



To: Police Accountability Board

From: Cristina Turner, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (“OPCC”)

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Tackline Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour – Deep Dive

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to share the draft Deep Dive Report into delivery against the priorities in the Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour pillar within the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Plan 2025-28 (the “Plan”) with the Police Accountability Board (“the Board”).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. Members of the Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) are recommended to review and scrutinise the current deep dive report into Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, support the effective exercise of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (the “Commissioner”) and share information with the communities they represent. This is in line with this Panel’s Terms of Reference. See Section 3 below.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1. Item 1.5 – to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner’s functions.

3.2. Item 1.7 – to support the effective exercise of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1. The Panel's role is to scrutinise and support the Commissioner in the exercise of his statutory functions. Key to this is the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2025-2028 (the "Plan"). This report is the latest of a series of thematic deep-dive reports on the core pillars of the Plan. It reports on progress made by the Commissioner against priorities within the Plan to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

4.2. As well as the Commissioner's duties for holding the Chief Constable to account, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 places wide-ranging statutory duties and powers on Commissioners relating to:

- Working in co-operation with community safety partners.
- Working with criminal justice agencies and making arrangements so that their functions provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system.

This includes:

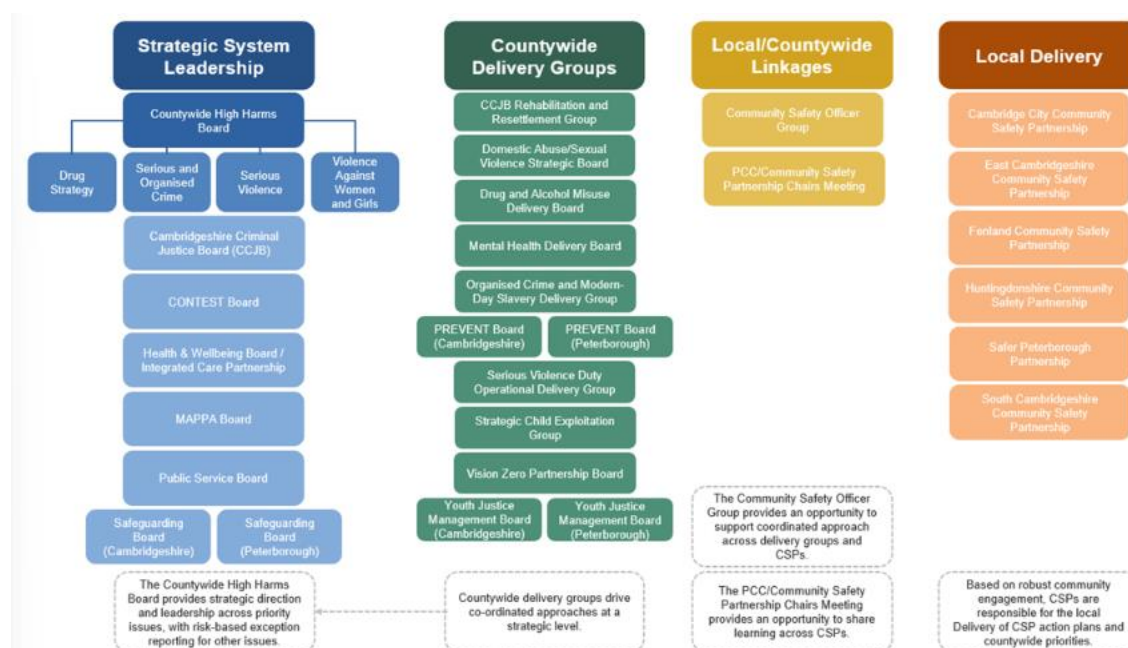
- Mutual duties for co-operative working.
- Having regard to respective priorities.
- Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) powers to convene community safety and criminal justice partners.

4.3. The OPCC regularly works with a range of partners including local authorities, health, police, Crown Prosecution Service, Courts and Tribunal Service, prisons, the Probation Service, government departments and the Combined Authority.

4.4. Each area within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has a statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) made up of local partners including the police, local authority, fire service, health service and probation. These are known as the "Responsible Authorities". CSPs can address local issues that policing alone cannot solve, such as bike theft, fly tipping, ASB, and vandalism. One of the key responsibilities of CSPs is to produce a Community Safety Plan. These plans

focus on priorities of local importance and set out what collective actions can be taken to add value to the day-to-day work undertaken by individual agencies and organisations to make communities safer. CSPs are often supported by 'Problem Solving Groups' which bring tactical partners together to deal with issues in a joined-up way. The Plan includes a clear commitment to continue to support the CSPs to address these issues.

