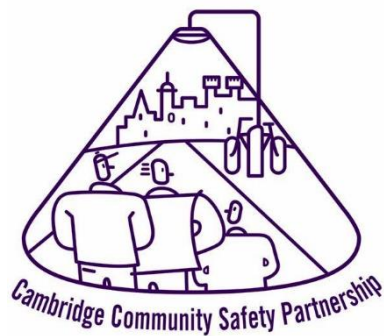


# COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT: CAMBRIDGE CITY 2021/22

VERSION 1.1



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# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 Understanding the wider context – Countywide View**

The Cambridge City Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is one of six within the Cambridgeshire police force area alongside county thematic groups that makes up the County Community Safety Board. This Countywide approach encompasses the two-tier area of Cambridgeshire and the unitary authority of Peterborough City Council. It enables a much more developed joined-up approach to community safety, particularly around thematic areas such as safeguarding, domestic abuse, substance misuse and offending.

The complexity of the overall community safety agenda is best tackled in a matrix management approach (see Appendix B for the countywide matrix) allowing for agencies to lead or support where appropriate. This allows the Cambridge City CSP to be heavily involved in developing strategies whilst freeing up the CSP itself to tackle local issues.

## **1.2 Current Context – COVID-19**

It has been a challenging year both nationally and locally as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Various measures have been put in place to manage the pandemic over 2020/21 including national lockdowns, with widespread impacts on society.

While the last lockdown period ended in March 2021 with subsequent relaxation of restrictions, changes in behaviour compared to the pre-pandemic period have continued.

The COVID-19 lockdown periods are defined throughout this report as follows with summary time periods shown on charts.

Table 1: Lockdown periods represented in this report (Sources listed in Appendix)

Label	Summary Time Period	Actual Dates	Phase
Lockdown period	Apr to Jun 2020 November 2020 January to March 2021	23rd March 2020 –to 15 <sup>th</sup> June/ 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2020, 5th Nov 2020 to 2nd December 2020, 6th January 2021 to 29th March 2021	Stay at home advice
Lockdown easing period	December 2020 April to Jul 2021	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 to 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2020, 2nd December 2020 to 6th January 2021 And to 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Relaxation of restrictions, gradual re-opening of businesses and partial behavioural changes/ restrictions

Cambridge CSP recognises the goodwill of the community’s response to Covid-19 with communities working well together with positive results to be able to identify and resolve issues experienced at this time.

The CSP member organisations have been actively involved in the countywide community reference group response to the pandemic. Activities to highlight include;

- Emergency Housing Provision for the homeless and victims of domestic abuse.
- A strong harm reduction focus on substance and alcohol misuse throughout lockdowns.
- A robust offer to families and young people including provision of IT equipment and internet connection, and wellbeing for young people to tackle mental health.

- A virtual community centre was set up with the closure of community centres.
- Significant partnership work with licensed premises and businesses to mitigate any issues during lockdowns and the re-opening of the city centre.

### **1.3 National trends and the effects of COVID-19**

During the pandemic recorded crime patterns changed resulting in an overall level remaining static (when including fraud and computer misuse offences). This however does not provide insight into what was happening to victims<sup>1</sup>.

For example, the Telephone Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) found a 20% decrease in theft but a 24% increase in fraud offences in 2020/21 compared to 2018/19. The Crime Survey for England and Wales has remained as a telephone survey (Telephone Crime Survey for England and Wales - TCSEW) since the start of the pandemic and this change in methodology should be noted.

8 out of 10 adults surveyed in the TCSEW has not experienced any of the crimes asked about during the previous year. At 8% of adults, fraud was the most commonly experienced crime type, followed by computer misuse at 3%. The TCSEW also highlighted a 20% reduction in theft and a 15% reduction in violent offences from 2018/19 to 2020/21.

Police recorded data showed a 16% reduction in homicides to 600 from 2019/20 to 2020/21, along with a 15% reduction in knife or sharp instrument offences. In addition, police recorded burglary, robbery and vehicle offences also decreased between 2019/20 and 2020/21 by 30%, 34% and 28% respectively.

The pandemic has had a notable effect on crime offence rates in 2020/21. Whilst some seasonal fluctuations in crime offences are expected every year, the large fluctuations in data in 2020/21 can also

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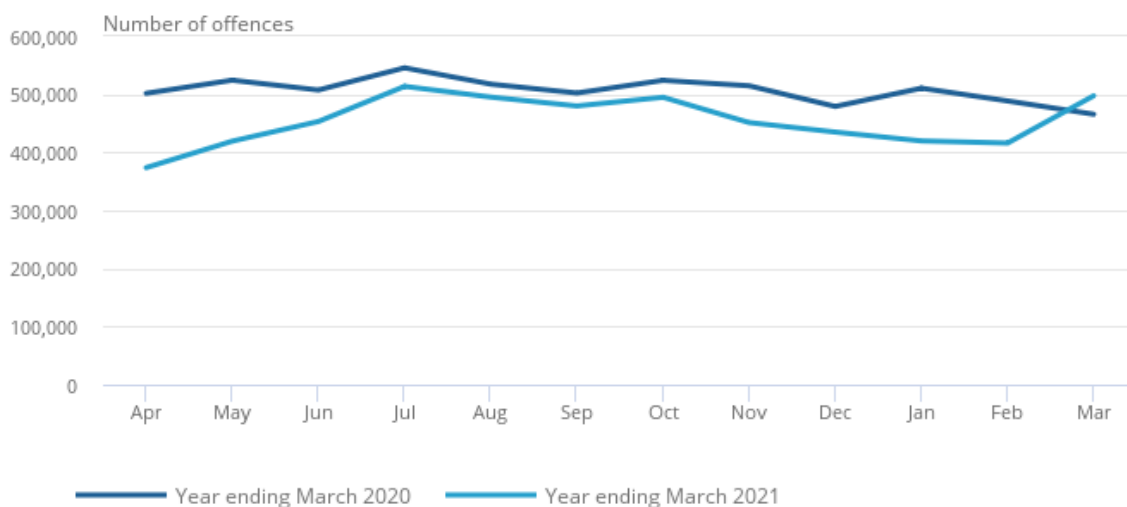
<sup>1</sup> [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk) ending March 2021

be in part attributed to the effects of the COVID-19 national lockdowns during the year.

The largest decrease in police recorded crime trends occurred in April 2020, with a 26% decrease from April 2019 (see Figure ) which coincided with the first national lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Crime rates returned towards 2019/20 levels during the summer of 2020 as COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were eased.

However, notable decreases occurred during the winter, with January 2021 showing an 18% decrease from the same month in 2020, again coinciding with the introduction of the strict national lockdown imposed in January 2021.

**Figure 1: Police recorded crime offences for 2019/20 and 2020/21. Monthly data for England and Wales. Source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime.**



The negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health has been highlighted nationally<sup>2</sup>. National surveys have evidenced a decline in mental wellbeing since the beginning of the pandemic<sup>3</sup>. There is also evidence that those with mental health challenges prior to the pandemic have since experienced greater challenges, and that the mental health of young people has been particularly negatively impacted<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> [2. Important findings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/important-findings-from-the-2020-mental-health-survey)

<sup>3</sup> [3. Coronavirus and depression in adults, Great Britain - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandwellbeing/mentalhealth/articles/coronavirusanddepressioninadultsgreatbritain/2020-12-01)

<sup>4</sup> [4. the-consequences-of-coronavirus-for-mental-health-final-report.pdf \(mind.org.uk\)](https://www.mind.org.uk/about-us/reports-and-publications/the-consequences-of-coronavirus-for-mental-health-final-report.pdf)

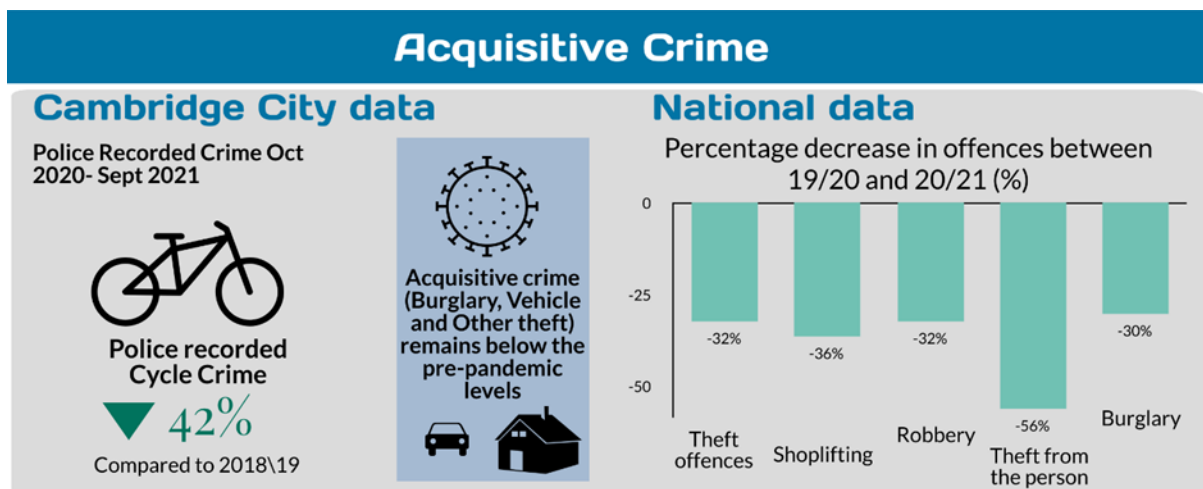


## 2. Executive summary

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have influenced crime and community safety issues in a variety of ways, national evidence for which is outlined in the introduction of this report.

### 2.1 Personal Safety

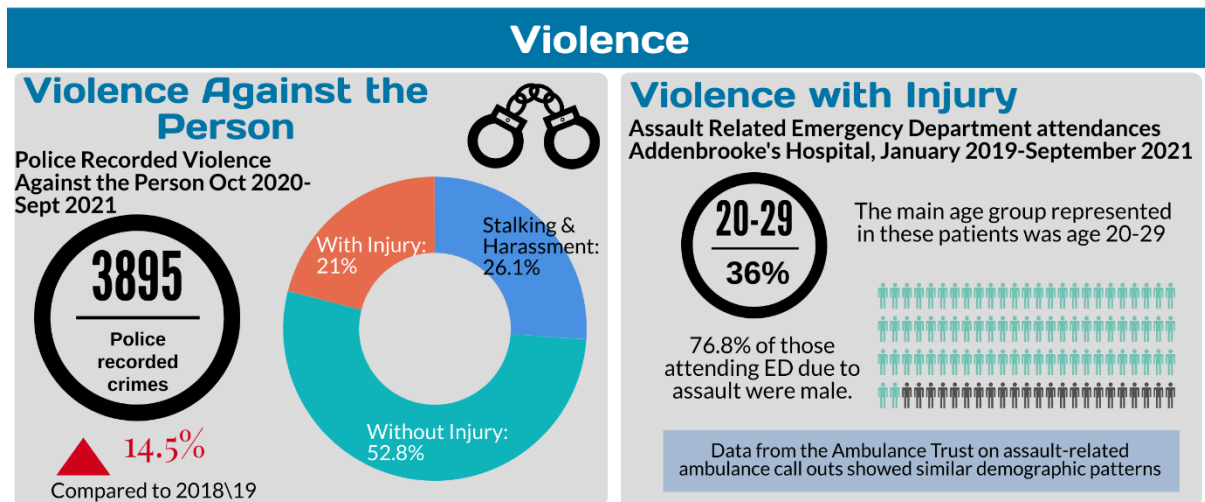
The issues discussed in the Personal Safety section of this report particularly relate to the current first priority of the partnership, 'Protecting young people from violence and exploitation'. Key types of acquisitive crime (Burglary, Vehicle and Other theft) remain below the pre-pandemic levels in Cambridge City, in line with national trends. Cycle theft also reflects this and local data to show the changes in cycling behaviour has also been provided for context.



Modern slavery is also included in this section of the report, noting that Modern Slavery is likely impacted by travel restrictions such that victims already in the UK may be at increased risk at this time.

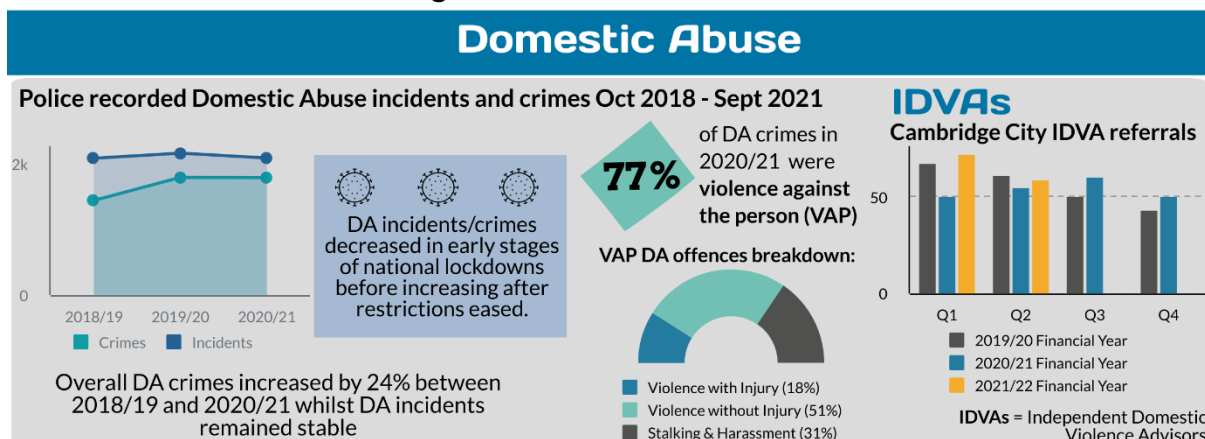
The overall trend in Violence Against the Person (VAP) for Cambridge city shows an increase in yearly average, driven by increases in the Stalking and Harassment Crime type. There have been marked fluctuations where national lockdown periods have suppressed the volume of VAP, and subsequent increases as lockdowns eased. Key

demographics affected by violence with injury locally remain consistently males and those aged 20-29.



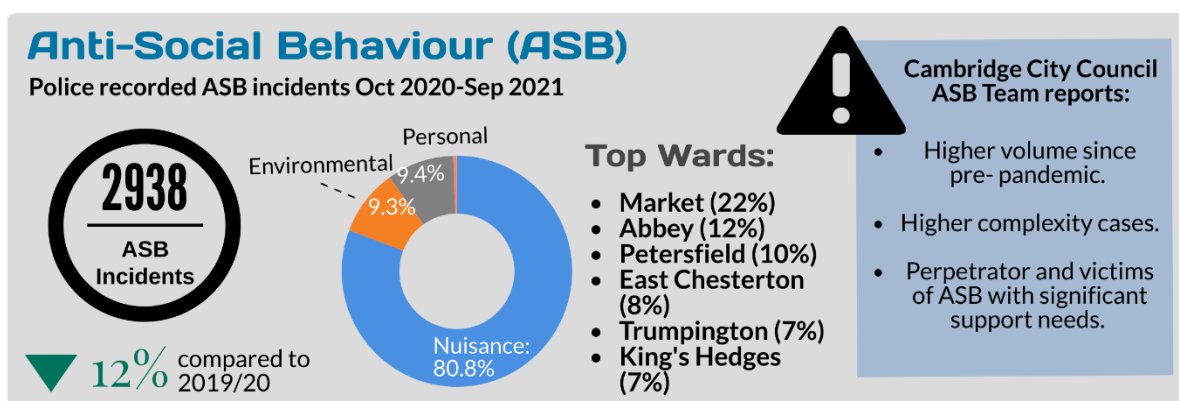
Information has been provided to give an up-to-date view of the crime types young people have been victims of in Cambridge City over the past year. This highlights Violence Against the Person and Sexual Offences as a key crime type affecting young people in the City when compared to those over the age of 18.

Police recorded domestic abuse incidents and crimes in Cambridge City have followed national pattern of decrease within the early stages of national lockdowns and then increase after lockdown restrictions have eased each time. Referrals for IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) support have also increased after national lockdowns have eased. There are local efforts to link domestic abuse work with suicide prevention and national calls to address Tech-abuse, both of which could enhance the existing work of the CSP on domestic abuse.



## 2.2 Community Harm

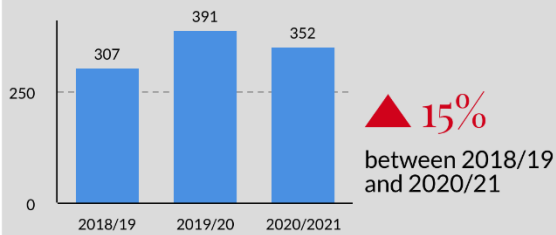
The issues discussed in the community harm section of this report align with the current second priority of the Partnership 'Listening to community needs and responding together to reduce harm'. Whilst the volume of antisocial behaviour reported to the police has reduced since 2019/20, there has been an increase in the complexity of cases being brought to the Cambridge City Council Anti-Social Behaviour team. This has been illustrated by a set of case studies provided by this team to inform the strategic assessment.



As well as long term increases nationally, recent increases in police recorded hate crime in Cambridge City have been described. Analysis of local data is also provided to highlight that hate crime can incorporate a wide variety of crime types, not just public order offences (with which there is common overlap). Relative stability in the number of clients in treatment for Substance misuse in Cambridge City has been noted this year, even though other key indicators have been greatly affected by the disruption of national lockdowns and restrictions.

## Hate crime

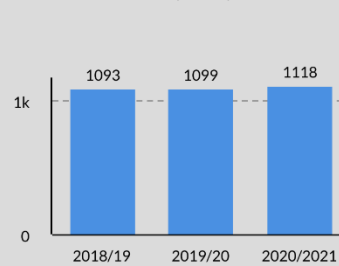
Police recorded Hate Crimes Oct 2018-Sep 2021



Hate crime can incorporate a wide variety of crime types, not just public order offences.

## Substance Misuse

Clients in treatment in Cambridge City by year and Substance (CGL)



The number of Cambridge City residents in drug and alcohol treatment remain relatively stable, despite COVID-19 related challenges.

## Environmental Community Safety Issues

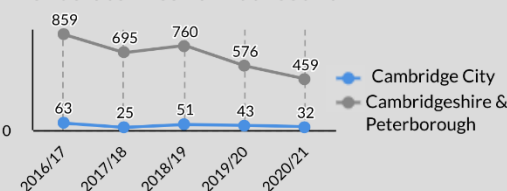
### Fire

Fire service recorded fires

**214**  
fires in Cambridge  
October 2020 -  
September 2021

of these, only **32** were  
deliberate  
fires (15%)  
▼ 26%  
compared to  
2019/20

Deliberate fires - annual count



Listening to communities directly has enabled the CSP to hear concern around youth related crime and violence, including from young people. This may continue to inform the CSP in relation to priority 1 ('Protecting Young People from Violence and Exploitation').

National and local evidence highlights an increase in fraud, scams and cybercrime which requires more information to be understood locally. Traditional data sources do not readily capture the extent of these issues due to underreporting of these crime types, so the marked increase is likely to be much higher in reality.

