

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 September 2022 there have been six homicides in Cambridgeshire, compared to 14 for year ending June 2019. After an exceptionally low number of homicides in 2020 the national and MSG rolling 12-month trend increased but in early 2022 the long-term trend is declining whereas in Cambridgeshire the long-term 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.



- The number of offences involving a firearm is increasing locally and nationally although remain below the benchmark.
- Violence with injury offences in Cambridgeshire are increasing at a greater rate than the MSG or nationally. However, the rate per 100,000 population is lower than the MSG or national rate.

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 were fewer admissions in August 2022 compared to the previous year. Nationally admissions remain lower than the benchmark and the national trend is declining.

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 2022 which is 26.5% lower than year ending June 2019. Although the long-term trend is now increasing after a long period of decline in offences. National data shows the number of offences involving a firearm is increasing.

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 are declining.

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.

Cambridgeshire has seen a 12%¹ increase in violence with injury offences compared to year ending June 2019, whereas nationally the increase was 5%² and the MSG increase was 6%³. When compared to the last 12 months Cambridgeshire has seen a 19% increase which was above the national increase but in line with the MSG

¹ This is year ending September 2022 compared to year ending June 2019.

² This is the latest published data only - year ending June 2022 compared to the June 2019 benchmark

³ This is the latest published data only -year ending June 2022 compared to the June 2019 benchmark

increase. Although Cambridgeshire has a greater increase in violence with injury crime the rate per 100,000 population is lower than the MSG and National rate with 687 violence with injury crimes per 100,000 people for year ending September 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 42% increase in drug trafficking offences when compared to the baseline of year ending June 2019.

For year ending September 2022 there has been a 42% (+192) increase in offences compared to year ending June 2019 with the last quarter seeing the long-term trend increase. Cambridgeshire has the 10th highest rate per 100,000 population in trafficking offences in the year ending August 2022 at 75, which is above the national and MSG rate. Nationally the number of offences is also increasing. 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 Constabulary works with partners to raise awareness across communities. The Constabulary also completed its largest drug operation. The operation successfully dismantled 33 county lines, arrested 44 people resulting in 31 people being charged with 139 drug and human trafficking offences. Over 600,000 pounds worth of drugs were seized along with cash, vehicles, jewellery, and weapons.

Reduce neighbourhood crime

- Periods of national (and 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 overall neighbourhood crime still below levels seen before Covid, although offences are trending upwards nationally and locally.

- Overall vehicle crime is lower than the benchmark however theft from the vehicle is higher than the benchmark.
- When comparing the 12 months to September 2022 there has been the following changes in Cambridgeshire compared to the baseline of year ending June 2019.



A 20.1% drop in personal robbery offences

A 23.8% drop in theft from the person offences



A 3.2% increase in theft of vehicle offences

A 40.1% drop in theft from a vehicle offence

A 28.7% drop in vehicle interference



A 44.6% drop in residential burglary offences

Overall neighbourhood crime has not returned to levels seen pre-pandemic, 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 etc. Nationally, neighbourhood crime is 22% lower than year ending June 2019 for year ending June 2022⁴, in Cambridgeshire its 33.7% lower for year ending September 2022.

Vehicle crime⁵ accounts for over half (58%) 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 30.7% decline for year ending September 2022 compared to year ending June 2019. Nationally the decline is less.

⁴ The latest published national data

⁵ Vehicle offences defined as theft of/from a vehicle and vehicle interference

When broken down by vehicle offences, Cambridgeshire has seen an increase in vehicle inference in the last 6 months compared to the previous year which is higher than the national and MSG increase. Cambridgeshire has also seen theft of a vehicle offences increase by 50% in the last 6 months compared to the same time last year, however this is comparable to the national and MSG increases with all areas recording a higher number of offences than the June 2019 benchmark.

Operation Feline is the forces response to catalytic converter thefts, the most stolen item in theft from the vehicle thefts in 2022. Operation Feline includes dedicated high visibility patrols of hotspot areas, unmarked patrols, and security marking event of catalytic converters.

The national 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 all and are continuing to trend upwards nationally and for the MSG (although remain below pre-pandemic levels). Whereas in Cambridgeshire the long-term trend is stable and has reduced by 23.8% for year ending September 2022 compared to the benchmark. However, Cambridgeshire has the 9th highest rate per 100,000 although it's below the national rate.

All personal robbery offences declined during lockdown. In Cambridgeshire as restrictions lifted the number of offences increased and the long-term trend remains relatively stable but below the baseline. The long-term trend nationally and for the MSG is upwards. In Cambridgeshire for year ending September 2022 there had been a 20.1% reduction when compared to year ending June 2019 which is greater than the MSG reduction but comparable to 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 for all areas continues to increase. Cambridgeshire has recorded 44.6% fewer residential

burglary offences for year ending September 2022 when compared to year ending June 2019. This reduction is greater than national and the MSG. Although Cambridgeshire has a greater reduction in offences, the rate per 100,000 dwellings is higher in Cambridgeshire at 630 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 less satisfied than the benchmark of year ending March-2020, a decline of 3.9 percentage points with long-term trend continuing 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. The local victim survey for domestic abuse continues to show a decline in victim satisfaction from the peak seen in December 2021. For year ending September 2022 78.3% (n=69) were at least fairly satisfied with the whole experience. This 3.9ppt lower 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 75.1% (n=1255) for year ending September 2022. Victims of burglary are most satisfied with 84.9% (n=451) 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 a greater focus to embed the Victims' Code of Practice which is part of the 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 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. 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. There also continues to be further development of Operation Armour under the Safer streets 3 programme, which includes training of door staff, taxi marshal schemes, CCTV hotspots and social media campaigns. There is ongoing work to improve the recording of domestic abuse risk assessments and is currently under trial but once launched will save considerable time for officers and improve risk management.

Nationally the long-term trend for VAWG⁶ offences is stable after a period of increase and this same trend is seen in Cambridgeshire with offences increasing by 49% in the last 12 months compared to the benchmark⁷. Cambridgeshire has a rate 1,218 VAWG crimes per 100,000 population which is comparable to the MSG average and below the national rate.

When broken down by VAWG offence, stalking and harassment has seen the largest increase in Cambridgeshire. Since the benchmark stalking and harassment offences have increased by 59% which was higher than both the national and MSG increase. In Cambridgeshire, the long-term increase in offences is now halted, whereas the MSG continues to see an increase in offences. Nationally offences remain stable. The rate per 100,000 for stalking offences in Cambridgeshire is the 12th lowest rate, at 906 offences per 100,000. 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 large increase in Cambridgeshire up by 42% for year ending September 2022 compared to the benchmark. This is higher than the increase seen nationally or in the MSG. The rate per 100,000 population is 88 which is 18th 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.

⁶ VAWG offences: Rape, Sexual Assault, Stalking and Harassment and Other Sexual Offences

⁷ Benchmark for VAWG is different to the other national policing measures and is year ending March 2020.

Cambridgeshire has a comparable rate of 106 offences per 100,000 population compared to the MSG rate.

In Cambridgeshire sexual assault offences have seen an increase of 36% in the last 12 months compared to the benchmark, this comparable to the increase seen nationally but lower than the MSG. Cambridgeshire's rate per 100,000 is 126 which is comparable to the MSG and below the national 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 His Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) as "Good" for recording crime which gives confidence in the level of domestic abuse crimes in Cambridgeshire⁸. 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 high number of successful applications for Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPN and DVPO's) in the last year, roughly 12 a month. Cambridgeshire currently has the second highest 1,000 rate of DVPNs per 1,000 domestic abuse crimes out of the six forces in the Eastern Region.

Tackle Cyber Crime



- The Covid pandemic 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/cybercrime remains high and for year ending September 2022 was 238% higher than the benchmark in June 2019.

