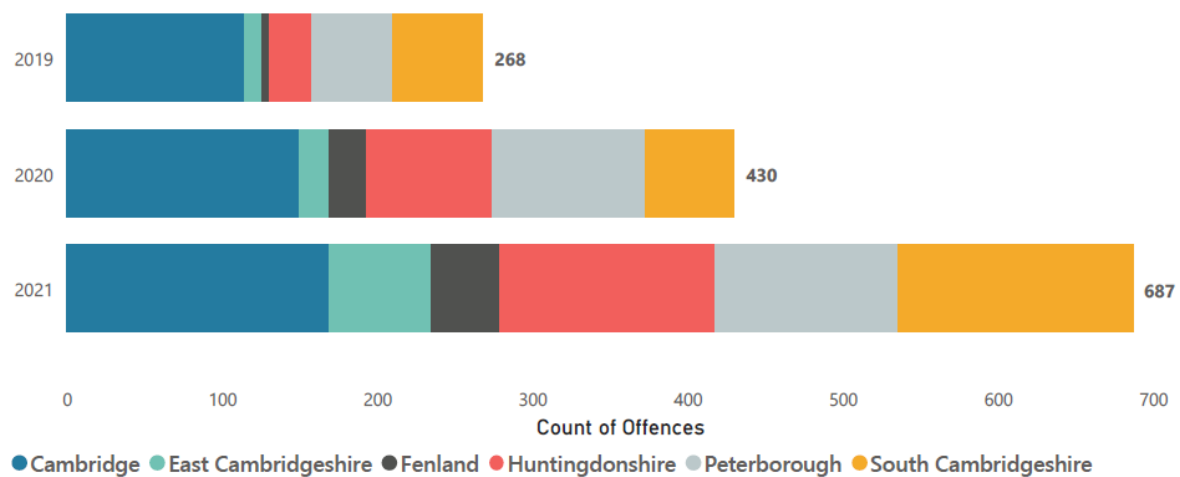
The theft of catalytic converters from vehicles has been identified as a national issue in recent years. The National Crime Agency's National Strategic Assessment of Serious Organised Crime highlights catalytic converter theft under organised acquisitive crime, with Cambridgeshire Constabulary similarly identifying catalytic converter theft as a form of organised acquisitive crime which has afflicted South Cambridgeshire (National Crime Agency, 2021).

The National Crime Agency strategic assessment notes a growth in thefts in 2020, driven by increases in the value of the precious metals they contain. The ONS reports a 9% increase in metal theft in the year ending September 2021, in part attributed to improved recording of catalytic converter thefts by the Metropolitan Police (ONS, 2022). The National Police Chief's Council reports that catalytic converter thefts peaked nationally in February-March 2021, in line with a surge of the price of precious metals, followed by steady declines then

seen in the summer. A multi-agency operation was led by the British Transport Police in April 2021 which involved enforcement activity, the creation of a national asset database and SmartWater vehicle marking (National Police Chiefs' Council, 2021). Future levels of catalytic converter thefts are likely to continue to be linked to the value of precious metals.

Local data has been examined to explore the issue in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A keyword search was conducted on the MO field of all vehicle offence to identify catalytic converter thefts/attempted thefts. The data shows an increase of 156% in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between 2019 (268 offences) and 2021 (687 offences). Figure 7 (below) shows the count of offences by district over this time period. It shows that Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire had the highest increase in volume during this time period. The number of offences in South Cambridgeshire rose by 160% from 58 offences in 2019 to 151 in 2021. This accounts for a quarter of all vehicle offences in 2021.

Figure 7: Number of vehicle offences featuring catalytic converter keywords in the MO field



Cambridgeshire Constabulary conducted a week-long operation tackling the issue in April 2021, including enforcement through increased road network patrols, visits to scrap metal dealers and crime prevention advice for residents. South Cambridgeshire did see a reduction in offences in April 2021 following the peak observed in March. Since then offences have continued, with the monthly total ranging from between 8-16 offences.

Geographical analysis showed that offences in 2021 were spread fairly evenly throughout the district, including both residential streets and several car parks of varying sizes. Large car parks such as Park and Ride sites have typically been a target for catalytic converter thefts in Cambridgeshire, however, whilst some offences were recorded at these locations the number was not high. The pandemic has led to shifts in commuting behaviour which has potentially made residential streets or smaller car parks a more likely target.

Due to the increasing levels of offences noted and the link to organised acquisitive crime it is recommended that monitoring of offences is included in the quarterly data reviews

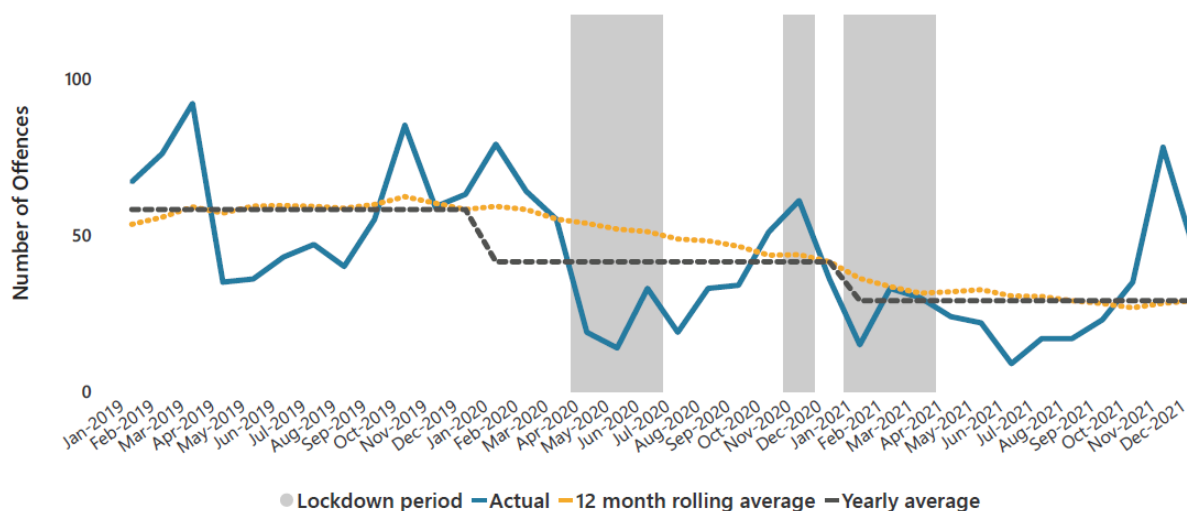
completed by the Cambridgeshire Research Group going forward. Furthermore, activities to raise public awareness and provide crime prevention advice are also recommended.

5.1.3. Burglary

The ONS have reported notable reductions in the number of residential burglaries during the pandemic period, linked to people spending more time at home and thus enhancing guardianship of properties. The Telephone Survey for England and Wales found the volume of burglaries was down by a fifth (20%) in the year ending September 2021 compared to 2019. National police recorded crime similarly showed a 21% reduction of burglaries in this time period (ONS, 2022).

Local data does show that levels of residential burglaries in South Cambridgeshire fell dramatically at the start of the first and third national lockdowns as the stay-at-home orders were in place. The same pattern was not observed during the second lockdown with residential burglaries up in November 2020. Following the easing of restrictions in April 2021 levels of residential burglary remained well below pre-pandemic levels, possibly linked to a sustained shift towards home working providing continued increase guardianship for homes. There was a spike in residential burglaries in November 2021 with 78 offences recorded, data will need to be monitored into 2022 to establish whether this was an isolated spike or whether it marks a return to pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 8: Police Recorded Residential Burglary in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021

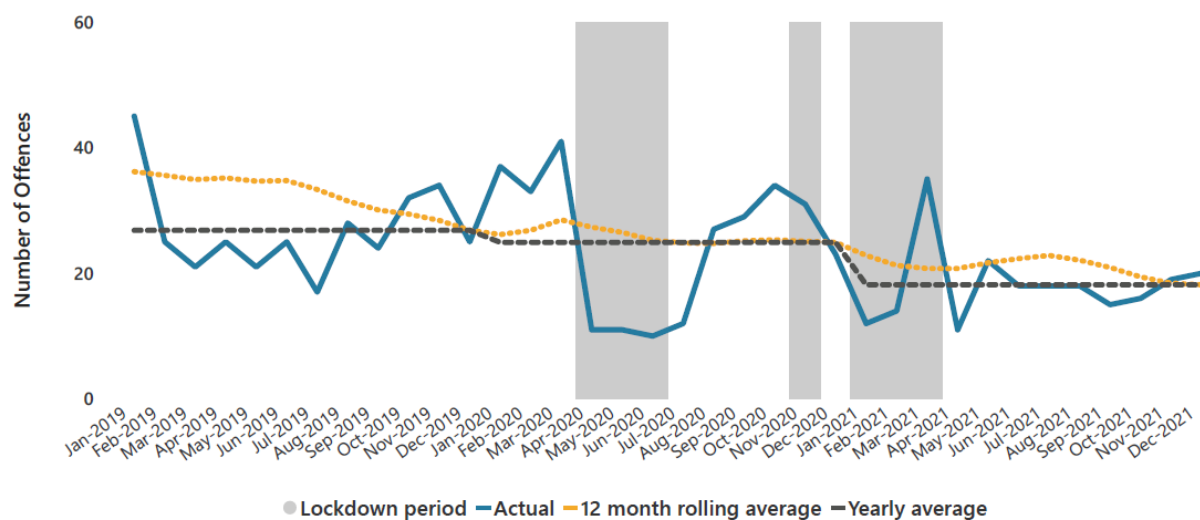


Histon & Impington, Harston & Comberton and Fen Ditton & Fulbourn experienced the highest volume of residential burglaries in 2021. Analysis has been completed on the November 2021 offences to better understand this spike. Histon & Impington accounted for just over a quarter (26%) of these burglaries, experiencing almost the same number of

burglaries in November (20) as the rest of 2021 combined (21). The majority of these offences were shed/out-building break-ins. Residential burglary data should be analysed as part of the next quarterly data review to establish the ongoing pattern and to identify any potential hotspots.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales does not gather data on business victims. Police recorded crime data showed a 39% reduction in non-residential burglaries in the year ending September 2021 compared to the pre-pandemic year ending September 2019. These figures go against the theory that residential burglaries may have been displaced to empty commercial properties during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Local data reflects the national picture, with the number of business and community burglaries down by 32% in 2021 compared to 2019. As illustrated in figure 9 (below), the pattern in monthly offences was very similar to that seen for residential burglaries with sharp drops occurring in April 2020 and January 2021. There was a spike in offences in March 2021, after which monthly offence counts dropped to just below pre-pandemic levels. The March 2021 offences have been analysed and were spread across the district with a range of different offence types, although the targeting of tools or vehicles was a common theme.

Figure 9: Police Recorded Burglary (Business and Community) in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



Cambridgeshire Constabulary recommends that the CSP engages with farms and rural businesses, as well as isolated communities to raise awareness about organised acquisitive crime and provide crime prevention advice such as target hardening techniques.

5.2. Domestic Abuse

2021 has seen changes in legislation relating to Domestic Abuse via the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#). It should be noted that the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines domestic abuse beyond physical violence and includes emotional, controlling and coercive behaviour, and economic abuse between two people aged 16 or over who are personally connected. New requirements mean that a County Domestic Abuse Strategic Board will be established with the CSP represented on this. A Countywide Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment was also carried out locally to meet the new legislative change. There is a Domestic Abuse Partnership for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which has recently agreed and published a Safe Accommodation Strategy (available at cambsdasv.org.uk).

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) completed the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment in summer 2021. This considered the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area as a whole. The key findings from this are provided as an infographic in the appendix for information.

The key recommendations from this needs assessment were to increase accommodation support for the following groups:

- Lithuanian and Polish women
- Gypsy/ traveller communities
- Older people
- Women
- People with uncertain immigration status
- Residents with disabilities (especially women with mental health issues and those misusing substances).

Upcoming outputs from the 2021 census will help evidence where these groups are located across the local area.

National statistics outline an incomplete picture of changes in the trend for domestic abuse. In the year ending September 2021 police recorded crimes with a domestic abuse marker increased by 5% compared to the previous year. The Crime Survey for England and Wales had to change its mode of operation since the start of the pandemic to a telephone survey. This meant that questions on domestic abuse could not be included. This key source of information for long term trend is therefore missing from the most recent national statistics. Support services have however highlighted an increase in demand nationally around national lockdown periods. However, this may not reflect a higher volume of victims but increased severity of abuse.

There has been an overall trend of increase in DA crimes and DA incidents in South Cambridgeshire since 2019. The annual volume of DA incidents has increased by 13% from

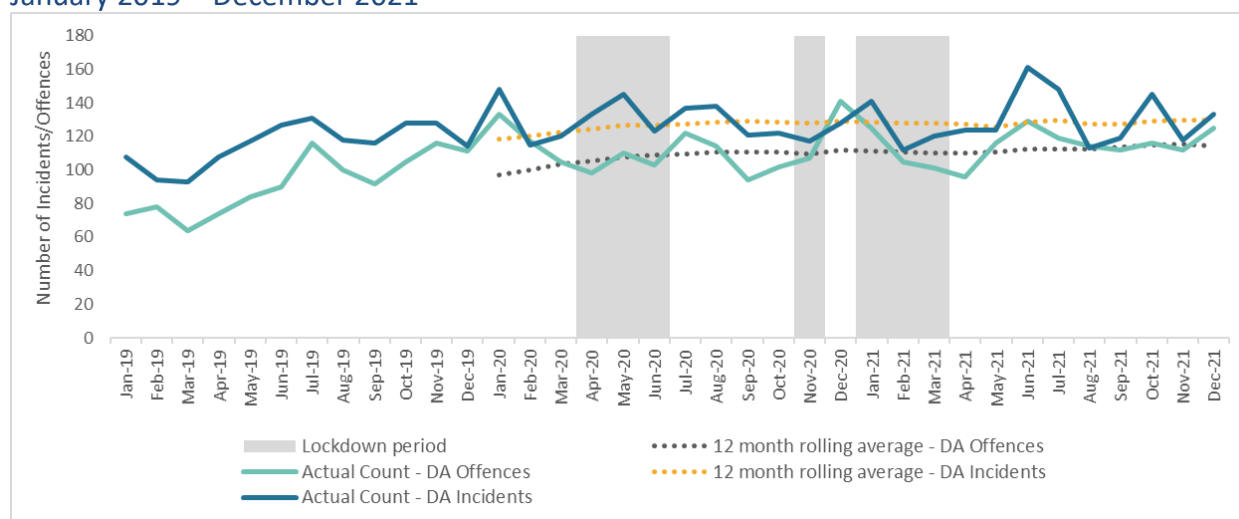
2019 to 2021. The volume of DA crimes in South Cambridgeshire has increased by 24% in the same period. This does also represent an increased rate per 1000 population (for both DA incidents and DA crimes) as shown in the table below. It is unclear from the data whether this is a result of improved recording or an actual increase in crimes occurring.

Table 3: Police recorded DA incidents and DA crimes in South Cambridgeshire, with rate per 1000 population for each year 2019, 2020, 2021.

Year	Total number of DA incidents	Rate of incidents per 1,000 population	Total number of crimes	Total number of crimes per 1,000 population
2019	1382	8.69	1104	6.94
2020	1547	9.61	1346	8.37
2021	1558	9.68	1370	8.51

There have been some fluctuations in DA crimes and incidents within each year, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 10: Police recorded Domestic Abuse incidents and Crimes in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



South Cambridgeshire did not have a marked increase in police recorded DA incidents and DA offences towards at the end of or soon after national lockdowns. This differs from other districts and is contrary to the patterns identified in rapid research conducted across several UK police force areas (Hohl, 2021). The UK research attributed the pattern to behaviour around separations as separation is a known known trigger for escalation in domestic abuse. The research found that fewer victims separated in the early stages of each lockdown and separations were likely delayed until lockdown eased, driving the increases in incidents and crimes recorded.