## New concerns - Fraud, scams and cyber-crime

Total counts of cyber-crime offences



▲ 149%  
between 2018/19 and  
2020/21

Note: this crime type is  
underreported.



An emerging issue of concern  
nationally in the context of the  
COVID-19 pandemic.

## **2.3 Recommendations**

The restrictions and national lockdown periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic have influenced crime and community safety issues in a rapid and wide-ranging way since early 2020. With these rapid changes to reflect on, long term trends have of course been affected. Time is needed to understand what changes will remain. The restrictions that generated such rapid changes have since eased, however behaviours have still shifted with an impact on vulnerability to different crime types. Key examples include more time spent online and more time in the home which will have influenced crimes occurring via online means (increased) and burglary (decreased).

It is recommended that the CSP retain the existing current broad priorities at this challenging time, however it is important to build a local understanding of how increases in cyber crime, fraud, scams, and tech abuse relate to those key priorities. Building such an understanding is an opportunity to further enhance the work of the CSP.

### **2.3.1 PRIORITY 1: PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION**

Maintaining this priority is supported by:

- Concerns for young people in Cambridge City, highlighted by the Youth (Anti-Social Behaviour) ASB team as well as supported by an increase in the proportion of police recorded ASB relating to Youth in the city.
- National reports indicating young people's mental health has been negatively impacted by the pandemic which could generate greater vulnerability in this group.
- Analysis of victim data highlighting the dominance of Violence Against the Person as a key crime type affecting young people.
- Continued learning from the Cambs Against County Lines project.

- Young male victims remaining the key demographic impacted by violence with injury (nationally and locally), regardless of the pandemic.
- Area committees within Cambridge City continuing to indicate youth related crime and violence as a concern.

### **2.3.2 PRIORITY 2: LISTENING TO COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RESPONDING TOGETHER TO REDUCE HARM**

Maintaining this priority is supported by:

- National and local evidence is showing the changing pattern from ‘traditional’ crime to more tech and digital enabled crime. This is less well understood due to gaps in traditional data sources. Listening to local communities and gaining their lived experience would provide unique insight into this growing concern.
- As well as long term increases nationally, recent increases in police recorded hate crime in Cambridge City have been described. Hate crime is historically under-reported and therefore communities are an invaluable source of information. Community based responses may be a way forward in supporting victims here.
- Listening to communities directly has enabled the CSP to hear concern around youth related crime and violence, including from young people.
- The potential for the Community Safety partnership to link with the Vision Zero Partnership to help address road safety concerns raised by communities within the City.
- Some additional items for the CSP to note in future plans are listed below.
- The CSP is advised to take note of the likely future actions required by introduction of the Serious Violence Duty (at a time yet to be confirmed).
- A County Domestic Abuse Strategic Board will be established with the CSP represented on this, the CSP will need to plan for how this will feed into and enhance existing work of the CSP on Domestic Abuse. Likewise there will need to be consideration of

the role the CSP has in building links between the DASVP (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership) and Suicide Prevention Boards.

### **3. Personal Safety**

Measures to mitigate COVID-19 have led to lower levels of acquisitive crime nationally and locally, all key types of acquisitive crime (Burglary, Vehicle and Other theft) remain below the pre-pandemic levels in Cambridge City. This also applies to cycle theft; locally sourced data indicates a shift in travel behaviour (different volume of cyclists and which times they travel). This contextual information is of relevance to the focused work of the Cycle Crime Prevention task and finish group.

DA (Domestic Abuse) incidents and DA crimes in Cambridge City have followed national pattern of decrease within the early stages of national lockdowns and then increase after lockdown restrictions have eased each time. Referrals for IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) support have also increased after national lockdowns have eased. Scope for enhance work around suicide prevention and tech abuse relating to DA are outlined in this section of the report, as well as ongoing work in response to the recent countywide DA accommodation needs assessment.

In regards Modern Slavery, national reports indicate a period of increased risk for victims already in the UK whilst potential victims have been unable to travel to the UK due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions. Locally there has been a year-on-year increase in Modern Slavery offences identified in Cambridge City, however data is not available to show how this may or may not link to the impacts of travel restrictions to date.

The overall trend in Violence Against the Person (VAP) for Cambridge city shows an increase in yearly average, driven by increases in the Stalking and Harassment Crime type. There have been marked

fluctuations where national lockdown periods have suppressed the volume of VAP, and subsequent increases as lockdowns eased.

This is notable in national and local trends of violence with injury, reflecting in the healthcare data too. Key demographics affected by violence with injury locally are males and those aged 20-29 (again in line with national trends maintaining despite the pandemic).

Information has been provided to support the existing CSP priority (Protecting Young People from Violence and Exploitation) to give an up-to-date view of the crime types young people have been victims of in Cambridge City over the past year. For younger children (aged 0-11) violence against the person accounted for 64% of all crimes experienced, a notably higher proportion than seen for older children (42%) and adults (38%).

Sexual offences accounted for a higher proportion of the crimes experienced by both 0-11 years old and 12-17 years old when compared to those aged over 18. Constabulary-wide Child Sexual Exploitation crimes have seen a year-on-year increase since 2017/18. Cambridge City has not followed this pattern with a lower number of Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes recorded in 2020-21 compared to the previous year. An update on progress of the County Lines Transformation Project (now known as 'Cambs Against County Lines') has also been provided here.

### **3.1 Acquisitive crime**

Nationally police recorded crime data saw a 32% decrease in theft offences between 2019/20 and 2020/21<sup>5</sup>. These decreases were likely driven by the national lockdowns which saw non-essential shops and the night-time economy close for many months. The police recorded a 36% decrease in shoplifting between 2019/20 and 2020/21 and a 32% decrease in robbery, the first annual decrease in this offence type since 2014/15.

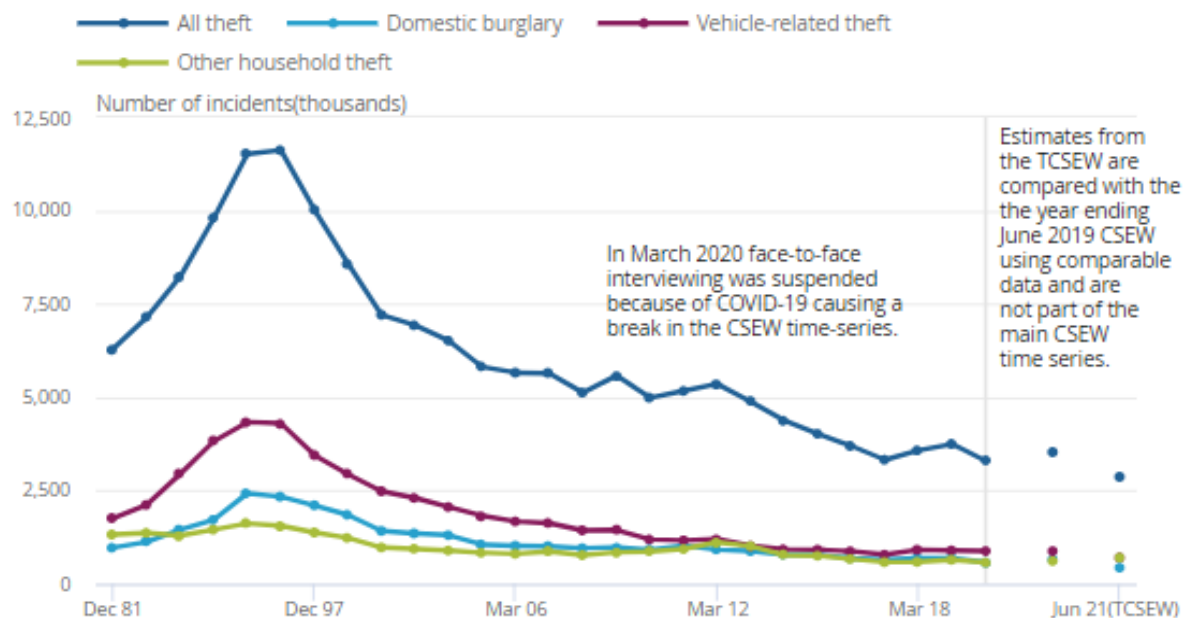
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<sup>5</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021>



In addition, increased limits on social contact and more time at home for many likely led to the reductions in theft from the person offences, which saw a 56% decrease, and of burglary which saw a 30% decrease from 2019/20. Supporting this data, the Telephone Crime Survey for England and Wales reported 3 million theft incidents in 2020/21, a 20% decrease on the 2018/19 figure. Similar to police-recorded crime datasets, the TCSEW (Telephone Crime Survey for England and Wales) highlighted a 47% decrease in theft from the person and a 33% decrease in domestic burglary offences between 2018/19 and 2020/21.

**Figure 3: Crime Survey for England and Wales annual estimates of theft offences 1981-2021 England and Wales, annual estimates**

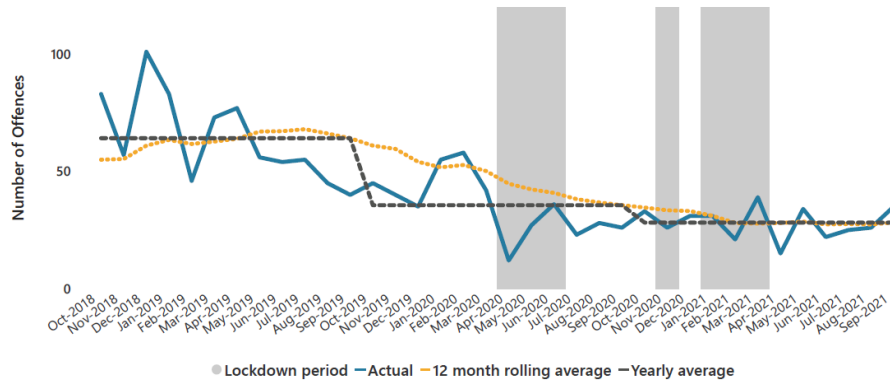


Police data for Cambridge City shows that burglary (both residential and commercial & community type) continues to maintain below pre-pandemic levels, in line with national trend. This is likely an effect of people spending more time at home during and since national lockdowns as well as continued recommendations to work from home where possible. Likewise, vehicle crime in Cambridge City is maintaining at a lower volume since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

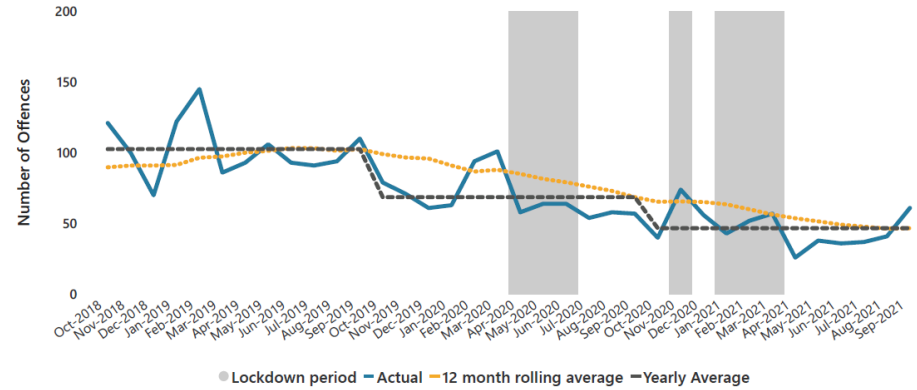
‘Other theft’ refers to offences where property has been stolen but has not been taken directly from a person who is carrying it, during a burglary or from a shop. Example offence sub-types in this category

include blackmail, theft by an employee, theft from an automatic machine etc. In Cambridge City other theft dropped notably during the national lockdowns, spiking after restrictions were lifted. It should be noted that despite these spikes, counts are still below the monthly average for 2019.

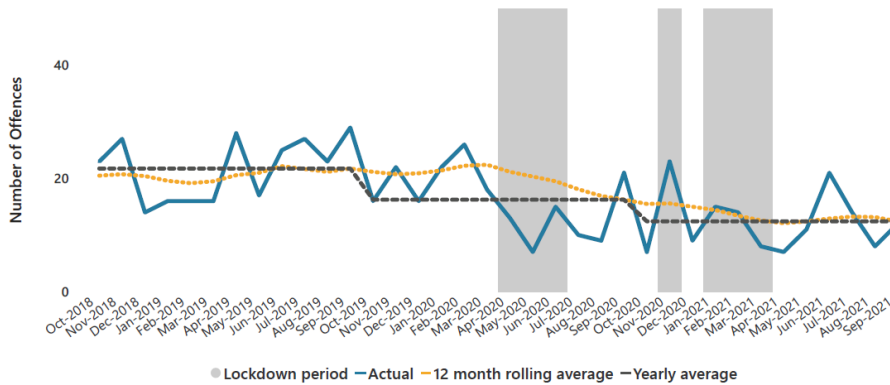
**Figure 4: Police recorded Burglary (Residential) Cambridge City, Oct 2018 - Sep 2021**



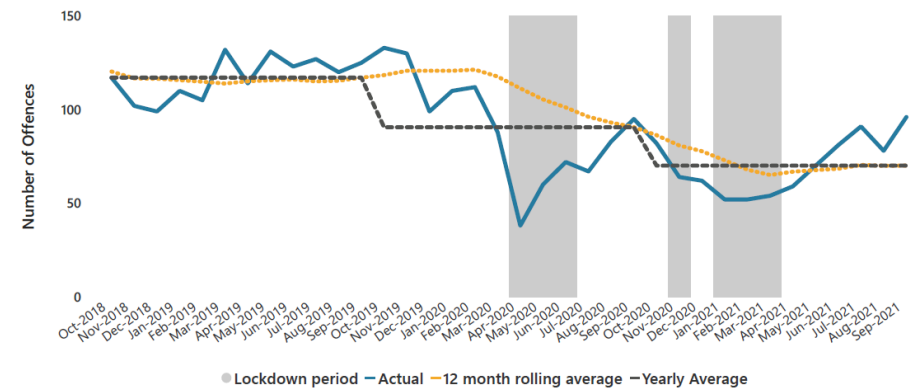
**Figure 5: Vehicle crime in Cambridge City, Oct 2018 - Sept 2021**



**Figure 6: Police recorded Burglary (Business and Community) Cambridge City, Oct 2018 - Sept 2020**



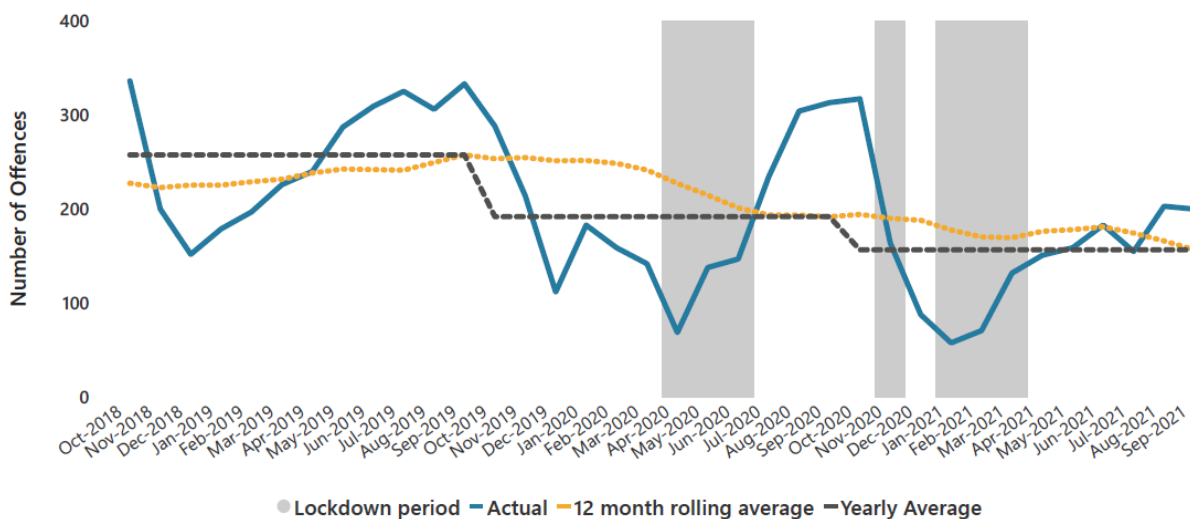
**Figure 7: Other theft in Cambridge City, October 2018-Sept 2021**



### 3.1.1 Cycle Theft

Police recorded cycle crime in Cambridge City is routinely monitored by the Cycle Crime prevention task and finish group, part of the CSP (Community Safety Partnership). The chart below shows data which is also provided to this group by Cambridgeshire constabulary with the national lockdown periods for context. Cycle crime was evidently suppressed during the three national lockdowns when movement was restricted. There was a 42% reduction in police recorded cycle crime from September 2019 to September 2021.

**Figure 8: Police recorded cycle crime in Cambridge City October 2018- September 2021, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.**

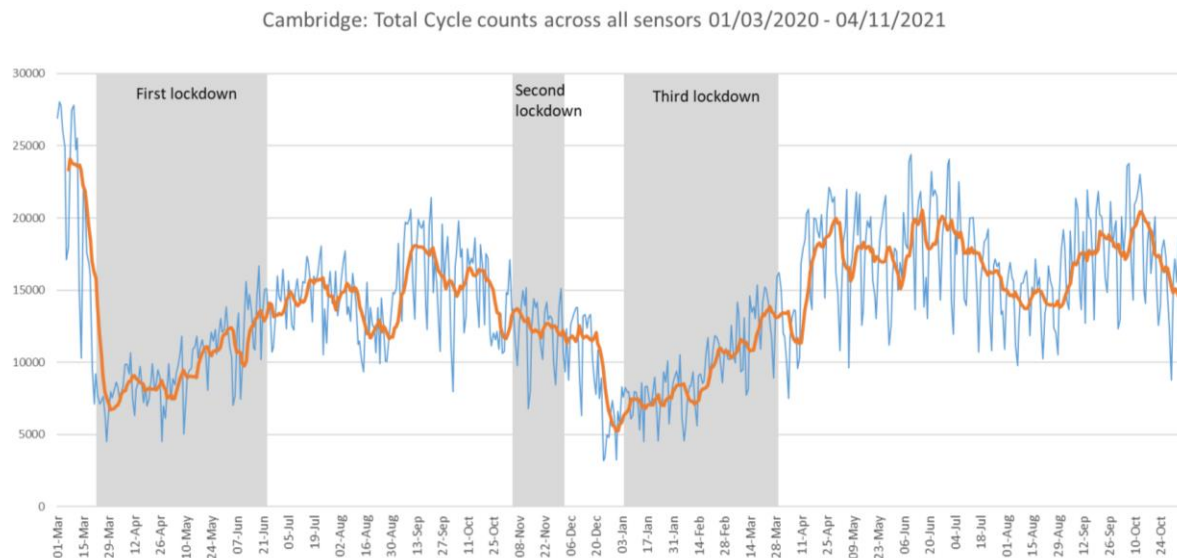


Cycle counts are monitored by Vivacity Smart Sensors across Cambridge City. Smart Sensor data shows a distinct reduction in numbers from the start of the pandemic from a rolling average rate of about ~ 31,000 to below ~10,000 during the third national lockdown.