- 4.5. Well-established multi-agency partnerships help drive a co-ordinated approach and ensure effective local delivery across the county:



- 4.6. The Countywide Community Safety Agreement 2025-28 sets out how agencies will work in partnership across district boundaries to address crime and disorder.
- 4.7. The Countywide High Harms Board, chaired by the Commissioner, is used to provide strategic direction and leadership across four priority issues: drugs, serious violence, serious and organised crime (SOC), and preventing violence against women and girls (VAWG).
- 4.8. The Criminal Justice Board for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is chaired by the Commissioner. The Board is a non-statutory body whose purpose is to contribute to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice

system at a local level by bringing together senior strategic partners from the relevant criminal justice agencies such as the police, courts, and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). Clearly prosecutorial and judicial independence always need to be respected.

5. PROGRESS UPDATE: TACKLING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

5.1. Dealing with local issues

Dealing with local issues is clearly a focus of business as usual policing activity, enhanced by the work of the Spree Offender Teams and the additional police patrols in hotspot areas funded by the national Hotspot Action Fund until March 2026. Alongside this, across the life of the Plan the Commissioner has invested almost £1 million to fund dedicated Problem-Solving Co-ordinator posts in each Community Safety Partnership (CSP) area. These posts provide the additional capacity with the CSPs, which enables them to work with communities and local partners to tackle local issues of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The Commissioner has enabled agencies to work together and share best practice in tackling ASB, through him and OPCC colleagues regularly meeting with CSP Chairs and their teams. Local examples of positive work driven by these posts includes:

- [Fenland CSP](#) received a complaint from a resident who had previously reported suspicions around drug dealing. The individual was provided with advice and reassurance, while the Problem-Solving Officer shared intelligence with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (NPT) and the central police intelligence department. Within 24-hours of receiving the information, NPT officers patrolled the location and stopped and searched a suspicious vehicle, which contained suspected Class A drugs and mobile phones. The car was seized as the driver had no licence or insurance, and the resident was updated on the incident.
- [Peterborough CSP](#) proactively worked with allotment holder, police, fire, contractors and Peterborough City Council to tackle multiple incidents of arson and criminal damage at council owned and community-run

allotment. Data on recent and historic fire investigations was shared between agencies to identify patterns in behaviour. Following multi-agency meetings with residents and allotment holders, the Fire Service shared fire safety and security recommendations that were implemented to 'design out' crime. High-visibility patrols and ongoing monitoring was rolled out. Incidents have now ceased, and partners continue to review the situation to ensure advice is being followed.

- **East Cambridgeshire CSP** worked collaboratively to respond to a complex case involving allegations of domestic abuse, racism, verbal abuse and threats, and overcrowded housing. CSP officers and the Problem-Solving Lead convened partners (including housing) to resolve the established overcrowding issue, while practical help and support was given to caregivers and parents. Police intervened to address reports of criminal behaviour. Victim-led support has been provided to all parties, who have benefitted from the extra help, and demand on agencies and services has ceased.
- **Cambridge CSP** officers have jointly solved issues related to drug dealing, drug use, noise nuisance, unregistered dog breeds and cuckooing. Cuckooing is a type of exploitation where a victim is intimidated, manipulated and threatened into having their home used by criminals as a base for illegal activities - typically as part of a common method of drug supply known as county lines. CSP Action has included door knocking and letter drops to householders, intelligence sharing with police on suspected drug activity and cuckooing, the installation of re-deployable CCTV, welfare visits to vulnerable tenants, the installation of noise recording equipment and the seizure of an un-registered dog. The CSP and partners are reducing the impact of ASB on the wider community, improving tenants' safety and ensuring crime is reported and enforced.
- **Huntingdonshire CSP** and Huntingdonshire District Council has worked with Cambridgeshire Constabulary and St Neots Town Council to proactively address ASB in St Neots. This has involved joint visits to residents, school visits, and engagement at local peer group meetings. The Council continues to work with the force to monitor and enforce the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Ramsey and is working with both the County Council and Constabulary to tackle areas at risk of child criminal exploitation.

- [South Cambridgeshire CSP](#) have enforced a [Public Space Protection Order](#) (PSPO) for Anti-social behaviour at [Milton Park and Ride](#) after the Constabulary received 65 complaints in two years. During a public consultation, 94% of the 125 people who took part were in favour of introducing a PSPO at the site in Butt Lane. Implementation of the PSPO approved at the [Cabinet meeting](#) on the 4th of November 2025, giving the Council authority to issue fines to perpetrators and the possibility of offenders being prosecuted in court. Cambridgeshire County Council has installed automatic number plate recognition cameras which will be used to enforce the PSPO.