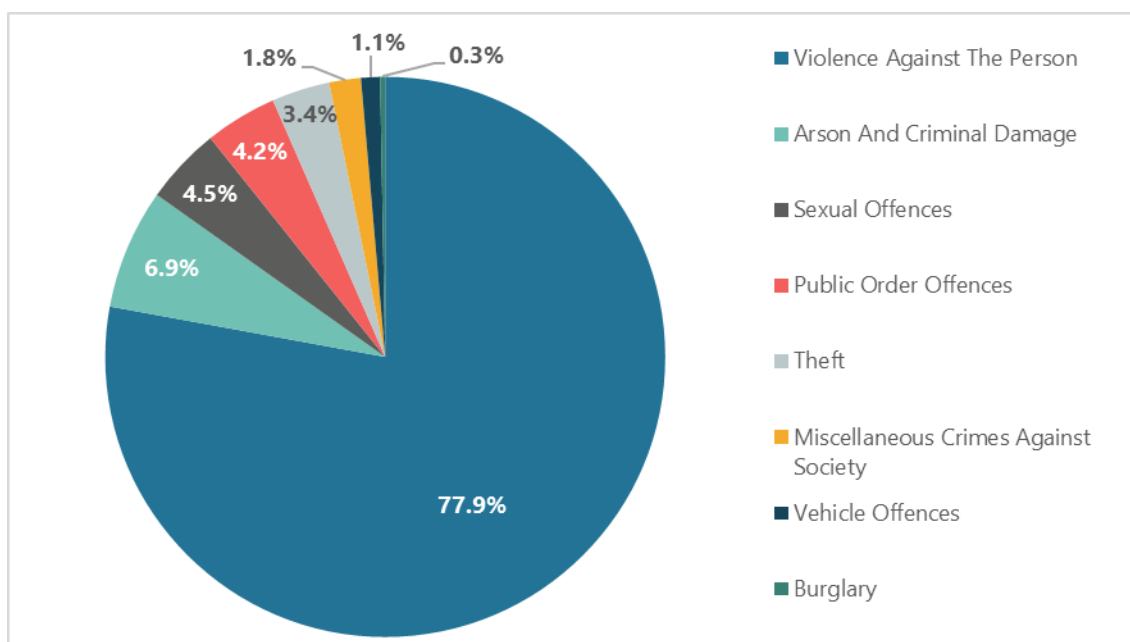
A peak in DA incidents is observed in June 2021. While there is no clear reason for this specific peak, it should be noted that a number of those incidents describe episodes in which children are being abusive towards parents (i.e. not partners or ex-partners). Familial violence (e.g., child to parent violence) has been acknowledged as an issue across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This has prompted the DASVP to now offer specific support for those experiencing child to parent violence, which the CSP should note.

Ward level analysis of DA incidents in South Cambridgeshire has highlighted Longstanton and Cambourne as areas with higher DA incident rates compared to other wards.

The figure below shows a breakdown of DA related offences in South Cambridgeshire in 2021. Violence Against the Person (VAP) is the most frequent crime type for DA related offence at 77.9% in 2021 and has been the main crime type since 2019.

Of the DA crimes of the VAP type, almost half (48%) were violence without injury, 32% were stalking and harassment and 19% were violence with injury.

Figure 11: DA-related offences in South Cambridgeshire by crime type, 2021



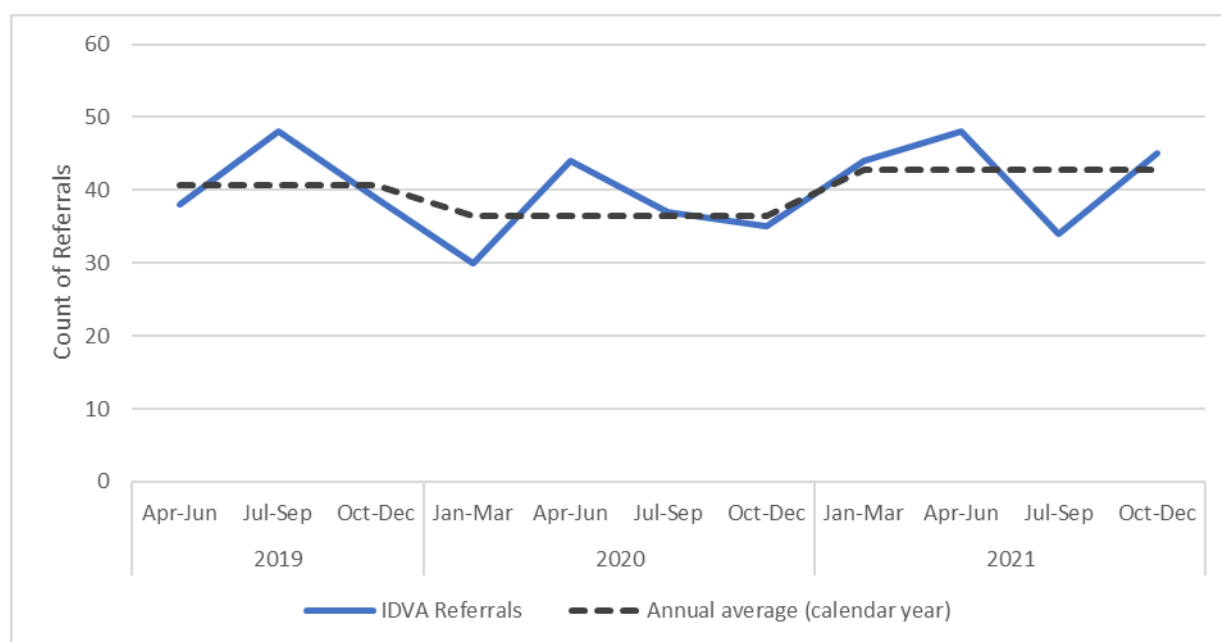
Coercive control is a relatively new offence which is of specific relevance to domestic abuse. Since its introduction in 2015, both awareness of the issue and police recording is likely to have improved. From 2019 to 2021 there have been 169 coercive control offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire. The table below shows the rate per 1,000 population for these offences, to give context and allow comparison between local areas. In 2021 South Cambridgeshire had a somewhat lower rate of coercive control offences (0.44 per 1000 population) than Cambridgeshire as a whole (0.48 per 1000 population).

Table 4: Police recorded coercive control offences counts and rates (based on available ONS population estimates) 2019-2021

District	Count (2019)	Rate (per 1000 people, mid-2019 estimates)	Count (2020)	Rate (per 1000 people, mid-2020 estimates)	Count (2021)	Rate (per 1000 people, mid-2020 estimates)	Total Count (2019-2021)
Peterborough	104	0.51	138	0.68	172	0.85	414
Fenland	23	0.23	56	0.55	67	0.66	146
Cambridge City	46	0.37	76	0.61	75	0.6	197
South Cambridgeshire	49	0.31	49	0.3	71	0.44	169
Huntingdonshire	62	0.35	96	0.54	73	0.41	231
East Cambridgeshire	18	0.2	36	0.4	31	0.34	85
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	302	0.35	451	0.52	489	0.57	1242
Cambridgeshire	198	0.3	313	0.48	317	0.48	828

In terms of local support services, the overall number of IDVA referrals (for all risk levels) in South Cambridgeshire has increased marginally by 6% (to an average of 42 referrals per quarter in 2021). A proportion of these are repeat referrals. Repeat referral rates are reported on a financial year basis. For the full financial year 2020-21 this represented 30% of all IDVA referrals in South Cambridgeshire (maintained at the same level as 2019-2020).

Figure 12: Quarterly IDVA referrals in South Cambridgeshire, 2019-2021 (Source: DASVP)



Technology-facilitated abuse ('Tech abuse') is acknowledged as a growing problem in the UK (Refuge, 2021). It is understood that technologies ranging from online accounts to internet

enabled home devices are frequently utilised during abuse, more so since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (UK Parliament, 2020) (Tanczer, et al., 2021). An exploration of current available data and more in-depth analysis would be required to understand tech abuse at a county or district level. **The partnership should consider tech abuse in its activities addressing domestic abuse.**

5.2.1. Domestic Homicide Reviews

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

At the time of writing there are two previous DHRs (relating to 2018-2019). One is being finalised following pre-quality panel feedback from the Home Office, the other is with the Home Office following amendments.

Two further DHRs have been terminated early due to there being nothing in the information gathered to indicate missed opportunities by agencies or lessons to be learnt. These DHR's are due to be delivered to the CSP Board on 30th March 2022 before going to the Home Office.

There are two further potential DHRs in South Cambridgeshire which were discussed with the panel in March 2022 and are now due to proceed.

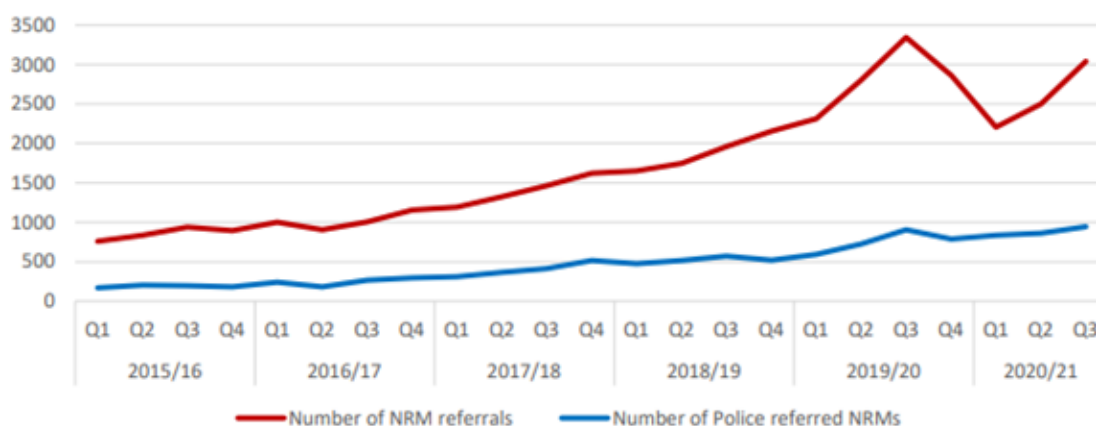
Common themes to note from DHRs across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are outlined below:

- Victims are generally not well known to services, but with some level of contact via health services.
- DHRs relating to suicides have been required in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in recent years. Partner organisations need to ensure links with suicide prevention efforts locally.

5.3. Modern Slavery

Nationally, the number of police investigations relating to Modern Slavery slightly decreased at the beginning of 2020/21, at the start of the COVID pandemic. However, numbers quickly increased again and continued to grow throughout the year (Policing Slavery, 2021) continuing the increasing trend seen since 2015.

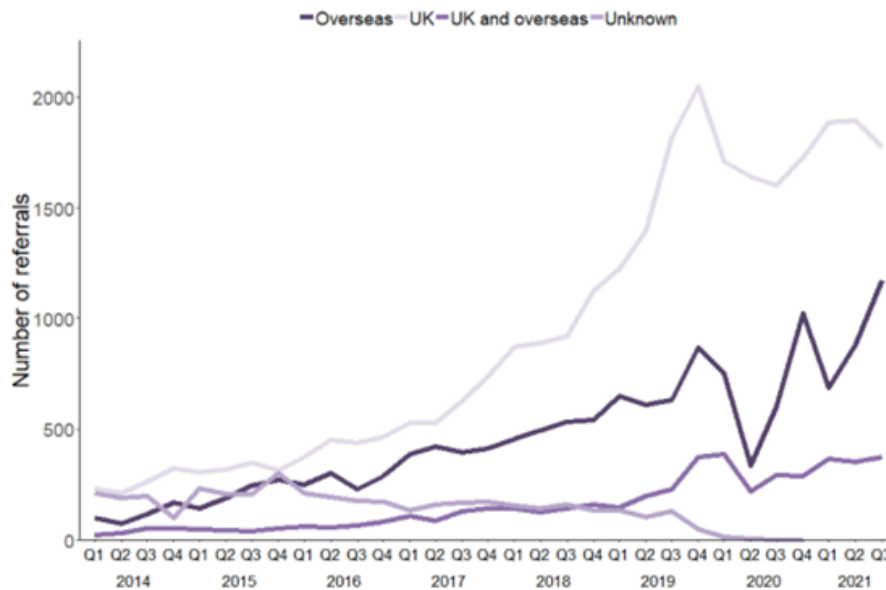
Figure 13: National Referral Mechanism Referrals 2015/16-2020/21) (Source: Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme 2021)



The National Referral Mechanism received 20% more NRM referrals for potential victims of modern slavery in 2021 compared to 2020. Referrals in 2021 were at the highest level since the NRM began in 2009 (Home Office, 2022). 43% of potential victims in 2021 claimed exploitation as children and 50% claimed exploitation as adults (the remainder recorded as ‘unknown’). Labour exploitation was the most commonly reported exploitation type for adults. Child potential victims were instead mainly referred for criminal exploitation (Home Office, 2022).

In March 2020, the start of the first national COVID-19 lockdown impacted modern slavery criminal activity and the related policing response. The number of victims entering the UK decreased due to restrictions on international movement. Reduction of referrals in Q1 and Q2 of 2020 has been linked to the closure of borders and reduction of potential victims to be identified by Immigration Enforcement, UK Visas and Immigration and Border Force. Initial closure of courts also caused delays in cases coming to trial (Policing Slavery, 2021). After the second quarter, numbers of referrals returned to usual levels as lockdown and travel restrictions eased. This is demonstrated by a sharp increase of overseas victims in Quarter 2 2020 as shown in the figure below (Home Office, 2021).

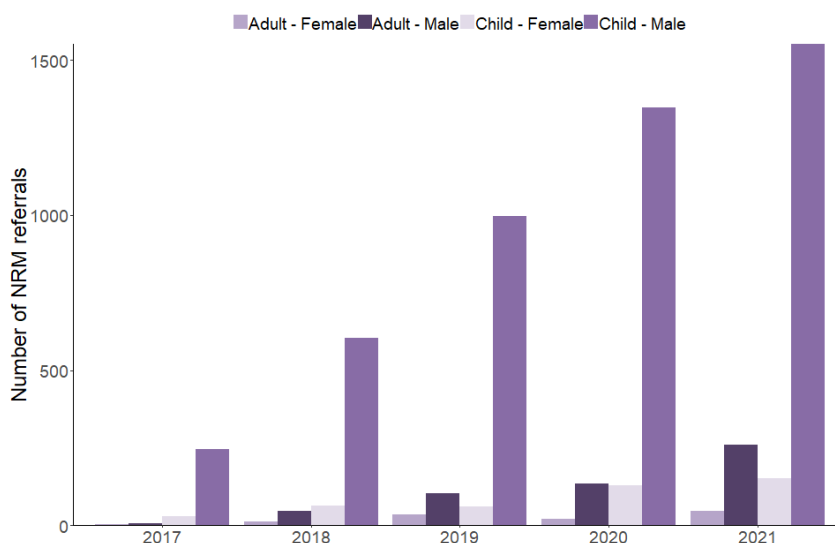
Figure 14: Number of quarterly NRM referrals by location of exploitation (Home Office, 2021)



Border closures also meant increasing risk of exploitation for victims already inside the UK. This is because those exploiting them would have had a greater reliance on those already in the UK while unable to source potential victims from outside of the UK at this time (Home Office, 2021). This was reflected by an intensification of investigations in the food and agricultural sector (450 visits, 27 new investigations, 16 arrests, 13 NRM referrals and 38 Duty to Notify referrals submitted) (Policing Slavery, 2021).

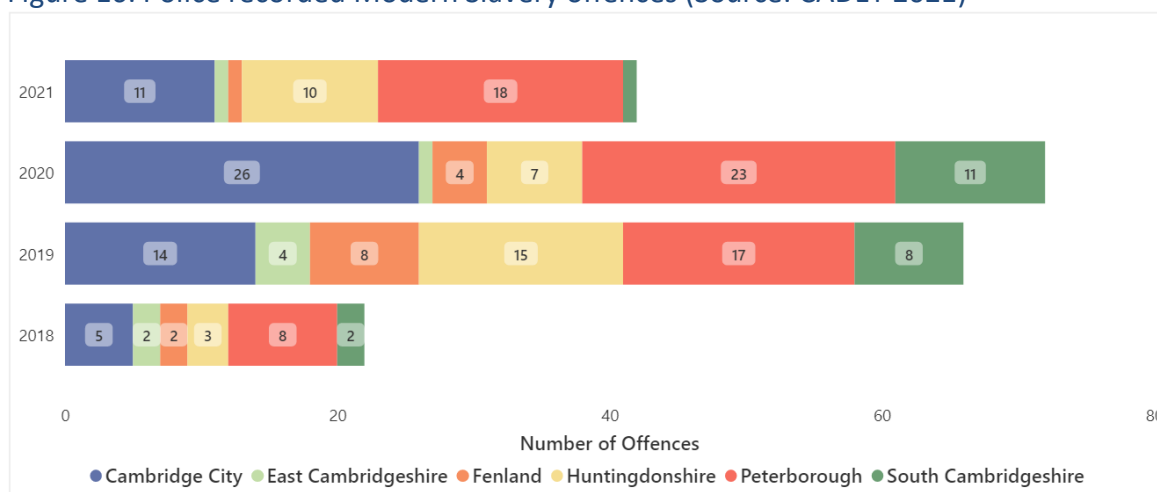
County lines activity is highly relevant to modern slavery. The NRM referrals flagged as county lines related continues to increase nationally with the majority being referrals for male children, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 15: Number of NRM referrals flagged as county lines, by age group at exploitation and gender (Home Office, 2022)



From a local perspective we can refer to police recorded modern slavery offences. Since 2018 Police recorded Modern Slavery offences in South Cambridgeshire have increased, however the number of offences fell in 2021. There were 11 Modern slavery offences recorded in 2020 and only 1 offence recorded in 2021, as shown in the figure below. National figures show a clear increase in Modern Slavery. Therefore, it is more likely that Modern slavery is not being identified and reported in South Cambridgeshire than not occurring.

Figure 16: Police recorded Modern Slavery offences (Source: CADET 2021)



One aspect of modern slavery offences is organised immigration crime (OIC) and human trafficking. Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis completed in 2021 noted that people smuggling involving lorries has been identified in the main thoroughfares of South Cambridgeshire (e.g. A14 and A428). Migrants, refugees and smuggled persons have been identified as being transported on these routes. These people are at great risk of harm.