Recent data suggests cycle count numbers are increasing on weekdays when compared to weekends (+36% higher on weekdays), possibly reflecting increases in the number of people returning to workplaces. Such changes in cycling behaviour, due to the impacts of

COVID-19 on travel patterns in the longer term, may need to be considered in cycle crime prevention activities going forward.

**Figure 9: Total Cycle counts from Vivacity monitors in Cambridge City – March 2020 to October 2021**



The above charts show that neither cycling counts nor cycle theft have yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.

### 3.2 Domestic Abuse

2021 has seen changes in legislation relating to Domestic Abuse via the Domestic Abuse Act 2021<sup>6</sup>. It should be noted that the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines domestic abuse beyond physical violence and encompasses emotional, controlling and coercive behaviour, and economic abuse between two people aged 16 or over who are personally connected<sup>7</sup>.

New requirements mean that a County Domestic Abuse Strategic Board will be established with the CSP (Community Safety Partnership) represented on this. A County Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment was also carried out locally to meet the new legislative change. There is a Domestic Abuse Partnership for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted>

<sup>7</sup> An explanation can be found at [Domestic Abuse | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](https://www.cps.gov.uk/domestic-abuse)

which has recently agreed and published a Safe Accommodation Strategy.<sup>8</sup>

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) completed the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment in summer 2021. This considered the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area as a whole.

The key findings from this are provided in the infographic below for information.

The key recommendations from this needs assessment were to increase accommodation support for the following groups:

- Lithuanian and Polish women
- Gypsy/ traveller communities
- Older people
- Women
- People with uncertain immigration status
- Residents with disabilities (especially women with mental health issues and those misusing substances).

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<sup>8</sup> The Strategy document is available at [cambsdasv.org.uk](http://cambsdasv.org.uk).

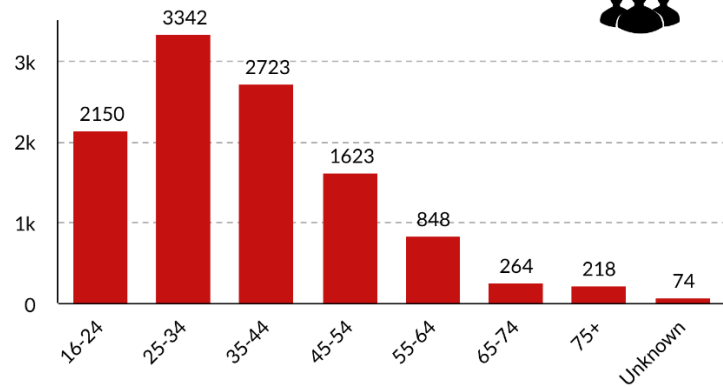
**Figure 10: Summary of key findings from the safe accommodation needs assessment 2021 (DASVP/ Cambridgeshire Research Group 2021)**

## Victims

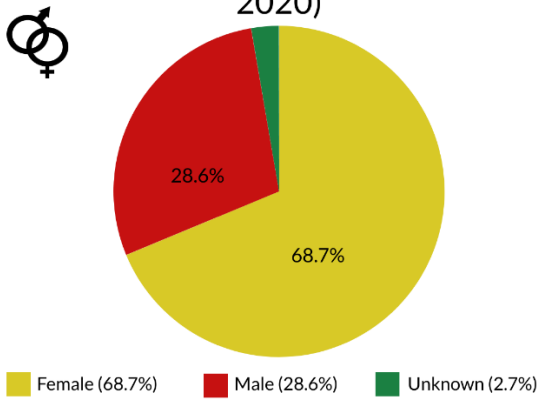
The largest age group using Domestic Abuse support services in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area is people between the age of 25-34.

More female victims of DA are at higher risk than male victims.

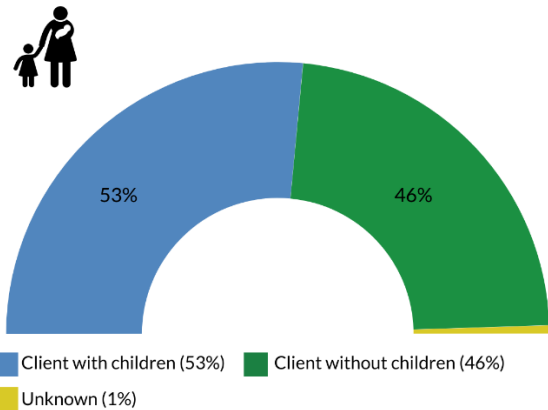
Number of victims of domestic abuse by age groups (20/21)



Gender Identity of victims (March 2020)



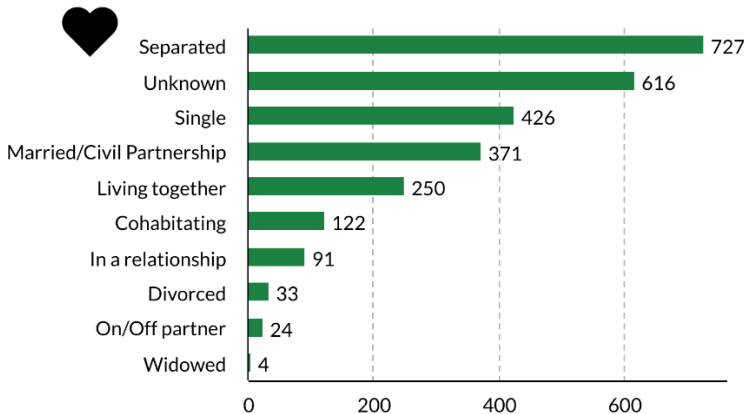
IDVA service clients and their children



Police recorded data

IDVA = Independent Domestic Violence Advisors

Victims of domestic abuse by marital status



A larger proportion of IDVA clients did have children compared to those who did not.

Most victims using support services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were separated.

**Data Sources:**

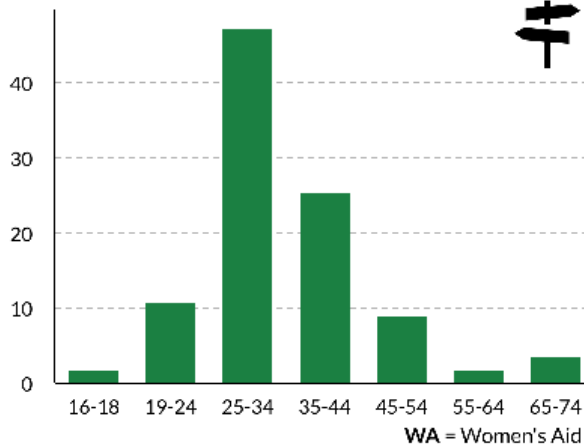
Data sets are provided from the following support services for year 2020/21: Adult Social Care, Aspire Peterborough CGL, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Children's Social Care, IDVA Service, MARAC, Probation, Rape Crisis, Refuge Outreach, SARC, WA Cambridge Outreach, WA Peterborough Outreach and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

# Refuge Accommodation

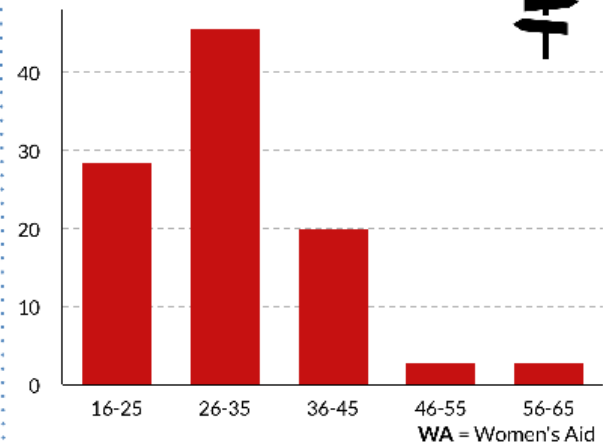
Most people staying in refuge were aged between 25-35 (26-35 for Cambridge Women's Aid).

A low amount of successfully referred people were aged 46 or over.

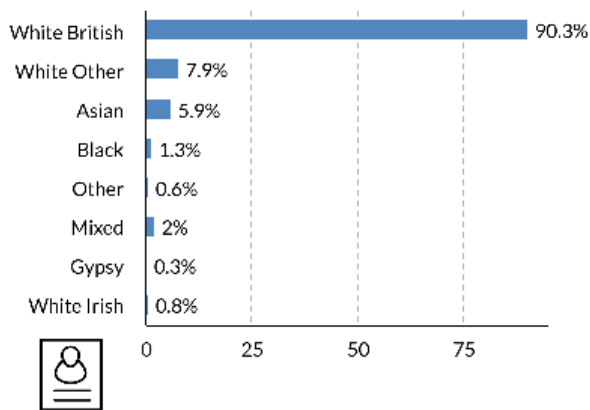
% of successful referrals by age (Refuge & Peterborough WA)



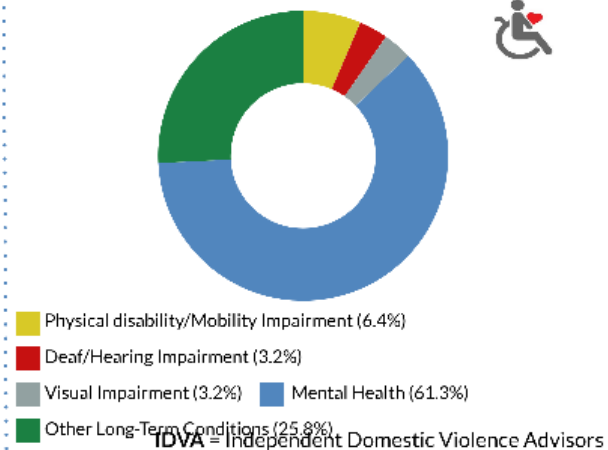
% of successful referrals by age (Cambridge WA)



Ethnicity of those staying in refuge



Disability of those referred to refuge successfully



Majority of clients are White British.

If clients have uncertain legal status, they may not be entitled to public funds.

34% of successful referrals from 2020/21 were recorded as having a disability.

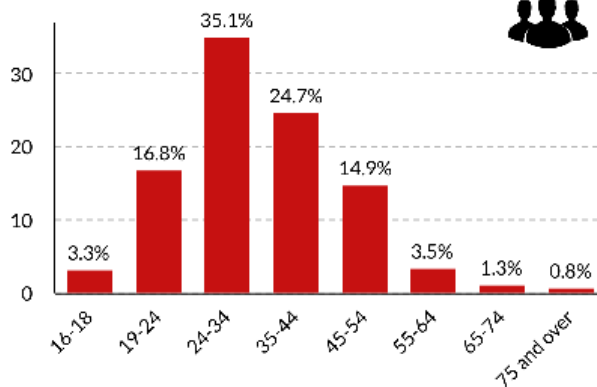
**Data Sources:**

Data sets are provided from the following support services for year 2020/21: Adult Social Care, Aspire Peterborough CGL, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Children's Social Care, IDVA Service, MARAC, Probation, Rape Crisis, Refuge Outreach, SARC, WA Cambridge Outreach, WA Peterborough Outreach and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.



## Housing options beyond emergency accommodation

### Domestic Abuse victims on housing register 20/21 by age



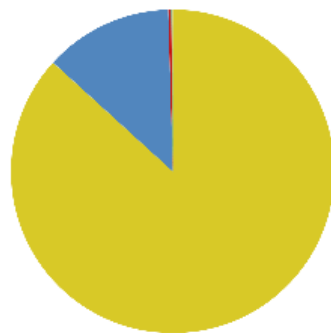
Note: this chart includes data of all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough districts except Huntingdon, this is due to data quality and limitations.

The most common age group of victims on housing register due to DA was 25-34 yrs.

The large majority of those accessing housing services at the district councils were female.

The most common disability recorded across the district councils in 2020 was 'history of mental health problems'.

### Victims of Domestic Abuse on housing register by Gender

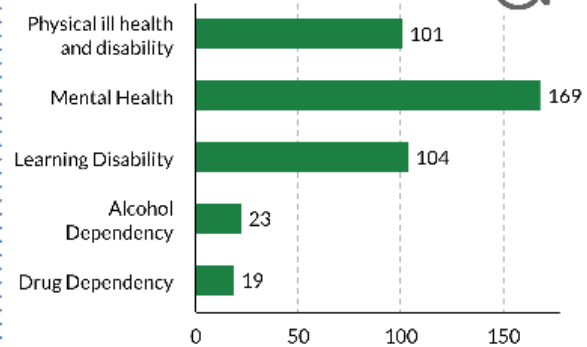


Female (86.7%) Male (12.8%) Unknown (0.3%)  
Transgender (0.1%)

#### Data Sources:

Data sets are provided from the following support services for year 2020/21: Adult Social Care, Aspire Peterborough CGL, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Children's Social Care, IDVA Service, MARAC, Probation, Rape Crisis, Refuge Outreach, SARC, WA Cambridge Outreach, WA Peterborough Outreach and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

### Disability of those referred to refuge (Cambridgeshire only)



## Key recommendations

#### Increasing support/services for specific groups of residents:

- Lithuanian and Polish women
- Gypsy/traveller communities
- Older people
- Women
- People with uncertain immigration status
- Residents with disabilities (especially women with mental health issues and misusing substances)

Limitations of the report: inconsistent data across agencies.

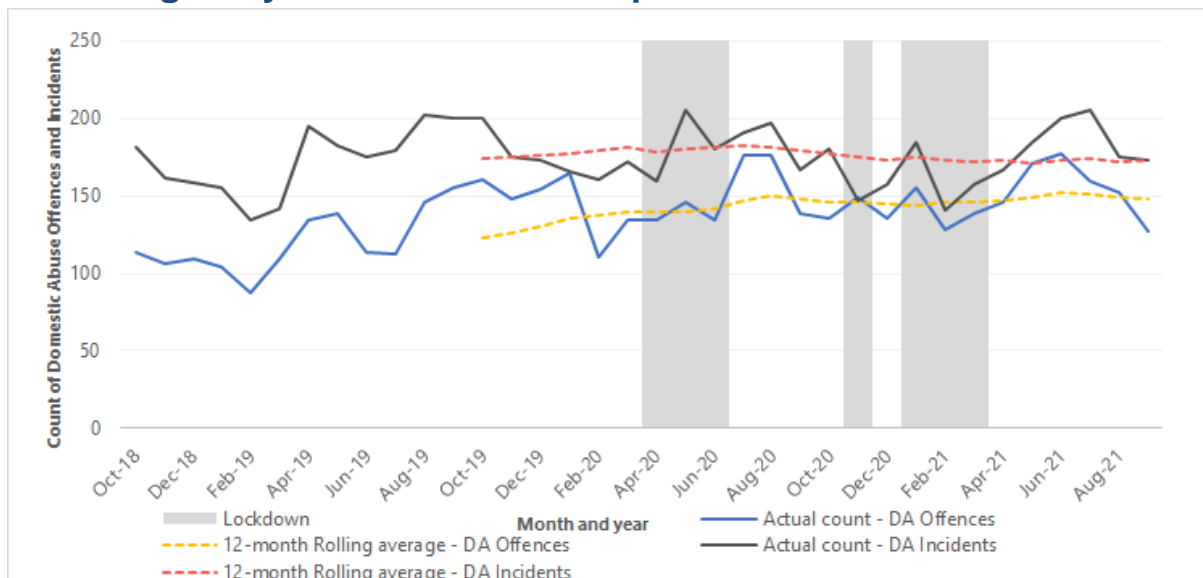
## Police recording of Domestic Abuse

**Domestic Abuse Incident:** A report of a domestic incident, which occurs in either a public or private place. Recording such incidents enables data to capture those incidents where the circumstances do not amount to a notifiable crime i.e., not all domestic abuse incidents result in a crime being recorded<sup>9</sup>.

**Domestic Abuse Crime:** Domestic Abuse Crime is not limited to specific offences. Any police recorded crime can be flagged as Domestic Abuse related and as such would be counted as a 'Domestic Abuse Crime'.

The figures below show that both DA (Domestic Abuse) incidents and DA crimes in Cambridge City have followed a similar overall pattern of decrease within the early stages of national lockdowns and then increase after lockdown restrictions have eased each time.

**Figure 11: Police recorded Domestic Abuse incidents and Crimes in Cambridge City October 2018 to September 2021**



This local data does reflect patterns identified in rapid research in response to the pandemic, conducted across several UK police force

<sup>9</sup> [The National Standard for Incident Recording NSIR 2011 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

areas. This pattern has been attributed to separation as a known trigger for escalation in domestic abuse<sup>10</sup>. Fewer victims separated in the early stages of each lockdown and separations were likely delayed until lockdown eased. As such a post-lockdown increases become evident. As the table below shows, the rate of incidents per 1,000 population is maintained higher than the rate of DA crime in Cambridge City.

Increases in the rate of DA crime per 1000 population are likely to reflect improved reporting and recording practices. It should however be acknowledged that these figures will include repeat victimisation at an unknown rate.

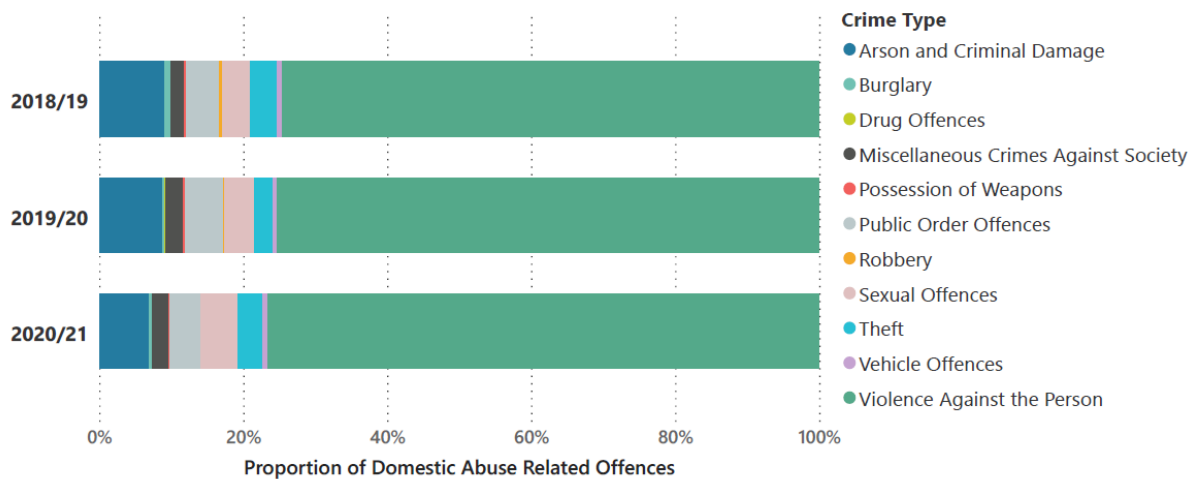
**Table 2: Police recorded DA incidents and DA crimes in Cambridge City, with rate per 1000 population for each year 2018/19 to 2020/21**

Year (Oct-Sept)	Total number of incidents	Rate of incidents per 1,000 population	Total number of crimes	Total number of crimes per 1,000 population
2018/19	2068	16.44	1431	11.38
2019/20	2147	17.20	1780	14.26
2020/21	2072	16.57	1779	14.22

It is important to acknowledge that DA related offences can be across all crime types. The breakdown of offences in Cambridge City are shown below, with a vast majority being VAP (Violence Against the Person) offences, but many other offence types do feature.