The number of recorded online/cyber enabled crime peaked in January 2022 and although offences remain high the long-term trend is now stable. In year ending June 2019 there were 551 crimes, for year ending September 2022 there were 1858 crimes. It is likely that part of increase between the two-time frames is in part down

⁸ [PEEL 2021/22: Police effectiveness, efficiency, and legitimacy – An inspection of Cambridgeshire Constabulary \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/peel-2021-22/)

to an increase in offences and improved use of keywords to identify cyber enabled offending. The Constabulary have found that cyber offences are becoming more complex and often overlap with fraud offences. The Constabulary is in the process of creating a flexible and cohesive Economic and Cyber Team by streamlining the current fraud and economic processes to create a central team that can manage future threats of economic and cybercrime.

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 response times, detection rates and overall crime levels. This next section provides a short update on overall police performance in the last quarter.

- Overall demand for 999 remains high whereas 101 demand remains stable and lower than previous years. The increase in demand over the summer and 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 was high over the summer months, however demand in September was the lowest since April. Nationally the demand on 999 calls remains high with the number of calls higher than 2019.

87.4% of 999 calls were answered within 10 seconds in the 12 months ending September 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 data⁹ shows that in August 2022 Cambridgeshire was the 8th 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. Although improvements were seen with the discrete month grade of service in September. 79% of 101 calls were answered within 30 seconds in the year ending September 2022. This comparable

⁹ Police.co.uk

to the benchmark (83.7%) but it is the lowest grade of service recorded in a rolling 12-month period. The average wait time remains higher than this time last year at 32 seconds but is lower than the peaks seen over the summer.

The median time to respond to immediate grade incidents has remained stable between 18 and 19 minutes each month in 2022. Priority grade response has deteriorated throughout the period of high demand over the summer, however in September the response time improved to 75 minutes. The prompt grade median remains high at 499 minutes for September, though this was lower than the highs seen over the summer. Against the backdrop of high response demand, achieving aspirational attendance times remains a challenge.

The Constabulary have several plans in place to improve call handling and response performance and it is routinely monitored as part of the area for improvement from HMICFRS's Peel report under Responding to the public. A detailed update from the Constabulary is to be presented to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) every 6 weeks to track improvements.

- 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 increased throughout the summer for both North and South policing areas with September seeing the long-term trend plateau. Recorded crime in the South is comparable to pre-covid levels whilst crime in the North is higher. An explanation for this includes the sustained reduction in cycle theft, which contributed much more to South Area (Cambridge City in particular) recorded crime than to North Areas. This upwards trend in crime is seen nationally. In the last 12 months the increase in crime was lower in Cambridgeshire (10%¹⁰) than National and MSG increase of 13%¹¹.

¹⁰ Year Ending September 2022 – In Cambs the year ending June 2022 figure is +0.2%

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

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 exceeding levels seen before the pandemic such as violent crime and sexual offences.

The latest ONS data¹² shows that Cambridgeshire has a higher increase in the following crime types; Violence with injury, shoplifting, public order offences 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 June 2022. 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 and residential burglary remaining below pre-Covid levels.



- Improvements in the prosecution possible outcome rate have seen Cambridgeshire improve to have the 8th highest outcome rate for year ending August 2022.

The all-crime outcome rate for the 12 months ending September 2022 was 13.9%, the highest since March 2021. Both Policing Areas have seen an increase in their outcome rate. There continues to be improvement across most crime groups which is evidence that the Constabulary is delivering positive outcomes and achieving justice for victims; routinely using innovative diversionary outcomes such as CARA an intervention of perpetrators of low-risk domestic abuse. The latest data shows that Cambridgeshire's outcome rate for all crime is 8th highest out of 43 forces. This is a substantial improvement to previous year when Cambridgeshire ranked 33rd out of 43 forces and the highest position in recent years.

¹² [Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk) (Year ending June 2022)