Cambridgeshire constabulary has recommended that South Cambridgeshire CSP and partners (including police, as appropriate) implement a public awareness campaign. This could include signs and public service announcements at services, lorry stops and lay-bys where confirmed OIC incidents have occurred, to alert the public to this issue and to encourage reporting of suspected OIC events.

5.4. County Lines

County Lines refers to a model of offending whereby gangs and organised crime groups move drugs into supply areas within the UK via the exploitation of vulnerable individuals. These individuals are recruited and coerced into the drug supply chain (National Crime Agency, 2019). The term 'County Line' refers to the dedicated mobile phone line used to receive orders for drugs. Criminal networks involved in running county lines operations are typically located in urban hubs but facilitate the movement of drugs into more rural areas.

Exploitation is a key element of county lines as it reduces offender's risk by distancing them from the supply transaction (National Crime Agency, 2019). Children are commonly targeted, particularly where they have additional vulnerabilities such as; poverty, frequent missing episodes, 'looked after status', behavioural and developmental disorders etc. National research supports the fact that young people are targeted in county lines activity and states that whilst young people with certain vulnerabilities may be at risk, those without such vulnerabilities are also targeted (Black, 2020). The most significant adult vulnerability is drug addiction, however, mental health conditions and learning/developmental disorders are also often identified in adult victims of criminal exploitation relating to county lines (National Crime Agency, 2019).

County lines activity links across several topics covered in this report. It has already been identified as an increasing feature in national NRM figures for Modern Slavery as outlined in the section above. Substance misuse more generally, including drug misuse, is covered in the latter half of this report.

Serious violence and knife crime are also associated with county lines. As such county lines drug dealing is one of the specific crime types targeted by the Serious Violence Duty and advised to be covered by the strategic needs assessment process for this (Home Office, 2021). The following section will provide an overview of violence as well as a brief update on the Serious Violence duty.

At the time of writing, Cambridgeshire Constabulary have reported intelligence gaps regarding county lines activity in South Cambridgeshire. They therefore recommend awareness training with the CSP and partners to increase intelligence reporting. Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis has flagged some areas of South Cambridgeshire (particularly areas with recent large-scale housing developments) as hosting at-risk young people.

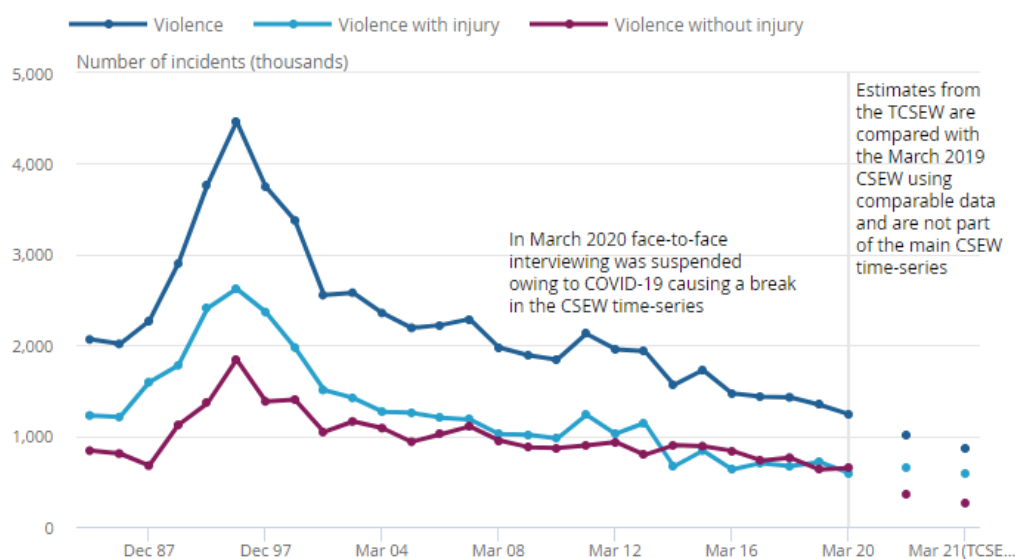
Recent prevention work has been completed by Cambridge City CSP following a survey completed in 2020 on drugs violence and gangs in Cambridge. A campaign has been developed which aims to raise awareness amongst young people and adults in Cambridge city of the risks around county lines drug dealing and to help young people and members of the community to recognise the signs of the related grooming process. A video has been

generated, along with workshop resources which has started to be delivered to school pupils within the city. **It is recommended that the CSP accesses these resources with view to rolling them out in South Cambridgeshire. Given the proximity to Cambridge, it is likely that young people residing in South Cambridgeshire will spend time within the city and as such may be exposed to the specific risks of county lines exploitation explored within the video. Delivery to professionals and the community would likely add value by enhancing awareness which may lead to identification of exploitation and improved reporting.**

5.5. Violence

Nationally the long-term decrease in violence as recorded by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has continued. The decrease of 28% (comparing year ending March 2021 with March 2019) is most likely a reflection of a decrease in violence taking place in public spaces during national lockdown restrictions. This is evidenced by the fall in violence where the offender was a stranger. However, the same report did note that there has been a “large but non-significant increase in acquaintance violence” (ONS, 2022).

Figure 17: Crime Survey for England and Wales – annual estimates of Violent crime. (Source: ONS)

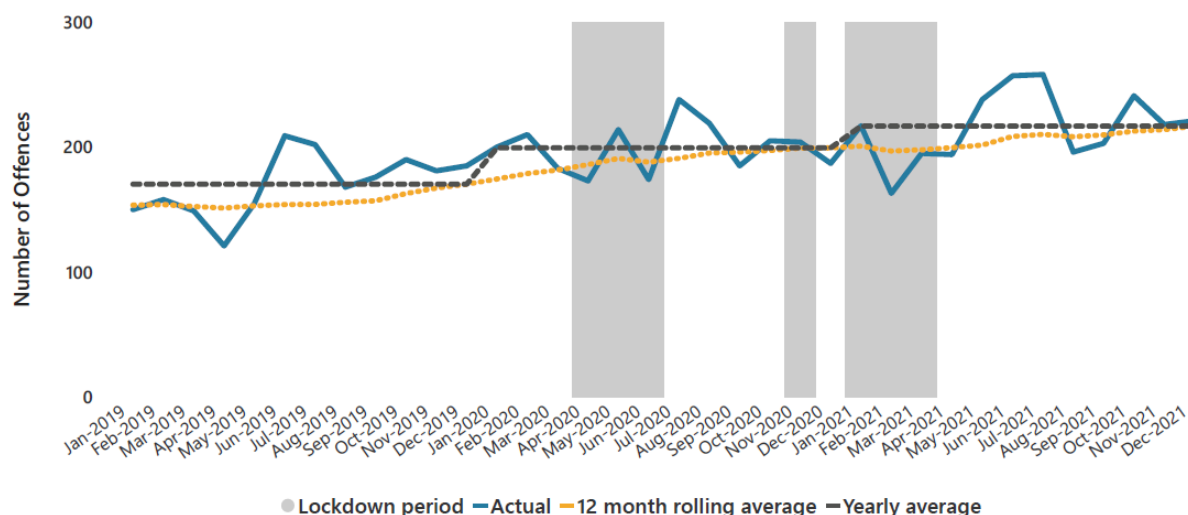


5.5.1. Violence Against the Person (VAP)

The category of violence or violent crimes is actually a broad group of many offences. They are most commonly broken down into subcategories. Violence Against the Person is a broad category of police recorded crime. It includes homicide, violence with injury, violence without injury and stalking & harassment.

In South Cambridgeshire VAP has increased since 2019. Peaks in these offences were seen after the first and third national lockdowns once restrictions on movement had eased, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 18: Monthly breakdown of police recorded total Violence Against the Person January 2019 – December 2021



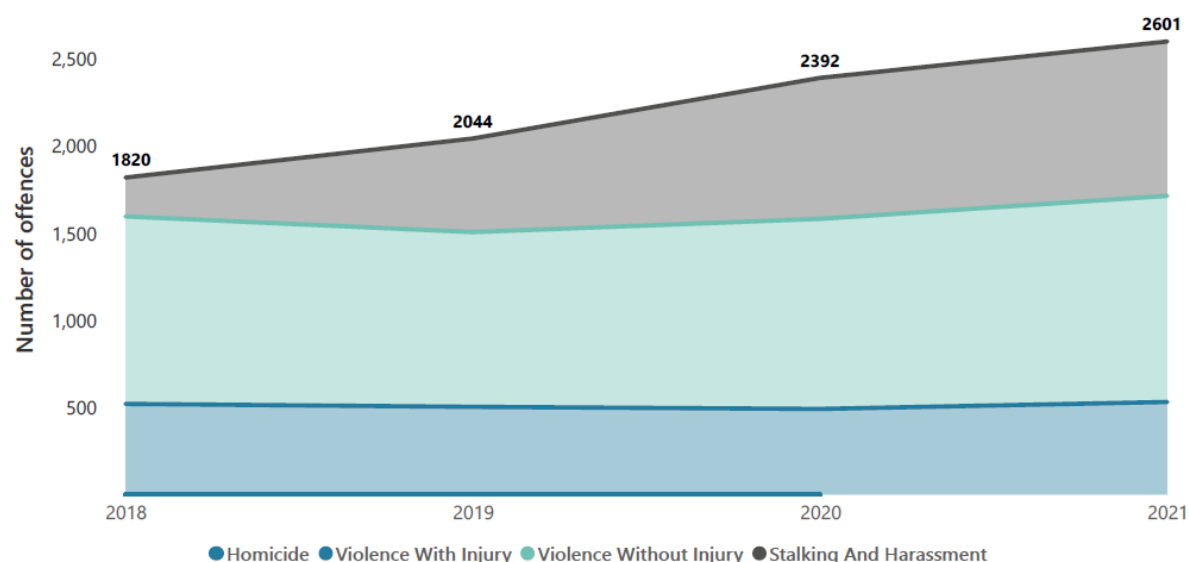
Nationally, police recorded violence increased by 8% for the period ending September 2021 compared with the previous year. Locally we are considering the 12 months ending December 2021 as the most recently available data. Whilst not an exact match, this is still a useful comparison. South Cambridgeshire had a 27.3% increase in VAP offences between 2019 and 2021 as shown in the table below.

Table 5: Police recorded Violence Against the Person offences 2019-2021

	Count of offences			Change in number of offences between 2019-2021	Percentage change between 2019 - 2021
	2019	2020	2021		
Cambridge	3631	3972	4108	+477	13.1%
East Cambridgeshire	1228	1599	1603	+375	30.5%
Fenland	2490	2962	3229	+739	29.7%
Huntingdonshire	3146	3721	3894	+748	23.8%
Peterborough	6994	7860	8695	+1701	24.3%
South Cambridgeshire	2044	2392	2601	+557	27.3%
Total	19533	22506	24130	+4597	23.5%

The national increase in VAP was driven by a rise in the number of stalking and harassment offences, which increased by 21% (excluding controlling and coercive behaviour) in the year ending September 2021 (ONS, 2022). The figure below shows the breakdown of VAP by type in South Cambridgeshire, with Stalking and Harassment offences being the key component of the increase seen since 2019. **This is the key change in VAP that the CSP should be aware of with a 65% increase in the volume of stalking and harassment recorded between 2019 and 2021.**

Figure 19: Police recorded Violence Against the Person in South Cambridgeshire by type, 2018-2021



The rates per 1000 population of VAP crimes in South Cambridgeshire for 2021, and that of the category sub-types, are shown below for context. Whilst stalking and harassment offences have certainly increased, Violence without injury still forms the main proportion of VAP offences in South Cambridgeshire. Violence with injury is the least frequently recorded

VAP crime type in South Cambridgeshire (for 2021). This should be kept in mind while considering the following section regarding healthcare data on Violence with injury.

Figure 20: Rate of Violence Against the Person category offences and subtype offences in South Cambridgeshire 2021

	Count of offences (2021)	Rate per 1000 population*
Violence Against the Person Offences	2601	16.2
Violence without injury	1183	7.4
Violence with injury	532	3.3
Stalking and harassment	886	5.5
Homicide	0	0
*With reference to ONS mid-2020 population estimate, the latest available at time of writing.		

5.5.2. Analysis of healthcare data on violence with injury

National analysis of healthcare data to understand serious violence in England and Wales indicated that serious violence was 32% lower in 2020 compared to the previous year (Sivarajasingam, et al., 2021). The unprecedented reduction in serious violence seen here is likely to reflect the unprecedented restrictions imposed on free movement of citizens and businesses to limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

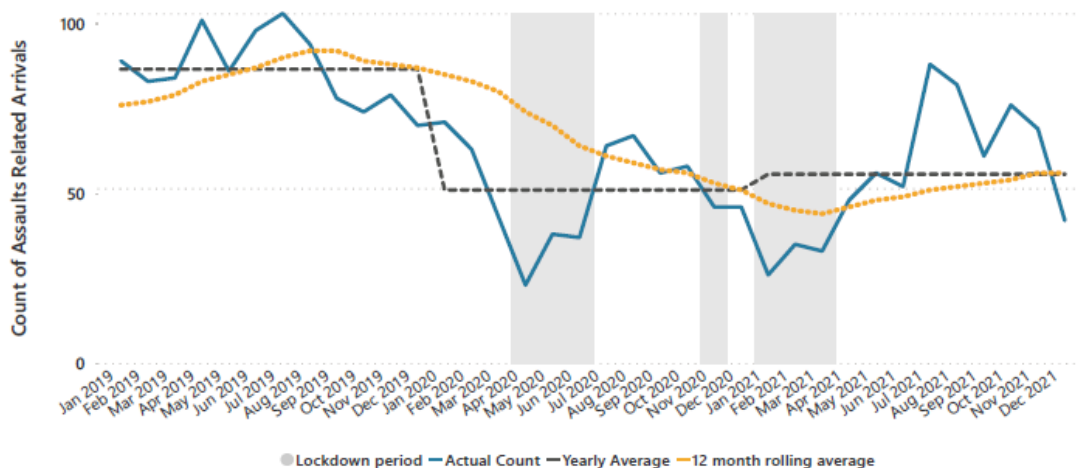
The initial significant fall in violence in April 2020 (down 50% compared to violence in March 2020) coincided with UK government mandatory closure of pubs, clubs, restaurants, and other social venues in March 2020. Indeed, trends in violence in 2020 correlated closely with the imposition, easing and lifting of restrictions; significant falls in violence immediately followed lockdown whilst violence increased as soon as restrictions were eased or lifted (Sivarajasingam, et al., 2021).

Halford et al. (2020) analysed the effect of lockdowns on crime in the UK and argued that crime levels and mobility are strongly interlinked. They measured that after one week of lockdown, on 23 March, all crime nationally declined by 41%; shoplifting (– 62%), domestic abuse (– 45%), assault (– 36%), burglary dwelling (– 25%) and burglary non-dwelling (– 25%), theft (– 52%), theft from vehicle (– 43%). It is important to note that these figures do not represent crime trends throughout the whole pandemic, but they show the effect of a sudden mobility reduction (Halford, et al., 2020).

But COVID-19 did not alter the distribution of risk in sustaining injury in violence by gender or age group. As in previous years, males and young adults aged 18-30 years were most likely to be injured. Those at highest risk of violence-related injury in 2020 were males (2.7 per 1,000 population: more than twice the risk for females) and those aged 18-30 (4.7 per 1,000 population). For both genders, those aged 18-30 years had the highest injury rates (males 6.5; females 2.93 per 1,000 population) and children aged 0-10 years had the lowest injury rates (males 0.19; females 0.08 per 1,000 population) (Sivarajasingam, et al., 2021).

At a local level, Addenbrooke’s Emergency Department has been collecting and sharing data about assault related attendances at the department, the trend for which is shown below. It is important to note that Addenbrooke’s patients do not exclusively reside in South Cambridgeshire or were necessarily assaulted in South Cambridgeshire.

Figure 21: Monthly attendances for assault seen at Addenbrooke’s Emergency Department (Addenbrooke’s Hospital)

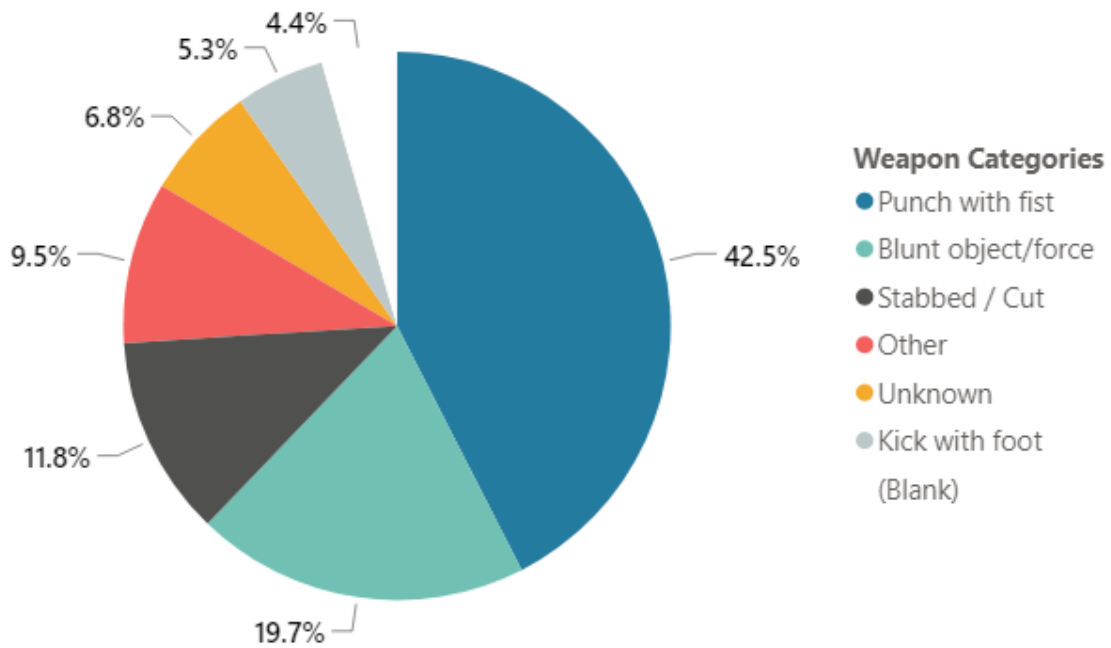


Attendance for assault has remained lower on average since the 2020 lockdown period. This has only recently returned to pre-pandemic levels (July 2021). However, the number of new patients declined again towards the end of 2021.

The main age group represented in these patients were age 20-29 (35.9%) and 75.12% of those attending ED due to assault were male (Jan 2019 - Dec 2021).

As shown in the figure below, of the weapons recorded as involved in assault, a majority were ‘punch with fist’ (42.48%) and stabbing or cut with a knife represented 11.82% of all attendances, however weapon used is not consistently disclosed by victims.

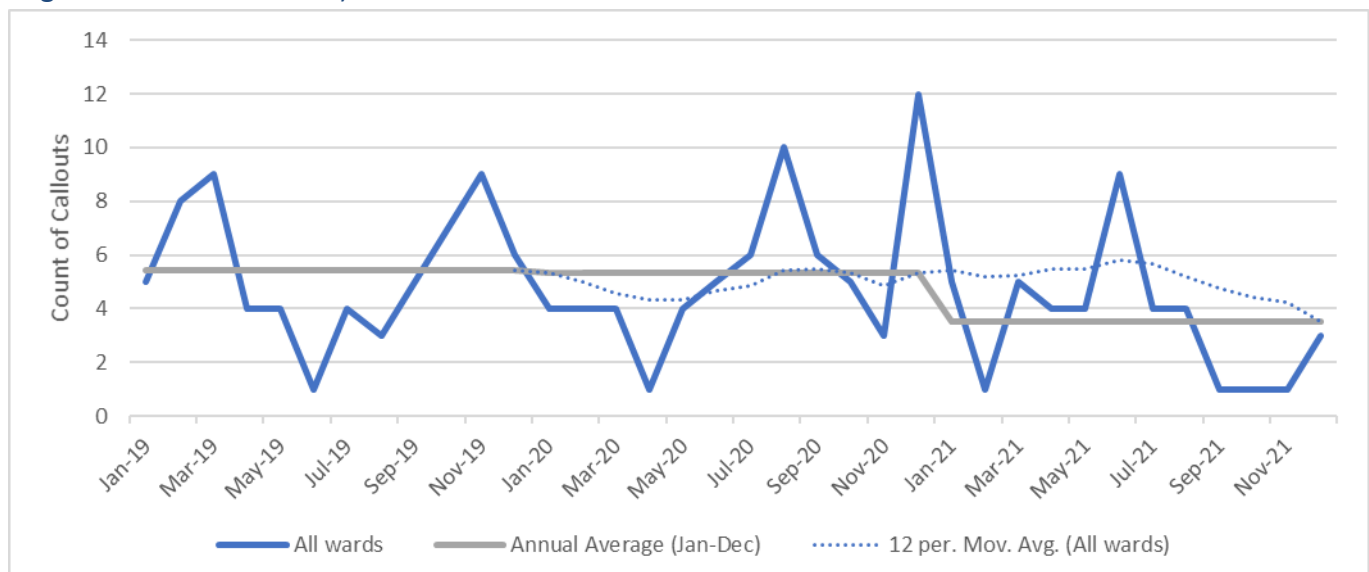
Figure 22: Categorisations of weapons as reported in assault related arrivals at Emergency Department, Addenbrookes Hospital, Jan 2019 - Dec 2021



Please note that 'Other' includes asphyxia, burn, crushing injury, drowning, fall, gunshot wound, hit with head (head butt), inhaled foreign body, injury due to projectile, injury from mammal, physical exertion, poisoning/overdose, slipping and tripping.

The figure below shows assault related ambulance callouts in South Cambridgeshire. Whilst there is variation from month to month, the overall volume is consistently low from 2019 to 2021. In 2021 the rate of assault related callouts was 0.26 per 1000 population.

Figure 23: Assault related ambulance callouts in South Cambridgeshire (Source: East of England Ambulance Trust)

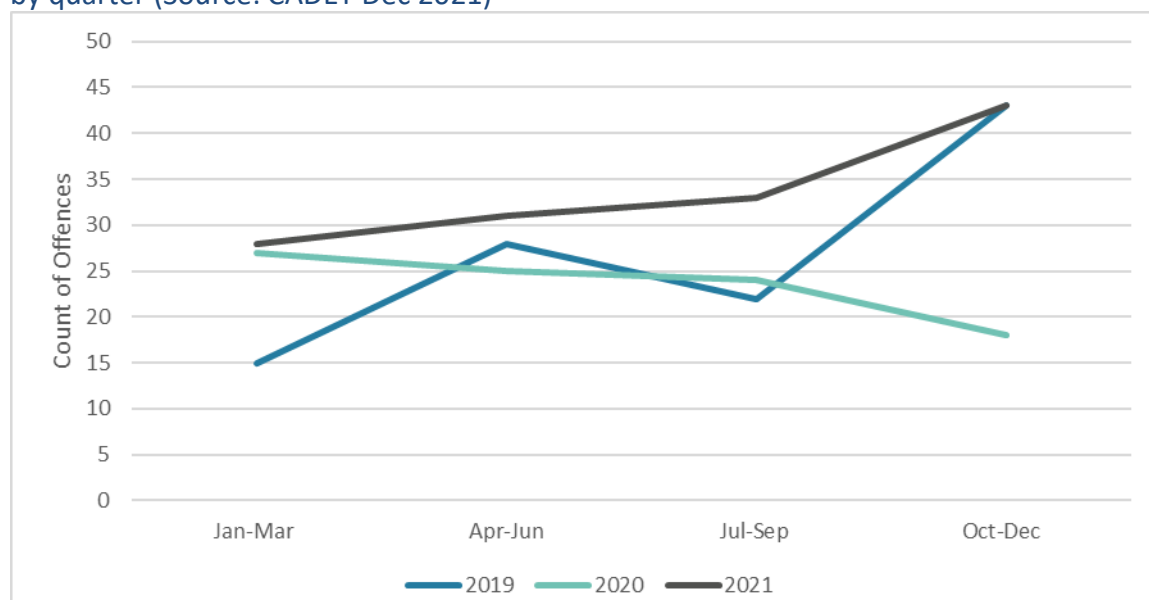


5.5.3. Knife crime

In the year ending September 2021, national police recorded crime data saw a 10% decrease in offences with a knife or sharp instrument compared to the previous year (ONS, 2022). This is attributed to a 20% decrease in robbery offences during this period. Decreased levels of knife crime were particularly noticeable in national lockdown periods when social contact was most restricted, namely October-December 2020 (-16%) and January- March 2021 (-22%). While knife crime increased since lockdown eased, this did not mean a return to pre-pandemic levels nationally.

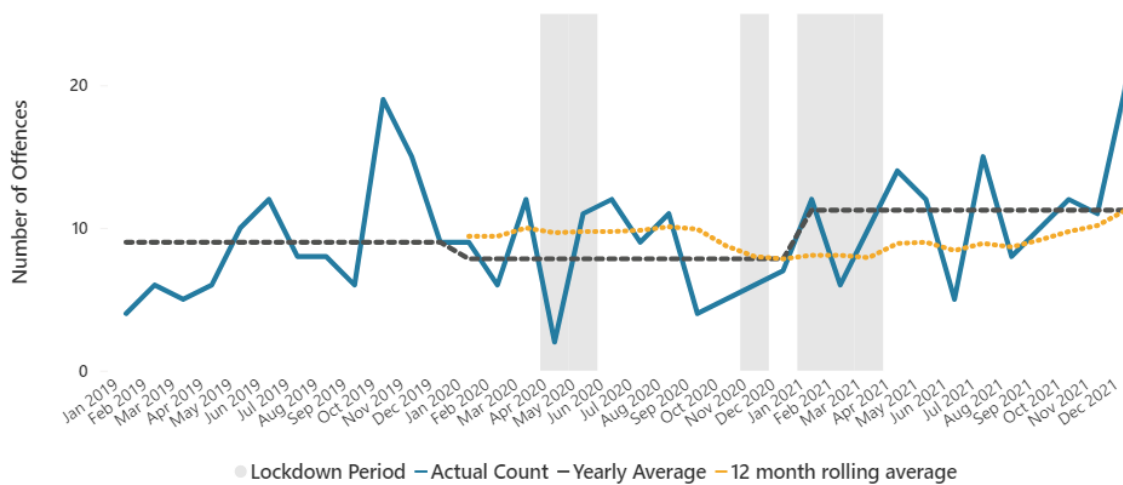
The quarterly counts for South Cambridgeshire are shown in the figure below. There is a clear increase in quarters 1 to 3 of 2021 with levels higher than the pre-pandemic year (2019). This is contrary to the national trend.

Figure 24: Police recorded Knife/Sharp Instrument marker crimes in South Cambridgeshire by quarter (Source: CADET Dec 2021)



The figure below shows how there have been fluctuations in knife crime from month to month in South Cambridgeshire. There were clear decreases in the national lockdown periods, this is in line with the national trend. Changes in the volume of crimes with a knife marker can be driven by targeted police activity relating to knife crime and may impact these fluctuations.

Figure 25: Knife Crime Trend in South Cambridgeshire 2019-2021 (CADET 2021)



Provisional hospital admissions data from the NHS shows there was a 12% decrease in hospital admissions nationally for ‘assault with sharp objects’ in the year ending September 2021 (ONS, 2022). Admissions maintained a younger demographic with 41% of those admitted aged 24 and under and 59% aged 25 and over (ONS, 2022). The local data shown above does not include the demographics of victims in South Cambridgeshire to compare with this national analysis.

5.5.4. Serious Violence Duty

The Home Office on behalf of the UK Government published the draft of the [Serious Violence Duty in May 2021](#). Pending stages of legislation in parliament, this duty is expected to come into effect in 2022/2023.

The Duty presents the basis for collaboration between different services and the implementation of a multi-agency approach. The following specified authorities within a local government area are required to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence:

- Police
- Justice
- Fire and Rescue
- Health
- Local Authorities

Consultation with educational, prison and youth custody authorities is also encouraged.

As per the current [Serious Violence Duty strategic needs assessment guidance](#), responsible authorities will be required to collaborate to generate the following at an agreed geography:

- evidence-based analysis of the causes of serious violence in their area
- strategic needs assessment based on the above analysis
- a strategy with solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area, to be reviewed annually

Broadly speaking, the draft Duty promotes the following actions for Community Safety Partnerships:

- Using an evidence-based approach for identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area and the causes of that violence.
- Sharing data and knowledge for targeting interventions to prevent serious violence.
- Preparing, implementing and reviewing a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.

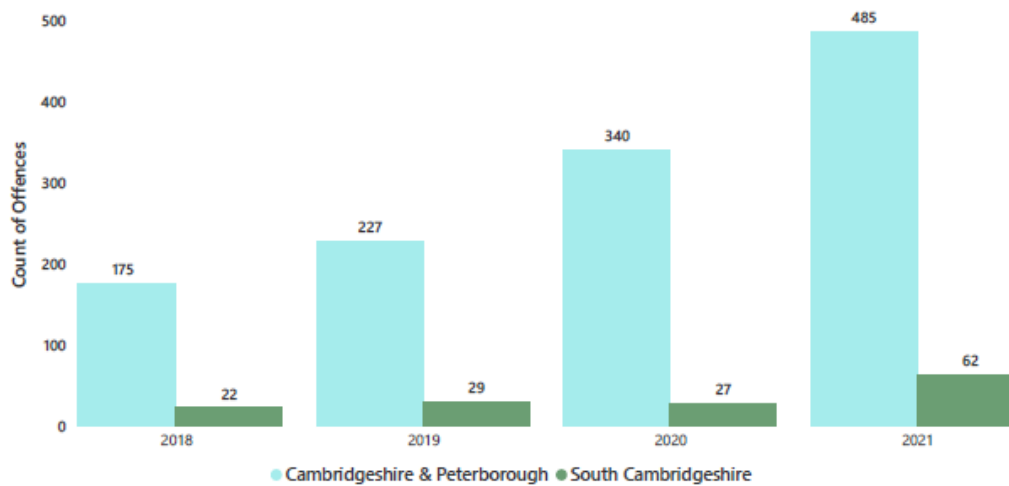
The CSP is advised to take note of the likely future collaborative work required by introduction of the Serious Violence Duty.

5.6. Child Sexual Exploitation

In the year ending March 2019 11,554 police recorded offences in England and Wales were flagged as CSE. This is the most recent national figure on CSE specifically (ONS, 2020).

Constabulary-wide Child Sexual Exploitation crimes have seen a year-on-year increase since 2018. South Cambridgeshire did not see marked increases between 2018 – 2020, however, in 2021 the number of Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes recorded more than doubled to 62 offences. Whilst CSE crimes are low in total volume, CSE is an underreported and high harm crime type. The true extent of this issue is therefore likely much higher.

Figure 21: Police recorded child sexual exploitation crimes, Jan-Dec data (Source: CADET Dec 2021)



The local data available to the Research Group does not provide detail as to whether those offences occurred online or were facilitated by technology. However, the National Crime Agency assessment has highlighted that Child Sexual Abuse (of which CSE is a type) risk has increased due to greater reliance upon time online during the pandemic (National Crime Agency, 2021).

6. Community harm

Anti-social Behaviour: Levels of anti-social behaviour fluctuated during 2020 and 2021 due to a range of reasons relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the reports of restriction breaches (particularly in the first national lockdown). The total volume of ASB was down in 2021 compared to the previous year and just below the level in 2019. Youth-related ASB was found to be highly concentrated with Cambourne, and to a lesser extent Histon & Impington, accounting for a high proportion of all incidents.

E-scooters: The law in relation to electric scooters (e-scooters) currently forbids scooters being ridden on a road or public footpath. The only exception to this is specific e-scooter trials. A local trial does extend into several South Cambridgeshire areas bordering Cambridge City, as described in this section of the report. Analysis of police recorded ASB data has been completed to assess the extent e-scooter related ASB in South Cambridgeshire with low incident levels being identified to date.

Substance Misuse: The volume of drug offences in South Cambridgeshire has fluctuated around national lockdown periods, with increases associated with police activity at these times. However the volume of these offences have since returned to pre-pandemic levels. Some healthcare statistics relating to drug and alcohol related hospital admissions are included in this section for context. In the latest year, a majority of CGL (Change Grow Live) clients from South Cambridgeshire are in treatment for Alcohol only or Opiate misuse. Since 2019 clients in treatment for alcohol misuse has been the key driver of an increase in total clients for South Cambridgeshire.

Deliberate Fires: Cambridgeshire fire and rescue figures show a reduction in the overall volume of deliberate fires in South Cambridgeshire. The proportion of all fires that were deliberate also reduced with deliberate fires accounting for 15.6% of all fires in 2021 compared to 22% of all fires in 2019.

Hate Crime: There has been an increase in the number of hate crimes recorded in South Cambridgeshire since 2019. Whilst there is a low overall volume of hate crime these can be high harm and a variety of crime types have been recorded in South Cambridgeshire. Closer analysis of the records here showed that situations where neighbours were perpetrating crimes was a common theme.

Public Order: From 2019 to 2021 there has been a consistent trend of increase in public order offences in South Cambridgeshire. Fluctuations have however occurred with marked decreases in the national lockdown periods.

Criminal Damage: There were some short term decreases in criminal damage offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire which corresponded with national lockdown periods. The overall volume of this offence type has decreased since 2019.