<sup>10</sup> [How Covid-19 is impacting domestic abuse reported to the police - Womens Aid](#) Rapid research by Hohl and Johnson 2020-21.

**Figure 12: DA related offences by crime type in Cambridge City**



Breaking the most frequent DA related crime group of Violence Against the Person down to offence types for 2018/19 to 2020/21, Stalking and Harassment offences formed 21.6%; Violence with injury 14.4% and Violence without injury offences 39.6% of DA related offences in Cambridge City.

For DA related offences of the Arson and Criminal Damage crime group, a majority were criminal damage and only 0.1% of all DA related offences were Arson in 2018/19 to 2020/21.

Technology-facilitated abuse (‘Tech abuse’) is acknowledged as a growing problem in the UK<sup>11</sup>. It is understood that technologies ranging from online accounts to internet enabled home devices are frequently utilised during abuse, more so since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>1213</sup>.

An exploration of current available data and more in-depth analysis would be required to understand tech abuse at a county or district level. However, with national awareness raising ongoing the partnership

<sup>11</sup> [Tech abuse - Refuge Charity - Domestic Violence Help](#)

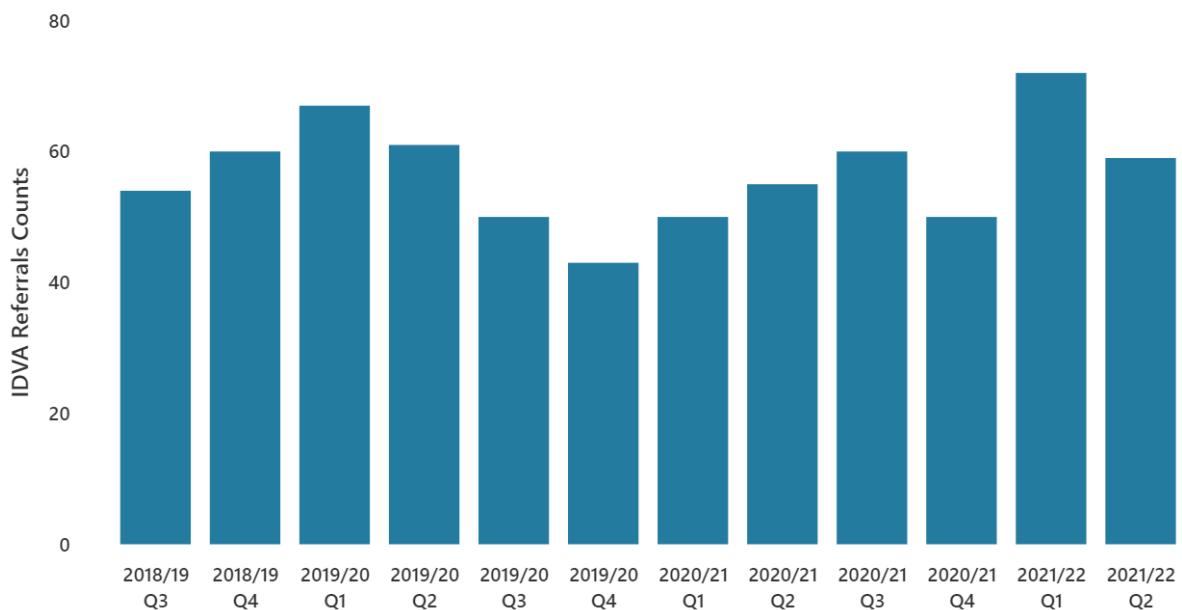
<sup>12</sup> [Technology and domestic abuse - POST \(parliament.uk\)](#)

<sup>13</sup> [‘I feel like we’re really behind the game’: perspectives of the United Kingdom’s intimate partner violence support sector on the rise of technology-facilitated abuse, Tanczer et al.; Journal of Gender-Based Violence, Volume 5, Number 3, October 2021, pp. 431-450\(20\)](#)

should consider the role it can play in supporting residents to identify and prevent this kind of abuse within its work on Domestic Abuse.

Referrals in Cambridge City to the IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) service are also higher in volume for the quarters following national lockdowns (Q2 and Q3 2020/21; Q1 2021/22).

**Figure 13: IDVA referrals in Cambridge City, 2018/19 to 2021/22 (source: DASVP)**



### 3.2.1 Domestic Homicide Reviews

A countywide approach to completing Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), which are a statutory requirement for CSPs, has now been adopted across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

At the time of writing there are no DHRs in progress in Cambridge City. The most recently completed review (2019) is available on the Cambridge City Council community safety web page<sup>14</sup>.

The DASVP (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership) has recently produced a briefing paper for professionals highlighting that 9

<sup>14</sup> [Cambridge Community Safety Partnership - Cambridge City Council](#)

suicides in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (since May 2018) have required a DHR. It has been recommended that the DASVP and Suicide Prevention Boards therefore work together on prevention. There is now representation of DA on the suicide prevention board and a briefing on suicide and DA have recently been produced by both boards<sup>15</sup>.

Training on the topic of DA and suicide took place in January 2021, aimed at professionals in the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Champions Network (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough). The CSP could consider what role it can play in suicide prevention in alignment with this work in future.

### **3.2.2 CSP Activities – Domestic Abuse**

The following activity has taken place since the last strategic assessment in Cambridge City in relation to DA Safer Accommodation Funding as part of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

From the Domestic Abuse Act Safer Accommodation Funding, a new 12-month fixed term role has been developed for a Specialist Housing Worker to join the Supported Housing team to undertake work across all of Cambridge City Council's services

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation (DAHA) – Cambridge City Council continues their work following accreditation in December 2019.

Following DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance)<sup>16\*</sup> accreditation, the Cambridge City Council DAHA Quality Assurance Group continues to work with external representatives such as Cambridge Women's Aid, which is vital to continued effective partnership working - central to the Whole Housing Approach.

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<sup>16</sup> The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance is a partnership between three leading agencies Peabody, Standing Together Against Domestic Violence and Gentoo. Its mission is to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction of an established set of standards and an accreditation process.

For more information see [www.dahalliance.org.uk](http://www.dahalliance.org.uk)

## **White Ribbon<sup>17</sup> Status - Cambridge City Council retained accreditation in 2021**

In March 2021, Cambridge City Council retained the White Ribbon status it first gained in 2015, reaffirming the council's commitment to ending male violence against women and girls.

The White Ribbon Campaign works to engage men in speaking out about violence against women and girls, to challenge gender stereotypes underpinning such violence and to challenge cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence against women.

Work that the council has undertaken to earn its White Ribbon accreditation includes:

- Ensuring HR policy/policies are in place that cover male violence against women and domestic abuse
- Implementing domestic abuse training for council staff
- Ensuring there are adequate support and housing services for women and children experiencing/fleeing domestic abuse
- Appointing male White Ribbon ambassadors to raise awareness of the campaign and help other men and boys challenge violence against women and girls
- Raising awareness by holding events such as a domestic abuse conference to mark 25 November which is White Ribbon Day and the United Nations International Day Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

### **Annual Conference**

Since February 2015, Cambridge City Council has organised events where survivors can provide feedback to service providers. These events are productive because survivors can reflect on their experience in a neutral setting, as opposed to providing feedback at the point of crisis. In addition, there have been free conferences for the public to

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<sup>17</sup> For more information about White Ribbon see [www.whiteribbon.org.uk](http://www.whiteribbon.org.uk)

mark 25 November - United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the beginning of 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence to 10 December – Human Rights Day with White Ribbon Day also on 25 November. The Council also leads a Cambridge Community Forum on Domestic and Sexual Violence/Abuse.

In all this work, Cambridge City Council endeavours to influence, share learning and offer support to other districts as well as nationally such as with accreditation by DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) and the White Ribbon Campaign.

In response to COVID-19 measures in 2020, Cambridge City Council developed an action plan to assure those at risk and the wider public had access to the available domestic abuse services as well as to identify emerging gaps. This action plan was developed following guidance from the LGiU (Local Government Information Unit) and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) and has continued during 2020 and 2021 with three themes: communication, co-ordinating local services and continuation of services.

In September 2021, the City Council and CSP were represented at a Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse Focus Group to discuss a draft single charter proposed for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire.

In its role as a licensing authority, since 2016, the city council provides safeguarding, equality and protection training for all licensed taxi drivers, to allow them to identify and respond to concerns about the safety of their passengers, including those who may be at risk of sexual violence<sup>18</sup>. Attendance at refresher training is required every three years.

### **3.2.3 Modern Slavery**

Nationally, the number of police investigations relating to Modern Slavery slightly decreased at the beginning of 2020/21, at the start of the

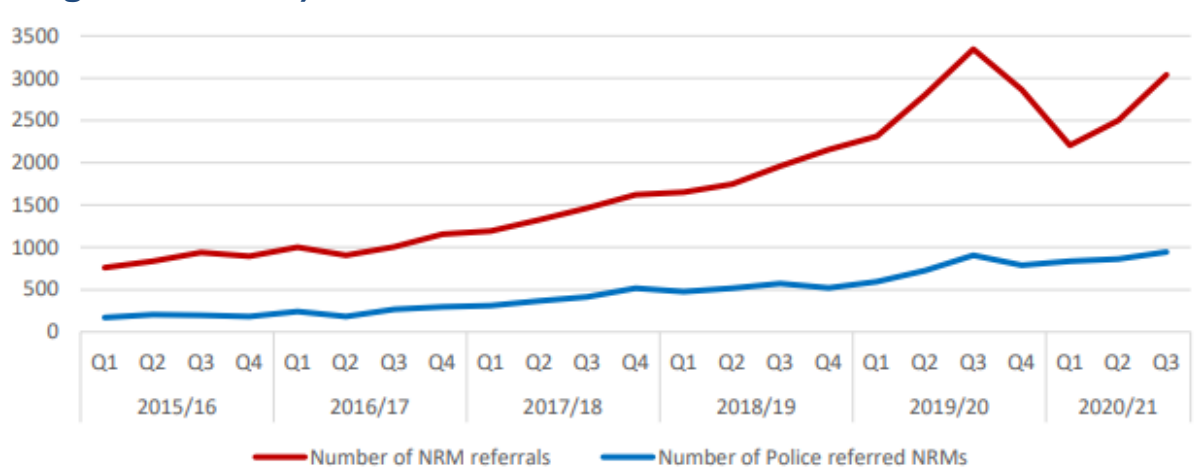
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<sup>18</sup> [Customer awareness training for taxi drivers: Safeguarding, equality and protection - Cambridge City Council](#)



COVID pandemic. However, numbers quickly increased again and continued to grow throughout the year.<sup>19</sup> The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for potential victims of Modern Slavery received 10,613 referrals in 2020, this number is 225% higher than in 2015 (3,264 referrals).<sup>20</sup>

**Figure 13: National Referral Mechanism Referrals 2015/16-2020/21)**  
(Source: Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme 2021)



The National Referral Mechanism received 25% more NRM referrals in 2020/21. In the second quarter of 2021, referrals increased by 7% in comparison to the previous quarter (3140 victims). This is the second highest quarterly number of referrals since 2009.<sup>21</sup> In addition, the number of Live Police Investigations into Modern Slavery increased by 27% and the number of modern slavery referrals to the Crown Prosecution Service increased by 20% in comparison to the previous year.<sup>22</sup>

In March 2020, the start of the first national COVID-19 lockdown impacted modern slavery criminal activity and the related policing response. The number of victims entering the UK decreased due to

<sup>19</sup> MSOIC 2021: [Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Programme \(policingslavery.co.uk\)](https://policingslavery.co.uk)

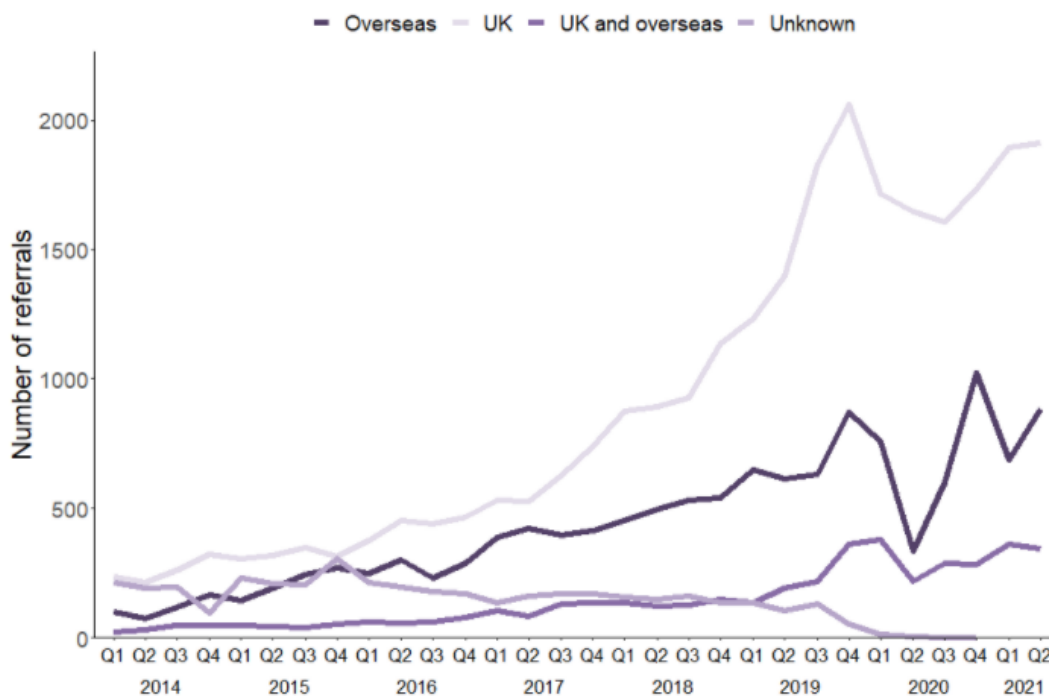
<sup>20</sup> Home Office 2021: [Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK. Quarter 2 2021 – April to June - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

<sup>21</sup> Home Office 2021: [Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK. Quarter 2 2021 – April to June - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

<sup>22</sup> MSOIC 2021: [Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Programme \(policingslavery.co.uk\)](https://policingslavery.co.uk)

restrictions of movement. Reduction of referrals in Q1 and Q2 of 2020 has been linked to the closure of borders and reduction of potential victims to be identified by Immigration Enforcement, UK Visas and Immigration and Border Force. Initial closure of courts also caused delays in cases coming to trial.<sup>23</sup> After the second quarter, numbers of referrals returned to usual levels as lockdown and travel restrictions eased. This is demonstrated by a sharp increase of overseas victims in Quarter 2 2020 as shown in the figure below<sup>24</sup>.

**Figure 14: Number of quarterly NRM referrals by location of exploitation (Source Home Office)**



**Source:** SCA

**Notes(s):** Excludes data pre-2014 due to data reliability.

Border closures also meant increasing risk of exploitation for victims already inside the UK. This is because those exploiting them would have had a greater reliance on those already in the UK while unable to source potential victims from outside of the UK at this time. This was reflected by an intensification of investigations in the food and agricultural sector

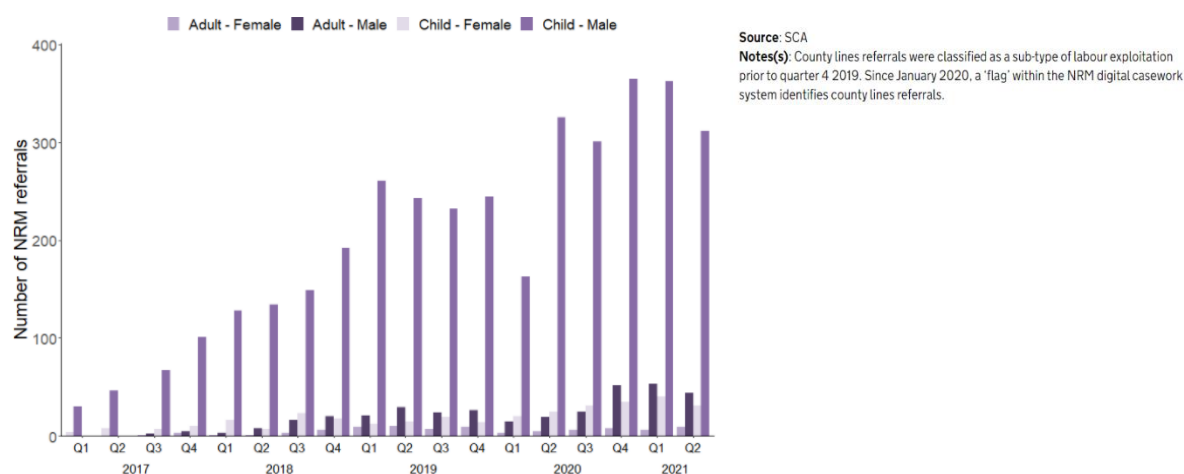
<sup>23</sup> MSOIC 2021: [Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Programme \(policingslavery.co.uk\)](https://policingslavery.co.uk)

<sup>24</sup> Home Office 2021: [Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, Quarter 2 2021 – April to June - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

(450 visits, 27 new investigations, 16 arrests, 13 NRM referrals and 38 Duty to Notify referrals submitted).<sup>25</sup>

NRM referrals involving County Lines exploitation slightly decreased in comparison to previous quarters, but still show a high prevalence of males under 18 as shown in the figure below.<sup>26</sup>

**Figure 15: Number of NRM referrals flagged as county lines, by age group at exploitation and gender (Source Home Office)**



The most recent quarterly report (Quarter 2 of 2021/22) showed that the majority of potential victims of modern slavery referred to the NRM were male (77%), the majority also claimed to have experienced exploitation in the UK only (61%) rather than overseas (28%) or in the UK and overseas. A high proportion of potential victims were children (43%) who are mostly referred for criminal exploitation (49%). Most recurrent nationalities in this period were British, Albanian, and Vietnamese.<sup>27</sup>

Police recorded Modern Slavery offences in Cambridge City have continued a pattern of increase since 2017/18 as shown in the figure below. This is likely to reflect proactive police activity around this issue.

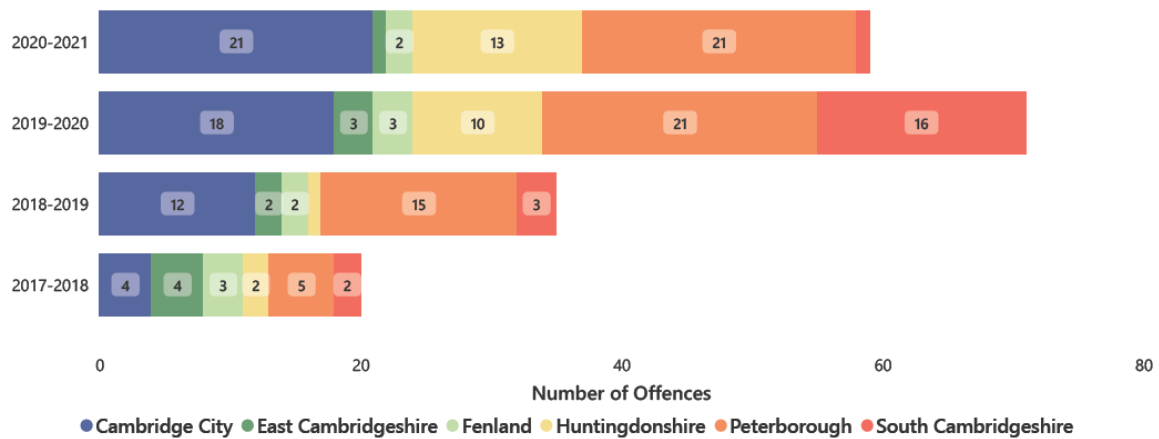
<sup>25</sup> MSOIC 2021: [Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Programme \(policingslavery.co.uk\)](https://www.policingslavery.co.uk/)

<sup>26</sup> Home Office 2021: [Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, Quarter 2 2021 – April to June - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-quarter-2-2021)

<sup>27</sup> Home Office 2021: [Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, Quarter 2 2021 – April to June - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-quarter-2-2021)

Data is not available to show the way in which travel restrictions will have influenced Modern Slavery activity in Cambridge City to date.

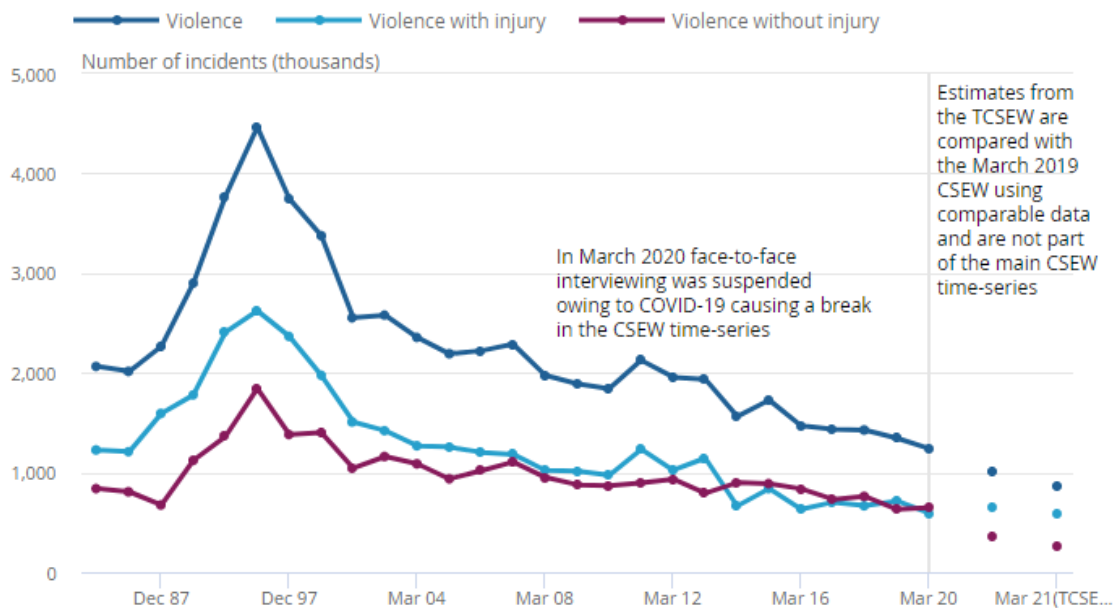
**Figure 16: Police recorded Modern Slavery offences (data from Oct-Sept) (Source: CADET)**



### 3.3. Violence

Nationally a long-term trend of decrease in violence has continued. The decrease of 28% (comparing year ending March 2021 with March 2019) is most likely a reflection of a decrease in violence taking place in public spaces during national lockdown restrictions. This is evidenced by the falls in violence where the offender was a stranger.

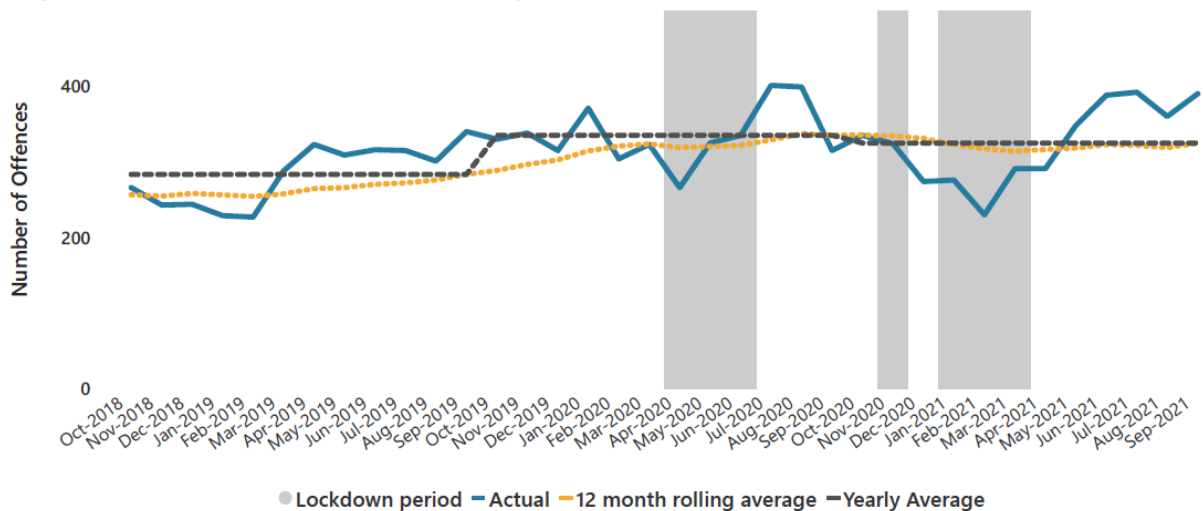
**Figure 17: Crime Survey for England and Wales – annual estimates of Violent crime. (Source: ONS)**



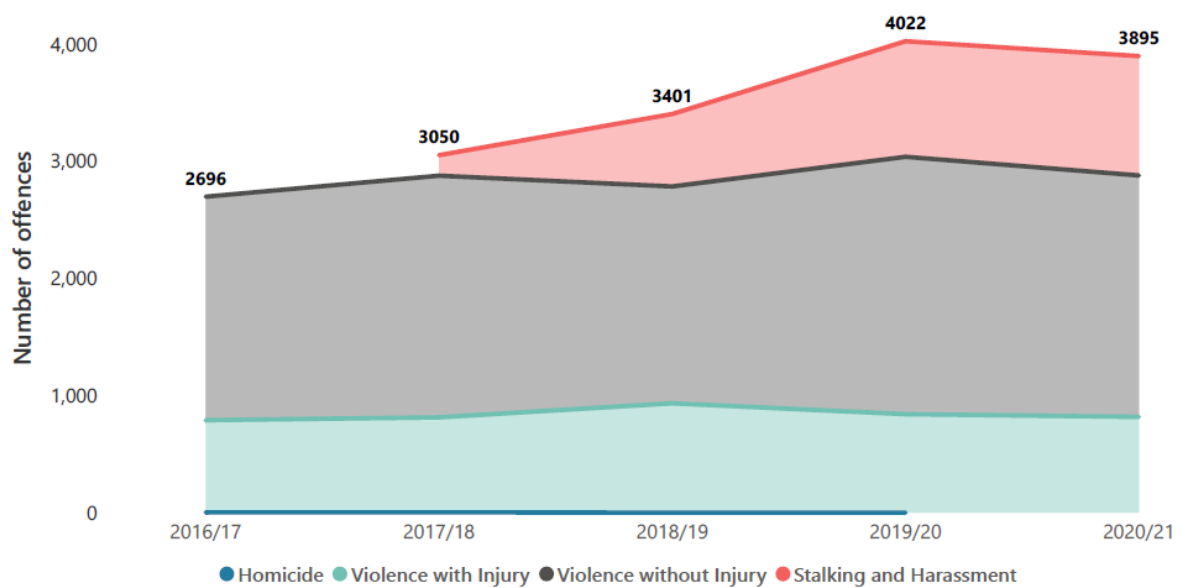
### 3.3.1 Violence Against the Person (VAP)

Violence Against the Person is a broad category of police recorded crime. The overall trend in this crime grouping for Cambridge city shows an increase in yearly average, but with marked fluctuations where national lockdown periods have suppressed the volume of VAP, but subsequent to the first and third national lockdowns there have been marked increases.

**Figure 18: Monthly breakdown of police recorded total Violence Against the Person Cambridge City**



**Figure 19: Police recorded Violence Against the Person in Cambridge City by type (Source: CADET/ Cambridgeshire Constabulary 2020)**



The rates per 1000 population of VAP crimes in Cambridge City for the year ending September 2021, and that of the category sub-types, are shown below for context. Violence with injury forms a relatively small proportion of police recorded crime in Cambridge City, however these overall figures do not describe the severity of injury experienced by victims of these crimes.

**Table 3: Rate of Violence Against the Person category offences and subtype offences in Cambridge City for the year ending Sept 2021**

	Count of offences	Rate per 1000 population *
Violence Against the Person Offences	3899	31.18
Violence without injury	2062	16.49
Violence with injury	819	6.55
Stalking and harassment	1018	8.14
Homicide	0	0.00

\*with reference to ONS mid-2020 population estimate, the latest available at time of writing.

### **.3.3.2 Violence with Injury - healthcare indicators**

Health service data is important in understanding patterns of violence with injury as not all violent incidents are reported to police.

#### **National analysis of healthcare data on violence with injury**

National analysis<sup>28</sup> of healthcare data to understand serious violence in England and Wales indicated that serious violence was 32% lower in 2020 compared to the previous year. The unprecedented reduction in serious violence seen here is likely to reflect the unprecedented restrictions imposed on free movement of citizens and businesses to limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The initial significant fall in violence in April 2020 (down 50% compared to violence in March 2020) coincided with UK government mandatory closure of pubs, clubs, restaurants, and other social venues in March 2020. Indeed, trends in violence in 2020 correlated closely with the imposition, easing and lifting of restrictions; significant falls in violence immediately followed lockdown whilst violence increased as soon as restrictions were eased or lifted.

<sup>28</sup> Cardiff Report - Violence in England and Wales 2020

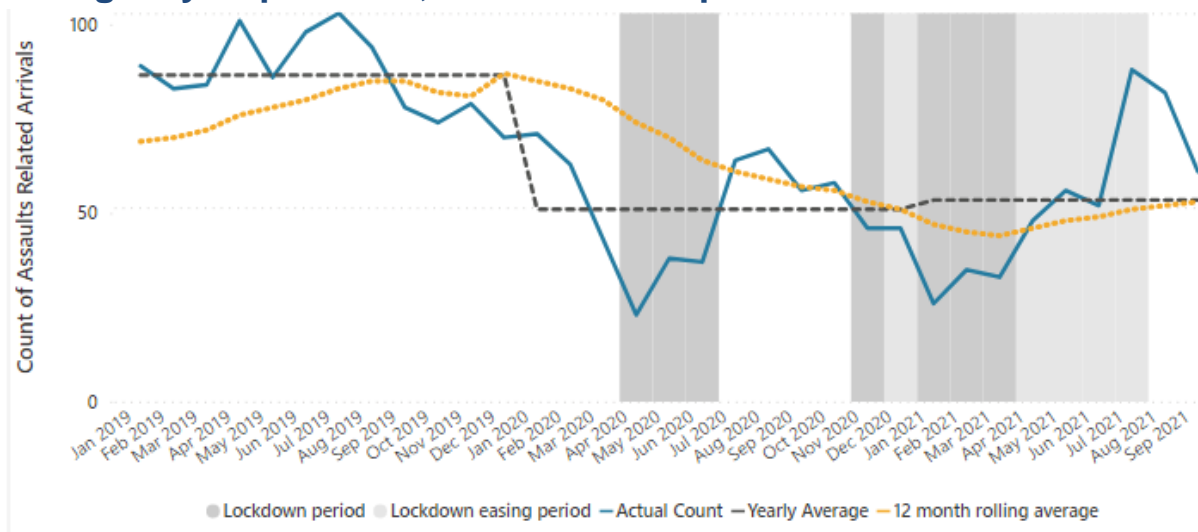
But COVID-19 did not alter the distribution of risk in sustaining injury in violence by gender or age group. As in previous years, males and young adults aged 18-30 years were most likely to be injured.

Those at highest risk of violence-related injury in 2020 were males (2.7 per 1,000 population: more than twice the risk for females) and those aged 18-30 (4.7 per 1,000 population). For both genders, those aged 18-30 years had the highest injury rates (males 6.5; females 2.93/1,000 population) and children aged 0-10 years had the lowest injury rates (males 0.19; females 0.08/1,000 population).

### Local healthcare indicators on violence with injury

At a local level, Addenbrooke’s Emergency Department has been collecting and sharing data about assault related attendances at the department, the trend for which is shown below.

**Figure 20: Monthly attendances for assault seen at Addenbrooke’s Emergency Department, Jan 2019 to Sept 2021**



Attendance for assault has remained lower on average since the 2020 lockdown period. This has only recently returned to pre-pandemic levels (July 2021).

The main age group represented in these patients were was age 20-29 (36%) and 76.8% of those attending ED due to assault were male (Jan 2019- Sept 2021).

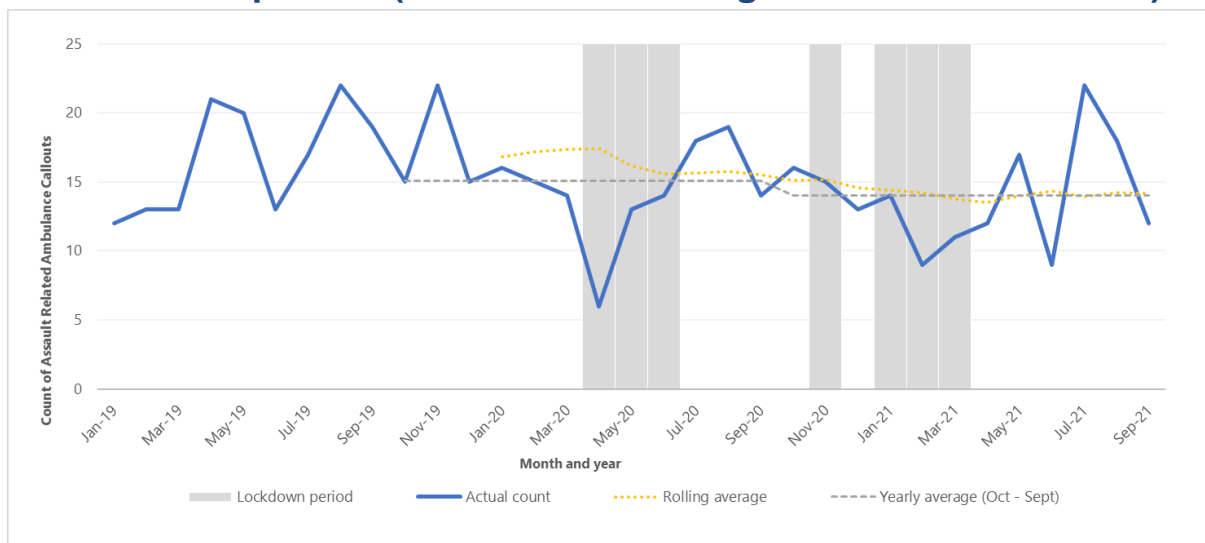


Of the weapons recorded as involved in assault, a majority were ‘punch with fist’ (37%) and stabbing or cut with a knife represented 4% of all attendances in the year ending September 2021, however weapon used is not consistently disclosed by victims.

Local assault related ambulance callout data also helps build a picture of the trend in violence occurring in the city and the demographics of those affected. Aside from the period between the second and third national lockdowns an increase in callouts was seen as lockdowns have eased.

This is broadly mirroring the pattern in police recorded violence with injury. A third of all callouts in 2020/21 related to those in the age 20-29 age group. For the same period 70% of assault related ambulance callouts in Cambridge City were for male victims of assault. This broadly reflects national demographic patterns in assault victims.

**Figure 21: Assault related ambulance callouts in Cambridge City, Jan 2019 – Sept 2021 (Source: East of England Ambulance Trust)**



### 3.3.5 Knife crime

National police recorded crime data saw a 15% decrease in offences with a knife or sharp instrument in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20, to

44,286 incidents<sup>29</sup>. The largest decreases in knife crime were experienced in April to June 2020 (20% decrease) and January to March 2021 (22% decrease). Both these time periods coincide with the strictest nationwide lockdowns implemented to combat COVID-19.

In general, knife crime is found to be most prevalent in urban areas but even in those areas which usually experience the highest volumes of knife crime, reductions were seen in 2020/21. For example, London saw a 31% decrease in knife-enabled offences and the West Midlands a 9% decrease.

Provisional admissions data from the NHS shows there was a 14% decrease in hospital admissions for ‘assault with sharp objects’ from 2019/20 to 2020/21 from 4,770 to 4,080. The data also shows that admissions for assault with a sharp object are more common in younger people, with 40% of those admitted aged 24 and under and 60% aged 25 and over<sup>30</sup>.

Local police recorded crime with a ‘knife/ sharp instrument’ marker are provided below for information. Changes in the volume of crimes with this marker can be driven by targeted police activity relating to knife crime.

**Table 4: Police recorded Knife/Sharp Instrument marker crimes Cambridge City (Source: CADET Sept 2021)**

	2017/2018	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Knife/Sharp Instrument marker crimes	205	252	267	336

### 3.3.6 Serious Violence Duty

The Home Office on behalf of the UK Government published the draft of the [Serious Violence Duty in May 2021](#).

<sup>29</sup>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandanddwales/yearendmarch2021>

<sup>30</sup> ONS, Other Related Tables (Table F5 - Source: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), NHS Digital and Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW), Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW).)

The Duty presents the basis for collaboration between different services and the implementation of a multi-agency approach. The following specified authorities within a local government area are required to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence:

- Police
- Justice
- Fire and Rescue
- Health
- Local Authorities

Consultation with educational, prison and youth custody authorities is also encouraged.

The Duty promotes the following actions for Community Safety Partnerships:

- Using an evidence-based approach for identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area and the causes of that violence.
- Sharing data and knowledge for targeting interventions to prevent serious violence.
- Preparing, implementing and reviewing a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.

The Serious Violence Duty is part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill which is currently at committee stage in the House of Lords<sup>31</sup>. However, the CSP is advised to take note of the likely future actions required by introduction of the Serious Violence Duty.

