



Police and Crime Commissioner
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH
Darryl Preston

Annual report 2021-2022



**Putting
communities
first**



**Crime
prevention**



**Supporting
victims and
witnesses**



**Ethical
policing**



**Robust
enforcement**



Tackling crime and keeping communities safe



Foreword



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

Welcome to my annual report, which covers the period April 2021 to March 2022 and is a snapshot of what we have achieved over the year.

I am pleased you have taken the time to find out more about what I am doing to get crime cut and keep people safe across our county.

In this report you can read about how I and my team are working in partnership to deliver the five key priority areas outlined in my *Police and Crime Plan*, published in November 2021.

▲ **Darryl Preston**, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. From 1985 to 2015 he was a serving police officer – first in uniform in the Metropolitan Police and, from 1998, in Cambridgeshire, initially in uniform before becoming a detective.

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

These priorities are what residents expect from Cambridgeshire Constabulary and other organisations working to support criminal justice and community safety.

Having been in post for 12 months, I have seen some fantastic progress across the county with more than £1.8m of investment brought in by my office to keep communities safe and support victims of crime.

Overall crime in our county is also down – helped by record numbers of officers in post: 1,648.7 (full time equivalent) by the end of March 2022.

I want to end by reminding you of the important part you can play in keeping local residents safe – please continue to report crimes and issues of concern to the Constabulary: local intelligence is key to solving crime.

Tackling crime, keeping you safe

The Commissioner's *Police and Crime Plan* sets out priorities to prevent and reduce crime in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough over the next three years.

Published in November 2021, the priorities in the plan were put together following extensive consultation with residents, local businesses and other organisations working to support criminal justice and community safety.

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.

The following pages outline progress made against each of the five themes outlined above.



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.

One of the most important parts of the Commissioner's job is to be the voice of local people – to listen to what matters to them and to ensure their concerns are responded to.

In line with his Police and Crime Plan, the Commissioner has worked with Cambridgeshire Constabulary and partners to progress initiatives which keep people safe wherever they live and work in the county.

From investment to help resolve local crime and disorder to the establishment of a new Youth Fund, the Commissioner has made it his priority to support local communities.

What we have done

Local people have told the Commissioner through survey responses and face to face meetings that they want a more visible and accessible force.

Thanks to support from local residents through the policing part of council tax and the government's national recruitment programme, the Constabulary ended its year with 1,648.7 (full time equivalent) officers in post – more than ever before.

Both the Commissioner and the Chief Constable remain committed to boosting neighbourhood policing with 95% of officers now serving on the frontline.

Achievements

The Commissioner remains committed to getting out into the community to listen and respond to people's views on a regular basis.

Over the year progress included:

- Supporting the county's six Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to address local issues such as anti-social behaviour and speeding. The Commissioner held regular meetings in local communities and online with members of the public and local councillors to listen and respond to concerns.
- Meeting regularly with rural representative groups such as Countryside Watch and the National Farmers Union. The Constabulary's Rural Crime Action Team, which continues to support rural communities, increased by 25%.
- With road safety a key priority, the Commissioner continued to work with the county's Vision Zero partnership to reduce deaths and serious injuries on our county's roads.
- Local business needs continued to be championed to make sure they were understood and responded to. This included meeting local representative bodies including the Federation of Small Businesses, the Chambers of Commerce and local retailer groups.
- Alongside local MPs, the Commissioner fought for the county to receive its fair share of police funding. He welcomes the Policing Minister's announcement that a review of the police funding formula is underway.



Forensic science lesson – Darryl Preston with Scene of Crime Supervisor Josef Jacobs from the force's forensics team and Year 6 pupils at Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School.



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.

In his *Police and Crime Plan*, the Commissioner pledged to work in partnership to understand and tackle the root causes of crime and serious violence to support people away from committing offences.

With prevention and early intervention, there are opportunities to help people lead more positive lives – which reduces crime – and is something local residents have said they want to see.

What we have done

Work has progressed over the year with partners to support those at risk of a life of crime – from supporting people who offend to community-based crime prevention schemes.

