



Police and Crime Commissioner
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH
Darryl Preston

Annual report 2022-2023



**Putting
communities
first**



**Crime
prevention**



**Supporting
victims and
witnesses**



**Ethical
policing**



**Robust
enforcement**



Tackling crime and keeping communities safe



Foreword



▲ **Darryl Preston** in Ramsey. Darryl served as both a front line police officer and a senior detective – 10 years in the Met and 20 years in Cambridgeshire. He is currently the National Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) Lead for forensics and biometrics.

Darryl Preston, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the work I am doing, alongside partners, to help cut crime and keep people safe.

The good news is police officer numbers grew continually across our county – a record 1,732 were in place at the end of March 2023, 173 more than 12 months previously.

This annual report covers the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 – it captures the key achievements made over the past 12 months to deliver the priority areas outlined in my *Police and Crime Plan*:

- Putting communities first
- Crime prevention
- Supporting victims and witnesses
- Ethical policing
- Robust enforcement.

I am proud to reflect on a period of rapid progress – and how my office has worked with partners to secure and award substantial extra resources to increase public safety:

- £402K in *Safer Streets* funding in the reporting year to improve the safety of our local communities.
- £166K investment in our Community Safety Partnerships to help combat issues causing day to day concerns for residents – making public places safer and reducing anti-social behaviour, including fly-tipping.
- Continued support for young people across our county – almost £113K was invested through my *Youth Fund* into projects to develop confidence and address risky behaviour.
- An additional £1.1m to enhance support for victims – ensuring all victims and witnesses of crime across the county had access to support when they needed it.

I am absolutely determined to do more by building on this platform of achievements over the coming year.

Tackling crime, keeping you safe

The Commissioner's *Police and Crime Plan*, published in November 2021, sets out priorities to prevent and reduce crime in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The priorities included in the Plan followed extensive consultation with residents, local businesses and other organisations working to support criminal justice and community safety.

The following pages show the progress made against each of the Plan's five themes outlined here:

TACKLING CRIME & KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE

PUTTING COMMUNITIES FIRST



We will ensure the police and other partners are listening to the public and working with them to act on their concerns and supporting them to assist themselves.

From initial contact, to rural and business crime, anti-social behaviour, hate crime and speeding.

CRIME PREVENTION



We will work in partnership to understand and tackle the root causes of crime and serious violence through early intervention and rehabilitating people who have offended, while reducing opportunities for people to commit crime.

SUPPORTING VICTIMS AND WITNESSES



We will protect vulnerable people and ensure victims and witnesses are placed at the heart of the criminal justice system, commissioning services to support them.

We will recognise every victim's experience is different and will provide a quality service which maintains their trust and confidence in the criminal justice system.

ETHICAL POLICING



We will ensure the police act with integrity and social responsibility, promoting a culture that is inclusive, diverse and takes equality seriously.

From how they interact with the public they serve, to environmental sustainability.

ROBUST ENFORCEMENT



We will ensure the police and other partners such as courts, prosecutors, probation and local authorities are using criminal justice and other enforcement processes effectively to keep Cambridgeshire and Peterborough safe.



Putting communities first

PUTTING COMMUNITIES FIRST



We will ensure the police and other partners are listening to the public and working with them to act on their concerns and supporting them to assist themselves.

From initial contact, to rural and business crime, anti-social behaviour, hate crime and speeding.

Listening to local residents and acting upon their concerns is a key part of the Commissioner's role.

In line with his *Police and Crime Plan*, the Commissioner works in cooperation with Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the county's community safety partners to keep people safe wherever they live, work or study in the county.

The Commissioner continues to put community safety at the heart of everything he does – from helping to resolve local issues, such as anti-social behaviour, to a dedicated fund which helps young people reach their potential.

What we have done

Residents continue to ask the Commissioner for a more visible and responsive police force.

With record numbers of officers in post – 1,732 by the end of March 2023 – Cambridgeshire was one of the first forces in the country to announce it had met its target under the national 20,000 officer recruitment drive. Of the 500 officers recruited in the past three years, 44% were women.

The Constabulary reported a 6% increase in 999 calls over the year with an average of 428 calls a day recorded in March 2023 – the highest recorded for any March in the last nine years.

The daily average of people using the online webchat service also increased throughout the year with an average of 96 a day in March.

The Commissioner continues to explore with the Chief Constable ways to improve 999 and 101 call handling.

