



## Annual report 2023-2024



**Putting  
communities  
first**



**Crime  
prevention**



**Supporting  
victims and  
witnesses**



**Ethical  
policing**



**Robust  
enforcement**



**Tackling crime and keeping communities safe**



## Foreword



▲ **Darryl Preston**  
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' Lead for forensics and biometrics.

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

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about how I have been working with the Constabulary and partners to cut crime and keep all our communities safe.

This annual report covers the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 and captures key progress made over the past 12 months in support of the priority areas outlined in my [Police and Crime Plan](#), 2021 to 2024:

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

Progress delivered over the 12 months included:

- £698K from the Home Office's Safer Streets funding to improve the safety of our local communities.
- £227K investment in our six Community Safety Partnerships continued to help combat issues such as anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping. The funding is part of a £820K, three-year (2022 to 2025) investment I have made in community safety.
- £70K to support young people through my Youth Fund to develop confidence and address risky behaviour.
- An additional £2.2m to enhance support for victims and witnesses of crime – ensuring access to support is available when needed.

On top of this investment, we also saw record numbers of officers in post: 1,732 at the end of March 2024, something I know residents wanted to see.

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## Tackling crime, keeping you safe

The Commissioner's *Police and Crime Plan*, published in November 2021, set 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.

With more police officers in our cities, towns and rural areas – through proactive recruitment and the government’s national recruitment programme – the Constabulary now has a record number of officers: 1,732 in post at the end of March 2024.

In addition, £227K was invested by the Commissioner into the county’s six Community Safety Partnerships, enabling them to employ dedicated problem-solving co-ordinators and have access to a Safer Communities Fund to tackle local issues of anti-social behaviour. The money is part of a three-year (2022 to 2025), £820K investment.

### Achievements

- **Road safety** The number of those who have lost their lives on our roads in 2023 was the lowest in the last 10 years. However, one death is one too many and the Commissioner continued to provide funding for grassroots work to ensure the road safety concerns of local communities – such as speeding and anti-social driving – are listened to and responded to.

This included dedicated road safety staff, three marked police vans and resources for local SpeedWatch schemes which enabled local residents to play a part in preventing speeding in their villages, towns and cities.

The Constabulary remained a key member of the [Vision Zero Partnership](#) which supports a countywide approach to road safety.

- **Reducing rural crime** Investment in Countryside Watch enabled its staff to work in partnership with the Constabulary to help its officers understand the challenges faced by rural communities. This collaboration involved crime prevention activities, including property and farm security checks, equipment marking and information sharing.

As a result, across the county there was a reduction in rural crime, with agricultural, environmental, heritage, hunting and wildlife crimes down by 13% in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23.

- **Tackling bike theft** Cycle theft across the county was down by 54% through more investment in CCTV technology, targeted police activity and support from Cambridge City Council and other partners.

Preventative measures, such as bike marking initiatives across the county, were also carried out using funding from the Commissioner's Safer Communities Fund.

- **Community safety** All six districts have now taken up the offer of funding to enable Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to step up their response to tackling local issues such as anti-social behaviour (ASB) and road safety.

Additional capacity in the form of a problem-solving post in each area enabled the CSPs to work with communities and local partners – boosted by the Safer Communities Fund – to bring on initiatives such as a new ShopWatch scheme, clearing and preventing fly-tipping and additional CCTV to combat ASB.

- **Business community** The Commissioner continued to use his 'District Day' visits to engage with local businesses and understand their needs; he also spent time speaking to store managers about their concerns.

A webinar to help local businesses stay safe online was delivered in September 2023, with advice from the Eastern Cyber Resilience Centre (ECRC) and the Constabulary.

The Constabulary remained committed to tackling shoplifting, with specific operations dealing with this issue in a concerted way – [use this link](#) for the Constabulary's advice on preventing theft and shoplifting.

- **Constabulary accessibility** While overall demand for 999 calls continued to increase, call handling saw improvements: by March 2024, the average wait time for 999 calls was recorded as four seconds – in March 2023 it was seven seconds.

Non-emergency 101 call volumes declined – over the last 12 months, the Constabulary received 22% fewer 101 calls compared to the Home Office's 2019 baseline. This was in part due to the prioritisation of 999 calls: between January and March 2024, the average wait time for 101 calls was 10 seconds – over the same period in 2023, it was 20 seconds.

The Commissioner continued to scrutinise 101 performance, with the Constabulary putting in place an action plan to recruit and train additional call handlers in the Constabulary's Demand Hub.

- **Engaging with the public** The Commissioner continued to dedicate time visiting communities, schools and colleges, local businesses and parish councils to understand local concerns. These included attending awareness-raising events and visits to some of the county's new communities: Cambourne, Northstowe and Waterbeach.
- **Digital engagement** 3,053 people subscribed to the Commissioner's new monthly digital newsletter, which launched in January 2023. A new website for the OPCC was launched in July 2023 to improve accessibility for all users in line with government regulations.
- **Public contact** Members of the public are encouraged to contact the Commissioner about their concerns via phone, email or in response to surveys; for contact details, please see [page 24](#).

During the reporting period, the Commissioner received and responded to 622 pieces of correspondence. As well as invitations from local communities, conferences and public speaking opportunities, frequently recurring topics included:

- Dissatisfaction with the Constabulary – 175 emails etc.
- Operational issues directly for the Constabulary – 152.
- General enquiries such as requests for support from lobbying groups, invitations to speak at events and requests from local MPs – 202.



*Meldreth to Melbourn's underpass was treated to a vibrant makeover to help those using it feel safer.*

*The new 'Wonderpass' features murals and artwork from 40 community groups. It was funded by the Commissioner, with additional funding from Melbourn and Meldreth parish councils, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Govia Thameslink Railway.*

*The Commissioner was at its opening with pupils from Meldreth and Melbourn's primary schools.*



## 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.

Through chairing the countywide High Harms Board, the Commissioner brought local partners together to provide direction and leadership and encourage a joined-up approach to some of the most serious issues relating to drugs, violent crime, violence against women and girls and serious and organised crime.

The Constabulary's crime prevention strategy is part of its everyday policing model, with new Prevention and Vulnerability Hubs established from June 2023 covering the north and south areas of the county. The hubs support frontline officers to take a preventative approach.

### Achievements

- **Tackling serious violence** From anti-social behaviour (ASB) to violence and exploitation, drugs continued to cause harm in our local communities.

Alongside police enforcement, £352K of Home Office funding was distributed in 2023-24 to a wide range of early intervention projects across the county to stop young people being drawn into knife crime and serious violence.

The Constabulary also worked closely with partner agencies to understand local needs and agreed a countywide plan for how partners will work together to protect young people from being drawn into serious violence. Compared to the Home Office's 2019 baseline, serious offences involving a sharp weapon were down 22% during the reporting year.

- **Prevention** The Constabulary's Prevention and Vulnerability Hubs brought together specialist officers who delivered preventative policing – for example, through the Safer Schools Partnerships scheme, Safer Schools officers offered pupils advice to enhance their safety.

- **Community safety** The Commissioner's three-year (2022 to 2025) £820K investment in Community Safety Partnerships includes dedicated problem-solving co-ordinators and access to the Safer Communities Fund and Youth Fund to tackle local issues of concern and prevent crime.

For example, funding for CCTV cameras deployed at key hotspot locations on public and private land in Peterborough for four to 12 weeks, reduced incidents by some 75% in targeted areas, with 27 Fixed Penalty Notices issued and six prosecutions.

- **Safer Streets 5** Three partnership proposals developed by the Commissioner's office secured £698K of Home Office funding to deal with the local issues of neighbourhood crime, ASB and violence against women and girls (VAWG) in their communities.

The areas chosen were in Peterborough, Cambridge city centre and the market towns of Huntingdon, St Neots and Wisbech. This work built on, and complemented, previous successful bids to the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund.

- **Youth Fund** The Commissioner awarded funding to 22 charities, community organisations, local councils and the Constabulary; between them, they ran projects across sport, the arts and education to divert young people away from crime and risky situations.

The £70K awarded in 2023-24 brought the total funding to £203K since 2021 – all invested from the proceeds of crime in keeping young people safe.