### **3.4 Priority 1 Update: Protecting young people from violence and exploitation**

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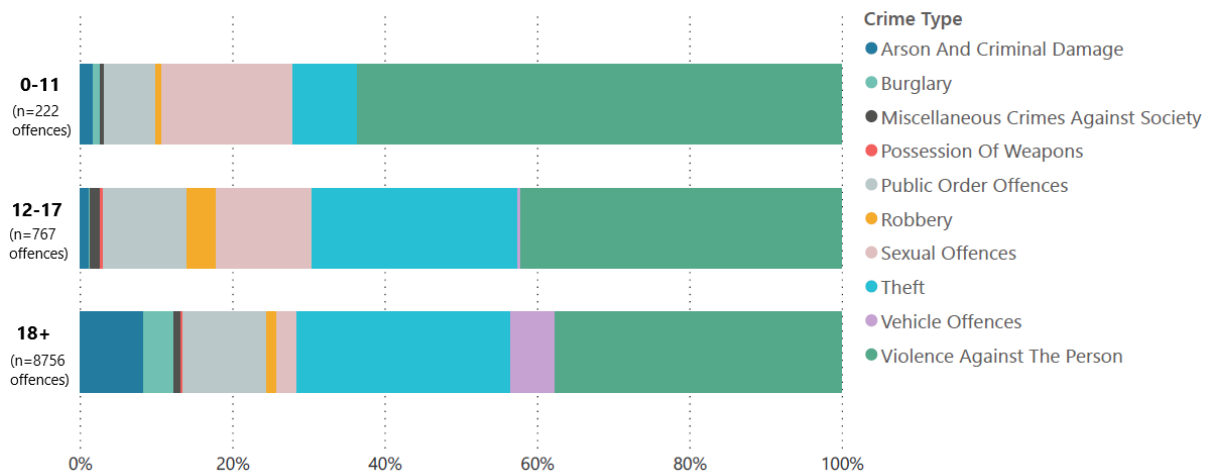
<sup>31</sup> [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#)

### 3.4.1 Victims Analysis

Police recorded crime victims data has been analysed to gain insight into the type of offences experienced by young people in Cambridge. There were 9,870 offences recorded in Cambridge City between October 2020-September 2021 which had a victim associated with the crime<sup>32</sup>. There were 7,875 unique victims, with the majority (86%) having experienced just one offence in the year ending September 2021.

The remaining 14% of victims had experienced at least two offences during the year, with repeat victims accounting for a fifth of all offences recorded in Cambridge between October 2020 and September 2021. The figure below shows the crime type breakdown by age group for all offences recorded in Cambridge City between October 2020-September 2021 where the victim age was known. It should be noted that this chart will include repeat victims.

**Figure 22: Crime Type Breakdown by Victim Age Group for Offences in Cambridge City October 2020-September 2021**



For younger children (aged 0-11) violence against the person accounted for 64% of all crimes experienced, a notably higher proportion than seen for older children (42%) and adults (38%). It is likely that this is in part linked to the lower likelihood of young children to experience property related crime (e.g., vehicle crime, burglary, criminal damage) which is

<sup>32</sup> All crimes were included so victim analysis will include business crime as well as personal crimes

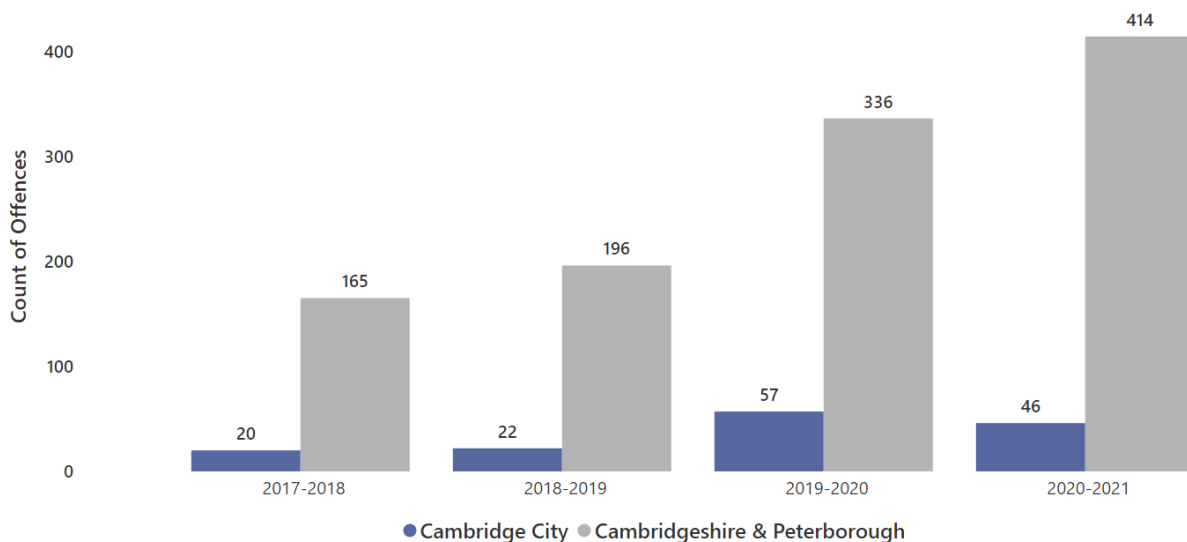
reflected in the breakdown, however, this still represents a notable volume of violence against the person experienced by this age group.

Sexual offences accounted for a higher proportion of the crimes experienced by both 0-11 years old and 12-17 years old when compared to those aged over 18. Robbery accounted for a slightly higher proportion of offences in the 12-17 age group at 4%, which represents 29 offences experienced between October 2020-September 2021.

### 3.4.2 Child Sexual Exploitation

Constabulary-wide Child Sexual Exploitation crimes have seen a year-on-year increase since 2017/18. Cambridge City has not followed this pattern with a lower number of Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes recorded in 2020-21 compared to the previous year.

**Figure 23: Police recorded child sexual exploitation crimes, Oct-Sept data (Source: CADET Sept 2020)**



### 3.4.3 CSP Activities: County Lines Transformation project

## **Transformation Topic - County Lines and Young People**

On behalf of the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership, Cambridge City Council Community Safety Team has continued to lead a Transformation project; Serious Violence – Young People and County Lines, funded by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The project is being achieved in three phases as described below:

- **Phase 1: Create task and finish group (Summer 2020):**

Over the summer 2020, an interim project manager was appointed to drive forward the project and recruit a project officer. A multi-agency group planned and carried out an engagement process through two online surveys. One for adults including parents and carers across Cambridge and Peterborough and another for children and young people.

Initially the project was to have included focus groups as well but due to the impact of COVID-19 they were cancelled. The process included a range of methodologies to ensure comprehensive inclusion of all communities.

Due to COVID-19, the outreach to different groups such as schools and community centres, which were closed, had to be adapted and therefore the survey deadline was extended to 31 October 2020 to maximise engagement.

The analysis of the survey was in two categories. What people know and feel about County Lines. What the perceived or actual gaps are

- **Phase 2: The appointment of a project co-ordinator (October 2020 – September 2021):**

The coordinator had responsibility for developing the project in accordance with the findings from the consultation carried out by the task and finish group and the findings already available elsewhere such as with Local Safeguarding Board (LSB).

The project coordinator worked with partners already involved in this area of work, developed a local communications campaign using social media, outreach work, webpage with links to all available resources on the topic including those recently released resources by the LSB and the work of Fearless.org and information and evidence developed and collated by the County Pathfinder Co-ordinator.

AlterEgo Creative Solutions Ltd was commissioned to produce a film addressing issues around county lines and the grooming process to provide an impact that could be used to target people in different age groups across the city, would have longevity and be fairly “covid-proof”.

A resource pack for teachers / community leaders / youth workers was produced alongside the film to ensure that the issues could be explored when watching the film. Social media and a web page with signposting were set up: [Cambs Against County Lines](#)

- **Phase 3: Expansion and delivery of the project (September 2021 onwards)**

The communications plan will continue and expand based on evaluation of the impact of the activity. To launch the project there was an Executive film premiere for schools and safeguarding professionals on 27 September opened by Cambridge City Council Chief Executive and the Police and Crime Commissioner, who had funded the project.

The film and accompanying resources have started to be delivered in schools by trained facilitators, which is followed by the student evaluation. The sessions delivered to schools – state funded and independent – has received positive feedback. Larger sixth form

colleges have requested “Train the facilitator” sessions for school staff to be trained to deliver sessions, which will be organised.

The next stage is outreach work to engage with communities helping them to establish links with businesses, voluntary sector and community services to build on resilience in their local area to address the impact of County Lines.

With the roll out across the county, the project has been named ‘Cambs Against County Lines’ and is being used in the County Safeguarding Board training programme. This work fits into the wider plan for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Child Exploitation Strategic Group to provide a universal model and to engage the county CSPs as a tool adapted to be used in how to keep young people safe. It is planned to develop the film to include footage from across the county to make it relevant to anyone who watches it.

Working with the County Pathfinder Co-ordinator, there has been discussion with neighbouring counties; Norfolk and Suffolk as they would like to use the Cambs Against County Lines film for universal messaging, adapting and changing the additional footage to show their local places. They would provide additional material for the project evaluation and would credit Cambridge City.

This CSP (Community Safety Partnership) project has been recognised nationally as good practice and with the diversity element of the film having moved away from the expected stereotypical profile with gender and ethnicity to highlight that anyone is at risk and the importance of unconscious bias when making these products.

## **4. Community harm**

There has been a long-term trend of decrease in antisocial behaviour (police recorded) in Cambridge City, in line with national trend. However



short-term increases linked to the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions and the easing of national lockdowns have been observed. The proportion of police recorded ASB incidents that were Youth related has increased from 17.7% in 2019 to 21% in 2021.

The Cambridge City Council Antisocial Behaviour team has described increasingly complex ASB (Antisocial Behaviour), oftentimes with both the perpetrator and victims of ASB having significant support needs. The pandemic influencing changes in access to support as well as a lack of diversionary youth services have been highlighted as a concern.

Although levels of police recorded Criminal Damage have declined since 2019, since June 2021 there has been an increase to pre-pandemic levels which the CSP is advised to monitor to see if this trend continues. Substance misuse related indicators currently available to the partnership show increases in drug related crime, likely driven by focused police work since the first national lockdown. Both needle removals and the volume of needles removed in Cambridge City have decreased since 2019, while the number of Cambridge City residents in drug and alcohol treatment remain relatively stable in the same period.

The number of deliberate fires in Cambridge City saw a 26% decrease between 2019/20 and 2020/21 from 43 to 32, which continues the decreasing trend since 2018/19. Decreases in fire nationally and locally have been attribute to behaviour change due to the pandemic. For example, increased time in the home preventing the potential for progression of dwelling fires and fewer car journeys leading to a reduction in vehicle fires.

As well as long term increases nationally, recent increases in police recorded hate crime in Cambridge City have been described. Analysis of local data has been provided to evidence that hate crime can incorporate a wide variety of crime types, not just public order offences with which there is common overlap.

Fraud, scams, and cyber crime have been described as an emerging issue of concern nationally in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. An

increase in local police recorded cyber crime is noted, albeit with an understanding that such crime types are generally underreported, so this increase may in reality be much greater.

## 4.1 Anti-social Behaviour

National statistics indicate that anti-social behaviour incidents have decreased over the last 10 years, however, data at the end of March 2021 showed that ASB (Antisocial Behaviour) incidents increased 48% in comparison to the last year (March 2020). In fact, 2 million incidents of anti-social behaviour were recorded in England and Wales in the year ending March 2021. April to June 2020 was the peak period with 83% more incidents than in 2019. This high increase might be related to an increase in possible breaches of COVID-19 restrictions (e.g., social distancing) being reported as ASB incidents<sup>33</sup>.

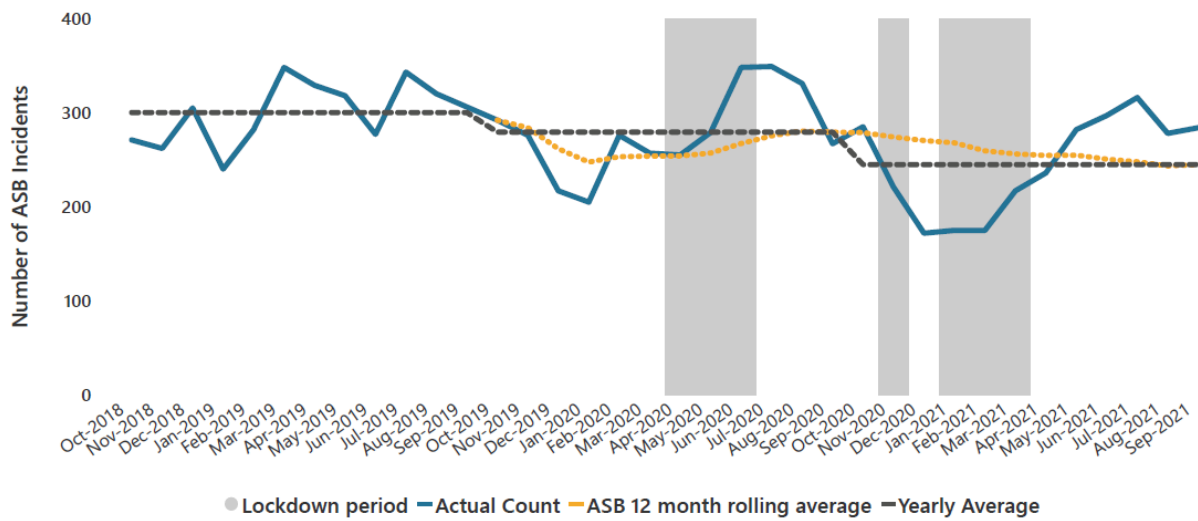
### **Police recorded ASB (Antisocial Behaviour)**

Local police data shows an overall decrease in annual average ASB incidents reported in Cambridge City since 2019. There have been fluctuations with an increase since the third national lockdown eased. Some of the ASB incident increases during national lockdowns may reflect the way in which breaches of COVID-19 were reported and recorded at this time, however it is not possible to provide a reliable breakdown of incidents according to whether COVID-19 breaches were referenced (this information does not form part of the data routinely shared with the Research Group at this time).

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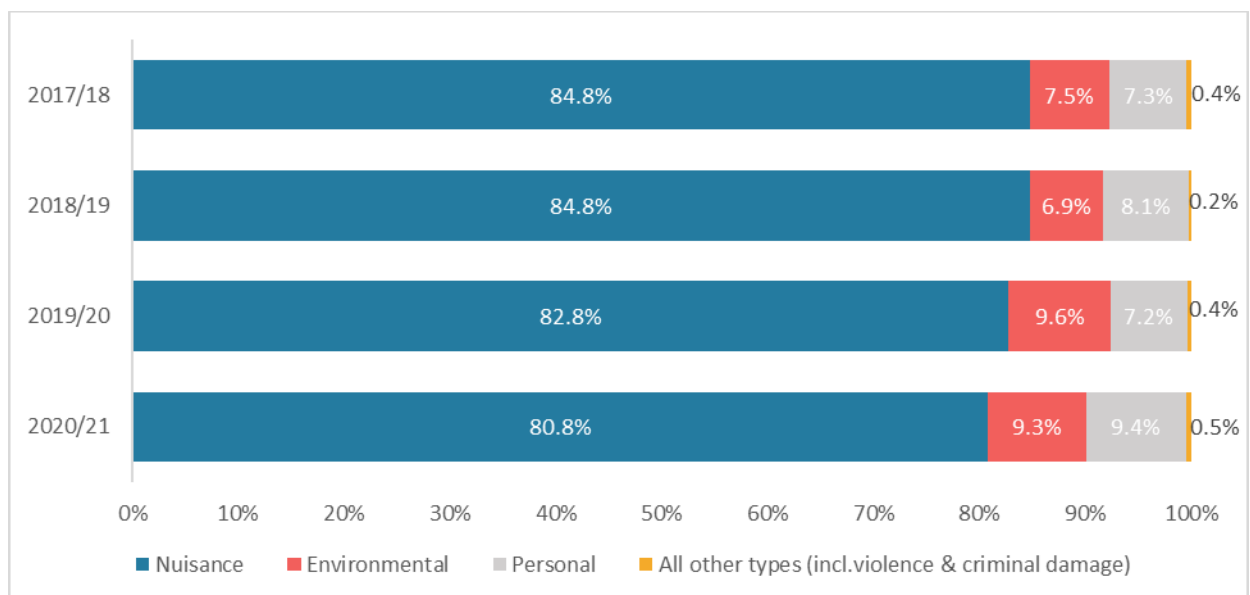
<sup>33</sup> [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

Figure 1: Police recorded monthly ASB incidents – Cambridge City



In the year ending September 2021 80.8% of police recorded ASB in Cambridge was classified as ‘Nuisance’ ASB. This is marginally lower than in previous years, as shown in the figure below. Small increases in the proportion of ASB incidents that are Environmental and Personal category have been noted since 2018/19.

Figure 2: Police recorded ASB by category, 2017/18-2020/21 (year ending September).



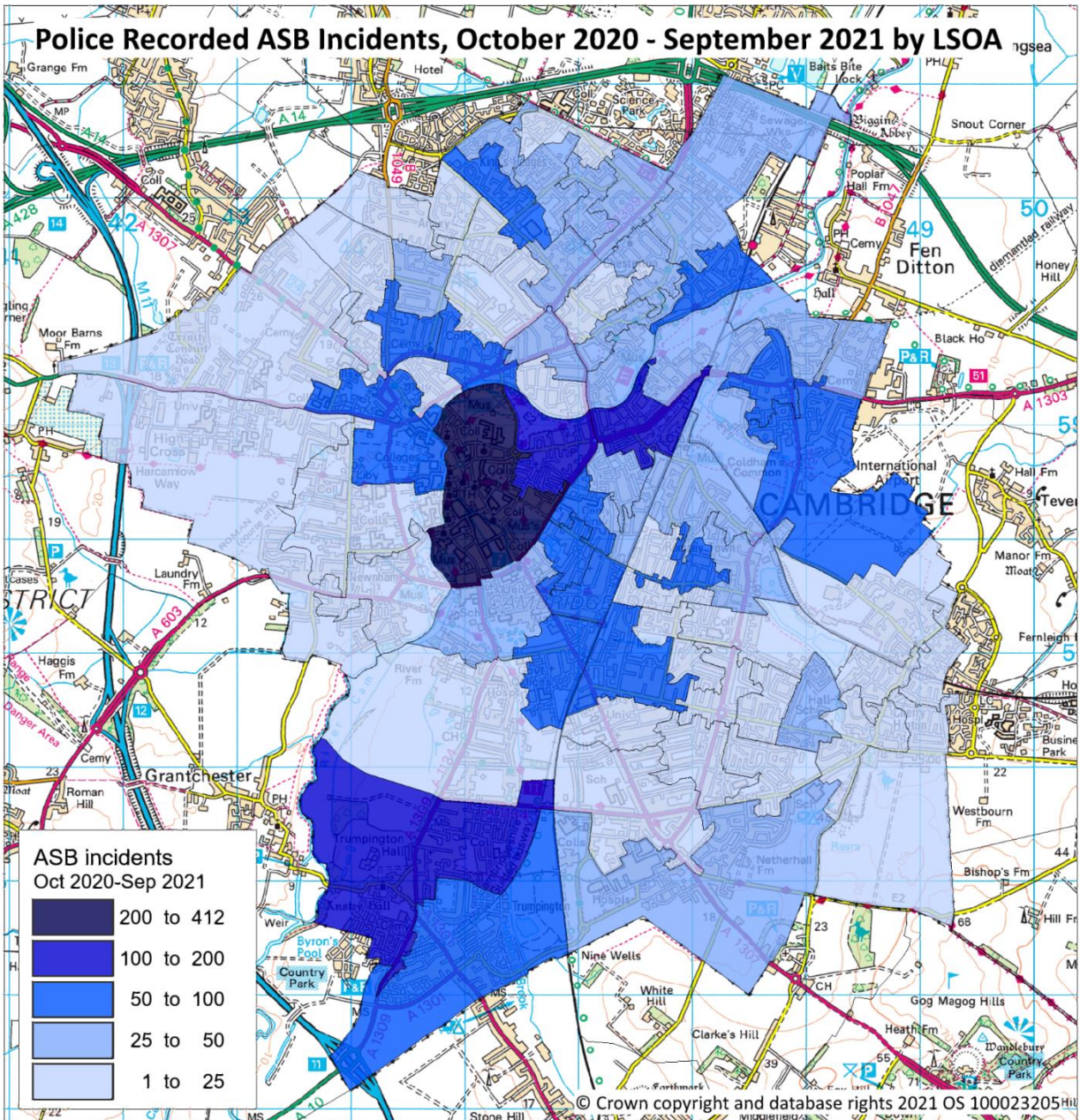
Whilst the overall volume of ASB has decreased since 2019, for both 2019/20 and 2020/21 Market ward had the highest proportion of police recorded ASB incidents, as shown in the table below.

