



**To:** Business Co-ordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable Dean, Strategic Force Performance Board

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### **National Crime and Policing Measures – Cambridgeshire**

Police and Crime Commissioners are required to provide a statement on the contribution of their force to achieving improvements against the national policing priorities. These were introduced in early 2021 and use a baseline of year ending December 2019. The measures under the national crime and policing measures are;

- Reduce Murder and Other Homicide
- Reduce Serious Violence
- Disrupt drugs supply and County lines
- Reduce neighbourhood crime
- Improve satisfaction among victims, with a particular focus on victims of domestic abuse
- Tackle Cyber Crime

This statement will follow the guidance of providing a reflection on force performance for each measure compared to the benchmark and the forces most similar group (MSG) and upcoming actions for the next quarter. This statement will be refreshed each quarter.

## Reduce Murder and Other Homicide



- Homicide offences in Cambridgeshire remain rare with less than 1 a month on average (7 over the 12 months to January 2024). The number of homicides is comparable to the December 2019 baseline.

For the 12 months ending January 2024 there have been 7 homicides in Cambridgeshire, two fewer than in the year ending December 2019. The recent trend is has been downwards in Cambridgeshire and stable for the similar forces and Nationally.

## Reduce Serious Violence



- The number of admissions to A&E for assault by sharp object for all patients remains below the baseline.



- The number of offences involving a firearm remains below the baseline.
- Violence with injury offences in Cambridgeshire are higher than the 2019 benchmark but trending downwards. The rate per 100,000 population is lower than the national rate.

The latest data on local admissions to accident and emergency for assault by sharp weapons shows Cambridgeshire continues to see a reduction compared to the benchmark.

When comparing the year ending January 2024 to the year ending December 2019 there has been a 54.9% reduction in hospital admissions for assaults where the weapon was a knife; this equates to 50 fewer admissions, with the downward trend continuing. The number of admissions to A&E for assault with a weapon other than a knife is 40.9% lower than the baseline but the more recent trend is upwards.

This reduction is also seen in police recorded crime where Cambridgeshire has seen a 25.7% reduction in serious offences involving a sharp weapon in the 12-months of 2023 relative to the 2019 baseline. Latest national data shows the national trend is also decreasing, though less substantially. Operation Guardian is the Constabulary's response to tackle knife crime and a succinct plan is in place for across the Constabulary which includes targeting hotspots of knife crime and individuals known to carry knives. Latest data for the year ending September 2023 shows that offences

involving a firearm in Cambridgeshire decreased by 57.1% compared to the baseline, with MSG and National trends also decreased, though less substantially.

The number of Violence with Injury offences recorded in Cambridgeshire in the 12 months ending December 2023 was 6.6% higher than the December 2019 benchmark. This is similar to the MSG increase. Indicators for Cambs and National Violence With Injury have been trending downwards in recent months, and the rate per 100,000 population in Cambridgeshire remains lower than the national rate.

Operation Alliance is the Constabulary's response to tackle street-based violence, this covers tackling habitual knife crime carriers under Operation Guardian, additional patrols in the night-time economy, patrols of hot spots of violence and engaging with partner agencies.

### **Disrupt drugs supply and County lines**



- Recorded drug offence numbers are influenced by proactive Police work. In Cambridgeshire there has been a 21.2% increase in drug trafficking offences when comparing year ending December 2023 to the baseline of year ending December 2019.

Cambridgeshire's drugs offence numbers trended down over 2023 and are currently stable, above the 2019 baseline. Trafficking offences have been trending up in Cambridgeshire recently, while simple possession offences have declined.

There is an overlap with serious organised crime groups, County lines activity and exploitation of children and young people. As a result, the force works with partners to raise awareness across communities.

### **Reduce neighbourhood crime**

- Levels of Neighbourhood crime remain below those seen pre-COVID. Nationally, these levels are currently stable, while Cambridgeshire's are trending down.
- Cambridgeshire's levels of Personal Robbery, Vehicle Crime, Theft from Person and Residential Burglary are each below those of 2019 – though year-on-year increases were seen in robbery, theft from person and residential burglary.

- When comparing the 12 months to December 2023 with 2019 the following changes in Cambridgeshire's Neighbourhood crime volumes are seen:



- A 13.1% drop in personal robbery offences
- A 8.5% drop in theft from the person offences



- A 29.0% increase in theft of vehicle offences
- A 36.0% drop in theft from a vehicle offences
- A 12.6% drop in vehicle interference



- A 36.7% drop in residential burglary offences

Overall neighbourhood crime has not returned to levels seen pre-pandemic, likely due to the high numbers of people working at home. This is seen nationally and for Cambridgeshire and similar forces. Relative to 2019, the 12-months to December 2023 saw 24.3% fewer recorded Neighbourhood Crimes in Cambridgeshire. The current national and MSG trends are now stable, however, crime levels in Cambridgeshire appear to be now trending downwards.