- **Early intervention** The Constabulary continued to offer 'Out of Court Disposal Orders' to help prevent reoffending – this is where offenders can be dealt with locally without having to go to court.

Further positive outcomes have been seen for the 201 women who engaged with the OPCC-commissioned 'Brighter Tomorrow' support programme, which aimed to reduce further offending by diverting women from criminality and helping them to make better informed decisions, while tackling the physical and emotional drivers of crime.

As a result, after committing low level offences 92% of women did not reoffend again.

- **Have your say** Victims of less serious crime and anti-social behaviour are encouraged to have their say in how offenders should be dealt with through the [Community Remedy](#) document, which was updated in August 2023.

Community remedies are designed to reduce reoffending by encouraging offenders to face up to the consequences of their anti-social or criminal behaviour, to take responsibility for their actions and to appreciate the suffering they may have caused.

- **Community involvement** Supported by OPCC funding, the Constabulary continued to enable members of local communities to play their part in improving community safety.

SpeedWatch and Countryside Watch schemes were all active over the past year, their members joining a range of local initiatives – [see pages 4 and 5](#) – to tackle the issues which mattered most to local people.

- **Complex needs** Our partners continued to offer help and support to prevent people with multiple and complex needs – such as homelessness and addiction – from coming into further contact with the criminal justice system.

Drug and alcohol enforcement and treatment by relevant partners was a key area of focus this year, with oversight from the Commissioner – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are on track to meet, or exceed, national delivery targets for drug treatment.

As part of this programme, drug testing on arrest was increased. Where drug use was a likely factor in someone's offending, the issue was identified with offenders referred for treatment – with legal sanctions if they didn't comply.

The Commissioner made a funding contribution of £60K in 2023-24 to the wider partnership Changing Futures programme to support people facing multiple disadvantage.

- **Rehabilitation** To break the cycle of reoffending, the county's Rehabilitation and Resettlement Group continued to focus on improving transition into the community for those leaving prison.

- **Fraud and cybercrime** The Constabulary continues to respond to the evolving threats of the digital world in relation to fraud and cybercrime.

Through a dedicated Cyber Crime Unit, fraud and cyber prevention officers, who were previously funded through the policing precept, delivered local support to communities and businesses, working proactively and reactively on significant cybercrime investigations.

Regional co-ordination took place through the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU), while support for victims continued to be available through the Victim and Witness Hub.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership (CAPASP) continued to share prevention information to help reduce victimisation by fraud and raise awareness of support available to victims.

The Eastern Cyber Resilience Centre also continued to work with businesses to spread awareness of online fraud and cybercrime.



*The Commissioner regularly visits our town and city centres, including this visit to Peterborough with neighbourhood police officers.*



## 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.

The Commissioner continued to play an integral part in commissioning support services for victims and witnesses of crime in the county – investing £21.5m across a four-year period (up to 31st March 2025).

This included significant additional funds secured through successful OPCC and partnership bids into central government funds, bolstering the services available to all victims, including those seldom heard from, and those accessing specialist violence against women and girls (VAWG) services.

### Achievements

- **Keeping people safe** Training in trauma-informed practice was provided to officers and staff responding to vulnerable people as part of a rolling plan to give them the tools they need to respond appropriately to victims asking for help.

The Constabulary continued to enhance and improve its approach to investigating and prosecuting rape and serious sexual offences in a truly victim-focused way.

Cambridgeshire's partnership working between specialist Rape Investigation Team officers and Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs), who are referenced below, was highlighted in the government's progress update on the *End to End Rape Review*.

- **Countywide support for victims and survivors of rape and sexual violence** More than £1.1m was invested by the Commissioner in 2023-24 into the provision of specialist emotional and practical support and advocacy for victims and survivors of rape and sexual violence and abuse.

This enabled the Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) team to support more than 854 people in 2023-24.

While not directly attributable to ISVAs alone, recent data from a report produced by the Home Office revealed Cambridgeshire had the lowest percentage of investigations closed due to victim disengagement in the east of England between January and December 2023. The details can be found on the [Home Office's 'chart builder'](#).

- **Support through the criminal justice process** The Commissioner requested a review of the county's Victim and Witness Hub, which provides 'report to court' support.

The independent researchers concluded it was 'performing well' and, importantly, had a 'commendable adherence to the [Victims' Code](#)'.

Through his role chairing the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board, the Commissioner ensured the experiences of victims and survivors, secured through a range of feedback projects, are considered by criminal justice agencies – for example, feedback from survivors captured as part of the 'Rape Engagement Project' led to changes in police processes.

The OPCC led a month-long period of engagement to ensure the views of service users, support providers and police officers informed the re-commissioning of the county's Sexual Assault Referral Centre.

Importantly, this provided the evidence to retain a local centre rather than moving to a regional model.

- **Commissioning support services** In total, 12 victim support services were funded by the Commissioner – some for multiple provisions.

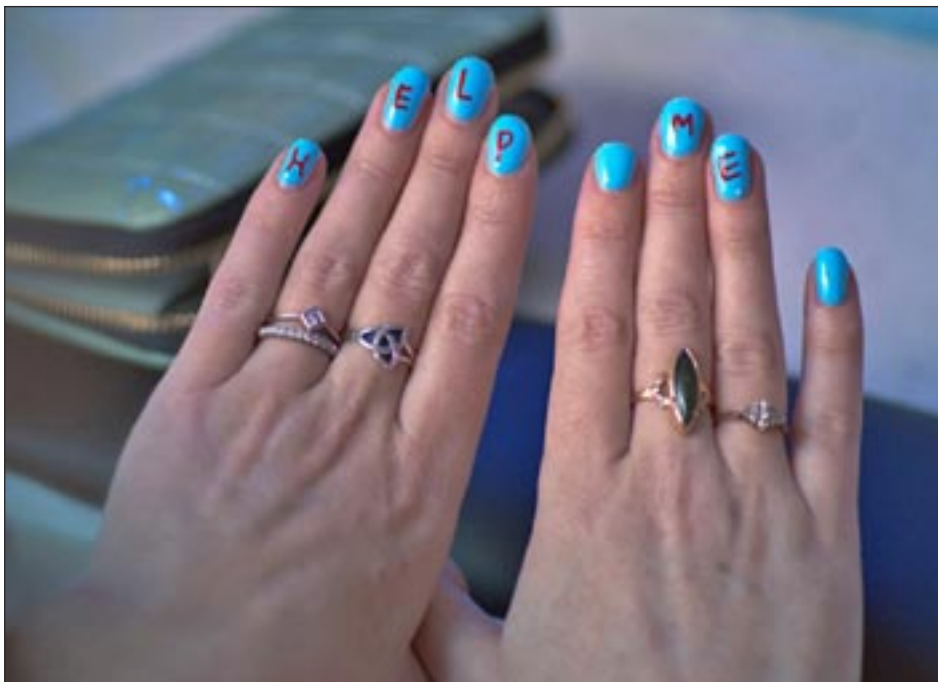
These included specialist services for victims in seldom-heard communities such as Gypsy, Traveller and Roma families, deaf people, migrant victims and older people.

A new post to support male victims of domestic abuse was launched in May 2023 with Peterborough Women's Aid.

Funding secured through the successful Safer Streets 5 bid enabled investment into preventative VAWG activities. This included 'Sexual Violence Ambassador' programmes in schools and building on the 'Businesses Against Abuse' model – training retailers, staff in the night-time economy and taxi drivers on how to spot predatory behaviour and keep people safe.

- **Domestic abuse** Working with the Constabulary, the Commissioner drove forward new initiatives to reduce domestic abuse. These included:
  - A domestic abuse perpetrator programme, funded through a successful bid to the Home Office. It offered interventions for perpetrators to prevent re-offending and provided support for their victims.
  - The Stalking Team – a multi-agency stalking project – risk-assessed 270 offenders, put in place nine Stalking Protection Orders and offered specialist support to their victims.
  - A successful Child/Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse programme was commissioned and funded by the Commissioner to address issues of violence and abuse by children towards their parents or carers – it resulted in a sustained reduction in abusive behaviour and police demand.

Use [this link](#) for a list of 2023-24 grants awarded by the Commissioner to support victims and witnesses of crime.



