

Agenda Item 5.0 – Appendix 2

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 June 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 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 (0.5). The number of homicides is lower than the June 2019 baseline.

For the 12 months ending March 2022 there have been 6 homicides in Cambridgeshire, compared to 14 for year ending June 2019. After an exceptionally low number of homicides in 2020 the national rolling 12-month trend is increasing.

Reduce Serious Violence

- The number of admissions to A&E for assault by sharp object when looking at all patients remains below the benchmark.
- There continues to be a reduction in firearm offences locally and nationally the trend is flat after a period of decline.

The latest data on local admissions to accident and emergency for assault by sharp weapons shows Cambridgeshire has seen decline compared to the benchmark with a peak in admissions over December 2021. Nationally admissions have fallen

compared to the benchmark, however the trend in admissions was heavily influenced by Covid restrictions, when the restrictions lifted there was a rise in violence admissions.

Firearm offences have also been influenced by lockdown restrictions, and this has been noted nationally. The latest data shows Cambridgeshire recorded 38 offences in the year ending March 2022 which is 44.1% lower than year ending June 2019. National data shows a smaller reduction than Cambridgeshire however the number of offences has plateaued after a period of long decline throughout 2020.

Operation Guardian is the Constabulary's response to tackle knife crime and a succinct plan is in place for across the Constabulary. Two further knife and offensive weapon amnesties are planned for 2022.

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. The Constabulary aim to ensure victims are listened to and placed at the centre of every investigation and response. Over the festive period the Constabulary provided training to CCTV staff, night time economy staff and taxi marshals on predatory behaviour across Cambridge and Peterborough. Officers also engaged with over 70 individuals in this period with many given words of advice. The aim of this was to help prevent violence against women and girls in the night time economy.

Disrupt drugs supply and County lines

- Recorded drug offences are influenced by proactive Police work. In Cambridgeshire there has been an increase in drug trafficking offences when compared to the baseline of year ending June 2019.

For year ending March 2022 there has been a 55.5% (+256) increase in drug trafficking offences compared to year ending June 2019 and the long-term trend is now flat. Nationally the long-term trend is declining but does remain higher than the benchmark of year ending June 2019.

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. A recent County line intensification week

resulted in numerous arrests, closure of 5 drug lines, seizure of money and drugs and the safeguarding of vulnerable people against criminality. A range of internal and partnership training events have also occurred including initiatives with Crimestoppers.

Reduce neighbourhood crime

- Periods of national (and then regional) restrictions implemented as part of measures to respond to the pandemic resulted in reduced levels of recorded levels of neighbourhood crime, with offence levels for neighbourhood crime still below levels seen before Covid but are trending upwards nationally and locally.
- When comparing the 12 months to March 2022 there has been the following reductions compared to the baseline of year ending June 2019.



A 18.8% drop in personal robbery offences

A 27% drop in theft from the person offences



A 16.7% drop in theft of vehicle offences

A 42.1% drop in theft from a vehicle offence



A 46.7% drop in residential burglary offences

Overall, the long-term trend in neighbourhood crime is increasing after declining since Covid. However, the level of offences remains significantly lower than pre-COVID likely due to the amount of people working at home. There is variation in recent months when looking at the trend in individual neighbourhood crime offences. Residential burglary remains low and is below the benchmark, but the long-term trend is increasing.

Vehicle crime accounts for over half (56%) of all neighbourhood crime and any change in this category is influential to overall neighbourhood crime. Nationally and locally vehicle crime has seen a long-term decline since Covid. This decline stopped in 2021 and offences stabilised, until the end of 2021 when offence numbers increased and continue to increase throughout February 2022.

The long-term decline in theft from a vehicle offences has now plateaued nationally and in Cambridgeshire with offences gradually increasing but remaining far below levels seen pre-COVID. The long-term decline in theft of a vehicle offences was halted once Covid restrictions eased with a sharp increase in offences seen nationally and in Cambridgeshire.

The national and local trend for theft from a person offences shows how Covid lockdowns influenced the reduction in offences in 2020. Since restrictions have eased the level of offences has increased for both areas and are continuing to trend upwards (although remain below pre-pandemic levels).

Personal robbery offences have been increasing since April 2021 with the long-term trend now relatively stable but still below the benchmark. Nationally personal robbery offences have started increasing from year ending December 2021.

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

- Victims of Domestic Abuse are more satisfied than the benchmark of year ending March-2020, an improvement of 2.2 percentage points.

The Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) is used to measure victims' experiences of policing. However, the survey was paused during the Covid lockdowns and this data will not be updated for the next year. Therefore, local domestic abuse victim survey information can be used to measure performance. For year ending March-2020 82.1%(n=252) of those surveyed were satisfied with the whole experience. This has increased to 84.3% (n=108) for year ending March 2022.

The Constabulary also surveys victims of hate crime, burglary and violence. Victim satisfaction compared to year ending June 2019 has declined going from 78.7% (n=1275) down to 77.9%(n=1263) for year ending March 2022. Victims of burglary are most satisfied with 87.1% (n=459) at least fairly satisfied for year ending March 2022. Follow up remains the aspect with the lowest satisfaction rates, although improvements were seen through 2021 the last 3 months have seen a decline in satisfaction.

The Constabulary have continued to survey ASB victims and witnesses after a successful pilot with 72 surveys completed since November 2021 until the end of

March 2022. These survey results help collate more opinions on the Police service, identify any areas for improvement to service delivery and help inform neighbourhood policing areas. This in turn should help improve victim satisfaction as well as public confidence in Policing.

The initial contact the public have with the Constabulary is important and timely answering of calls is important. The use of 999 continues to increase and the rolling 12-month total of 999 calls is the highest recorded. The use of 101 calls has declined over the long term and this same trend has been seen nationally. The rolling 12-month total is now stable. However, grade of service for 101 calls has deteriorated as the volume of 999 calls increased. The proportion of 101 calls answered within 30 seconds in the year ending March 2022 is lower than the benchmark at 83.8% and the average wait time has increased month on month since December. March had an average wait time of 25 seconds. The Constabulary have several plans in place to improve 101 call handling performance.

Tackle Cyber Crime

- Covid has enabled greater dependency on the internet for all aspects of life. This in turn has increased vulnerability to crimes on line where criminals attempt to exploit victims. As a result, online/cyber crime continues to increase and for year ending March 2022 was 252.1% higher than the benchmark in June 2019.

There is no local or national data for the first metric about confidence by the Police in response to cyber-crime. Therefore, a proxy measure of the number of recorded online/cyber crimes has been used. The number of recorded online/cyber enabled crime continues to increase which had the online/ cyber enabled keyword continues to increase. In year ending June 2019 there were 551 crimes, for year ending March 2022 there were 1,940 crimes. It is likely that alongside an increase in offending, improved use of keywords to identify cyber enabled offending has impacted this rise.