Recorded Vehicle Crime in Cambridgeshire remains below levels of 2019, with the 12-months to December 2023 seeing 21.6% fewer offences than 2019.

When Vehicle Crime is broken down by offence type, theft **of** a vehicle is now 29.0% higher for year ending December 2023 compared to the benchmark of year ending December 2019. Offence levels are currently stable. Increases over 2019 levels are also seen for Similar forces and nationally, though rises have plateaued in recent months. There has been a 36.0% decrease in Cambridgeshire's volume of Theft **from** a vehicle offences relative to 2019 and offence levels are currently trending down. National and MSG volumes are also trending downwards. Vehicle interference numbers have also reduced across Cambridgeshire and nationally since 2019, but have recently been increasing back towards previous levels.


Theft from a person offences over the 12-months to December 2023 were 8.5% down compared to the 2019 figure, though levels did trend upwards over 2023. The

MSG Forces also saw a decrease, though nationally between the two periods there has been a rise.

Cambridgeshire has seen a 13.1% reduction in personal robbery offences when compared to year ending December 2019 but more recently a year-on-year increase is evident. Cambridgeshire's per 100,000 population rates of both theft from person (101) and personal robbery (71) are both above the MSG rates but below national rates. There are two operations in place to cover the North and South policing districts which respond to street-based violence, knife crime and youth ASB ensuring that these crimes are monitored, and resources are deployed to patrol hotspots and events. This is combined with Operation Guardian which focuses on reducing knife crime and habitual knife carrying. These operations are regularly reviewed in the Force Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group.

Recently Cambridgeshire's levels of Residential Burglary have been increasing, though they have not yet returned to pre-COVID levels. In the 12-months to December 2023, recorded Residential Burglary offences were 36.6% lower than over 2019. Numbers have been increasing more recently, however, with Cambridgeshire seeing a 9.6% year-on-year rise.

### **Improve satisfaction among victims, with a particular focus on victims of domestic abuse**

-  Victims of Domestic Abuse are less satisfied than the benchmark of year ending March-2020. This is also seen for hate crime victims, though burglary victim satisfaction is now higher.

The local victim survey for domestic abuse shows that victim satisfaction is below the benchmark, but the long-term trend is upwards suggesting some recovery. For year ending December 2023 77.1% (of 109 victims surveyed) were at least fairly satisfied with their whole experience of Cambridgeshire Constabulary. This is lower than the 82.1% for the 12-months to March 2020.

The Constabulary also surveys victims of hate crime, burglary, and violence. Overall (all victim) Victim satisfaction data in Cambridgeshire shows that over the 12-months to December 2023, 77.0% of all surveyed victims (1,251) were at least fairly satisfied with their experience of Cambridgeshire Constabulary in relation to their crime. This compares to 77.2% (of 1,257) victims surveyed in the baseline year of the 12-months

to March 2020. When the data is split into hate crime, violent crime and burglary victims (the 3 surveyed categories), compared to the 12-months to March 2020 hate crime victim satisfaction is currently lower while satisfaction of violent crime victims is similar and burglary victim satisfaction is now higher.

### **Violence against women and girls**

- Nationally and locally offences defined as violence against women and girls remain high relative to 2019 but have been trending down. Stalking and harassment offences have seen the greatest increase in Cambridgeshire compared to the benchmark.

The Constabulary Violence Against Women and Girl's (VAWG) strategy launched in November 2021 and the aim is to ensure there is an effective response to allegations of offending against women and girls. This includes encouraging victims to confidently report incidents and ensuring that the Constabulary correctly record the crimes and victims are updated in a timely manner. There also continues to be further development of Operation Armour under the Safer streets 3 programme, which includes training of door staff, taxi marshal schemes, CCTV hotspots and social media campaigns. Development in technology has allowed the Constabulary to launch a streamlined approach for the recording of domestic abuse risk assessments this is hoped to save considerable time for officers and improve risk management.

Police recorded VAWG offences have been trending downwards nationally, but remain higher than the December 2019 baseline, and appear to now be stabilising. Offence levels in Cambridgeshire increased by 49.1% in the 12-months to December 2023 relative to 2019, with a comparable rise over the MSG; however data indicates that the recent downward trend for both has also now been halted.

When broken down by VAWG offence, stalking and harassment has seen the largest increase in Cambridgeshire with a 53.3% increase in the 12-months to December 2023 relative to the 2019 volume. This is driven in part by changes to Home Office Counting Rules.