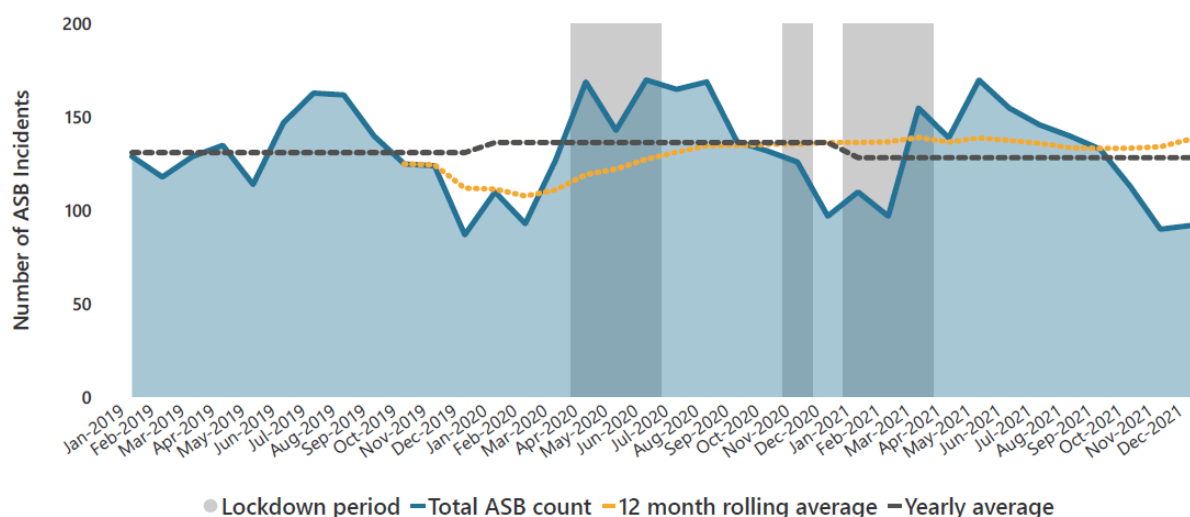
Fraud, scams and Cyber crime: The latest available data from the TCSEW showed that while many offence types decreased, fraud offences did increase markedly during the pandemic period. Indeed, there has been a 14% increase in total crime (as estimated by the Crime Survey for England and Wales), driven by a 47% increase in fraud and computer misuse to the year ending September 2021. It is proposed that increases in fraud observed during the pandemic period may be linked to offenders exploiting changes in behaviour relating to COVID-19, such as an increase in online shopping and higher levels of savings. Local police recorded crime data for South Cambridgeshire shows increasing levels of cybercrime (offences with an online crime marker or cyber-enabled keyword), albeit from a low base. It should be acknowledged that underreporting is a significant issue for cyber crime and fraud, therefore the true figures are likely to be much higher.

6.1. Anti-social Behaviour

National statistics show that the number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents recorded by the police decreased by 9% in the year ending September 2021 compared to the previous year. Increases in ASB observed in the previous year were linked to the reporting of COVID-19 restriction breaches. This appears to have continued in 2021 with national incident levels peaking in January-March (during the third national lockdown) before notable reductions occurring in the following two quarters.

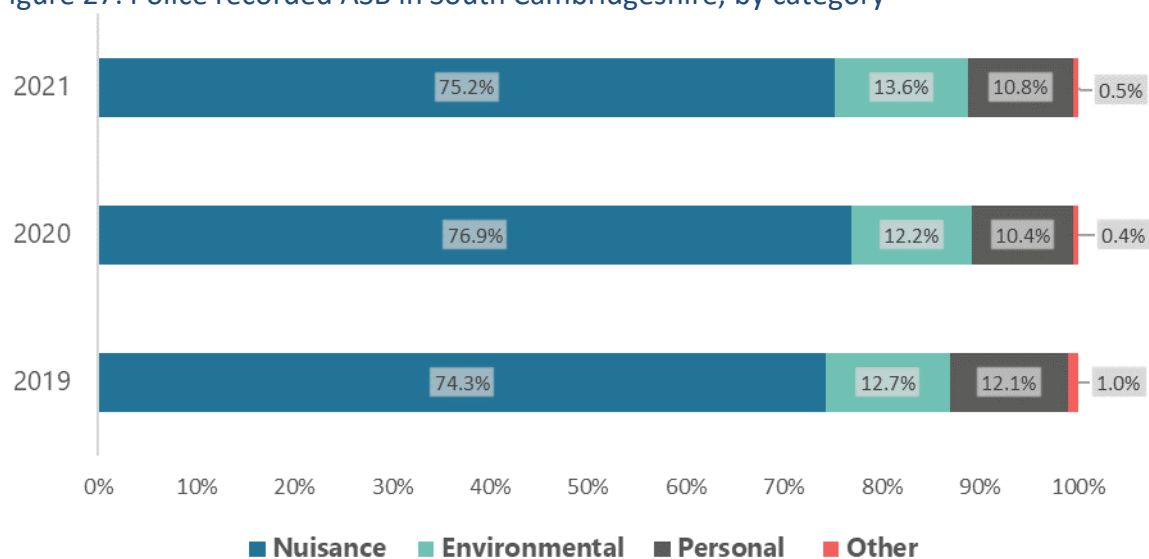
Local data reflects the national picture during the first national lockdown, with a sharp increase in ASB incidents in April 2020 driven by reports of restriction breaches. The same peaks in reporting were not seen in the second or third lockdowns. ASB increased as restrictions eased from the third national lockdown, this is likely in part due to normal seasonal variation with ASB higher during the spring/summer months before dropping in winter.

Figure 26: Police recorded monthly ASB incidents in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



‘Nuisance’, which refers to incidents which impact on the local community in general, has consistently accounted for around three quarters of ASB incidents.

Figure 27: Police recorded ASB in South Cambridgeshire, by category



Geographical analysis showed the wards with the highest rate of ASB incidents in 2021 were Cambourne and Cottenham with 15.7 and 15.6 incidents per 1,000 population recorded respectively. Milton & Waterbeach, Histon & Impington, Fen Ditton & Fulbourn and Melbourn were the wards with the next highest rates, ranging from 12.2 – 13.5 incidents per 1,000 population. Apart from Cottenham, each of these wards has featured on the CSP priority area list in 2021/22.

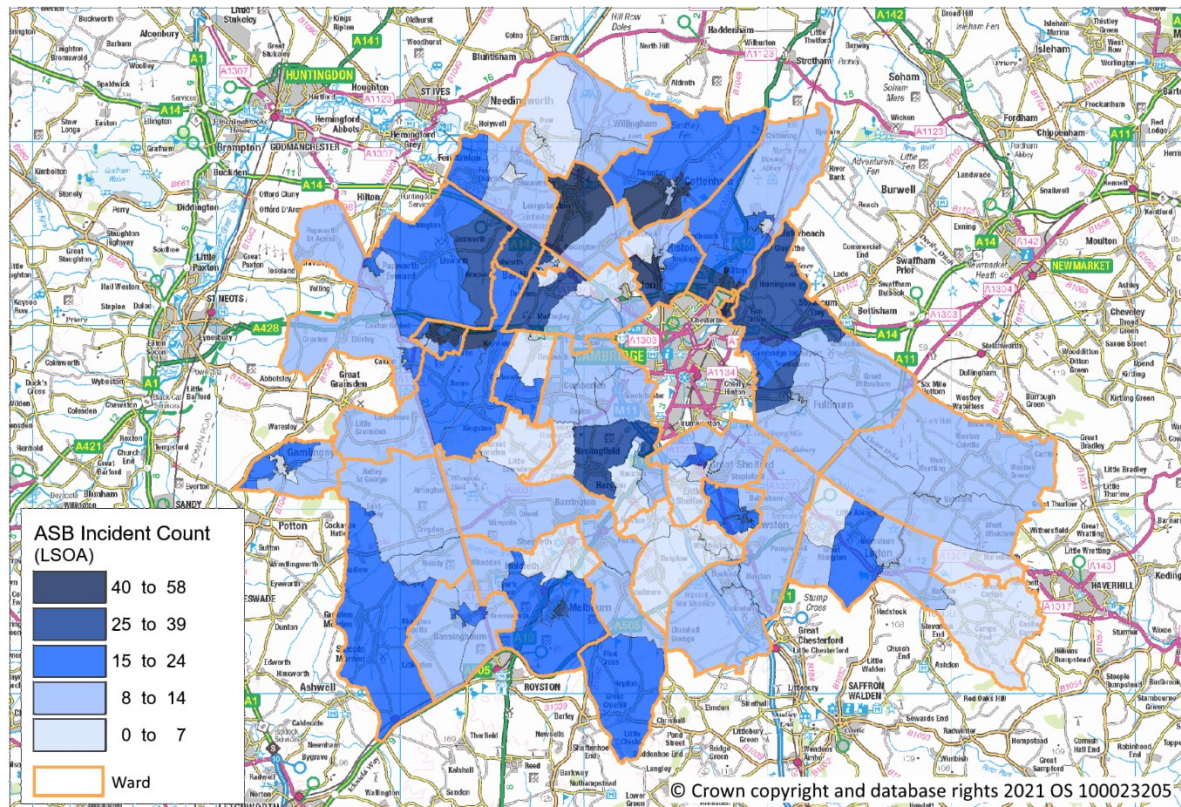
Table 6: Rate of ASB Incidents per 1,000 population in 2021 by Ward

Ward	Rate per 1,000 population*
Cambourne	15.7
Cottenham	15.6
Milton and Waterbeach	13.5
Histon and Impington	12.9
Melbourn	12.3
Fen Ditton and Fulbourn	12.2
Sawston	11.3
Caxton and Papworth	11.2
Longstanton	11.1
Bar Hill	9.1
Harston and Comberton	8.5
Bassingbourn	7.5
Foxton	7.1
Duxford	7.1
The Mordens	7.1
Shelford	7.0
Gamlingay	6.5
Balsham	6.2
Linton	5.6
Caldecote	5.4
Over and Willingham	5.2
Whittlesford	4.6

*with reference to ONS mid 2020 population estimates.

The map below displays the total count of ASB incidents in 2021 by LSOA to explore the level of ASB at a more granular detail than ward level. The map highlights that higher levels of ASB are seen in the LSOA's which border Cambridge on the North/Eastern side of the city. LSOA's with high levels of ASB are also located in the Cambourne area, Longstanton/Northstowe and Cottenham.

Figure 28: Police recorded ASB incident count by LSOA

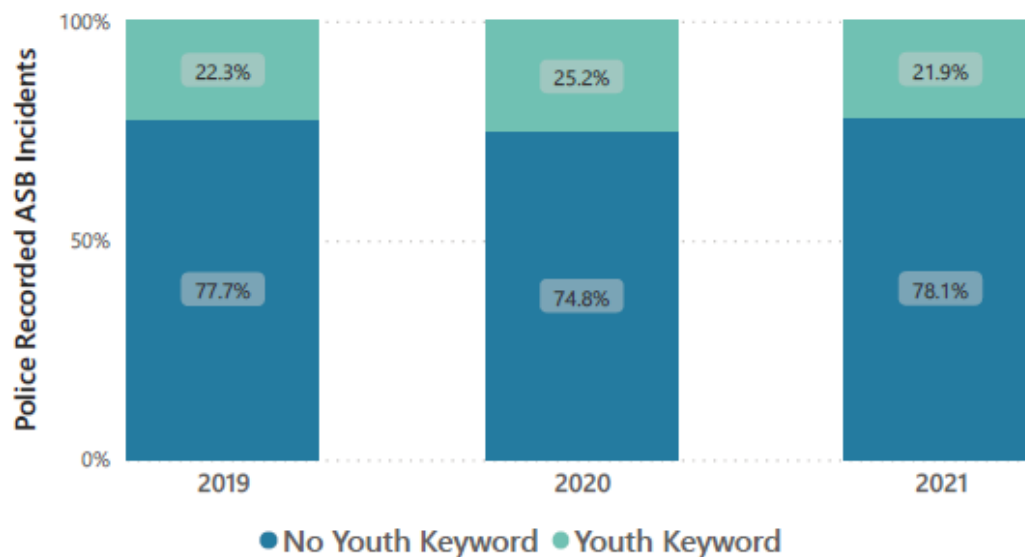


6.1.1. Youth ASB

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 youth-related ASB.

In 2021, 21.9% of ASB was youth-related, down slightly from 25.2% in 2020. The South Cambridgeshire proportion of youth ASB is just slightly higher than the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough level (20.4%), with Fenland the only district with a higher proportion of youth ASB at 30.5%.

Figure 29: Police recorded ASB with proportion of youth ASB in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



Nuisance accounts for a higher proportion of youth-related ASB (86%) compared to non-youth ASB (72%). A dip sample of youth-related nuisance incidents showed two common themes; groups of teenagers/younger children causing low-level nuisance (e.g., throwing stones, being rowdy/abusive whilst playing etc) and the anti-social use of vehicles such as off-road motorbikes or mopeds on the roads, footpaths or recreation grounds.

Ward level geographical analysis showed that youth-related ASB was highly concentrated in a small number of wards. Cambourne accounted for just under a quarter of all youth-related ASB incidents recorded in 2021, whilst accounting for just 7% of non-youth ASB. Histon & Impington accounted for 12% of all youth-related ASB.

Multi-agency work should continue in Cambourne under the priority area workstream, with a specific focus on youth ASB. A deep dive analysis on youth-related ASB incidents in Cambourne would be valuable to help inform this work. Youth ASB monitoring should be added to the quarterly data reviews so emerging areas of concern can be identified and feed in to the selection of priority areas.

6.2. E-Scooters

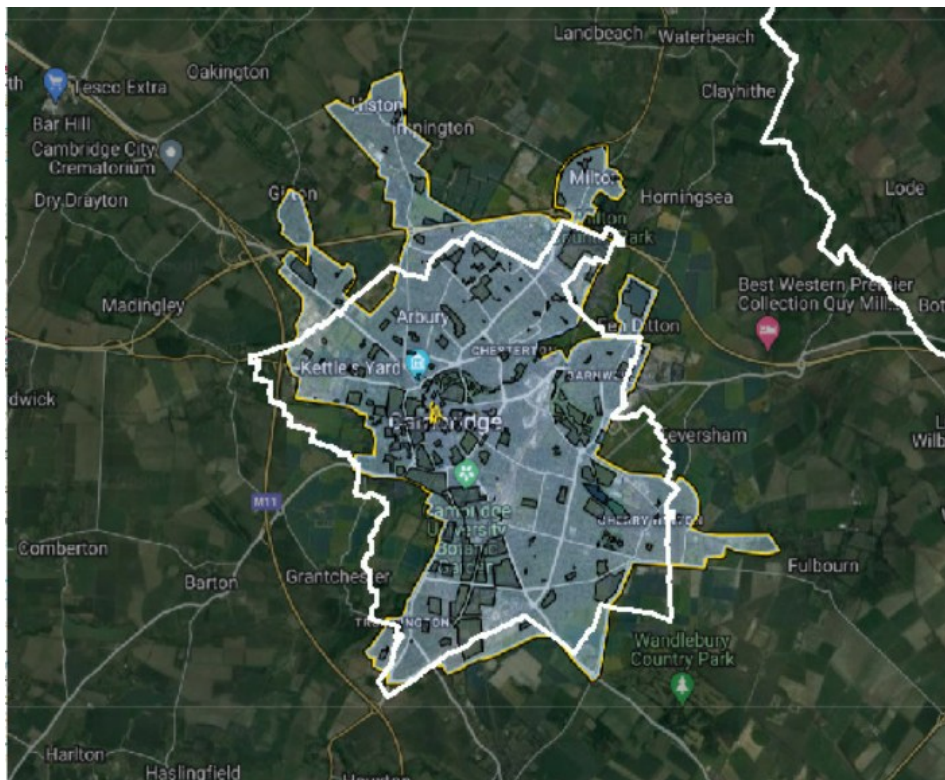
The law in relation to electric scooters (e-scooters) currently forbids scooters being ridden on a road or public footpath. The only exception to this is specific e-scooter trials.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority launched the Voi E-Scooter Trial in Cambridge City and Peterborough in October 2020, initially a 12-month trial, this was then extended to March 2022.

The trial is supported by the Department of Transport and implemented by the Voi E-Scooters Company. This new flexible means of transport is an active travel solution,

reducing the impact on climate change and contributing to improving air quality and health (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authorities, 2022). The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Board also recommended to expand the trial outside Cambridge City into market towns and rural areas (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, 2022). The below map shows the borders of the trial area in February 2022 along with the Cambridge City border, this highlights how the trial extends into several South Cambridgeshire areas bordering the city (Girton, Histon, Milton, Fen Ditton, Cherry Hinton and Trumpington).

Figure 30: E-scooter Trial in Cambridge City - February 2022 (Voi, 2021)



Map data ©2022 Imagery ©2022 TerraMetrics
©Crown copyright and database rights 2022 OS 100023205
Note: the alignment between district borders and trial borders is limited by picture quality and the use of different mapping software.

The use of e-scooters as part of the trial implies following specific rules and standard traffic code, e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles like cars or motorbikes (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, 2022), (GOV.UK, 2021)). If rules are not followed, then riders would be committing an offence.

- Riders must be 18 years old and have driving licence.
- Riders cannot ride when intoxicated.

- Riders cannot use mobile phones while driving.
- E-scooters can be used on the road and cycle lanes only, they cannot be used on pavement.
- E-scooters can be used in the local area hosting the trail only. Voi e-scooters use geofencing technology preventing them to function properly outside the local authority designated borders.
- Maximum speed is 15.5 mph (Voi e-scooters are locked at 10 mph).
- Helmet and florescent clothing are recommended.