*All victims of crime can access support from the Constabulary's Victim and Witness Hub, whether they have reported the crime to police or not. The Constabulary's [Victim Services](#) web page details the resources.*



## 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.

Ensuring the police act with integrity has been integral to the Commissioner's work, so the public can have trust and confidence in the work of Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Policing by consent relies upon the police behaving in a way which maintains public support: there is no doubt public trust and confidence in policing has been impacted by high profile issues nationally.

The Commissioner's Scrutiny Panels played a vital role in helping to ensure officers carried out their duties in line with strict protocols and professionalism.

### Achievements

- **Community scrutiny** The OPCC continued to work with the Constabulary to scrutinise police use of powers, in terms of both stop and search and the use of force.

Through the independently-chaired Scrutiny Panel, made up of an active, diverse and growing number of volunteers, body-worn video footage was scrutinised. From this, the Panel provided feedback to the Constabulary, which acted upon its recommendations. Some of the suggestions included:

- Increased diversity in training.
- Ways to improve the quality of reasons for stopping and searching an individual.
- Enhanced training for frontline teams.
- Enhanced protection of individuals during strip searches.
- Increased use of body worn video.

Youth scrutiny sessions were also undertaken, with further sessions planned. The OPCC is introducing a new custody scrutiny panel in 2024 to look at the use of police powers while detainees are in custody.

- **Complaint reviews** The OPCC conducted reviews of police complaints on behalf of the Commissioner. When they did not agree with the handling of complaints, they fed this back to the complainant and the police Professional Standards Department so lessons can be learnt for the future.
- **Dip sampling of complaints** Where the OPCC identified a theme of concern within the overall complaints data, a pilot was started to dip sample closed complaints for cases which were not referred to the OPCC for a complaint review.

The purpose was to provide assurance to the Commissioner complaints were handled appropriately and that preventative themes were identified and actioned by the Constabulary.

- **Equality and diversity** The Constabulary's Culture Statement demonstrated its commitment to creating an inclusive working environment in line with the Code of Ethics and to reinforce the core Constabulary values of fairness, integrity, diligence and impartiality.

Fully embedding the Culture Statement was key to its success. Leadership and culture workshops supported officers and staff to enhance their knowledge and capability.

Feedback from staff and officers continued to shape ongoing development.

- **Disproportionality** Through the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board, criminal justice partners from across the system were actively encouraged to consider and address issues of disproportionality within their organisations.
- **Environmental sustainability** The Commissioner is committed to supporting the Constabulary's Sustainability Strategy, which includes a new estate strategy 'Smaller, better, greener', with initiatives such as the use of solar PV arrays and the installation of EV charging stations.

These initiatives are enabling the Constabulary to pursue carbon reduction and carbon net zero by 2035.



- **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Independent Custody Visiting Scheme** The countywide scheme was recognised nationally for the excellent quality of its work, achieving a 'Gold' standard (left) for the first time at an awards ceremony in Birmingham in November 2023.

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) make regular, unannounced, visits to police custody suites to check on the rights, entitlements, wellbeing and dignity of the detainees held there.

Ongoing recruitment to the scheme included six new ICVs from the local community, taking the number to 29 active volunteers.

- **Animal welfare scheme** Since summer 2023, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire's Independent Dog Welfare Visiting Scheme has been administrated by Cambridgeshire OPCC on behalf of all three Police and Crime Commissioners.

The scheme provided essential and robust scrutiny of the care and treatment of police dogs, ensuring procedures are ethical, humane and transparent in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Volunteers carried out eight visits, including a 'retirement' visit, and saw 40 dogs. No concerns were raised regarding the welfare or treatment of the police dogs.

- **Staff wellbeing** Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Culture Statement emphasises the importance of continually investing in their people and ensuring they have the right support in place to flourish.

A new wellbeing hub was launched in October 2023 for 2023-25, with a focus on actively supporting police officers and staff throughout their career and ensuring a welfare and wellbeing focused culture is both embedded and becomes 'business as usual'.

This includes physical and mental health as well as the broader concept of wellbeing – enabling individuals to realise their potential, be resilient and be able to make a productive contribution to the police workforce.