Achievements

The Commissioner is passionate about understanding and addressing the policing needs of local people – regularly visiting communities, local businesses and representatives in our cities, towns and villages as part of a series of ‘District Day’ visits.

A new monthly newsletter was launched to enable people to keep up to date with the Commissioner’s news and activities – [use this link](#) to receive your copy.

Over the year progress included:

- **Keeping rural communities safe** The Commissioner continues to support people living and working in rural areas – the Constabulary's Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT) reported a 24% reduction in rural crime overall (including heritage, hunting and wildlife crime); hare coursing and poaching were down by 48% and rural criminal damage was down by 36%.
- **Working towards reducing deaths and serious injuries on our roads** Continued support for the county’s road safety partnership, *Vision Zero*, included funding from the Commissioner’s *Casualty Reduction and Support Fund* towards initiatives, such as bike safety campaigns and vehicles for the Constabulary's Safer Speeds Team to address speed concerns across the county.
- **Helping our businesses to keep safe** The Commissioner held regular meetings with local businesses to help support their needs, from cyber crime to attacks on retail workers.



Darryl Preston with GCSE Criminology students at Jack Hunt School in Peterborough, who were presenting their views about crime prevention models.



Crime prevention

CRIME PREVENTION



We will work in partnership to understand and tackle the root causes of crime and serious violence through early intervention and rehabilitating people who have offended, while reducing opportunities for people to commit crime.

Tackling the root causes of crime and serious violence remains a key priority for the Commissioner in his *Police and Crime Plan*.

Opportunities to help support people away from committing offences so they can lead more positive lives helps to reduce crime – something local people want to see.

What we have done

A range of initiatives were progressed over the year – from community-based crime prevention schemes to support local residents to keep safe, to targeted work by partners to help prolific offenders stop offending.

Another initiative was a proactive ‘listening’ project involving 1,700 young people aged 11 to 18 about how their safety could be improved, how to prevent their exploitation and how to reduce their risk of harm.

Achievements

- **Safer streets** Over £402K secured to tackle anti-social behaviour and violence against women and girls in Peterborough and Wisbech – this brought the total investment from the Home Office’s *Safer Streets* fund to £1.5m.
- **Keeping our young people safe** The Commissioner’s *Youth Fund* continued to help young people develop positive skills which saw them contributing to community safety. Over the last 12 months, 41 projects across our towns, villages and cities received £113K of funding – including a new youth club for young people in Peterborough and a project at *The Junction* in Cambridge.
- **Tackling serious violence** A new legal duty placed on public sector organisations to reduce and prevent serious violence saw the Commissioner convening a countywide workshop to enable partners to create joint plans. National funding will support delivery over the next two years.

- **Dealing with ‘high harms’** The Commissioner established, and chairs, a new High Harms Board covering the drug strategy, serious violence, violence against women and girls and serious and organised crime.
- **Tackling bike theft** With Cambridge no longer in the top five cities for cycle crime, targeted, robust policing, more investment in CCTV technology and good partnership working has led to a 60% drop in reported cycle thefts in Cambridge and a 49% drop in Cambridgeshire.
- **Keeping people safe online** The Constabulary’s Cyber Protect Team and the Eastern Cyber Resilience Centre continue to provide advice and information to help protect victims, local communities and businesses from cybercrime.



Darryl Preston at the 2022 Cambridgeshire County Day with Philippa Phipps from the Eastern Cyber Resilience Centre, which is part funded by the Commissioner.



Supporting victims and witnesses

SUPPORTING VICTIMS AND WITNESSES



We will protect vulnerable people and ensure victims and witnesses are placed at the heart of the criminal justice system, commissioning services to support them.

We will recognise every victim's experience is different and will provide a quality service which maintains their trust and confidence in the criminal justice system.

Ensuring all victims and witnesses of crime across the county have access to support when they need it is a key responsibility for the Commissioner – and one he is wholly committed to.

What we have done

Victims and witnesses of crime across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have had access to a range of high quality emotional, practical and specialist support services over the reporting year.

The Commissioner and his team have worked hard with partners to bring in more than £1.8m in additional resources to enhance services already on offer – some of which are outlined below.

Achievements

- **Support services for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence** Increased investment into community-based services provided vulnerable people with support. This bolstered funding to the *Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership* which collectively supported 1,497 adult and 385 young survivors of rape and sexual abuse.
- **Dedicated specialist support** The county has its highest number of specialist posts based in local services who are supporting survivors of domestic abuse, rape and sexual violence. This includes 16 Independent Sexual Violence Advocates who help navigate survivors through the criminal justice process.
- **Helping young victims and witnesses of crime** The national charity *Embrace – Child Victims of Crime* expanded its support services through a new three-year contract. This has enabled the charity to provide emotional, practical and therapeutic support and advocacy to young victims of crime and their families.
- **Improving support services through innovation** Feedback from rape survivors is enabling real time changes to be made to police processes and support services.