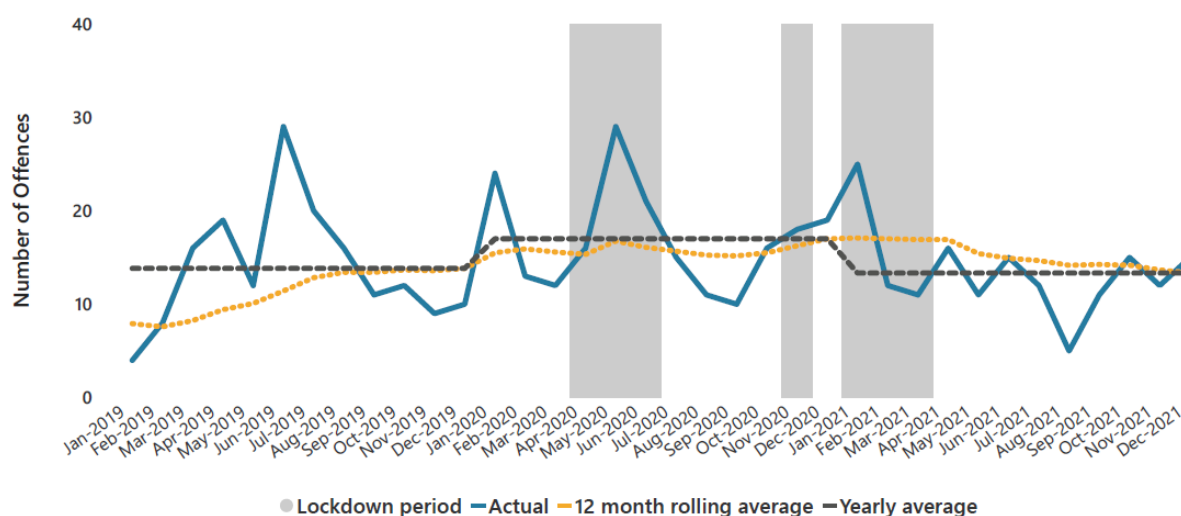
Another more complex issue is the private purchase of e-scooters, this means e-scooters outside the Voi e-scooter trail. Firstly, private e-scooters are not monitored with geofencing or a speed cap. Secondly, it is illegal to use a private e-scooter on public land, because it is not possible to get insurance for private e-scooters, in addition private e-scooters need a licence and the owner must pay road tax. This means that private e-scooters can only be used on private land with the permission of the landowner (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authorities, 2022).

A keyword search was completed on the comments field of police-recorded ASB incidents to examine to extent of ASB issues relating to e-scooters in South Cambridgeshire. There were 21 incidents which mentioned e-scooters in 2021, up from just two recorded in the previous two years. The majority of incidents referred to nuisance/dangerous riding of e-scooters either on footpaths or on the road, however, it should be noted that in just under half of incidents the e-scooter was not the cause of the report but rather it was just included in the report that those involved had e-scooters. Incidents were not typically located in the Voi trial area, with a very small number of incidents referencing hire e-scooters.

6.3. Substance Misuse

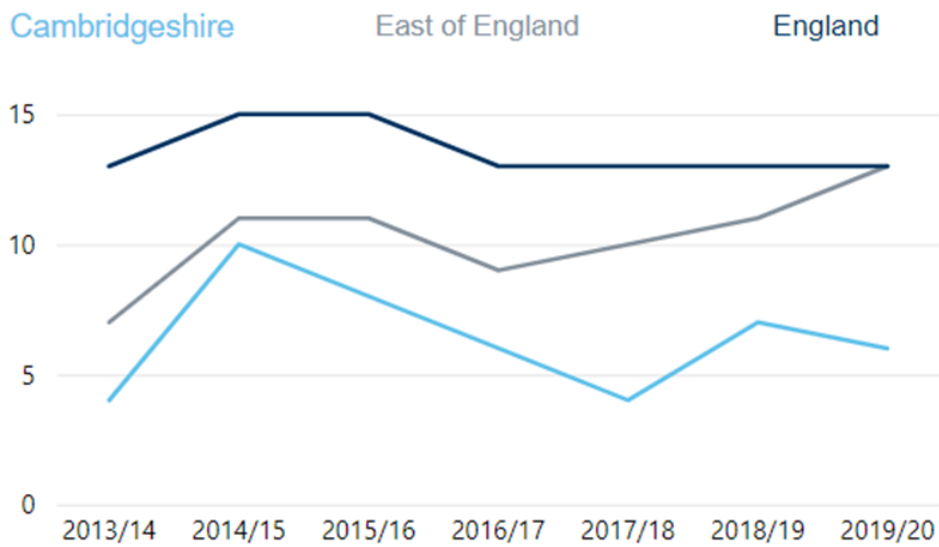
The volume of drug offences in South Cambridgeshire has fluctuated around national lockdown periods, with increases associated with police activity at these times. However 2021 has seen a return an average of 13.3 offences per month, similar to the pre-pandemic period (2019) average of 13.8 offences per month.

Figure 31: Police recorded drug offences in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 - December 2021



Healthcare service statistics regarding substance misuse can help to understand trends in substance misuse. The annual rate of hospital admissions for drug-related mental and behavioural disorders is available at a county level and is shown in the figure below. The rate for Cambridgeshire in 2019/20 is 6 admissions per 100,000 (NHS Digital, 2021). This is a low admissions rate compared to other local authority areas. The rate for Cambridgeshire has also remained lower than that for East of England and England since 2013/14. More recent statistics are yet to be released, and as such any changes since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic are not clear. Unfortunately, district level data is not currently available for this indicator.

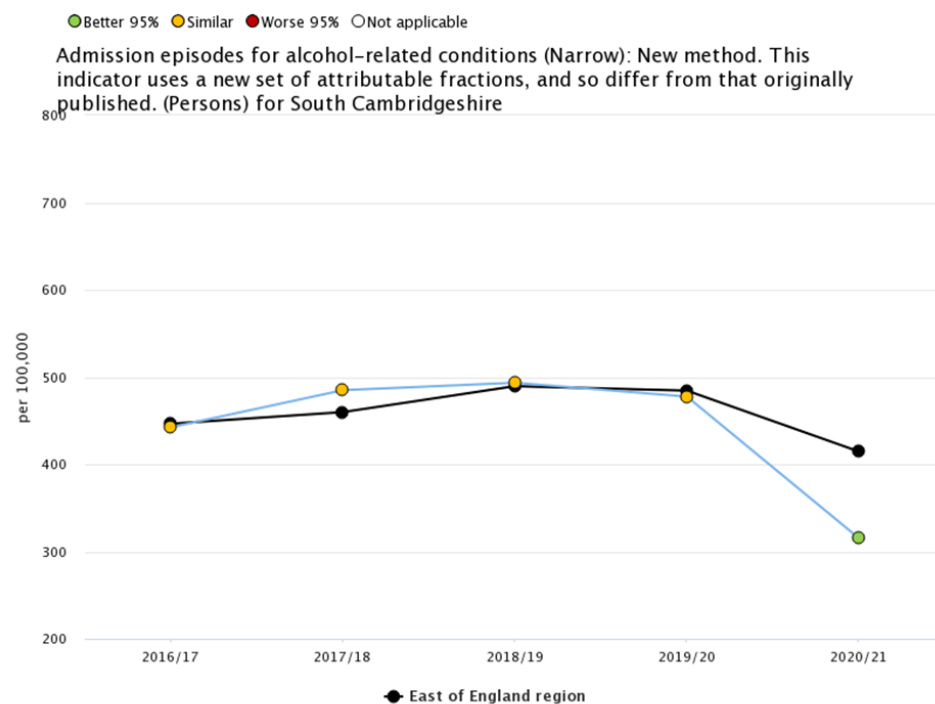
Figure 32: Hospital admissions for drug-related mental and behavioural disorders, per 100,000 population by year (Source: NHS Digital)



The rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions in South Cambridgeshire has been similar to the regional rate since 2016/2017, with a reduction to a lower rate (315 admissions per 100,000 persons) seen in 2020/2021 (the most recently available data).

Figure 33: Rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions in South Cambridgeshire, compared to the East of England (Public Health England, 2022)

South Cambridgeshire - East of England region



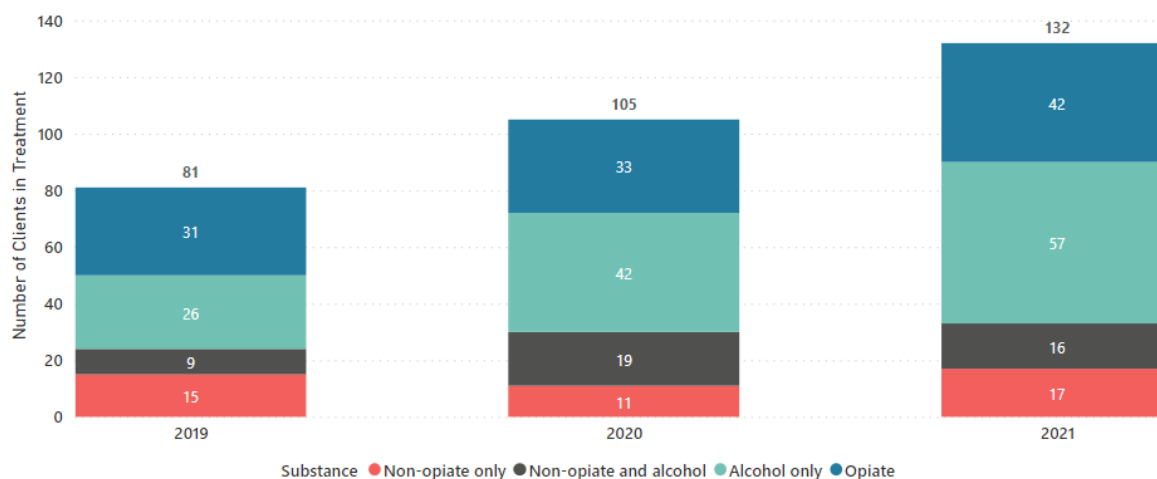
Information provided by Change Grow Live (drug and alcohol support services) does give a more detailed local view on the number of people in treatment for drug or alcohol misuse.

Table 7: Clients resident in South Cambridgeshire in treatment or successfully completed treatment in the year ending December 2021. This does not reflect the location of treatment service necessarily (Source: Change Grow Live)

Clients Groups by substance	Count of clients	Percentage of total clients in treatment
Total number of clients in treatment	132	100%
Opiate	42	32%
Non-opiate only	17	13%
Alcohol only	57	43%
Non-opiate and alcohol	16	12%
Successful completions	35	-

In 2021 a majority of clients from South Cambridgeshire are in treatment for Alcohol only (43%) or Opiate (32%). There has been an 63% increase in the number of clients in treatment since 2019. 'Alcohol only' substance misuse being a key component of this increase.

Figure 34: Clients in treatment in South Cambridgeshire by year and Substance (Source: CGL)



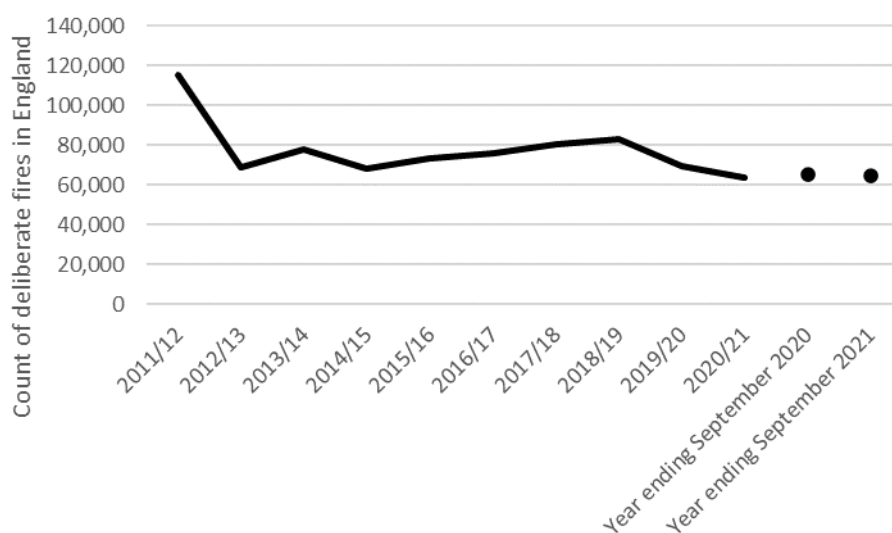
Upcoming Cambridgeshire Constabulary analysis in 2022/23 will be able to further inform the CSP as to the drug market situation locally. **It is recommended that the CSP would allow space in their action plan to respond to the constabulary analysis of the local drug market in due course.**

6.4. Deliberate Fires

The national and local Fire Service data used in this section includes accidental, deliberate and fires where the cause was unknown, however, the document primarily focuses on deliberate fires as they represent the more risky behaviour. National data from the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) shows that the total number of incidents (537,039) attended by FRS did not change from 2019/20 to 2020/21, but it corresponds to a 2% decrease compared with 5 years ago (549,687) (Home Office, 2022).

It should be noted that the national data has a lag in the release, so the latest data is up to September 2021, whereas local data goes to the end of December 2021. Furthermore, the national data as seen in the graph below initially reflects financial years, with the two most recent time points being year ending September 2021. This data indicates the number of deliberate fires has remained stable in recent years.

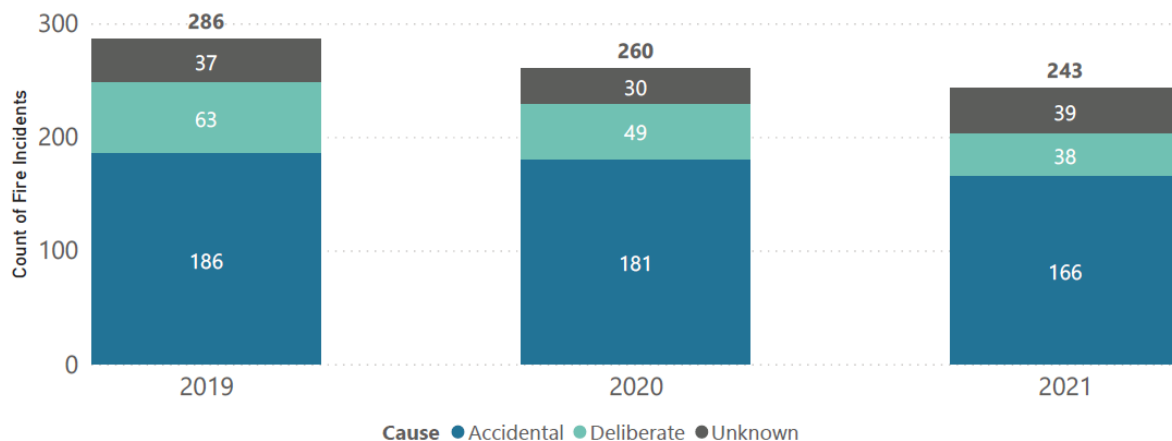
Figure 35: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England



The fire service recorded 243 fires in South Cambridgeshire between January 2021 and December 2021, a 6.5% decrease on the 2020 figure of 260. South Cambridgeshire accounts for approximately 13.8% of the total fires in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and only 7.8% of deliberate fires.

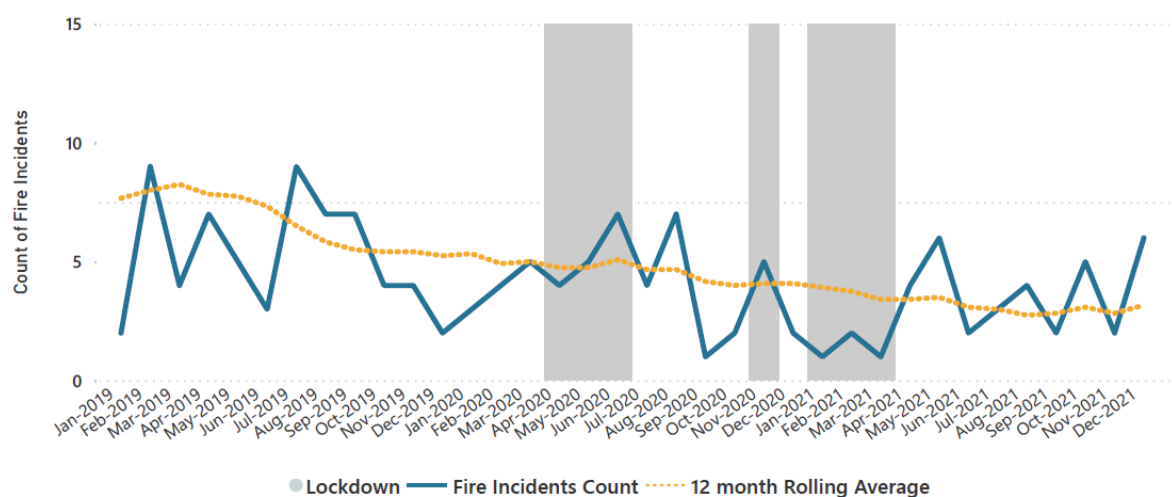
The figure below displays the number of fires in South Cambridgeshire broken down by cause for the past three years. This shows a reduction in the number of deliberate fires recorded over time, with deliberate fires accounting for 15.6% of all fires in 2021 compared to 22% of all fires in 2019.

Figure 36: Count of fires in South Cambridgeshire by cause, 2019 – 2021



The monthly count of deliberate fires is displayed in the figure below and shows that a reduction was not observed in the first two lockdown periods, however, the numbers were down in January – March 2021 during the third lockdown. It is likely the reduced number of deliberate fires seen in South Cambridgeshire during this period resulted as a combination of seasonal variation and the strict national lockdown reducing the opportunities to cause deliberate fire damage. Later in 2021 peaks of six deliberate fires were recorded in May and December, these do not exceed monthly peaks seen pre-pandemic in 2019.

Figure 37: Monthly count of deliberate fires in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021

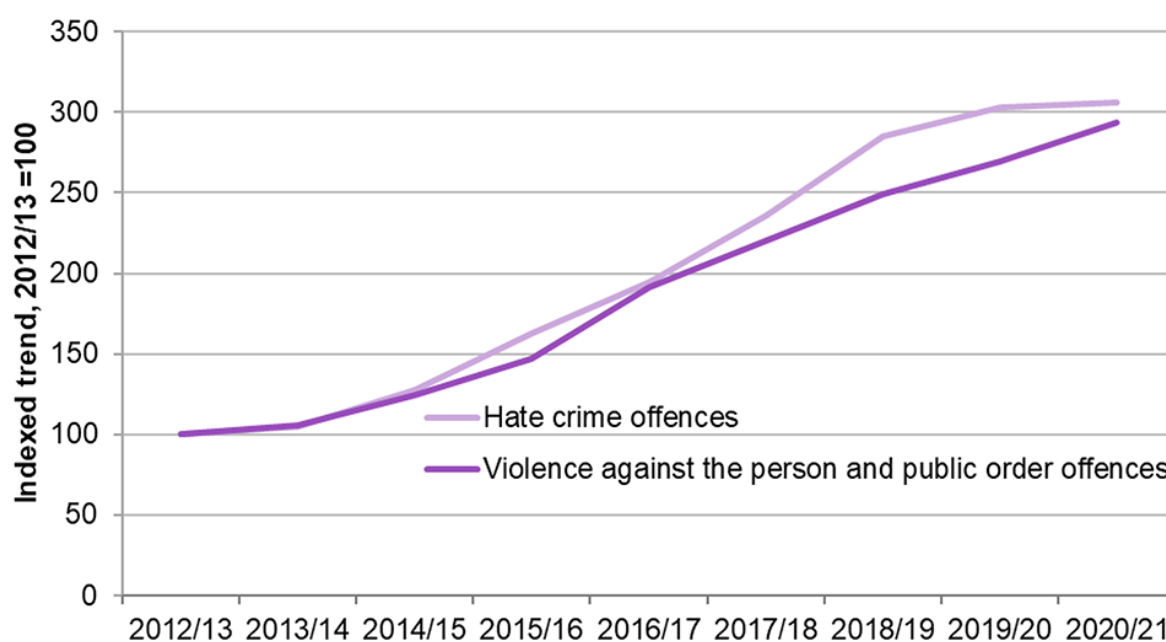


6.5. Hate crime

National statistics regarding police recorded hate crime highlight long term increases and attribute this to improved recording practices, however certain trigger events such as Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic have generated real short-term increases (Home Office, 2021).

The figure below shows national analysis of Hate crime offences and Violence against the person totalled with public order offences. The trends are broadly aligned in the long term.

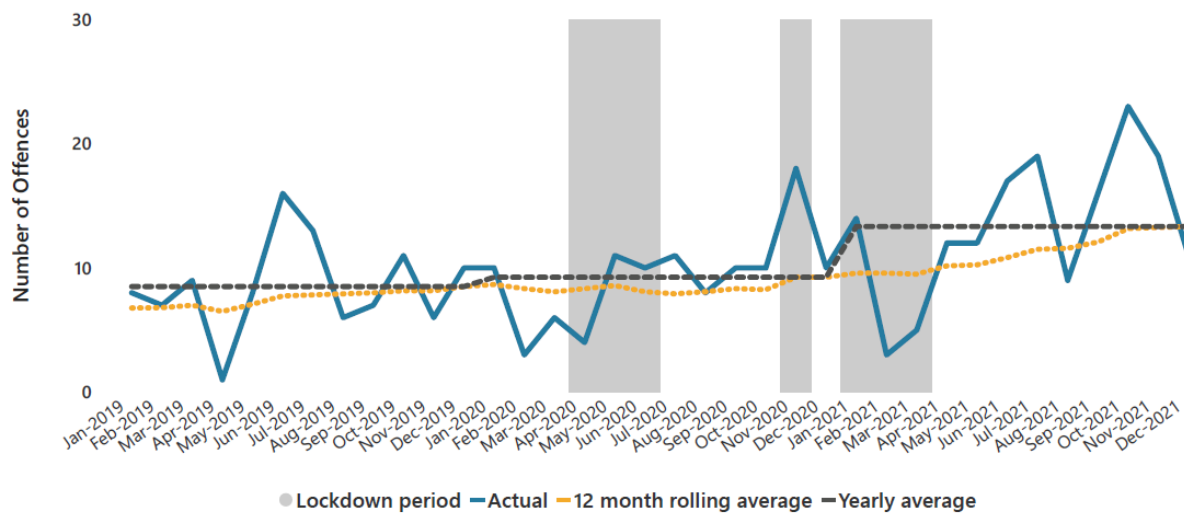
Figure 38: Indexed trends in the number of police recorded violence against the person and public order and hate crime offences, year ending March 2013 to year ending March 2021 (year ending March 2013 = 100) (Home Office 2021)



However, any offence can be marked as a hate crime. National statistics for 2020/21 (year ending March 2021) noted the following:

- 52% of the hate crimes recorded by the police were for public order offences
- 40% were for violence against the person offences
- 5% per cent were recorded as criminal damage and arson offences.

Figure 39: Police recorded hate crime in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



There has been an increase in the number of hate crimes recorded in South Cambridgeshire since 2019. As there are fluctuations from month to month, it is helpful to look at monthly averages for each year. In 2019 there was an average of 8.5 hate crimes reported per month and in 2021 an average of 13.3 per month. On closer examination of the recorded crimes, the peaks seen in July and October 2021 did not appear to be due to linked incidents but rather a variety of crime types and people being targeted.

Broadly speaking the breakdown of offence types in South Cambridgeshire follow national patterns. In 2021 48.1% of hate crime recorded in South Cambridgeshire were public order offences; 42.5% were VAP offences and 7.5% were arson and criminal damage. However it should be acknowledged that other offence types such as theft and sexual offences were recorded in this time.

Whilst there is a low volume of these crimes in South Cambridgeshire, hate crime can be high harm crime. Sampling the data, some of the crimes reported in South Cambridgeshire outlined ongoing problems in detail and are clearly not isolated incidents. Situations where neighbours were perpetrating crimes was a common theme. Basic keyword searches for the term 'neighbour' alongside manual coding of these records where it was clear a neighbour had been perpetrating hate crimes against another neighbour highlighted 13% of hate crimes in 2021. These were often repeated or ongoing problems.

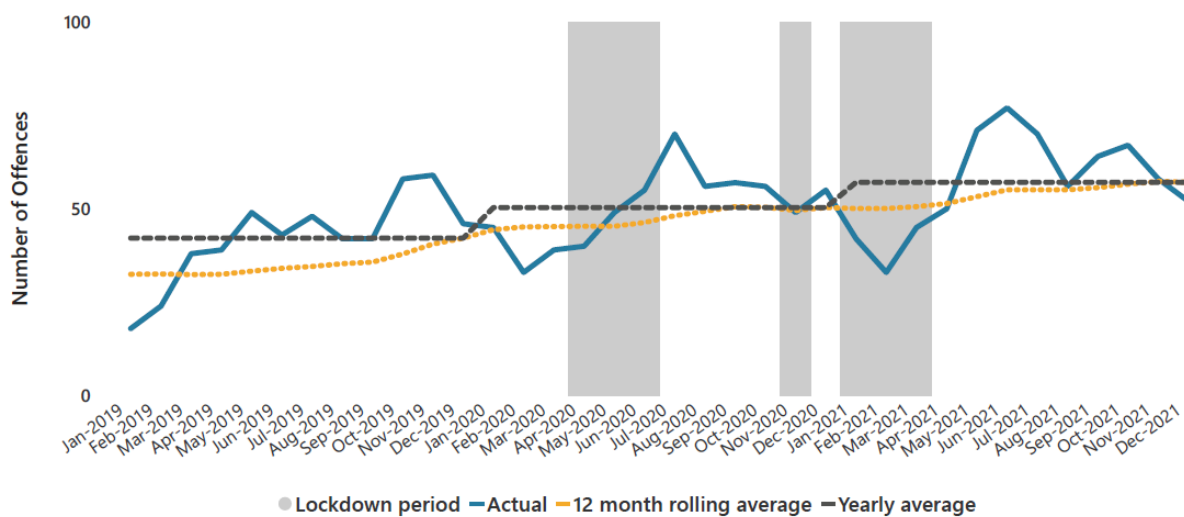
It should also be acknowledged that there are several hospital or residential care settings within South Cambridgeshire where Hate crimes towards staff are regularly being reported. Preliminary checks of the crime location data showed that in 2021 18% if hate crimes in South Cambridgeshire were located at hospital or care home settings.

6.6. Public Order

As outlined previously, there is a substantial overlap between national trends in public order offences and hate crime. However a low proportion of public order offences in South Cambridgeshire had a hate crime marker.

From 2019 to 2021 there has been a consistent trend of increase in public order offences in South Cambridgeshire. Fluctuations have occurred with marked decreases where national lockdown periods saw a decrease in this offence type. However the total volume each year has increased and in 2021 there were 35.4% more public order offences recorded than in 2019. As outlined above there is overlap between this crime type and hate crime. In 2021, 11% of all public order offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire had a hate crime marker.

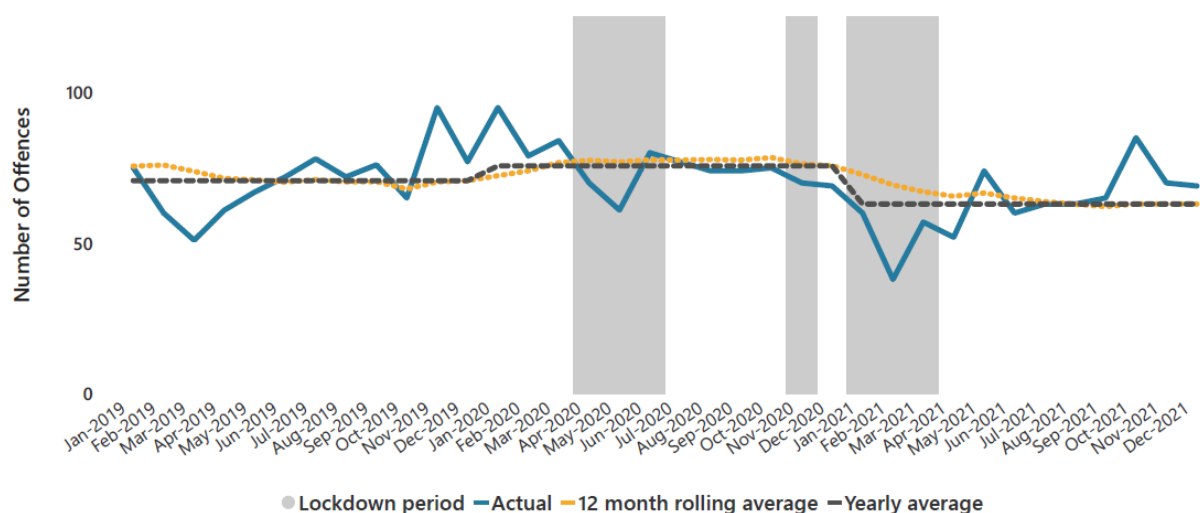
Figure 40: Police recorded Public Order offences in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



6.7. Criminal Damage

There were some short term decreases in criminal damage offences recorded in South Cambridgeshire which corresponded with national lockdown periods. The overall volume of this offence type has decreased by 11% since 2019. A very small proportion of all criminal damage offences in South Cambridgeshire have a hate crime marker. From 2019-2021, the highest annual proportion of criminal damage offences with a hate crime was 1.6% (recorded in 2021).

Figure 41: Police recorded Criminal Damage offences in South Cambridgeshire, January 2019 – December 2021



6.8. Fraud, scams and Cyber crime

Fraud – according to Action Fraud, fraud is when “trickery is used to gain a dishonest advantage, which is often financial, over another person”. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) suggests people are more likely to be the victim of fraud or cyber offences than any other crime type. A scam is a type of fraud, for example mass marketing scams are a common type of scam (Action Fraud, n.d.).

Long-term data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) suggests fraud and computer misuse offences have markedly increased in the past decade. The latest available data from the TCSEW showed that fraud offences did not follow the same pattern of decreased victimisation seen for other offence types during the pandemic period. In the year ending September 2021 the TCSEW showed 5.1 million fraud offences, up 36% on the pre-pandemic year ending September 2019 (ONS, 2022). The majority of these offences did not result in a loss with just 26% losing money or property with no or only partial reimbursement.

Action Fraud (the public-facing national fraud and cyber-crime reporting platform), saw a 27% increase in fraud offences in the year ending September 2021 compared to the previous year, with a 42% increase in “financial investment fraud” and an 18% rise in “advanced fee payments” (ONS, 2022).

It is proposed that increases in fraud observed during the pandemic period may be linked to offenders exploiting changes in behaviour relating to COVID-19, such as an increase in online shopping and higher levels of savings. UK Finance suggests that during the pandemic fraudsters played to people’s fears and worries, tricking them into parting with money by offering desirable incentives supposedly from trusted organisations such as vaccines and COVID-19 related pay-outs.

Cybercrime is an umbrella term which covers both cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crimes. Cyber-dependent crimes can only be committed through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) devices, such as hacking, malware or Denial of Service (DOS) offences. Cyber-enabled crimes are more traditional crime types which can be increased in scale or reach through the use of technology, including a wide range of offences such as fraud, malicious communications, child sexual offences etc (CPS, 2019).

Local police recorded crime data for South Cambridgeshire shows increasing levels of cybercrime (offences with an online crime marker or cyber-enabled keyword), with the total 2021 count up by 129% compared to 2019. There was a spike during the second national lockdown in November 2020 and all lockdown periods saw increases, however, the numbers are low so it is not possible to draw robust conclusions around these patterns. It should be acknowledged that underreporting is a significant issue for cyber crime and fraud, therefore the true figures are likely to be much higher. Detailed offence-level analysis would be required to better understand the types of offences which are occurring and how patterns are changing over time.

Figure 42: Police recorded crimes in South Cambridgeshire with a cybercrime marker, January 2019 – December 2021

Image redacted

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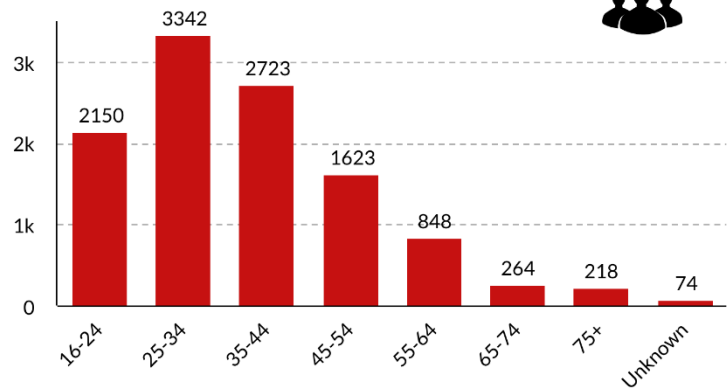
Appendix A: Summary of key findings from the safe accommodation needs assessment 2021

Victims

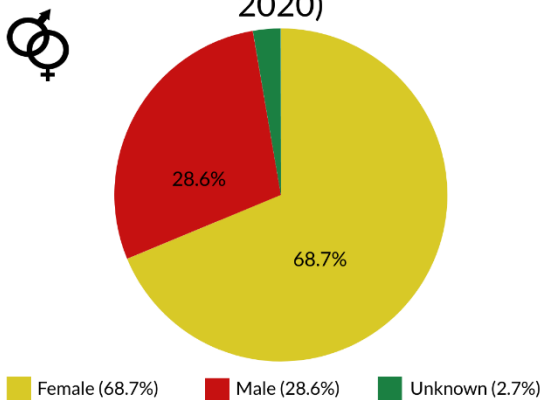
The largest age group using Domestic Abuse support services in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area is people between the age of 25-34.

More female victims of DA are at higher risk than male victims.