The Commissioner regularly met with staff association representatives to discuss any concerns they had.



## 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.

Reducing crime, and thereby the fear of crime, must always be the priority of the police. The core role of policing remains: to maintain public order, to prevent crime and to pursue and bring to justice those who break the law.

In addition to providing a record number of police officers on our streets, this year the Commissioner extended the Chief Constable's contract to ensure ongoing clarity and consistency of leadership.

The Commissioner also approved the start of building work for the new police station in Milton – this will help the Constabulary to meet the needs of a growing population, respond to calls for service more efficiently and respond more effectively to the challenges of modern-day policing.

### Achievements

- **Accountable** The Commissioner continued to hold the Chief Constable to account for progress in cutting crime through governance arrangements, which includes the Commissioner's [Business Coordination Board](#).
- **Safe places to live** Comparing the 12 months April 2023 to March 2024 against the Home Office's 2019 baseline, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough remain safe places to live:
  - Neighbourhood crime – down 31%.
  - Residential burglaries – down 38%.
  - Personal robbery offences – down 16%.
  - Theft from the person offences – down 13%.
  - Bicycle theft – down 54%.
  - Incidents of anti-social behaviour – down 27%.
  - Serious offences involving a sharp weapon – down 22%.
  - Rural crime – down 13% (comparing 2023-24 to 2022-23).

While these reductions in crime are welcome, more needs to be done to tackle the rise of violent crime (locally and nationally), the growing challenges of fraud and cybercrime, as well as increasing call handling resources.

- **Maximising police resources** The Commissioner continued to maximise the resources available to the police.

The budget approved by the Commissioner for the financial year 2023-24 included an increase to the policing element of council tax.

This put policing services across the county in a stronger position to protect the public, meet rising demand and deal with future challenges, including ongoing national cost increases.

It was also important vulnerable people continued to get the right support from the right emergency services – ‘Right Care Right Person’, launched by the Constabulary in November 2023, is part of a national scheme to ensure people needing support for mental health, medical or social care issues are dealt with by the right agency.

Through the scheme, the Commissioner provided funding to enable the Constabulary to seek expert advice from mental health nurses based in the police control room. The Constabulary’s partnership working on this was commended nationally by the Home Office.

The Constabulary also offered the use of a car to the Mental Health Joint Response service, with nurses available to assist the police when they are called to help people in crisis.

- **Maximising opportunities for justice** Relative to the national baseline of December 2019, the all-crime prosecution possible outcome rate for the 12 months to March 2024 was 15%.

The Constabulary continued to consider all options to ensure opportunities for justice were maximised, including the use of Criminal Behaviour Orders, out of court disposals and protection notices to stop reoffending.

- **Criminal justice** The Commissioner continued to chair the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board (CCJB), which brought criminal justice organisations together locally to support joint working and improve the overall function of the local criminal justice system.

The CCJB provided oversight of the local criminal justice system through continued monitoring of local delivery and wider strategic issues having an impact at local, regional, and national levels.

Topics of focus included post-Covid court backlog recovery plans, ensuring appropriate rape outcomes within the criminal justice system and reducing reoffending through supporting and rehabilitating offenders back into the community.

There was also a greater focus on ensuring victim experiences were considered by all agencies.

The main board was supported by partnership sub-groups which provided more operational co-ordination across the system, enabling a swift partnership response at the tactical level.

- **Tackling serious and organised crime** The Constabulary continued to drive improvements in its response to threats from serious and organised crime (SOC) across the county.

An area in Peterborough city centre was an early adopter of the 'Clear, Hold, Build' approach – a multi-agency partnership and community-led tactic designed by the Home Office to tackle organised crime and build long-term community resilience in areas most affected by SOC.

Through community and partnership consultation, the initiative was rebranded 'Alliance'.

The Constabulary also successfully led a series of operations to address serious organised crime relating to drugs supply, county lines exploitation and ATM raids.

These operations led to a significant number of arrests, seizures of illicit drugs and weapons and the successful charging and conviction of organised criminals.

In addition, anti-slavery partnership arrangements were enhanced in response to modern slavery and human trafficking across Cambridgeshire.

