



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 16 December 2021

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY PERFORMANCE REPORT – NATIONAL CRIME AND POLICING MEASURES

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) with a reflection on Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s (the “Constabulary”) for each measure and upcoming actions for the next quarter.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.

3. Background

3.1 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

3.2 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.

4. Reduce Murder and Other Homicide

4.1 Homicide offences in Cambridgeshire remain rare with less than 1 a month on average (0.8). The number of homicides is lower than the June 2019 baseline.

4.2 For the 12 months ending August 2021 there have been 10 homicides in Cambridgeshire, compared to 14 for year ending June 2019. Nationally the rolling 12-month trend is increasing after a period of decline in late 2020. No homicides have been recorded in Cambridge City or South Cambridgeshire in the last 12 months.

5. Reduce Serious Violence

5.1 There continues to be a reduction in admissions to A&E for assault by sharp object when looking at all patients, and a year on year reduction in patients aged under 25 in Cambridgeshire.

5.2 There continues to be a reduction in firearm offences locally and nationally.

5.3 The latest data on admissions to accident and emergency for assault by sharp weapons shows Cambridgeshire has seen a year on year reduction. In Cambridgeshire for 2020-21 there were 15 admissions compared to 25 in the previous year. Nationally admissions have fallen by 1% year on year but is likely to be influenced by Covid-19. Work is ongoing to ensure a comparable local dataset is available for monitoring.

5.4 Firearm offences have also been influenced by lockdown restrictions, and this has been noted nationally. The latest data shows Cambridgeshire recorded 50 offences in the year ending September 2021 which is 26.5% lower than year ending June 2019. National data shows a smaller 16.7% reduction when looking at year ending March 2021 compared to June 2019.

5.5 Operation Guardian is the Constabulary's response to tackle knife crime. In November the force completed a week-long knife and offensive weapon amnesty where 56 weapons were handed in.

5.6 The Constabulary Violence Against Women and Girl's (VAWG) strategy launches in November 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 will target predatory behaviour in city centres to help prevent violence against women and girls in the night time economy.

6. Disrupt Drugs Supply and County Lines

6.1 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.

- 6.2 As of year ending August 2021 there has been a 68.3% (+315) 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.
- 6.3 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. In October 2021 a County line intensification week resulted in numerous arrests, disruption to several County lines, seizure of weapons and the safeguarding of vulnerable people against criminality. This work also helped raise awareness and engagement with local communities.

7. Reduce Neighbourhood Crime

- 7.1 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 in most neighbourhood crime still below levels seen before Covid.
- 7.2 When comparing the 12 months to August 2021 there has been the following reductions compared to the baseline of year ending June 2019.

 A 25.8% drop in all robbery offences
 A 47.6% drop in theft from the person offences

 A 25.5% drop in theft of vehicle offences
 A 46.3% drop in theft from a vehicle offence

 A 48% drop in residential burglary offences

- 7.3 There is variation in recent months when looking at the trend in individual neighbourhood crime offences. Residential burglary continues to decline in Cambridgeshire and nationally. The long term decline in theft from a vehicle offences has now plateaued nationally and in Cambridgeshire with offences remaining far below levels seen pre-Covid.
- 7.4 The long-term decline in theft of a vehicle and theft from a person offences was halted once Covid restrictions eased with an increase in offences seen nationally and in Cambridgeshire.
- 7.5 Business and Community burglary offences are increasing in Cambridgeshire, although offences are 29.1% lower than year ending June 2019. However, this increase in crime is not seen nationally. Robbery is also another offence where Cambridgeshire is seeing an increase in crime, in particular in robbery of personal property. Nationally robbery offences increased post lockdown but are now declining.

8. Improve Satisfaction Among Victims, with a Particular Focus on Victims of Domestic Abuse.

- 8.1 Victims of Domestic Abuse are more satisfied than the year ending June-2019, an improvement of 2.4 percentage points.
- 8.2 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 86.6% (n=164) for year ending August 2021.
- 8.3 The Constabulary also surveys victims of hate crime, burglary and violence. The victim satisfaction compared to year ending June 2019 has improved going from 78.7% (n=1275) up to 81.1% for year ending August 2021. With improvement seen in all crime categories surveyed. Victims of burglary are most satisfied with 90.7% (n=472) at least fairly satisfied for year ending August 2021.
- 8.4 The Constabulary have recently successfully piloted SMS surveys with victims and witness who reported Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents to understand their experiences. These survey results will 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.

9. Tackle Cyber Crime

- 9.1 Covid has enabled greater dependency on the internet for all aspects of life. This in turn has increased vulnerability to crimes online where criminals attempt to exploit victims. As a result, online/cyber-crime continues to increase and is for year ending August 2021 was 207.3% higher than the benchmark in June 2019.
- 9.2 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 August 2021 there were 1,693 crimes. It is likely that alongside an increase in offending, improved use of keywords to identify cyber enabled offending has impacted this rise.

10. Recommendation

- 10.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document(s)	
Contact Officer	Neil Stacey, Strategic Analysis Manager, Organisational Improvement Centre, Cambridgeshire Constabulary