Table 4: Counts of Police recorded ASB incidents by Cambridge City Ward (2021 boundaries).

Ward	2019/20 Count	2019/20 Percentage	2020/21 Count	2020/21 Percentage
Abbey	345	10%	344	12%
Arbury	214	6%	187	6%
Castle	56	2%	40	1%
Cherry Hinton	92	3%	115	4%
Coleridge	165	5%	150	5%
East Chesterton	298	9%	232	8%
King's Hedges	274	8%	220	7%
Market	762	23%	660	22%
Newnham	61	2%	57	2%
Petersfield	366	11%	307	10%
Queen Edith's	120	4%	110	4%
Romsey	159	5%	142	5%
Trumpington	239	7%	202	7%
West Chesterton	201	6%	172	6%
Total	3352	100%	2938	100%

Figure 3: Police recorded ASB by LSOA, Cambridge City Oct 2020- Sept 2021





Police recorded ASB (Antisocial Behaviour) incidents with youth keywords included in the record can be analysed as a subset of data to gauge levels of youth ASB. As shown in the figure below, Youth ASB in Cambridge city has maintained an annual average close to that for the pre-pandemic year (53 incidents per month in 2019: 51.4 incidents per month in 2021). So, whilst the overall volume of ASB recorded by police in Cambridge City has lowered since 2019, the proportion that is Youth ASB has increased from 17.7% in 2019 to 21% in 2021 (shown in the figure below).

Figure 4: Police recorded youth ASB, Cambridge City (Oct 2018- Sep 2021)

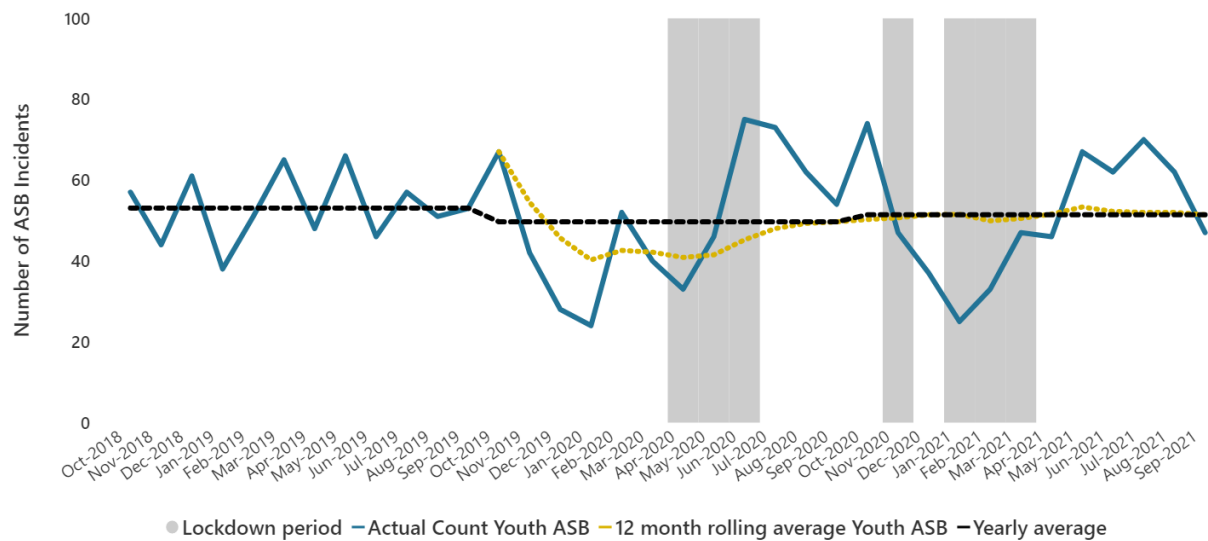
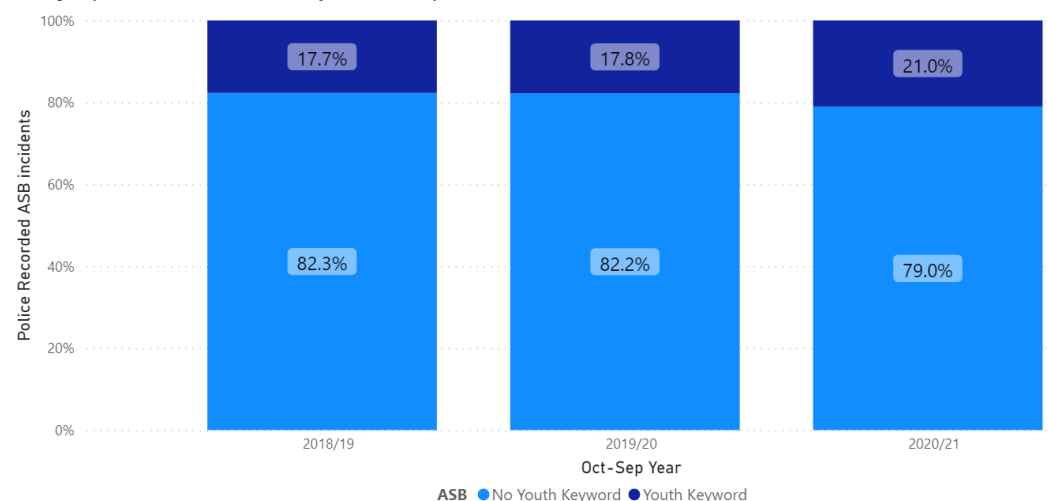


Figure 5: Police recorded ASB with proportion of youth ASB, Cambridge City (Oct 2018- Sep 2021)



### ASB reported to Cambridge City Council

As reported in the last strategic assessment, a significant increase in the number of reports were made to the Cambridge City Council Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team during the COVID-19 pandemic. We were unsure at the time whether the increase in the number of reports was a result of COVID-19 or for other reasons. To a degree that remains to be seen; although lockdown has eased, there are restrictions still in place and life has not returned to “normal”.

During the six-month period April 2021-Sept 2021 the ASB Team received 406 reports of ASB. This was a slight reduction on the same reporting period the previous year where 452 reports were received. However, looking back to the same six-month period in 2019 where there were 278 reports of ASB made, the level of reporting now remains significantly higher than before the pandemic.

This continued higher level of reporting could likely be an impact of Covid-19. As working patterns change, people are working from home more and perhaps more aware, and less tolerant, of the behaviour of their neighbours than they were previously. Their own health and mental wellbeing may have suffered because of the stresses of the pandemic. There continues to be more of a reliance on Council and Police services to solve problems in the community where this may not have been the case previously; reporting things that may not have been a significant issue before.

Communities continue to be impacted by the lack of services, particularly face to face support and diversionary services that they would have been able to access pre-pandemic and this is having an impact on the cases seen by the ASB Team. For instance, since the lockdown restrictions have eased, the team are seeing an increase in reports about youth ASB across the city, more than we have done for some time. This could be because young people were not able to be out during lock down, and since restrictions have lifted we have been told that there aren't the same level of activities and clubs for young people as there were previously.

There are increasing numbers of reports about nuisance caused by rough sleepers and street drinkers in the city compared to last year. During the pandemic there was provision to house all those rough sleeping, and since the restrictions have lifted, whilst there has been a move to offer permanent accommodation, there are still numbers of rough sleeper and street drinkers in the city.

Reports of significant ASB made to the team are, as reported last year, increasingly complex; oftentimes with both the perpetrator and victims of ASB having significant support needs. Many of the support services that were relied upon previously aren't there or are delivered in a different, often remote, way which has impacted the service user and has resulted in cases with more complex elements than ever before.

The case studies below demonstrate the breadth of issues that are being dealt with by partnership working on a day-to-day basis led by the Community Safety ASB Team at the City Council and which give a flavour of the problems being experience by residents across the city.

#### **ASB CASE STUDY 1:**

Cambridge City Council had received complaints about a property including reports of shouting, swearing and loud music coming from the address, and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Complaints of objects such as rocks or bricks being thrown at the windows of neighbouring properties and causing damage to other homes. Concerns about the behaviour of visitors to the property. We also received reports of regular drug use at the property. Lastly, we received several complaints that the family dog had been a nuisance, running around off the lead and attacking other dogs in the area. Initially the reports were being handled by the Housing and Environmental Health teams. However, the case was referred to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team to investigate due to the serious nature of the more recent complaints and the severe impact these were having on the wider community.

Due to the tenant's behaviour and that of visitors to their home the residents living nearby have raised concerns in direct relation to their safety with 2 fires occurring at the property, and the coronavirus restrictions and lockdowns being flouted several times. The incidents have escalated from damage to the cars and home, to arson. This has finally resulted in a partial Closure Order on the property, which was sought by the police and supported by the Council in an attempt to provide both respite for the neighbours and an opportunity for the tenant to manage their situation.

Unfortunately, the closure order was breached on at least 3 occasions and the behaviour continued. The City Community ASB Team served a Notice of Seeking Possession on the tenant, which they appealed. The panel which heard this appeal was satisfied that it would be appropriate to proceed to court for possession and the judge awarded possession of the property to the Council.



## **ASB CASE STUDY 2:**

The Community Safety ASB team has been leading on action to tackle the behaviour of a group of individuals involved in entrenched street life behaviours that are impacting and causing nuisance for the wider community in Cambridge.

This group had been persistently begging, rough sleeping and street drinking, in prominent high footfall areas or areas which put themselves at risk of harm. We were aware that members of the public and retail staff going about their work felt intimidated and harassed by the persistent begging, drug use, aggressive intimidating behaviour and street drinking.

The team received reports of drug related paraphernalia, hazardous waste such as faeces and urine in public areas, rough sleeping and drug use in the public toilets and car parks and drunk and disorderly behaviour. The City Council's Rapid Response team have been called on a regular basis to clean areas frequented by the individuals and council cleaning staff and car park have been required to put themselves at risk of abuse when asking individuals to move so that they can carry out their work.

In addition, when rough sleeping in the car parks, they have been sleeping in parking bays and are difficult to see from the driving position of a vehicle and it is unlikely they would be seen by a driver if they reverse into a space. The rough sleeper is not only putting themselves at risk of serious injury or death, but they are also putting an innocent driver at risk of causing a serious injury through no fault of their own.

Furthermore, they have been gathering in groups with others street drinking and causing a disruption and disturbance, when under the influence of drugs or alcohol. This is happening during the day and witnessed by passers-by in a very busy area of the City Centre. The Team was successful in its application to the court for an injunction for these individuals with conditions to prevent the ongoing significant nuisance and anti-social behaviour.

### **ASB CASE STUDY 3:**

A current case has resulted in a community trigger and involves reports about young people aged between 12 and 15 years old gathering in a public place, near shops, takeaways, and residential units. The area is a public area with benches, lighting, and food outlets. It is an attractive, and some would argue, safe area for young people to meet.

The complainants report large gatherings, noise nuisance, littering, rowdy behaviour, verbal abuse, fighting and suspected drug use. We have also had anecdotal reports that young people are carrying knives and concerns about County Lines. Police and City Council have worked in partnership to identify the young people, reassure residents, and encourage reporting. Additional patrols have been carried out by the Police and CCTV has been installed. Parents of all the young people identified have been written to and in some cases meetings with the parents and young people have taken place. Where crime has been committed appropriate action has been taken by the Police. However, there is a throughput of young people accessing this area and we cannot be sure it is always the same ones causing the nuisance. The tolerance levels of those living in the locality is wearing thin and they understandably do not want to hear shouting and arguing, abusive language or verbal abuse. Nor do they want to feel intimidated where they live.

The young people we have spoken to have commented on the lack of facilities for them to access. They have told us that the only green area is some distance from amenities and they are not keen to go that far. They have also told us that they meet near the shops because they have access to a ready supply of snacks and somewhere safe and dry to sit and close to home. There is a very large park area nearby however it is not visible from the road and during the darker evenings young people may be more at risk of crime themselves. Whilst it is clearly not acceptable for anyone to feel intimidated going to the shops it is not illegal for people to gather in a group. A group of people of any age gathering will generate noise and it is somewhat inevitable that young people will be rowdier. In this case we have had to strike a balance between what is unacceptable behaviour and what is acceptable alongside what options are available and how we can ensure the community, including the young people,

#### **ASB CASE STUDY 4:**

The council has received complaints of anti-social behaviour coming from a tenant at their property. Neighbours reported noisy behaviour such as shouting, screaming swearing and banging from within and outside of their property. The tenant has been allegedly harassing neighbours verbally, watching and following them as well as fly tipping in the area by leaving significant amounts of human food trays supposedly for cats which attracted rats and foxes to the area.

The behaviour displayed by the tenant has been erratic, aggressive and very concerning for others, particularly those living close by. The Council has tried to engage with the tenant numerous times, referrals have been made to the Council's tenancy sustainment service and other support and mental health services. The tenant will not engage with any service offered nor will they take up the opportunity to meet with the ASB Team to discuss the concerns we have about their behaviour and to listen to their concerns or discuss support options.

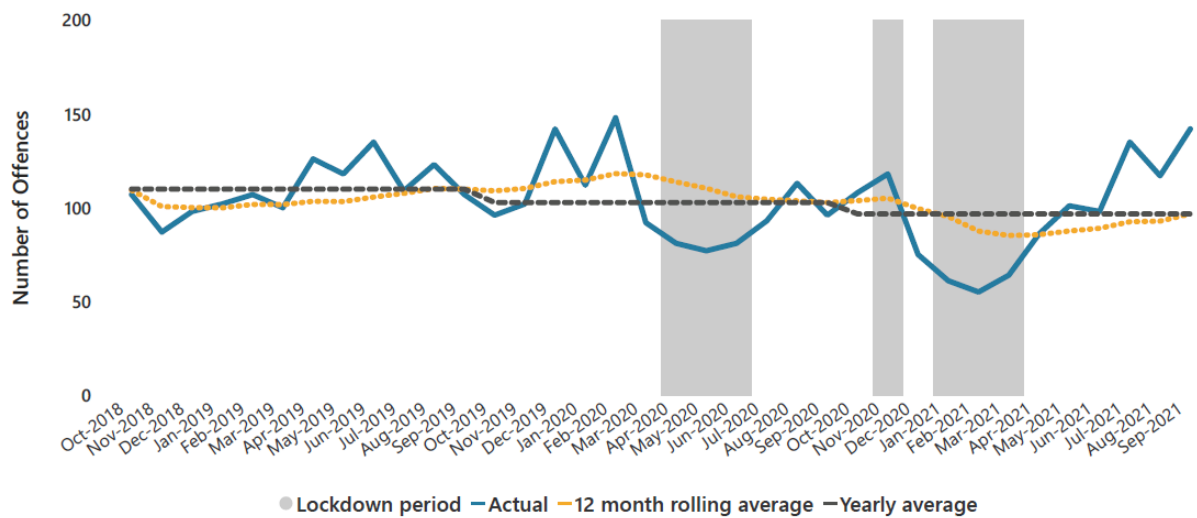
The anti-social and unpredictable behaviour continues and whilst the ASB Team believe that they would greatly benefit from support, at this time they will not engage or consent to any form of assessment to understand the best support avenues for them. The team has an obligation to support all members of the community and in this case a decision has been taken for the Council to seek an Injunction Order against the tenant both to deal with their behaviour and we hope that this may also encourage them to engage with support services.

## **4.2 Criminal Damage**

There has been an overall lowering in the volume of criminal damage offences recorded in Cambridge City since 2019. Fluctuations have occurred relating to national lockdown periods, likely due to the restrictions in movement at these times.

Since June 2021 there has been an increase in this offence type, returning to pre-pandemic levels. The CSP (Community Safety Partnership) may need to reassess if this trend of increase does not level off over in the longer term.

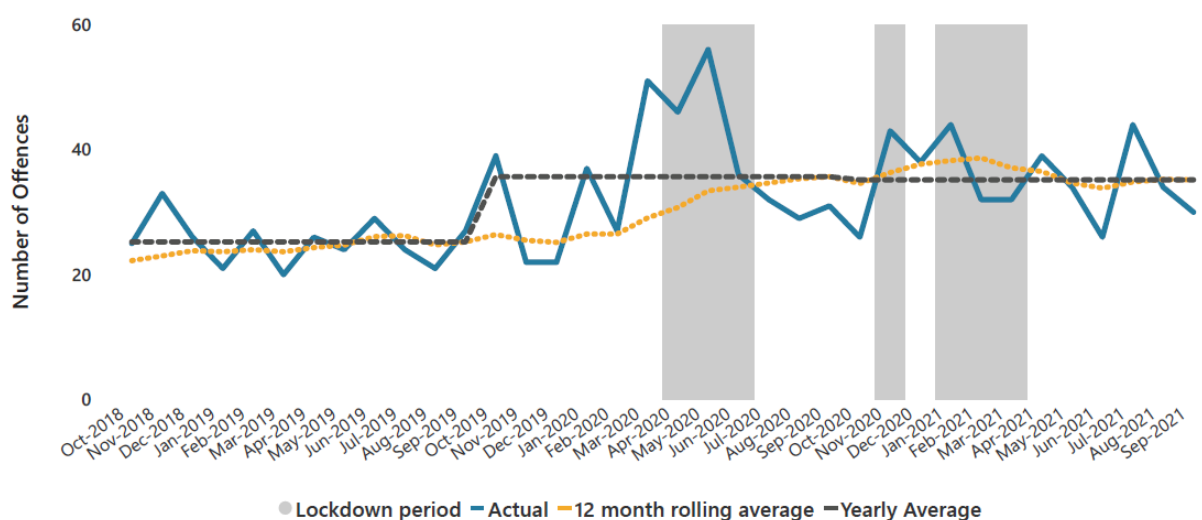
Figure 6: Monthly breakdown in Criminal Damage offences, Cambridge City (Source: CADET)



### 4.3 Substance Misuse

Police recorded drug related offences in Cambridge City are shown in the figure below. Focused police activity on drug related offences during the first national lockdown is reflected in a peak in police recorded offences at that time. The rolling average level of these offences remains above the pre-pandemic period. This data indicator is largely driven by police activity and does not necessarily track the overall level of drug misuse in the area.