- **Integrated offender management** To reduce reoffending, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, probation and other services continued to work together to supervise and rehabilitate those who repeatedly committed crimes, including burglary, robbery and theft in our communities.

The Integrated Offender Management programme was refreshed nationally in 2021 – the new arrangements are now normal working practice.

- **Multi-agency public protection arrangements** To protect victims and local communities, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, probation and other services continued to work together to monitor and rehabilitate those who present a risk of serious harm in our communities through crimes such as domestic abuse, child sexual abuse and criminal exploitation, modern slavery, human trafficking and serious sex offences.



*Darryl Preston with some of the Constabulary's new officers at a Passing Out Parade in January 2024.*

## How the Constabulary is funded

The Commissioner received a total of £179m of funding for the period of this annual report – a £6m increase on 2022-23.

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

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 and for the financial management of the Constabulary within the agreed budget allocation.

The financial accounts will be available on the [Commissioner's website](#) during 2024. Details about how the budget is calculated are also on his website: [The Police & Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire | Budget](#).

### Commissioning and grants

In the four-year period up to March 31, 2025, the Commissioner will have invested £21.5m in the delivery of his *Police and Crime Plan* priorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

In 2023-24 this is broken down into:

#### All government grants

Victim support services	£2.2m
Serious violence	£352,000
Domestic abuse perpetrator	£375,000
Safer Streets 4 and 5	£698,000

#### Commissioner's funds

Crime and disorder reduction	£1.5m
Casualty support and reduction reserve (road safety)	£288,000
Youth Fund	£70,000

**Local partnership co-commissioning** £332,000

## National policing priorities

The government's strategic policing requirement (SPR) sets out national threats to public safety. This helps PCCs to plan effectively, in consultation with their Chief Constable, for policing challenges.

The six national threats as set out by the Home Secretary are:

- Violence against women and girls.
- Terrorism.
- Serious and organised crime.
- National cyber incidents.
- Child sexual abuse.
- Public disorder and civil emergencies.

Regard to these is included within the Commissioner's *Police and Crime Plan*.

The Commissioner is confident, through his governance arrangements, that the Constabulary has the ability to provide an effective and proportionate response to the national threats.

He also has a responsibility to hold the Chief Constable to account for how national priorities are being addressed. The Constabulary has provided the following updates, covering the year 2023-24:

While murder remains significantly low in the county compared to similar police force areas, five murders (or other homicides) were recorded.

Serious violence and knife crime continue to be tackled through Operation Guardian – with officers responding to street-based violence, tackling habitual knife carriers and carrying out additional patrols in the night-time economy and hot spot areas. More details are provided on [page 7](#).

Targeted and cross-border policing enabled the police to disrupt drugs supply with 19% more drug offences recorded. This increase was due in part to targeted police activity.

Recorded neighbourhood crime reduced by 31% across the county (when comparing the 12 months to March 2024 with the Home Office's 2019 baseline). This included:

- 16% drop in personal robbery offences.
- 13% drop in theft from the person offences.
- 20% increase in theft of vehicle offences.
- 48% drop in theft from a vehicle offences.
- 9% drop in vehicle interference.
- 38% drop in residential burglary offences.

Across Cambridgeshire there was a 54% reduction in bike crime through increased investment in CCTV technology and targeted police activity with partners such as Cambridge City Council.

Satisfaction levels for victims of crime remained comparable to 2019. For the 12 months to March 2024, 78% of non-domestic abuse victims were at least fairly satisfied with their whole experience with Cambridgeshire Constabulary. For domestic abuse victims, 83% expressed satisfaction.



Through its Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy launched in 2021, the Constabulary continued to ensure there was an effective response to allegations of offending against women and girls. For the 12 months to February 2024, Cambridgeshire's recorded VAWG offences were 43% higher than in the 2019 baseline. This was, in part, due to an increase in confidence in victims reporting crimes.

Online and cyber enabled recorded crime increased by 108%. Cyber prevention officers continued to support residents and businesses from the threat of cybercrime. Read more on [page 10](#).



## 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, 2023-2024](#)
-  [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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