Number of victims of domestic abuse by age groups (20/21)

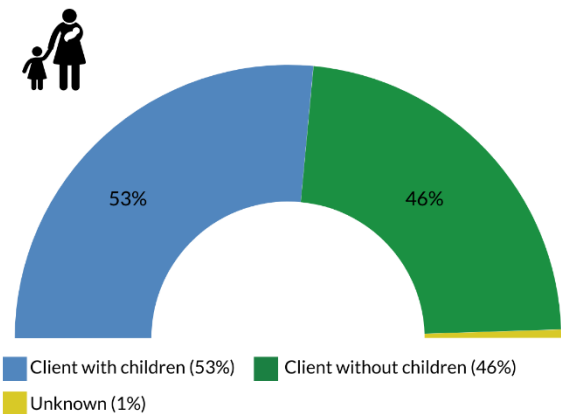


Gender Identity of victims (March 2020)



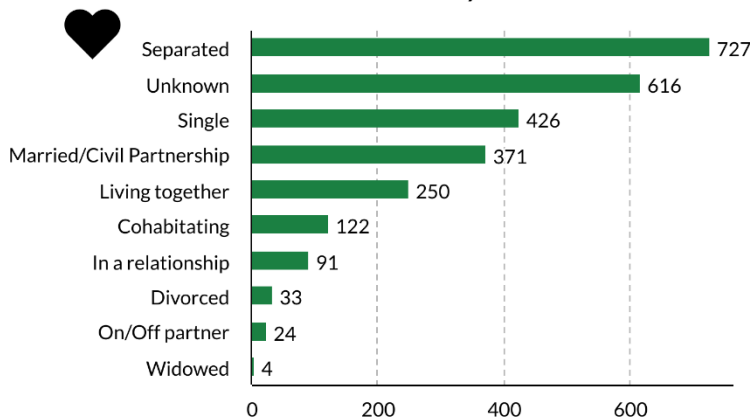
Police recorded data

IDVA service clients and their children



IDVA = Independent Domestic Violence Advisors

Victims of domestic abuse by marital status



A larger proportion of IDVA clients did have children compared to those who did not.

Most victims using support services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were separated.

Data Sources:

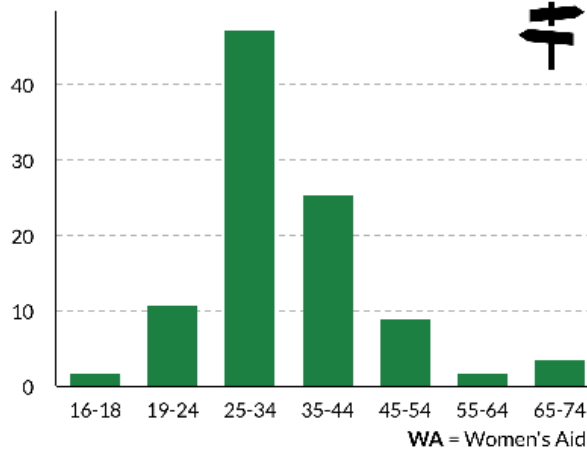
Data sets are provided from the following support services for year 2020/21: Adult Social Care, Aspire Peterborough CGL, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Children's Social Care, IDVA Service, MARAC, Probation, Rape Crisis, Refuge Outreach, SARC, WA Cambridge Outreach, WA Peterborough Outreach and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Refuge Accommodation

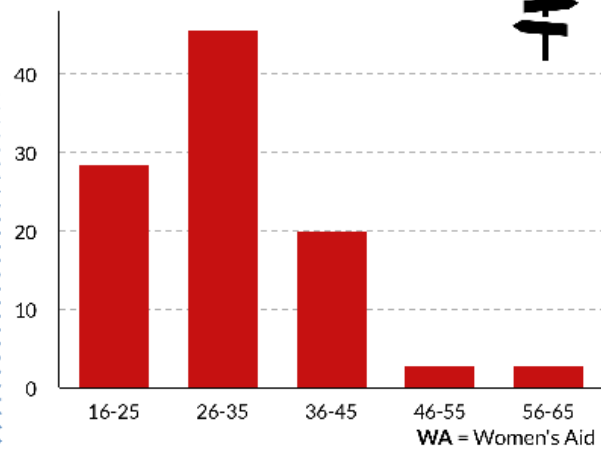
Most people staying in refuge were aged between 25-35 (26-35 for Cambridge Women's Aid).

A low amount of successfully referred people were aged 46 or over.

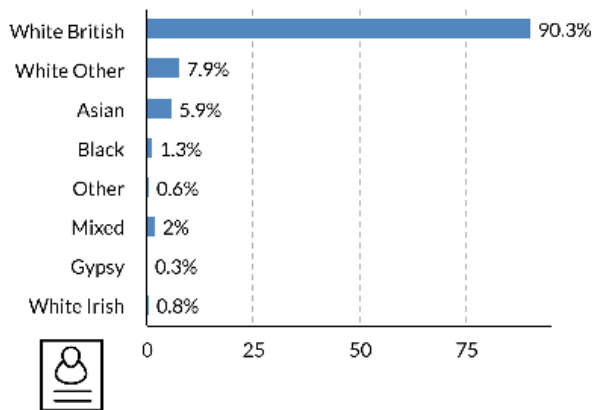
% of successful referrals by age
(Refuge & Peterborough WA)



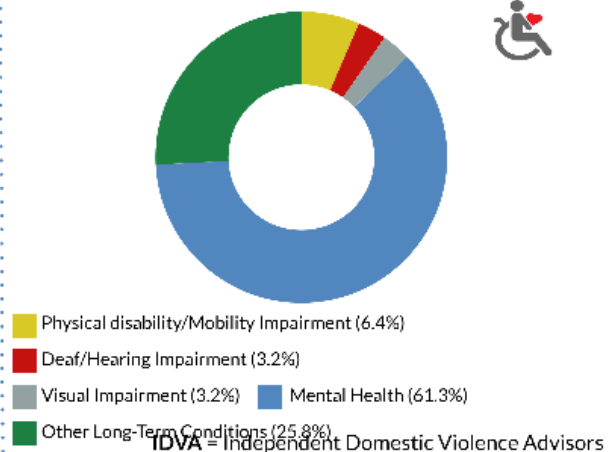
% of successful referrals by age
(Cambridge WA)



Ethnicity of those staying in refuge



Disability of those referred to refuge successfully



Majority of clients are White British.

If clients have uncertain legal status, they may not be entitled to public funds.

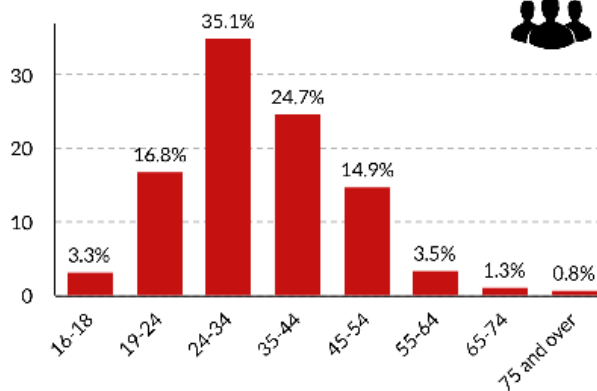
34% of successful referrals from 2020/21 were recorded as having a disability.

Data Sources:

Data sets are provided from the following support services for year 2020/21: Adult Social Care, Aspire Peterborough CGL, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Children's Social Care, IDVA Service, MARAC, Probation, Rape Crisis, Refuge Outreach, SARC, WA Cambridge Outreach, WA Peterborough Outreach and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Housing options beyond emergency accommodation

Domestic Abuse victims on housing register 20/21 by age



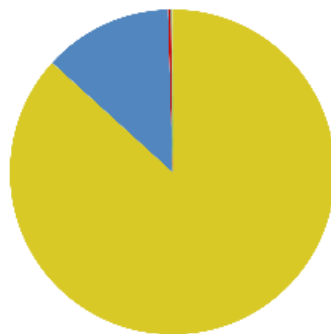
Note: this chart includes data of all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough districts except Huntingdon, this is due to data quality and limitations.

The most common age group of victims on housing register due to DA was 25-34 yrs.

The large majority of those accessing housing services at the district councils were female.

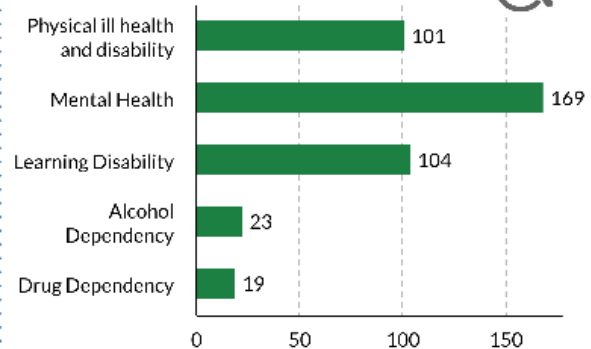
The most common disability recorded across the district councils in 2020 was 'history of mental health problems'.

Victims of Domestic Abuse on housing register by Gender



Female (86.7%) Male (12.8%) Unknown (0.3%)
Transgender (0.1%)

Disability of those referred to refuge (Cambridgeshire only)



Data Sources:

Data sets are provided from the following support services for year 2020/21: Adult Social Care, Aspire Peterborough CGL, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Children's Social Care, IDVA Service, MARAC, Probation, Rape Crisis, Refuge Outreach, SARC, WA Cambridge Outreach, WA Peterborough Outreach and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Key recommendations

Increasing support/services for specific groups of residents:

- Lithuanian and Polish women
- Gypsy/traveller communities
- Older people
- Women
- People with uncertain immigration status
- Residents with disabilities (especially women with mental health issues and misusing substances)

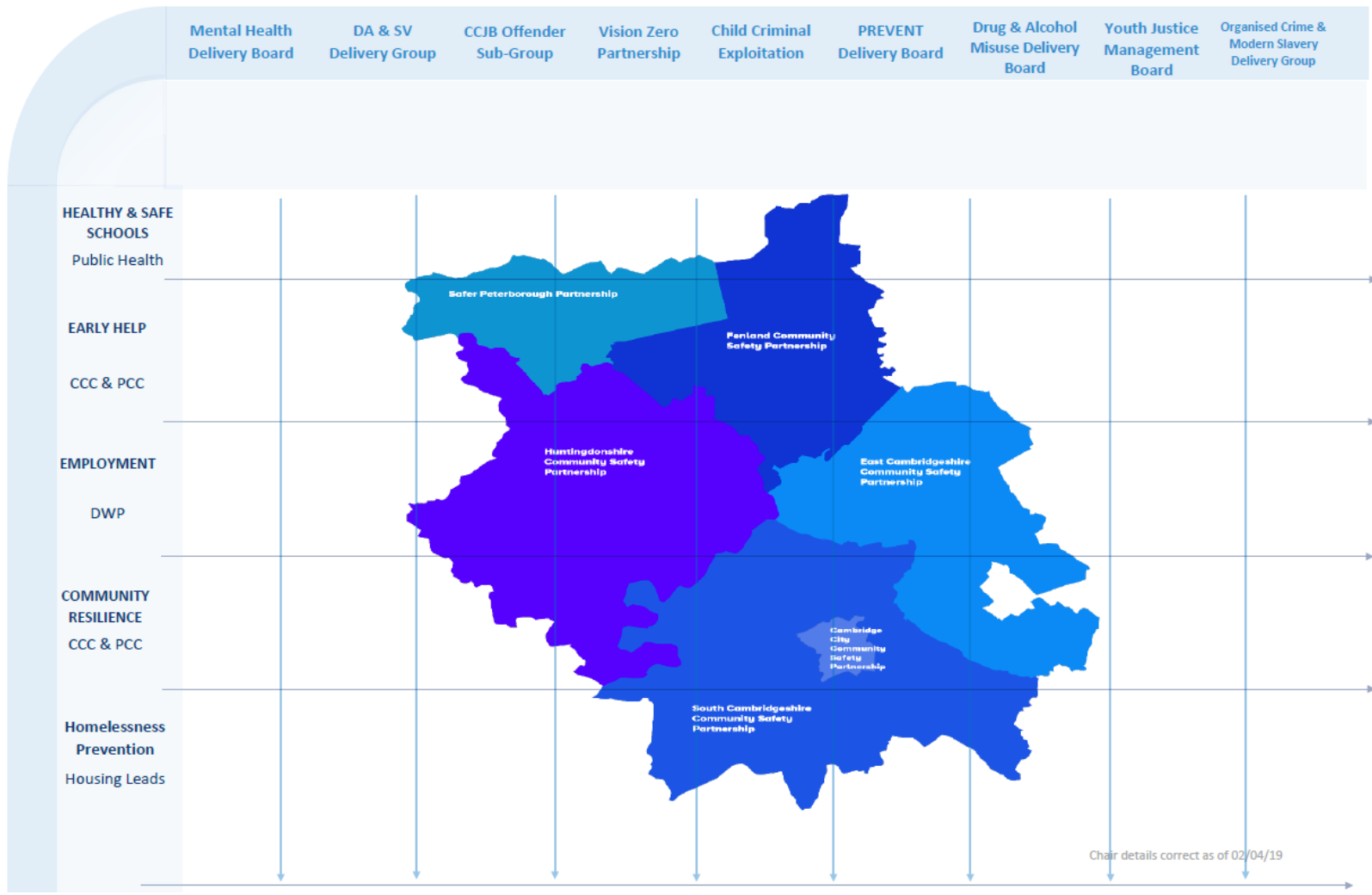
Limitations of the report: inconsistent data across agencies.

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Appendix B: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Thematic Matrix



(Source: OPCC Cambridgeshire & Peterborough 2022)

Appendix C: Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)	<p>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).</p> <p>Source: What is antisocial behaviour? Metropolitan Police</p>
ASB categories: personal, environmental and nuisance	<p>3 ASB categories:</p> <p>Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.</p> <p>Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.</p> <p>Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.</p> <p>Source: What is antisocial behaviour? Metropolitan Police</p>
Accidental Fires	<p>Where the motive for the fire is thought to be accidental or is unknown.</p>
Arson	<p>The criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property.</p>
Child Sexual Exploitation	<p>"...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".</p> <p>Source: Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</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.</p> <p>Source: Coercive control - Womens Aid</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</p>

	adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.
Deliberate Fires	Where the motive was thought to be or suspected to be deliberate. Whilst deliberate fires can include arson incidents, not all deliberate fires are arson.
Dip sample	Methodology for examining data. A suitable proportion of records from a specified period are sampled (ideally at random) and then reports are read in detail to ascertain if there are common themes across those records.
Domestic Abuse Crime	Domestic Abuse Crime is not limited to specific offences. Any police recorded crime can be flagged as Domestic Abuse related and as such would be counted as a 'Domestic Abuse Crime'.
Domestic Abuse Incident	A (police recorded) report of a domestic incident, which occurs in either a public or private place. Recording such incidents enables data to capture those incidents where the circumstances do not amount to a notifiable crime i.e., not all domestic abuse incidents result in a crime being recorded. Source: National standard for incident recording counting rules - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Domestic Homicide Review	When a person is murdered in the context of domestic violence or abuse, a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is usually carried out. The responsibility for DHR's sits with the relevant district Community Safety Partnership (part of the District Council). The Community Safety Partnership will commission an independent Chair and Author for the DHR and organize a panel of appropriate professionals (membership dependent on the case). Source: Welcome to Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership (cambsdasv.org.uk)
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. Source: Hate Crime (campaign.gov.uk)

Modern Slavery	<p>Modern slavery is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. It covers a wide range of abuse and exploitation including sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting.</p> <p>Source: Modern slavery Metropolitan Police</p>
National Referral Mechanism (for Modern slavery) (NRM)	<p>The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.</p> <p>Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation. It encompasses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - human trafficking - slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour <p>An individual could have been a victim of human trafficking and/or slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Source: National referral mechanism guidance: adult (England and Wales) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>
Organised Immigration Crime (OIC)	<p>Organised Immigration Crime covers both the smuggling of willing people to illegally facilitate their entry into the UK and human trafficking which generally relates to the exploitation of irregular migrants. Human trafficking is often, not but always, connected to modern slavery, labour exploitation or servitude. Source: Organised Crime - Strategy The Crown Prosecution Service (cps.gov.uk)</p>
Other Theft	<p>Other theft offences involve the theft of property which is not taken directly from a person or shop. Some subcategories include; blackmail, theft by an employee, theft of mail, making off without payment etc.</p>
Substance misuse: Opiate and Non-opiate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opiate – e.g., heroin • Non-opiate – e.g., cannabis, crack and ecstasy <p>Source: Adult substance misuse treatment statistics 2019 to 2020: report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>
TCSEW (Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales)	<p>The Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) became operational on the 20 May 2020. It was a replacement for the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) which was suspended on the 17 March 2020 due to COVID-19. Source: Comparability between the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales and the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</p> <p>The Crime Survey for England and Wales is an important monitor of the extent of crime in England and Wales. It is used by the Government to evaluate and develop crime reduction policies as well as providing vital information about the changing levels of crime over the last 30 years. Source: Crime Survey for England & Wales</p>