- **A new Victim Services Fund** To provide organisations who already receive support from the Commissioner with additional funding worth up to £5K to improve access to their services. Over £33K was awarded to eight charities towards funding translation services, livechat, the development of peer support groups and transport costs.
- **A new mental health support service** Run by *CPSL Mind* (Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and South Lincolnshire Mind) to provide emotional support and wellbeing advice to victims and witnesses of crime.
- **Community based support** A successful bid to the Ministry of Justice has brought an additional £295K into the county to enable grass roots organisations such as *One Voice 4 Travellers* and *The Meadows Community Centre* in Cambridge to support victims of domestic abuse and reduce the risk to them and their children.
- **Improving access** Accessibility improvements have been made to [Cambs Victim Services](#) website which provides a single directory for victim and witness support services.



Darryl Preston at the County's Victim & Witness Hub, which is staffed by highly-trained professionals.

Cambridgeshire has one of the UK's best victim and witness support schemes.



Ethical policing

ETHICAL POLICING



We will ensure the police act with integrity and social responsibility, promoting a culture that is inclusive, diverse and takes equality seriously.

From how they interact with the public they serve, to environmental sustainability.

Policing in our country only exists with the consent of the public. There can be no doubt the recent findings detailed in Baroness Casey's review into the Metropolitan Police and of the horrific crimes by police officers seriously impacted public trust and confidence in policing.

While the vast majority of officers are in the service for the right reasons, it is clear there is a lot more work to be done to address issues of culture and ethical policing nationally.

Here in Cambridgeshire, both the Commissioner and the Chief Constable remain committed to ensuring the high standards of policing residents expect in our county is both maintained and enhanced.

What we have done

The Constabulary has been recognised as the first in the country to have developed a culture statement, accompanied by an extensive training programme for new and existing officers.

Achievements

- **Improving standards in policing** Increased investment in the Constabulary's professional standards has enabled robust vetting processes both at the point of application and throughout an officer's career.
- **Independent scrutiny** The countywide Community Scrutiny Panel, made up of volunteers from all walks of life, has continued to provide regular and independent scrutiny of the Constabulary's powers for stop and search and use of force. Feedback is provided for each body worn video scrutinised and this is used by the Constabulary for organisational learning.

- **A representative police force** The Commissioner continues to support the Chief Constable to improve applications from those from different ethnic backgrounds and faiths. Over the past five years, the force has increased the number of people from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds serving as police officers by 1.5%.
- **Monitoring police performance** The Commissioner regularly monitors the Chief Constable's performance through robust governance arrangements – minutes of which are shared on the [Commissioner's website](#).
- **Detainee welfare** The Commissioner's Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, made up of volunteers, continues to operate across the county – 51 custody visits were made and 208 detainees spoken to, ensuring their rights and welfare are being managed while in custody. A recruitment campaign resulted in six new volunteers joining the team.
- **Complaints over the reporting period** Between April 2022 and March 2023, the Commissioner considered 53 complaint reviews from the public. 38 of these were valid, with the commissioner upholding over 10% of these. Four complaint reviews remain ongoing. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner received no complaints against the Chief Constable that met the criteria for recording and investigating.
- **Force assessment** The most recent assessment of the Constabulary carried out by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) can be found on the [HMICFRS website](#).



Some of the Constabulary's new officers at a 2023 Passing Out Parade.



Robust enforcement

ROBUST ENFORCEMENT



We will ensure the police and other partners such as courts, prosecutors, probation and local authorities are using criminal justice and other enforcement processes effectively to keep Cambridgeshire and Peterborough safe.

The Commissioner is committed to supporting the Chief Constable with the resources he needs to cut crime and catch criminals.

He does this as Chair of the countywide Criminal Justice Board and by working with the Constabulary and other partners across the criminal justice system to make sure enforcement processes are being used effectively to keep local residents safe.

What we have done

Through his [Business Coordination Board](#) meetings, the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account for the effective delivery of policing across the county. The Commissioner also chairs the countywide Criminal Justice Board – which brings together key partners such as police, courts, probation and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary has continued to focus on keeping local people safe – tackling serious violence and apprehending those who cause harm.