The category of Other sexual offences has also seen a substantial increase in Cambridgeshire, up by 57.7% for the 12-months to January 2024 compared to 2019. Sexual assault offences have also increased in Cambridgeshire relative to 2019, with

an increase of 28.4% for year ending December 2023 compared to the benchmark, though the recent trend is downwards.

Rape offences have seen a 3.9% decrease in Cambridgeshire relative to 2019. Nationally the recent trend has also been downwards – though plateauing most recently - but the 12-month volume remains above that of 2019.

### **Tackle Cyber Crime**



- The Covid pandemic enabled greater dependency on the internet for many aspects of life. This in turn has increased the opportunities for online crimes with criminals attempt to exploit victims. Levels in recent months have begun to decline, but remain high compared to 2019, with 138.1% more in the 12-months to December 2023 than over 2019.

The number of recorded crimes which had the online/ cyber enabled crime keyword rose over 2020, remained high over 2021, 2022 and into 2023 but from autumn 2023 levels have been in decline. The 12-months to December 2023 saw 138.1% more than in the 12-months to December 2019. It is likely that some of the earlier increase was due to more consistent use of keywords in recording systems to identify cyber enabled offending. The Constabulary have found that cyber offences are becoming more complex and can often overlap with fraud offences.

### **Other local policing priorities**

Whilst the National crime and policing measures cover an overarching framework for policing and wider community safety issues, they do not cover other policing measures such as response times, detection rates and overall crime levels. This next section provides a short update on overall police performance in the last quarter.



- Overall demand for 999 continues to increase while 101 call volumes decline.

The initial contact the public have with the Constabulary is important and timely answering of calls is important. Emergency 999 demand remains high – the 12-months to December 2023 saw a new high for 999 volume. Compared to 2019 the

12-months to December saw 26.8% more 999 calls in Cambridgeshire. Consequently recent 999 average wait times over 2023 was 10 seconds, compared to 5 seconds over 2019. Latest National data<sup>1</sup> for December shows a decline over 2023 in Cambridgeshire's position for proportion of 999 calls answered within 10 seconds relative to other Forces.

Non-emergency 101 volumes have declined, with the 12-months to December 2023 seeing 20.9% fewer 101 calls than 2019. Despite the decreasing numbers, 101 wait times in 2023 so far have also been relatively high – in part due to prioritising managing the rising higher risk 999 volumes.

The median time to respond to immediate grade incidents remains stable between 19 and 20 minutes each month over 2023. Priority grade response continues to be more variable; with the median response time higher over the summer months and lower over winter. However, performance in January (65 minutes) was the year's fastest.

- Recorded crime is currently stable, having risen back above pre-COVID levels. However, there is variation between crime types, with some crime types seeing substantial reductions while others have increased.



The long-term indicator for recorded crime is currently stable, with the 12-months to December 2023 seeing a 5.3% increase relative to 2019 and a 1.8% year-on-year increase. The Areas show difference in their pre/post-COVID crime volumes; North Area has seen a 8.0% increase relative to 2019, while South Area's rise was 1.1%. The difference is because of the varied volumes of different types of crime between the Areas, for example South Area sees far more cycle theft which reduced substantially over the COVID period and remains lower. Cambridgeshire's reported cycle theft over the 12-months to December 2023 was less than half that of 2019 (a 51.7% reduction between the 2 periods).

Latest national data for the 12 months ending November 2023 indicates that the crime rate per 100,000 population in Cambridgeshire (7,948) remains lower than the national rate but above similar forces.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.police.uk/your-area/police-scotland/performance/999-data-performance/>

The call answering time is the time taken for the call to be transferred from BT to a force, and the time taken by that force to answer the call



Crime types that have seen an increase in reported numbers in Cambridgeshire relative to 2019 include Sexual offences, shoplifting and violent crime. Other crime types have seen substantial decreases, including: robbery, all types of burglary and vehicle crime.



- Relative to 2019, Cambridgeshire's prosecution possible outcome rate has improved by 4.3 percentage points. Increases have been seen in the long-term outcome rates for several crime types.

The all-crime prosecution possible outcome rate for the 12-months to December 2023 was 14.0%. This is substantially above 9.7% for the 12-months of 2019. Relative to 2019 there are improvements in the 12-month prosecution possible outcome rate for offence types including: Violence Against the Person (11.0% to 12.9%), Sexual Offences (6.7% to 11.3%), Residential Burglary (6.2% to 9.8%), Child Sexual Abuse (11.5% to 16.0%) and Drugs Trafficking (44.8% to 55.5%).