Achievements

- The Commissioner's Crime and Disorder Fund has enabled Early Intervention Officers to support young people by engaging with those who are most vulnerable to exploitation, as well as those who have been missing from home.
- Funding continued to enable the county's SAFE project (Safer Relationships for Exploited Children) to reduce the likelihood of vulnerable young people getting involved in, often drug-related, crime.
- A new Youth Fund for grass-roots projects to support young people develop skills and prevent them from getting involved in anti-social behaviour. Those funded include Cambridge RUFC, Peterborough Youth Boxing and Friends of Life Education, a county-wide charity.
- Partnering an Academy Trust on a pilot scheme to provide a safe and constructive environment for young people outside school hours.
- £263K towards youth offending services to work with young people in the criminal justice system to prevent re-offending.

- Together with the Constabulary, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, £471K has been invested into the county from the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund. This includes training delivered by police officers to staff working in pubs and nightclubs so they can spot the signs of perpetrators and keep women and girls safe.
- Championing public concerns, for example in Cambridge, on the impact of bike theft. Enforcement activity (including a dedicated Cycle Crime Officer) and joint work with other agencies had a positive impact on reported levels of crime.
- Supporting the Constabulary to invest in an innovative Cybercrime Team which works closely with Action Fraud to contact every victim of fraud identified in the county.
- Funding the Constabulary to enable first-time offenders to access online support programmes to help them address the root causes of their offending.
- £78K to support and improve the lives of vulnerable people in Peterborough who have multiple and complex needs, including homelessness, substance misuse and mental ill health.
- Establishing a 'Twinning Project' at HMP Peterborough to offer prisoners accredited coaching with Peterborough United FC to help reduce reoffending and prepare them for a better life after release.



Darryl Preston at Boxing Futures, a Peterborough-based project which has received Youth Fund grant funding.



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.

Supporting victims is a key part of the Commissioner's role and he remains committed to making sure all victims and witnesses of crime across the county have access to support when they need it.

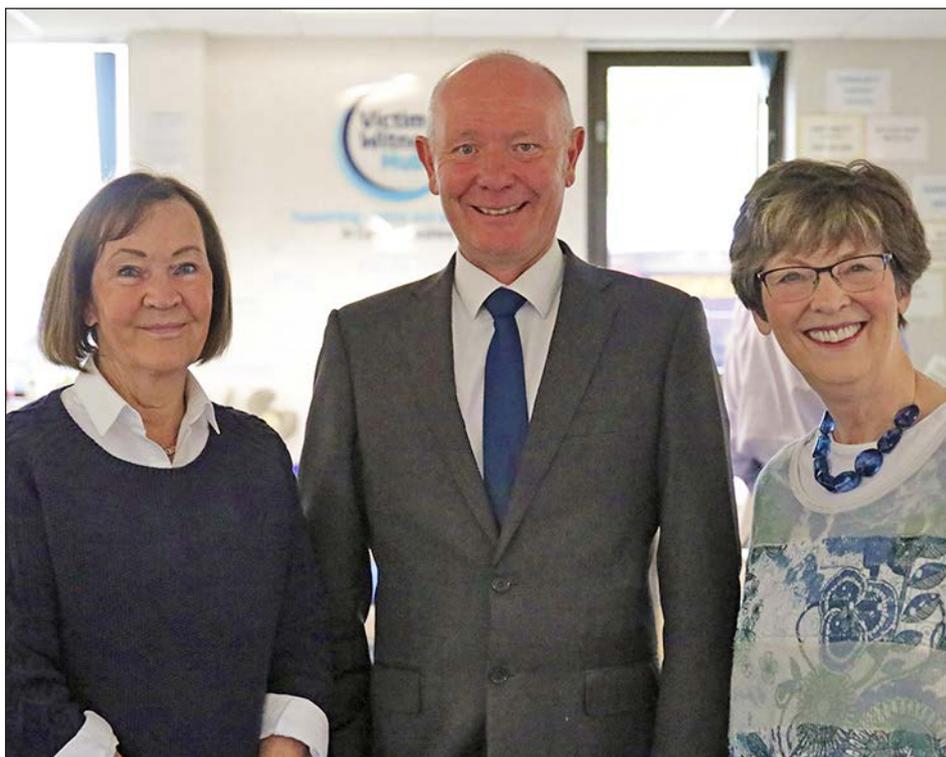
What we have done

Victims and witnesses of crime in our county have access to good quality emotional and practical support. The Commissioner and his team have worked hard with colleagues in other agencies to bring in extra resources to our county to enhance these services and support local and specialist services to do what they do best.

Achievements

- An additional £1.8m of funding has been brought into the county through successful funding bids. Collectively, the bids will enhance support for victims of crime, make the streets safer through environmental improvements (such as lighting), as well as training for security industry staff to help them spot the signs of predatory behaviour.
- An extra £78K for Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership to fund 1-1 support for 130 rape and sexual violence survivors. The service is actively supporting 1,661 survivors through its Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) and emotional support services.
- A team of nurses based in the police control room ensured police officers and staff called to help those in mental health crisis on 8,000 occasions got the advice they needed. This helped to save police time and keep vulnerable people safe.
- A third of all victims of crime who live in the county accessed support services to help them cope and recover from their experience. The Victim and Witness Hub offered advice and practical support to 4,666 victims; 300 young people accessed tailored support and more than 200 people were rescued from modern slavery.

- In line with the Ministry of Justice's Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, which sets out what victims can expect, referrals reached the Victim and Witness Hub in less than 12 hours, ensuring quick access to support. All support services funded by the Commissioner commit to contacting victims within three working days.
- Reports of domestic abuse began to plateau, with victim satisfaction for domestic abuse support services rising to an all-time high. Just under 88% of victims reported being at least fairly satisfied with the service they received.
- A successful Home Office bid funded group work to address child to parent violence, which reduced calls to the police and reports of young people going missing. More than 70 families received help and support. The bid also funded a new service for victims of stalking to ensure they get the most up to date advice and support.
- As Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board, the Commissioner brings together all those involved in the criminal justice system to make sure victims are provided with the best possible service. The Commissioner is also supporting all those helping to rebuild the system following the pandemic to ensure court cases go ahead successfully.



Darryl Preston with two of the specially trained volunteers at the County's Victim & Support Hub, which is staffed by talented professionals.

Cambridgeshire is fortunate in having one of the UK's best victim and witness support schemes.



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.

The way policing is delivered in our country is based on the consent of the public. It relies on the police behaving in a way which maintains public trust.

The Commissioner works with the Chief Constable to ensure officers carry out their duties in the right way at the right time.

What we have done

A Community Scrutiny Panel was established to carry out independent checks on the way in which stop and search and use of force are conducted by the Constabulary. It is made up of independent volunteers from Cambridgeshire who provide feedback to the Constabulary to help improve standards.

Increased investment in vetting procedures also ensures the process for recruiting new officers and staff is effective.

Achievements

- The Commissioner's Independent Custody Visiting Scheme (ICVS) continues to operate across the county, checking on the rights and welfare of people in custody. Members of the scheme carried out 45 custody visits, spoke to 139 detainees and fed back any concerns to the Constabulary. Details of the ICVS scheme are on the [Commissioner's website](#).
- Increased investment in the force's Continual Professional Development units with specific resources to support the student officer journey and young in-service officers.
- Over the reporting period, the Commissioner monitored 52 complaints from the public against the force or Chief Constable, in line with his statutory duty.

- A new ‘whistleblowing’ procedure was developed to ensure that all concerns reported by officers are considered and acted upon following the standards of the National Code of Ethics.
- The most recent assessment of the Constabulary carried out by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) can be found on the [HMICFRS website](#).
- Recommendations published by HMICFRS continued to be monitored by the Commissioner as part of his holding the Chief Constable to account.



Effective policing relies on maintaining the support of all the communities they serve.



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.

With record police officers in post across the county, cutting crime and catching criminals remains the key priority for the Commissioner and a core role of policing.

The Commissioner is committed to working with the police and other partners, including prosecutors, probation and local authorities, to make sure enforcement processes are keeping local residents safe.

What we have done

Through his regular [Business Coordination Board](#) meetings the Commissioner has supported the Chief Constable, who has operational independence to tackle crime.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary has continued to focus on safeguarding the vulnerable, combatting crimes such as burglary, theft and robbery, reducing harm to communities and tackling serious and organised crime.

Achievements

- Supporting the Chief Constable with appropriate resources to help stop those who continue to disrupt our communities through serious and organised crime, drug crime and those who take advantage of people online to cause harm.
- Over the reporting year, the Constabulary has continued to tackle county lines (phone lines to supply drugs) by identifying and charging offenders. This has helped to safeguard vulnerable people and has led to the disruption of county lines and the seizure of weapons, cash and drugs.
- Ensuring the Constabulary has the resources it needs to tackle knife crime, including educating young people about the risks of carrying weapons.

- Supporting the Constabulary to tackle rural crime: its Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT) cut heritage, hunting, rural and wildlife crime by 48% in 2021-2022. There were 66 prosecutions over the year with 100% of these defendants either pleading guilty or found guilty in court.
- Urging the government to change the law against those who carry out hare coursing to introduce tougher sentencing. The Commissioner welcomed the announcement in January 2022 that additional laws will be introduced.
- Campaigning for tougher sentences against pet thieves (in particular, dogs), which will enable judges to hand down more targeted penalties.



Carrying out speed checks is part of the force's important contribution to road safety. With Darryl is a special constable who, like all 'specials', volunteers to work alongside his regular colleagues.

How the Constabulary is funded

The Commissioner received a total of £164.8m of funding for the period of this annual report, April 2021 to March 2022 – a £12m increase on the previous year.

In Cambridgeshire, police funding comes from two main sources: a central government grant (56%) and the policing part of council tax.

Each year, the Commissioner receives the funding and is responsible for how it is spent, consulting with the Chief Constable to decide how the money is allocated for policing.

During the budget setting process for 2021/22, a review of the reserves was undertaken and a realignment of some reserves took effect from 1 April 2021 to provide resilience against some significant future risks.

The Chief Constable has responsibility for the financial management of Cambridgeshire Constabulary within the agreed budget allocation.

The financial accounts will be available on the [Commissioner's website](#) by autumn 2022.

Darryl meeting one of the Constabulary's new officers at a Passing Out Parade.



National policing priorities

Police and Crime Commissioners are required to tell people how their local force is tackling national policing priorities.

Between June 2019 and March 2022, the Constabulary reported the following performance against these national measures:

- While rare across the county, there were six **murder and other homicide** offences recorded (14 in the year ending June 2019).
- Thanks to planned policing operations to **reduce serious violence** and tackle knife crime, the number of people admitted to A&E departments for assault by sharp weapons declined over the reporting year. Furthermore, firearm offences reduced by 44%.
- Proactive police work led to a 55% increase in reporting of **drugs supply and county lines**, matched by the same increase in drug trafficking offences compared to year ending June 2019.
- Since pre-Covid times (2019), **neighbourhood crime** reduced by the following:
 - Residential burglary reduced by 47%
 - Shoplifting reduced by 25%
 - Bicycle theft reduced by 37%
 - Criminal damage and arson reduced by 7%
- Proactive policing against those who commit drug offences resulted in an increase in recorded offences.
- Targeting policing and increased awareness of **online crime** increased people's confidence to report crimes – just under 2,000 were reported over the reporting year.

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 [Business Coordination Board meetings](#), with agendas and reports.
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary's [performance, 2021-2022](#).
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary's [corporate plan, 2021-2022](#).

The six Community Safety Partnerships in Cambridgeshire:

- [Cambridge City Community Safety Partnership](#).
- [East Cambs Community Safety Partnership](#).
- [Fenland Community Safety Partnership](#).
- [Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership](#).
- [Safer Peterborough Partnership](#).
- [South Cambs Community Safety Partnership](#).

Contact us

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You can keep up to date with the Commissioner's news and activities by following him:

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