Reporting on crime trends is shared through the Police Accountability Board (formerly the Business Coordination Board), chaired by the Commissioner. Papers from this meeting are published on the OPCC website, with an end-of-year performance overview captured within the annual report. The latest [performance update paper from February 2025](#) shows that the rolling 12-months to December 2025, the number of police-recorded ASB incidents remained broadly stable, with only a small numerical increase (+14 incidents) reported. When broken down by Local Policing areas, a 2.8% increase (+163 incidents) was recorded in the south, while a reduction of 2.7% (-149 incidents) was recorded in the north.

Constabulary and partnership activity contributing to both the '[Safer Streets Summer Initiative](#)' and the '[Safer Streets Winter of Action](#)' where available has been reported to the Home Office as required.

5.2. **Bringing offenders to justice**

The Commissioner chairs the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board which continues to review local issues such as those relating to court backlogs and improving outcomes for victims.

At the [October 2025 Business Coordination Board](#) (now the Police Accountability Board), the Constabulary provided an update on their approach to violence against women and girls (VAWG). Improving positive outcomes for

survivors of rape is a key focus for the Rape Scrutiny Group. Priorities for the coming year include strengthening digital crime recording, enhancing outcome rates through improved investigative standards and deepening partnership engagement. Improving timeliness and quality should have a positive impact on outcomes and victim engagement.

Through the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board, better engagement between the Constabulary and CPS has been reported. There are now dedicated Victim Liaison Officers (VLOs) in all CPS Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Units. The VLOs have been central in improving the experience of the victim in the Criminal Justice System.

The Criminal Justice Board is also receiving updates on what agencies across the criminal justice system are doing to address issues of disproportionality locally to ensure best practice can be shared across agencies. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in the East of England recently reported on their Disproportionality Action Plan to tackle racial disproportionality. This plan is part of a broader initiative to eliminate racial bias in decision-making and to ensure fairer prosecution decisions for all.

5.3. Improving road safety

In September 2025, the Commissioner became the Chair of the Vision Zero Partnership Board, a multi-agency partnership that brings together organisations responsible for delivering road and transport safety initiatives across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

As part of this convening role, the Commissioner will support members, including the Combined Authority, to develop links to the emerging National Road Safety Strategy in a way which meets the county's needs and includes addressing the concerns of local residents about speeding and anti-social driving.

Since the Commissioner became the Chair of the Vision Zero Partnership Board, the latest road safety data and the findings of the Fatal Review Board have been considered. The Board has agreed to prioritise work to address the

concerning rise in young driver and motorbike rider deaths. The first project approved for the Commissioner's small grants Road Safety Fund also supports this by enabling [BikeSafe](#) to promote their workshops more widely to younger people.

All agencies in the Vision Partnership have stepped up efforts to educate road users and enforce the law through targeted road safety campaigns with road users, such as motorcyclists, and within communities. The Constabulary and the Roads Policing Unit have undertaken a series of [communications campaigns](#) on issues including [drink/drug driving](#), [tyre checks](#), [e-scooters](#) and [mobile phone use](#).

In September 2025, the Commissioner also launched a new small grants [Road Safety Fund](#). This fund enables statutory agencies involved in the [Vision Zero Partnership](#) to bid for up to £3,500 for [preventative projects and resources](#) that respond to local issues of road safety and support the partnership to reduce serious injuries and deaths on our roads. On the leadup to Christmas, funding was provided for the '[I am Des](#)' campaign. Under the scheme, 43 venues supplied free or reduced-price soft drinks to designated drivers, to help reduce the number of road collisions caused by drink-driving during the festive period, and throughout the year.

Additionally, the Commissioner has continued to invest in resources for local prevention and enforcement initiatives for road safety. This includes funding the [Casualty Reduction Officer and Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator posts](#) within the Constabulary, as well as dedicated vehicles for the Special Constabulary to support road safety campaigns.

The **Casualty Reduction Officer** (CRO) helps to improve road safety through education, not just enforcement, working with the Vision Zero Partnership to collaborate on various projects. The intention is to take a proactive and problem-solving approach in identifying emerging trends and implement solutions. This year, the CRO has:

- Led and supported drink driving campaigns and raised awareness about the [drink/drug driving hotline](#).