Achievements

■ Tackling serious and organised crime and drug dealing

Targeted police work has enabled officers to detect more drug offences - all helping to take drugs off our streets. *Operation Hypernova*, the county's biggest ever operation set up to tackle exploitation and illegal drugs resulted in 31 people charged for 139 drug and human trafficking offences, the dismantling of 30 county lines and the seizure of £600,000 worth of drugs.

- **Tackling neighbourhood crime** Police operations targeting bike thefts and personal robbery led to a 30% reduction in neighbourhood crime across the county. This included a 49% reduction in bicycle theft, a 44% reduction in residential burglary and a 23% reduction in theft offences.

- **Tackling knife crime** More targeted police work, such as *Operation Alliance* continues to tackle street-based violence, with additional patrols carried out where night time economy establishments are operating. Through visits to schools and colleges, the Commissioner continues to work with partners to educate young people about the dangers of carrying knives and the impact this has on the wider community.
- **Keeping our roads safe** December 2022 saw the arrest of 83 suspected drink and drug drivers as part of a Constabulary crackdown which had called on the public to prevent, persuade and report drink or drug drivers to police.
- Helping the Constabulary to **tackle crime in rural areas** Hare coursing across the East of England has fallen by a third thanks to the success of a 'borderless' scheme among Eastern region police forces, which makes apprehending and prosecuting hare coursing offenders easier. The agreement, completed with the support of the Crown Prosecution Service, means the forces become one when using certain powers such as Community Protection Notices, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) and the seizure of dogs.



These lurchers were being used for hare coursing – and part of the offenders' assets seized by the police.

How the Constabulary is funded

The Commissioner received a total of £174m of funding for the period of this annual report – April 2022 to March 2023 – a £9.6m increase on the previous year.

In Cambridgeshire, police funding comes from two main sources: a central government grant (56%) and the policing part of council tax (44%).

The Commissioner is responsible for the policing budget. The Chief Constable is responsible for delivering an effective and efficient policing service which provides value for money.

The financial management of Cambridgeshire Constabulary is the responsibility of the Chief Constable within the agreed budget allocation.

The financial accounts will be available on the [Commissioner's website](#) during 2023. Details about how the budget is calculated are on [The Police & Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire | Budget](#).

Darryl Preston with Nick Dean, Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Constabulary.



National policing priorities

The government's Strategic Policing Requirement sets out national threats to public safety which helps the Commissioner and Chief Constable plan and respond to them.

Revised in February 2023, the threats are: Serious and Organised Crime, Terrorism, National Cyber Incident, Child Sexual Abuse, Public Disorder and Civil Emergencies and Violence Against Women and Girls.

As this report covers the year ending 31st March 2023, it does not respond in detail to the revised requirements. The Commissioner is confident these national priorities are included in his *Police and Crime Plan* through which he holds the Chief Constable to account.



Against the national crime and policing priorities, the Constabulary has reported:

- While rare across the county, there were nine **murder and other homicide offences** recorded (14 in the year to July 2019 – the national benchmark date set by government).
- The Constabulary continues to tackle **serious violence and knife crime** through *Operation Guardian*, including targeting hotspots of knife crime and individuals known to carry knives
- **Targeted police work** to disrupt county lines and take drugs off our streets has led to police identifying 36% more drug trafficking and 34% more drug possession offences.
- **Neighbourhood crime** reduced across the county by 30% – this includes a 49% reduction in bicycle theft, a 44% reduction in residential burglary and an 23% reduction in theft offences.
- **Online and cyber enabled crime** increased by 11 additional crimes a month since the year ending July 2019.
- **Improve satisfaction against victims (particularly domestic abuse)** – local data has shown a decline in victim satisfaction with 72% responding they were fairly satisfied.



Useful links

Some useful links to help keep you in touch with matters relating to policing in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.





The Police and Crime Commissioner's...

-  [Police and Crime Plan, 2021-2024](#)
-  [Business Coordination Board meetings](#)

Cambridgeshire Constabulary's...

-  [Performance, 2022-2023](#)
-  [Corporate plan, 2023-2024](#)






The six Community Safety Partnerships in Cambridgeshire...

-  [Cambridge City](#)
-  [East Cambs](#)
-  [Fenland](#)
-  [Huntingdonshire](#)
-  [Peterborough](#)
-  [South Cambs](#)

Contact us

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You can keep up-to-date with the Commissioner's news and activities by signing up to receive his [monthly newsletter](#).

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