



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Acting Chief Executive

Date: 26 November 2020

VICTIM AND OFFENDER NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out for the Business Co-ordination Board (the "Board"), the key findings of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Needs Assessment: Victims, Suspects and Offenders: 2019/20.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is recommended to note both the contents of this report and the Executive Summary of the Needs Assessment which is provided at Appendix 1. The Board are asked to note that this Executive Summary will be published at a later date.

3. Background

3.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 places a responsibility on Police and Crime Commissioners, in partnership with responsible authorities, to reduce crime and disorder across the area. The Police and Crime Commissioner (the "Commissioner") must issue a Police and Crime Plan (the "Plan") as soon as practicable after the Commissioner takes office, and within the financial year in which the election is held.

3.2 Commissioner elections were scheduled for May 2020 but were delayed until May 2021 owing to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. In preparation for the planned elections, and a newly-elected Commissioner taking office, in December 2019 the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) commissioned an update of the Victim and Offender Needs Assessment from 2012. As previously, the needs assessment has been undertaken by the Cambridgeshire Research Group, which is the research function within the Business Intelligence Service for Cambridgeshire County Council. Since the original Needs Assessment in 2012, Cambridgeshire Research Group

has undertaken specific needs assessments relating to victims and offenders and a number of headline data refreshes. There was a delay in finalisation of this needs assessment owing to urgent Covid-related analytical pressures on the Cambridge Research Group.

- 3.3 The primary purpose of the update was to provide a broad overview of the data for the most recent year (2019) in order to inform the next Plan and support the countywide thematic delivery groups. A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment approach has been undertaken, such that it provides a shared evidence base for all authorities responsible for community safety in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and informs commissioning decisions. It continues to use the same approach to previous needs assessments undertaken on behalf of the OPCC and had oversight from the key responsible authorities.
- 3.4 A range of data sources have been utilised. There are, therefore, a number of caveats for understanding and drawing conclusions from the analysis. Data issues are highlighted with the document, these include changes within assessments, practice, IT software and platforms and organisational changes.

4. Key findings

- 4.1 The Executive Summary of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Needs Assessment: Victims, Suspects and Offenders: 2019/20 is attached to this report.
- 4.2 As well as the overall profile of victim, suspect and offender cohorts within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, it highlights:

Victims

- The report can only provide a picture of victimisation where it has been reported to the police or support services. If you apply the Crime Survey for England and Wales prevalence estimates the victimisation rate should be much higher than **36,845 in 19/20 (resident in county)** and more like 120,000.
- Victimisation rates vary with risk factors associated with personal, household and local area characteristics. For example, **victimisation rates are higher in the urban centres** of Peterborough and Cambridge City. Those aged 18-39 were most likely to be a victim of crime with the **25-29 age group at highest risk**.
- The top five nationalities of victims were British, Polish, Lithuanian, Romanian and Portuguese.
- **Domestic abuse was the most common vulnerability marker** with 16.4% of all victims having experienced a domestic abuse-related offence in 2019. Domestic abuse victims were more likely to be **repeat victims, female** and aged 30-39 at the time of the offence.
- The extent to which an offence **impacts on an individual varies considerably** depending on the offence type and the victim's characteristics. Access to support services are based on need not crime type.
- All victims of crime in the county have access to support services through the Victim and Witness Hub and a range of specialist services.

Suspects/offenders

- It remains true that most individuals within the criminal justice system have **complex and multiple needs**. Without a more integrated approach to supporting those needs the system will not fully achieve its objectives of reducing offending and reoffending.
- **Improved data quality and system-wide analysis** is pivotal to gaining a comprehensive understanding of need and to identify gaps and potential areas for improvement and development.
- While there are processes in place to manage high risk domestic abuse perpetrators, **understanding system level rehabilitation needs for domestic abuse perpetrators is difficult**.
- No data available to provide information on the **level of engagement with services**.
- **Accommodation remains a key need for offenders**. The impact of no accommodation or inappropriate accommodation is an important driver of re-offending. **Education, training and employment, mental health and substance misuse remain substantial concerns**.
- There was a **continued reducing trend of First Time Entrants into the system**. **Speech and language and mental health concerns were significant**.
- As the approach to **out of court disposals** and **community sentencing** evolves, it will be important to ensure the needs identified through these mechanisms are also built into future analysis.

4.2 Key findings will inform countywide thematic delivery groups and enable next steps around prioritisation and further focused work. They will also be available to inform the next Plan. This work will be bolstered by specific thematic needs assessments commissioned by the OPCC as part of the 'understand' phase of the commissioning cycle. For example, research on Child/Adolescent to Parent Violence completed in September 2020 which will be used by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategic Board to inform service provision.

5. Recommendation

5.1 The Board is recommended to note both the contents of this report and the Executive Summary of the Needs Assessment which is provided at Appendix 1. The Board are asked to note that this Executive Summary will be published at a later date.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	<p>'Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Needs Assessment: Victims, Suspect and Offenders: 2019/20', October 2020 https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/communitysafety/topics/victims-and-offenders/</p> <p>Previous victim and offender needs assessments https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/communitysafety/topics/</p>
Contact Officer	Cristina Strood and Nicky Phillipson, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner