

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 compared to the benchmark and the forces most similar group (MSG) 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 June 2022 there have been 7 homicides in Cambridgeshire, compared to 14 for year ending June 2019. After an exceptionally small number of homicides in 2020 the national and MSG rolling 12-month trend is increasing. However, the rate in Cambridgeshire remains below the MSG and national rate.

Reduce Serious Violence



- The number of admissions to A&E for assault by sharp object for all patients remains below the benchmark.



- There continues to be a reduction in firearm offences locally and nationally. The long-term trend is flat after a period of decline.

- Violence with injury offences in Cambridgeshire is lower than the MSG or national rate, although that gap is closing.

The latest data on local admissions to accident and emergency for assault by sharp weapons shows Cambridgeshire has seen a decline compared to the benchmark. There was a peak in admissions over December 2021 for assaults by knife and then admissions peaked in March for assaults by a weapon other a knife. Nationally admissions remain lower than the benchmark, but the national trend is increasing.

Firearm offences have also been influenced by lockdown restrictions, and this has been noted nationally. The latest data shows Cambridgeshire recorded 41 offences in the year ending June 2022 which is 39.7% lower than year ending June 2019. National data shows a smaller reduction than Cambridgeshire however the number of offences has started to increase nationally and for the MSG after a period of long decline throughout 2020.

Cambridgeshire has seen a greater increase in serious offences involving a sharp weapon than the national increase. However, this is likely to be influenced by improved recording in Cambridgeshire where processes are in place to check if a crime is a knife crime, not all forces do this check. Nationally knife crime offences are increasing whereas in Cambridgeshire offence levels have plateaued.

Operation Guardian is the Constabulary's response to tackle knife crime and a succinct plan is in place for across the Constabulary which includes targeting hotspots of knife crime and individuals known to carry knives. A knife and offensive weapon amnesty is planned for later in the year after the most recently completed week of action in May 2022.

Cambridgeshire has seen an 11%¹ increase in violence with injury offences compared to year ending June 2019, whereas nationally the increase was 3.4%² and the MSG increase was 2.8%³. When compared to the last 12 months Cambridgeshire has seen a 23% increase which was above the national increase but in line with the MSG increase. Although Cambridgeshire has a greater increase

¹ The 11% is year ending June 2022 compared to year ending June 2019. When compared to year ending March 2022 the figure would be 8.1%.

² This is the latest published data only - year ending March 2022

³ This is the latest published data only -year ending March 2022

in violence with injury crime the rate per 100,000 population is lower than the MSG and National rate with a 682 violence with injury crimes per 100,000 people for year ending June 2022.

Operation Alliance is the Constabulary's response to tackle street-based violence, this covers tackling knife crime under Operation Guardian, additional patrols in the night time economy, patrols of hot spots of violence and engaging with partner agencies.

Disrupt drugs supply and County lines



- Recorded drug offences are influenced by proactive Police work. In Cambridgeshire there has been a 39% increase in drug trafficking offences when compared to the baseline of year ending June 2019.

For year ending June 2022 there has been a 39% (+180) increase in offences compared to year ending June 2019 but the long-term trend in recent months is declining. Cambridgeshire has the 9th highest rate per 100,000 population in trafficking offences in the year ending May 2022 at 79.7, which is above the national and MSG rate. Nationally the number of offences is declining but remains above the baseline. The difference between areas is likely to be in part due to the amount of proactive work by forces but it does not necessarily explain all the difference.

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. The Constabulary will take part in the next national period of intensification which is scheduled for October. Previous periods of intensification resulted in numerous arrests, seizures of drugs and money and closure of drug lines. There have also been several training events focussing upon a range of issues pertinent to County Lines Policing; from both the Constabulary, partner agencies and charities.

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 June 2022 there has been the following reductions in Cambridgeshire compared to the baseline of year ending June 2019.



A 17.7% drop in personal robbery offences

A 22.8% drop in theft from the person offences



A 10.3% drop in theft of vehicle offences

A 39.6% drop in theft from a vehicle offence

A 33.6% drop in vehicle interference



A 46.4% drop in residential burglary offences

Overall neighbourhood crime has not returned to levels seen pre-pandemic, most likely due to the high numbers of people working at home, however crime continues to trend upwards as people return to workplaces and go on holidays. Nationally, neighbourhood crime is 26%⁴ lower than year ending June 2019 for year ending March 2022⁵, in Cambridgeshire its 35.7% lower for year ending June 2022.

Vehicle crime⁶ accounts for over half (56%) of all neighbourhood crime in Cambridgeshire 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 2022. Overall Cambridgeshire has seen a 34.4% decline for year ending June 2022 compared to year ending June 2019. Nationally the decline is less.

However, in the last 6 months, Cambridgeshire has seen a greater increase in all vehicle crime than the national and MSG increase with 23% more vehicle crime than

⁴ This is the latest published national data - Year ending March 2022

⁵ The latest published national data

⁶ Vehicle offences defined as theft of/from a vehicle and vehicle interference

same 6 months last year. This was seen in the offences of theft from a vehicle and vehicle interference. Although the increases in the last 6 months are higher, the rate per 100,000 population remains comparable to the national rates but higher than the MSG for vehicle interference and theft from a vehicle. Operation Feline is the forces response to catalytic converter thefts, the most stolen item in theft from vehicle in 2022. Operation Feline includes dedicated high visibility patrols of hotspot areas, unmarked patrols and recently the first security marking event of catalytic converters, which happened in Huntingdon.

The national trend for offences of theft from a person shows how Covid lockdowns influenced the reduction in offences in 2020. Since restrictions have eased the level of offences has increased for all and are continuing to trend upwards (although remain below pre-pandemic levels). Cambridgeshire has seen a 22.8% reduction in offences which is greater than the national reduction, however Cambridgeshire has the 9th highest rate per 100,000 population although it's below the national rate.

All personal robbery offences declined during lockdown. However, since April 2021 there has been an increase in Cambridgeshire which stabilised until June when offences increased again. The long-term trend nationally and for the MSG is upwards. In Cambridgeshire for year ending June 2022 there had been a 17.7% reduction when compared to year ending June 2019 this is line with the MSG reduction but below the national reduction. Operation Alliance is the Constabulary's response to street-based violence and knife crime, ensuring that these crimes are monitored, and resources are deployed to patrol hotspots and events. This is combined with Operation Guardian which focuses on reducing knife crime and habitual knife carrying. These operations are regularly reviewed in the Force Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group.

There has been a reduction locally and nationally in Residential burglary when compared to the baseline of June 2019. The decline was greatest throughout 2020 which was influenced by the lockdowns of COVID-19. The long-term trend in Cambridgeshire has now plateaued after increasing for the last 12 months. The long-term trend is still upwards nationally and for the MSG. Cambridgeshire has recorded 46.4% fewer residential burglary offences for year ending June 2022 when compared to year ending June 2019. Although Cambridgeshire has a greater

reduction in offences, the rate per 100,000 dwellings is higher in Cambridgeshire at 615 than it is for the MSG rate, however it remains below the national rate.

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 1.2 percentage points however the current long-term trend continues to decline.

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. In recent months, the local victim survey for domestic abuse has shown a decline in victim satisfaction from the peak seen in December 2021. However, for year ending June 2022 83.3% (n=78) were at least fairly satisfied with the whole experience. This 1.2ppt higher than the year end figure for March 2020, 82.1%(n=252).

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 76.2%(n=1264) for year ending June 2022. Victims of burglary are most satisfied with 85.7% (n=460) at least fairly satisfied for year ending June 2022. Follow up remains the aspect with the lowest satisfaction rates, although improvements were made in 2021 these have been reversed as the long-term trend continues to decline. A range of activity is planned to improve victim satisfaction, including work to embed the Victims' Code of Practice as well as a new Victims delivery group.

Violence against women and girls

- Nationally and locally offences defined as violence against women and girls continue to increase with stalking and harassment offences seeing the greatest increase in Cambridgeshire compared to the benchmark.

The Constabulary Violence Against Women and Girl's (VAWG) strategy launched in November 2021 and its 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. This includes encouraging victims to confidently report incidents and ensuring that the Constabulary correctly record the crimes and victims are updated in a timely manner. Additional night-time economy patrols are taking place as part of Operation Alliance. There also continues to be further developments of Operation Armour. This includes training of door staff and taxi marshal schemes. There is ongoing work to improve the recording of domestic abuse risk assessments and once launched, this will save considerable time for officers.

Nationally the long-term trend for VAWG⁷ offences is upwards, and this same trend is seen in Cambridgeshire with offences increasing by 48% in the last 12 months compared to the benchmark⁸. Cambridgeshire has a rate 1,205 VAWG crimes per 100,000 population which is comparable to the MSG average.

When broken down by offence type, stalking and harassment has seen the largest increase in Cambridgeshire of the relevant crime types. Using June 2019 as the benchmark, stalking and harassment offences have increased by 58%. This was higher than both the national and MSG increase. Although the rate per 100,000 population for stalking offences in Cambridgeshire is very low, the 11th lowest rate nationally at 891 offences per 100,000 population. The latest ONS report suggests that some of the increase in stalking and harassment is due to improved crime recording of offences.

The category of Other sexual offences has seen a significant increase in Cambridgeshire up by 33% compared to the benchmark. This is higher than the increase seen nationally or in the MSG. The rate per 100,000 population is 81 which is 24th highest and is higher than the MSG rate.

Rape offences have increased by 10% in Cambridgeshire compared to the benchmark, but this is below the MSG increase and the national increase. Cambridgeshire has a comparable rate of 107 offences per 100,000 population compared to the MSG rate.

⁷ VAWG offences: Rape, Sexual Assault, Stalking and Harassment and Other Sexual Offences

⁸ Benchmark for VAWG is different to the other national policing measures and is year ending March 2020.

In Cambridgeshire sexual assault offences have seen an increase of 35% in the last 12 months compared to June 2019, this is comparable to the increase seen by the MSG and national trend. Cambridgeshire has the 22nd highest rate per 100,000 population at 125 crimes which is comparable to the MSG rate.

A higher proportion of VAWG offences are domestic abuse related in Cambridgeshire than the national trend particularly for rape offences. However, this is likely to be influenced by data quality and the correct identification of domestic abuse crimes. Cambridgeshire has been recognised by the HMIC as “Good” for recording crime which gives confidence in the level of domestic abuse crimes in Cambridgeshire⁹. The Constabulary are actively encouraging victims of domestic abuse to report their issues to the Police and an increase in crime is not necessarily a negative measure as it is ensuring that more victims are courageously reporting the crimes and getting the support and safeguarding, they need. This is evident in the increase in the number of successful applications for Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) in the last year. Cambridgeshire currently has the second highest rate of DVPNs per 1,000 domestic abuse crimes out of the six police forces in the Eastern Region.

Tackle Cyber Crime



- The Covid pandemic 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/cybercrime remains high and for year ending June 2022 was 238.7% higher than 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 peaked in January 2022 and although offences remain high the long-term trend is downwards. In year ending June 2019 there were 551 crimes, for year ending June 2022 there were 1863 crimes. It is likely that part of increase between the two-time frames is in part down to an increase in offences and improved use of keywords to identify cyber enabled offending. The Constabulary have found that

⁹ [PEEL 2021/22: Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy – An inspection of Cambridgeshire Constabulary \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/peel-2021-22/)

cyber offences are becoming more complex and often overlap with fraud offences. The Constabulary is in the process of creating an Economic and Cyber Team by streamlining the current fraud and economic processes to create a central team. In recent months there has been the creation and adoption of ransomware playbooks and several successful investigations including one relating to £1.5 million pounds of fraud where the accounts have now been traced and the Constabulary is actively trying to recover the finances for the victim.

Other local policing priorities

Whilst the National crime and policing measures cover an overarching framework for policing and wider community safety issues, they do not cover other policing measures such as overall crime levels, detection rates and response times. This next section provides a short update on overall police performance in the last quarter.

- Recorded crime is continuing to increase after the national lockdowns reduced the incidence of many types of crime. However, there is variation in the extent of the increase in crime with many theft offences remaining below pre-COVID levels but sexual offences and violence offences exceeding pre-COVID levels.



The long-term indicator for recorded crime continues to trend upwards for both North and South policing areas, with the rolling 12-month total the highest seen in the last five years. This upwards trend in crime is seen nationally with crime increasing throughout 2021 and 2022. In the last 12 months the increase in crime was lower in Cambridgeshire (11.7%¹⁰) than National or MSG comparisons (16%¹¹ and 14.1%¹²)

Periods of national lockdown have seen decreases in the incidence of many types of crime, however since the lifting of lockdowns certain offence types are returning to and exceeding levels seen before the pandemic such as violent crime and sexual offences.

¹⁰ Year Ending June 2022 – In Cambs the year ending March 2022 figure is +13%

¹¹ This is the latest national data - Year ending March 2022

¹² This is the latest national data - Year ending March 2022

The latest ONS data¹³ shows that Cambridgeshire has a higher increase in the following crime types; Robbery, shoplifting and possession of weapon offences. Although the rate per 100,000 population is either comparable or below the national rate for these offences for year ending March 2022. Robbery and possession of weapon offences are routinely monitored under Operation Alliance, which is the Constabulary's response to street based violence and knife crime.

The latest ONS data also shows that Cambridgeshire has seen a reduction in the following crime types; burglary (both residential and non-residential), bicycle theft and drug offences. With bicycle theft remaining below pre-COVID levels.



- Improvements in the prosecution possible outcome rate have seen Cambridgeshire improve to have the 13th highest outcome rate for year ending May 2022.

The all-crime outcome rate for the 12 months ending June 2022 was 12.8%, the highest since March 2021. Both Policing Areas have seen an increase in their outcome rate and the Souths 12-month outcome rate is at a five-year high. The latest data shows that Cambridgeshire's outcome rate for all crime is 13th highest out of 43 forces. This is an improvement to previous year when Cambridgeshire ranked 28th out of 43 forces and the highest position in recent years. The proportion of positive outcomes which were a result of out of court disposals remains high. This increase is due to the increase in innovative diversionary outcomes such as the Cautions and Relationship Abuse (CARA) an intervention of perpetrators of low-risk domestic abuse.



- The demand for 999 continues to increase to the highest levels seen. This has impacted on the grade of service for 999 and 101 calls.

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, with every month since September 2021 seeing the highest number of calls for that month. The total number of 999 calls for year ending June 2022 is the highest seen. Nationally

¹³ [Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

the demand on 999 calls remains high with the number of calls higher than 2019. 88.5% of 999 calls were answered within 10 seconds in the 12 months ending June 2022. This is the lowest grade of service recorded in a rolling 12-month period since year ending March 2015 and is comparable to the benchmark of 90.1%. National data¹⁴ shows that in June 2022 Cambridgeshire was the 11th highest force for the proportion of 999 calls answered within in 10 seconds.

The rolling 12-month total of 101 calls is stable after a period of decline in 2020/2021. Nationally 101 call volumes remain consistently at a level below 2019. Grade of service for 101 calls has deteriorated as the volume of 999 calls increased and resources are prioritised to support those calls. The proportion of 101 calls answered within 30 seconds in the year ending June 2022 is comparable to the benchmark at 83.7% but it is the lowest grade of service recorded in a rolling 12-month period. The average wait time remains high compared to previous months with June 2022 having an average wait time of 32 seconds, the highest in over 5 years.

The Constabulary have several plans in place to improve Responding to the public, an area Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) identified as requiring improvement following their PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) assessment 2021/22. A detailed update from the Constabulary is presented to the Police and Crime Commissioner every 6 weeks to track improvements against the plan.

The median time to attend incidents graded as immediate has remained stable over the last four months at 18 minutes. For those incidents graded as a priority attendance the median time for attendance increased for two months in a row and was 80 minutes in June. This followed a period of stability early in 2022. For those incidents graded as prompt the median remains high at 501 minutes for June, though this was lower than the high seen in May (539 minutes). Against the backdrop of high response demand, achieving aspirational attendance times remains a challenge.

¹⁴ Police.co.uk