- Raised awareness about illegal [e-scooters](#) and the significant risks they pose to young riders.
- Led a motorcycles and mopeds campaign to highlight the number of individuals killed or serious injured (KSI) in Cambridgeshire to provide advice to riders and drivers about how to be safe on the road.
- Held 14 [Older Driver Workshops](#) which were attended by 175 participants. Additional workshops have been organised in 2026 also.
- Publicised Young Drivers Workshops through Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Schools Newsletter, with sessions booked for schools across the county.
- Delivered a range of events as part of national Road Safety Week including providing free tyre safety checks, hosting free bike maintenance and security marking events, and sharing road safety messages in schools.

The **Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator (CSWC)** is responsible for overseeing the county Community Speed Watch scheme, supporting members and volunteers, and managing Speed Watch equipment. They also identify ways in which schemes can work more effectively and efficiently, while developing systems and processes to ensure consistent practises across the county. The CSWC works closely with the CRO dealing with numerous complaints of speeding through direct contact with commercial companies and complainants, and the deployment of the Speed Enforcement Van. In total, as at October 2025 there are 105 Speed Watch schemes in operation across the county, with 47 new Volunteers enlisted, bringing the total to over 700 speed watch volunteers.

5.4. **Reducing re-offending**

Through chairing the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board, the Commissioner has led multi-agency reviews of local processes on issues such as Crown Court backlogs, early prison releases, and the effectiveness of the 'Integrated Offender Management' (IOM) approach.

The IOM Scheme is a multi-agency approach to managing the persistent and problematic offenders who are deemed likely to reoffend or cause harm in local

communities. The aim of IOM is to significantly reduce the re-offending rates of the most prolific offenders of neighbourhood crime.

Cohorts of eligible offenders are identified, closely supervised, intensively managed, and supported by partner agencies such as the Police, Probation, Housing and Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services working together. The IOM scheme provides offenders with a clear understanding of what is expected of them and what they can expect in return, if they are compliant. It intends to motivate offenders to change, brokering and sequencing the provision of services across agencies via the mapping of offender pathways to address their behaviour and relevant lifestyle factors.

Data reported through the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board shows the positive impact of IOM in significantly reducing the number of offences committed by individuals on the scheme.

5.5. Tackling crime in rural areas

The well-publicised incidents of hare coursing, criminal damage and dangerous driving, which took place in 2025 have resulted in recent positive outcomes at court. Two individuals received three-year Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) that are believed to be the first of their kind issued in the country. In addition, both individuals were issued fines totalling over £1,000. A further 20 individuals are due to appear in court over the coming months for trials and sentencing.

The Constabulary's Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT), working alongside partners, continue to manage the prevention and detection of agricultural, environmental, heritage, illegal hunting, and wildlife crime. A Working Partnership Group has now been established between District Councils, Police, OPCC, Countryside Watch, and the CCTV Control Room where there is currently a 24/7 operations to provide real-time visual feeds.

5.6. Combatting serious and organised crime

The Commissioner oversees the Constabulary and the wider partnership's response to the Drugs Strategy, SOC, Serious Violence, and VAWG through the Countywide High Harms Board. This included highlighting the importance of partnership working and referrals in tackling serious and organised crime and

seeking assurance about the drug prevention in place for young people through the drug treatment services in [Cambridgeshire](#) and [Peterborough](#), and [Healthy Schools](#) work.

The Constabulary holds quarterly SOC FUSION knowledge events with frontline practitioners from partner agencies to help raise awareness about serious and organised crime. Through this forum, the Constabulary has built effective partnerships which help to strengthen partnership intelligence submissions and support frontline practitioners and managers across agencies. The [paper](#) on the Strategic Policing Requirement at the September 2025 Business Coordination Board explained that a dedicated partnership intelligence platform has been developed and embedded, increasing the richness of the information being received and allowing tactical activity through thematically linked areas including hotspot patrolling, community safety partnership support, and the safeguarding partnership.

[Operation Machinize 2](#) is a National Crime Agency-led operation that targets cash-intensive businesses such as barber shops, vape shops, nail bars and car washes. The multi-agency operation aims to disrupt the laundering of criminal proceeds through these businesses, which are often used to conceal illicit cash. In October 2025, as part of this operation, [Cambridgeshire Constabulary](#) collaborated with partners including local authorities and Immigration Enforcement and visited 36 high street businesses who regularly handle cash. Seven of these high-street businesses visited were subjected to closure orders due to concerns about money laundering and the selling of illegal goods.

The [three-week operation](#) resulted in the seizure of more than 8,000 suspected illegal vapes, nearly 280,000 cigarettes and 20kg of hand rolled tobacco from shops in Peterborough and one in Whittlesey. More than 8,500 bottles of alcohol were also confiscated from unlicensed premises. The total value of the goods is estimated at nearly £280,000. Closure orders are being sought via a court process in relation to eleven of the shops found to be selling illegal goods.

As well as money laundering, the operation looked at exploitation, human trafficking, drug supply and illegal working. Six drug-related arrests were made,

and investigations are ongoing, while barber shops and hand car washes were visited to identify any offending or signs of modern slavery.

5.7. Addressing crimes affecting businesses

After hearing, first-hand, about the impact that business and retail crime has on local communities, the Commissioner requested a formal update at his Business Co-ordination Board. This included the work of the Spree Offender Team, tackling shoplifters, in the south of the county securing more than 1,000 charges since its creation and signposting offenders to services to tackle the root causes of crime.

The Commissioner continues to engage with local businesses to hear their concerns. In January 2026, the Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce hosted a [Roundtable Discussion](#) with the Commissioner to explore the challenges facing policing and issues which impact on the business community. During the event, discussions were had on the emerging and ongoing challenges in relation to cybercrime, the use of new technology, anti-social behaviour, and theft, alongside the work underway to address these issues.

Following the success of the Constabulary's Spree Offender Team in the south, a north team was also established to target some of the most prolific offenders. The [Peterborough and Fenland Spree Offender Team](#) launched in July 2025 and targets persistent offenders of high-volume crimes such as thefts from shops, non-dwelling burglaries, cycle crime and thefts from vehicles. In its first month of operation, the team made 25 arrests, which led to 91 charges, with some offenders already receiving custodial sentences.

In November 2025, as part of Safer Business Action Week, alongside ongoing enforcement activity, Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the county engaged in variety of preventative initiatives to tackle retail crime. This involved sharing crime prevention advice, listening to retailers' concerns, talking to retail staff about how to report shoplifting and other suspicious activity, and building stronger relationships with the business community. It also involved working in partnership with security staff, shopkeepers and operations support staff to proactively address retail crime.

5.8. Tackling hate crime

A range of activity is being developed across six Community Safety Partnerships to tackle hate crime, including the delivery of Hate Crime Awareness Training and the development of hate crime training for schools.

Fenland CSP, in partnership with Cambridgeshire Constabulary, have delivered Hate Crime awareness training to 58 front line workers and community organisations across Fenland. Training for Hate Crime Champions has also been delivered to 33 practitioners from Education, Registered Social Landlord's, police, health, and the local authority.

The Cambridge City Council webpage on [hate crime](#) also includes signposting to local and national organisations that provide advice and support to people who have experienced hate crime, as well as information about how to report hate crime to the police.

All public libraries across all CSP areas have now become registered hate crime reporting centres, with staff trained on how to operate an effective reporting centre.

5.9. Protecting the public

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by individuals who have committed the most serious sexual and violent offences. MAPPA is the process through which police, probation and prisons (known collectively as the 'Responsible Authority') work together and with other agencies in a coordinated way to manage the risks posed by violent and sexual offenders.

The [MAPPA Annual Report 2024-25](#) shows that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough MAPPA continue to deliver a strong commitment to safeguarding communities from serious harm.

The Strategic Management Board, which comprises of senior representatives from the Police, Probation Service, Prison Service, and Duty to Co-operate agencies, meet regularly to oversee performance, ensure compliance with national MAPPA guidance, and drive continuous improvement locally. Despite operational pressures, MAPPA have maintained high standards of practice with

strong results against key indicators, including referral rates, meeting attendance, and the timeliness of risk management plans, reported.

6. HORIZON SCANNING

6.1 Over recent months significant national policy announcements have been made which will impact on the community safety and criminal justice landscape. The OPCC will continue to work with partners to support the joined-up progression of these initiatives at a local level. These include: the Leveson reviews of the criminal justice system and consequent changes to sentencing arrangements (e.g. presumption against sentences sentences), as well as new youth and youth justice strategies. The Constabulary is currently finalising its ASB Action Plan for publication.

7. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL SUPPORT

7.1. The Panel are asked to continue to support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan through:

- Encouraging their constituents to report crime and other incidents through Cambridgeshire Constabulary or other appropriate partners – for more information, see <https://www.cambs.police.uk/ro/report/>.
- Ensuring links with your respective CSPs.
- Supporting links with tackling crime and anti-social behaviour activities within your council portfolios.
- Sharing OPCC and Constabulary surveys and communications.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document(s)	Police and Crime Plan, 2025-2028
Contact Officer(s)	Cristina Turner, Director of Strategic Partnerships