Figure 7: Monthly breakdown in drug offences, Cambridge City (Source: CADET)



Cambridge City council provides services to clear needles and drug related litter reported to them within the district. Both needle removals and the volume of needles removed in each instance have decreased since 2019, as shown in the figures below.

The total number of needle removal instances increased by 14% between 2019/20 (October to September) to 2020/21 but there has been an overall 37% decrease from the 2018/19 instances count. The total volume of needle removal instances increased by 12% between 2019/20 (October to September) to 2020/21 but saw an overall 55% decrease when compared to the 2018/19 total volume.

Figure 8: Needle removal instances, Cambridge City (Source: Cambridge City Council)

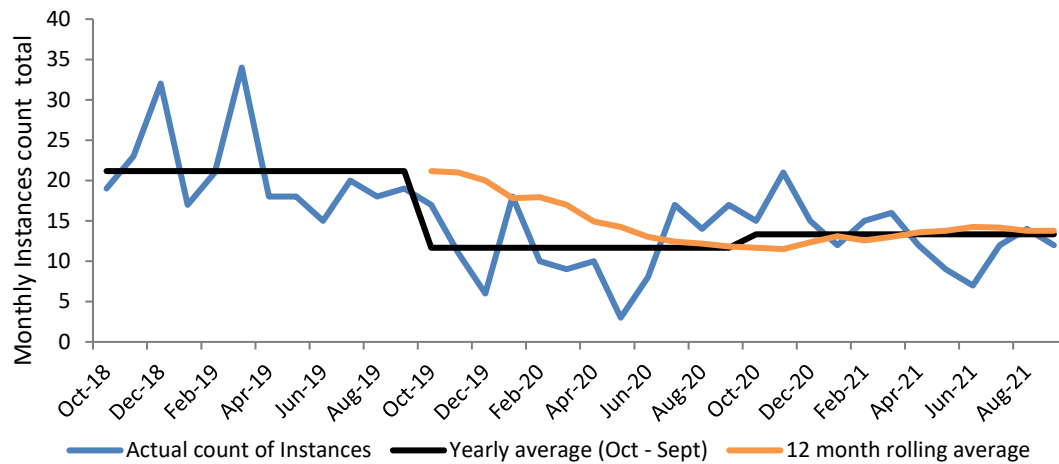
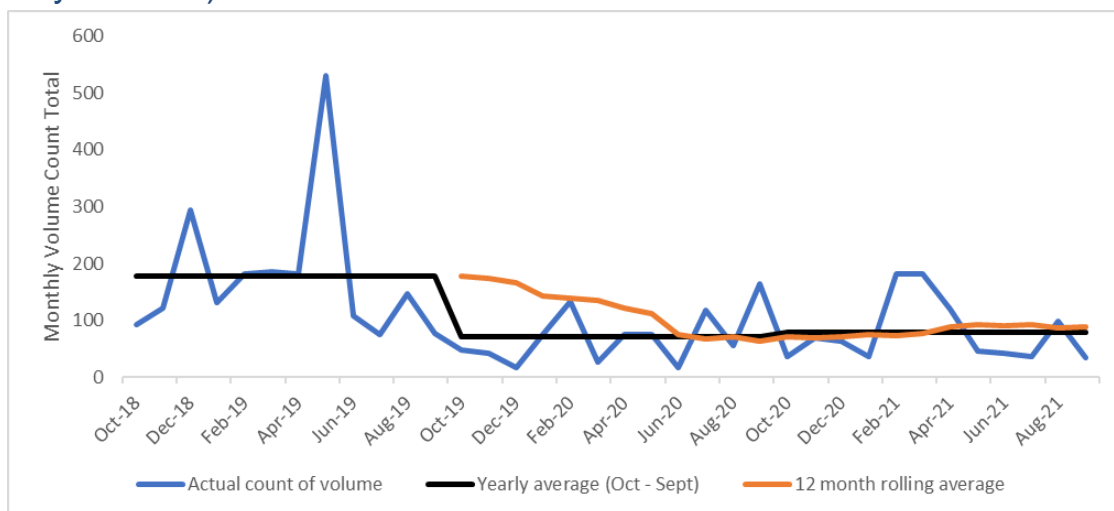


Figure 9: Needle removal volume, Cambridge City (Source: Cambridge City Council)



In the year ending September 2021, needle finds were most frequently located in Market Ward (20% of instances) and Petersfield Ward (20% of instances).

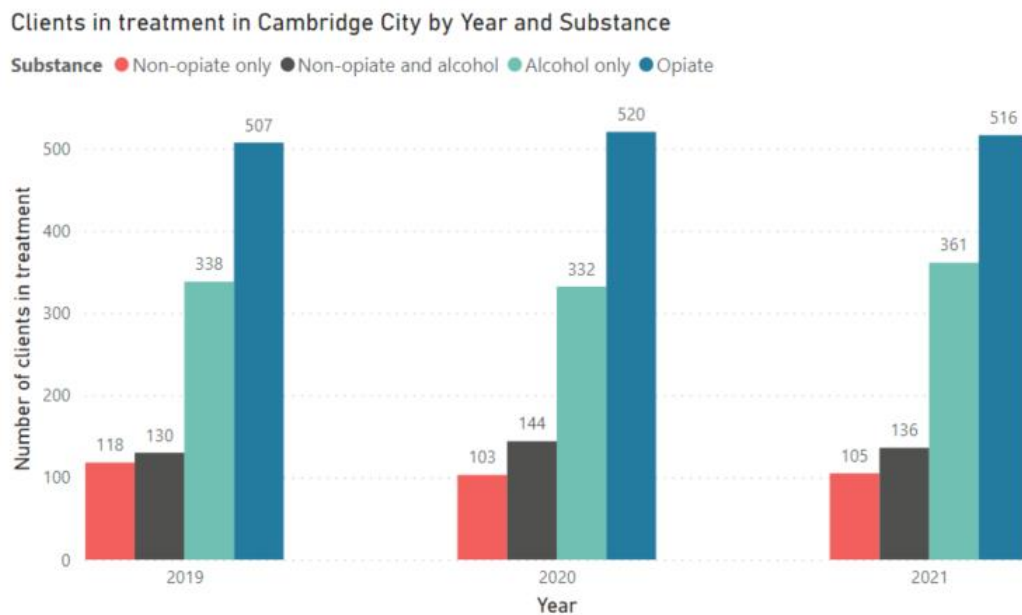
Information provided by Change Grow Live (drug and alcohol support services) shows that the number of Cambridge City residents in treatment remains relatively stable since 2019. A total number of 1118 of residents in Cambridge were in substance-related treatment in the year Sep 2020-Sep 2021, with a majority treated because of opiate (46%) and alcohol (32%) misuse. As mentioned earlier in this report there has been a strong emphasis upon harm reduction as part of the COVID-19 response locally.

Table 5: Clients resident in Cambridge City and in treatment or successfully completed treatment in the year ending September 2021. This does not reflect the location of treatment service necessarily.

(Source: Change Grow Live)

Client Group	Cambridge
Total number in treatment	1118
Number in treatment by substance	-
Opiate	516
Non-opiate only	105
Alcohol only	361
Non-opiate and alcohol	136
Successful completions	210

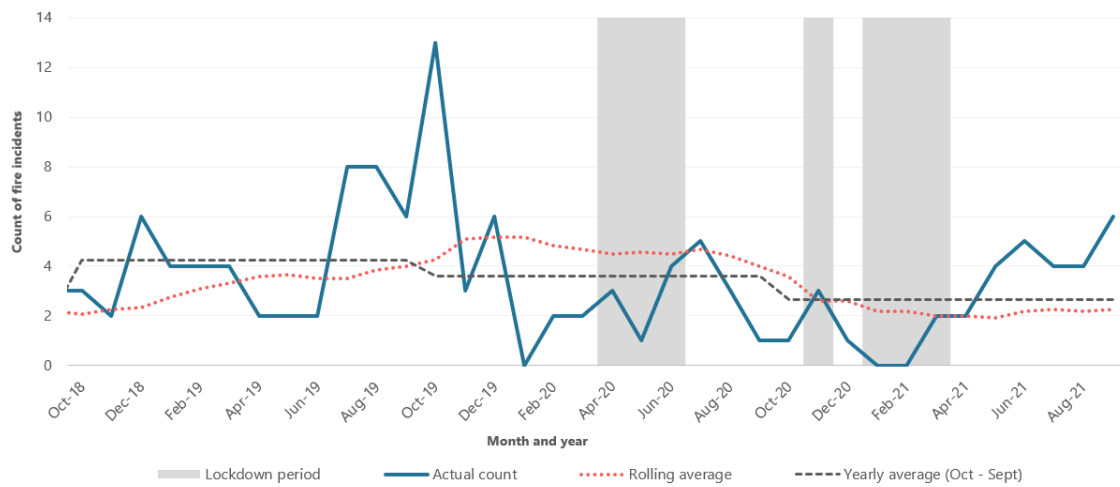
Figure 10: Clients in treatment in Cambridge City by year and Substance  
 (Source: CGL Change Grow Life)



#### 4.4 Fire

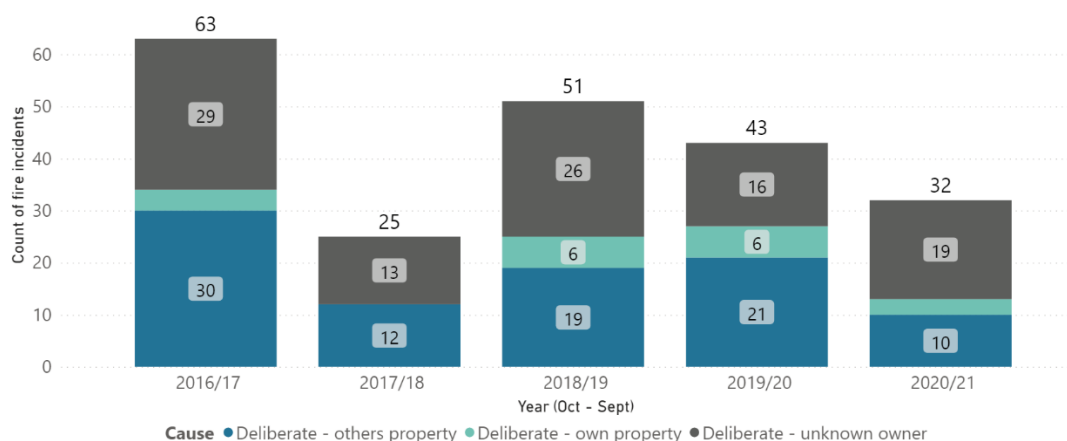
The fire service recorded 214 fires incidents in Cambridge City between October 2020 and September 2021. This is a 13% increase on the 2019/20 figure of 188. Of the 214 recorded fires, 73% were categorised as accidental, 15% as deliberate and 12% has an unknown cause. The number of deliberate fires in Cambridge saw a 26% decrease between 2019/20 and 2020/21 from 43 to 32, which continues the decreasing trend since 2018/19.

Figure 11: Deliberate fires in Cambridge City between October 2018 and September 2021.



The decrease in deliberate fires in the district could be linked to the strict restrictions during the coronavirus lockdowns in 2020/21, meaning people had less opportunity to cause deliberate fire damage. This is supported by the fact that Cambridge City saw no deliberate fires in January and February of 2021, likely the result of a combination of seasonal variation and the strict national COVID-19 lockdown in early 2021. The ownership of property affected by deliberate fire is recorded where possible. While much of the data shows an ‘unknown owner’, consistently few deliberate fires occur on an ‘own property’ basis, as shown in the chart below.

Figure 12: Count of deliberate fires in Cambridge City broken down by property type, October 2016-September 2021



The ward with the largest number of deliberate fires in 2020/21 was Trumpington which saw 6 deliberate fires.



A comparison to national trends reported by Fire and Rescue Services.<sup>34</sup> National data is available from Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) in England up to March 2021. The FRS data below and the Cambridge data used as a comparison is therefore considered on a financial year timescale (April – March) as opposed to the October to September timescale discussed in the rest of this report.

National data shows that the total number of incidents attended by FRS decreased by 7% from 2019/20 to 2020/21. In the same period, Cambridge saw a similar decrease in the number of fire incidents attended (note that FRS data also includes non-fire incidents and false alarms), from 206 in 2019/20 to 180 in 2020/21, a 13% decrease. In particular, incident rates for both Cambridge and England shows distinct decreases in Q4 of 2020/21 which coincides with the third national lockdown.

National data highlights a 5% decrease in dwelling fires in 2020/21. This data is reflected in Cambridge, where a 7% decrease in dwelling fires occurred between 2019/20 and 2020/21, from 46 to 43 dwelling fires. It is suggested that this decrease in dwelling fires could be the result of people spending more time at home and therefore being present to prevent a fire before the FRS (Fire Rescue Services) are required. In addition, there are indications that a decrease in the number of car journeys taken during the pandemic because of the restrictions may have led to a reduction in vehicle fires, with both Cambridge and England showing a 15% decrease in vehicle fires between 2019/20 and 2020/21. However, the Cambridge data for vehicle fires is generally low volume (20 fires in 2019/20 and 17 in 2020/21) and therefore liable to fluctuation.

## **4.5 Hate crime**

National statistics regarding police recorded hate crime highlight long term increases and attribute this to improved recording practices, however certain trigger events such as Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic have generated real short-term increases<sup>35</sup>.

National analysis shown in the figure below, shows Hate Crime offences and Violence against the person totalled with public order offence trends

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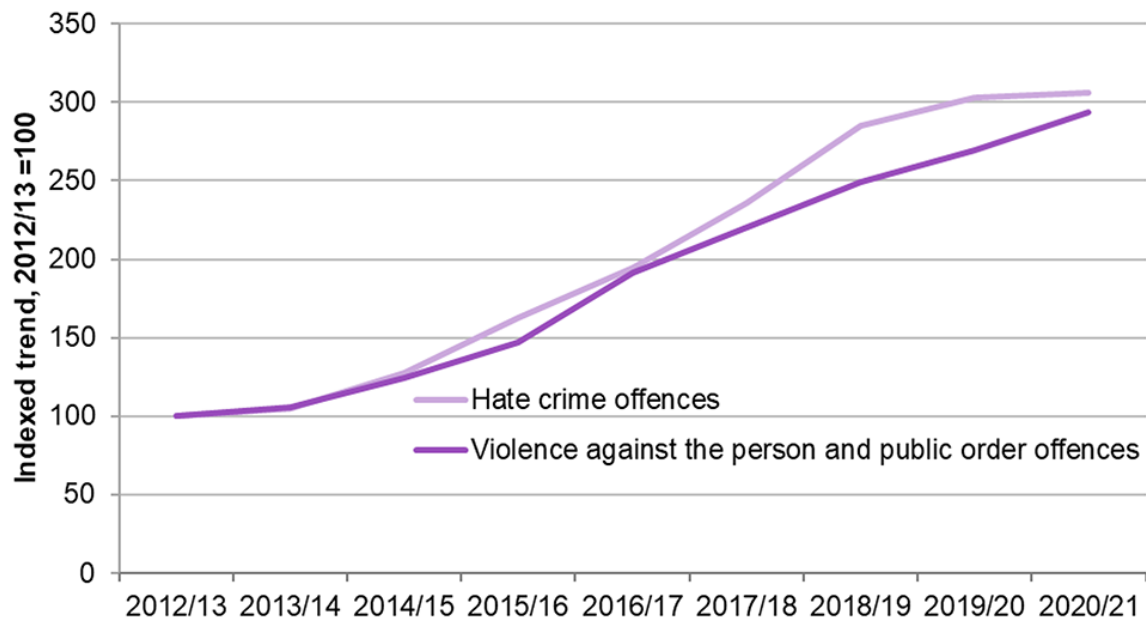
<sup>34</sup> Fire and rescue incident statistics: England, year ending March 2021 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fire-and-rescue-incident-statistics-england-year-ending-march-2021>

<sup>35</sup> [Hate crime, England and Wales, 2020 to 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2020-to-2021)

are broadly aligned in long term trend. However, any offence can be marked as a hate crime. National statistics for 2020/21 (year ending March 2021) noted that.

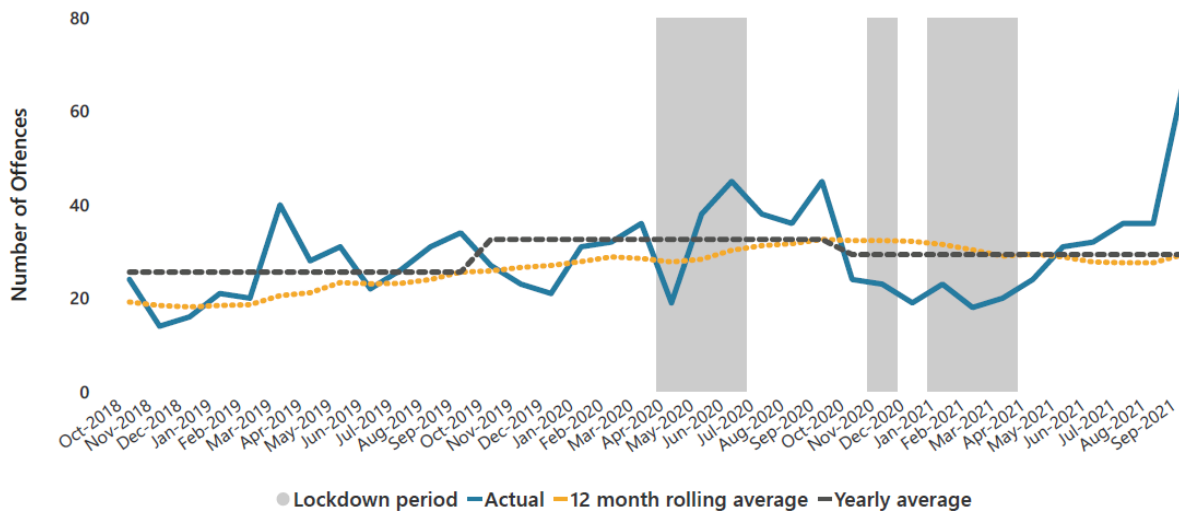
- 52% of the hate crimes recorded by the police were for public order offences
- 40% were for violence against the person offences
- 5% per cent were recorded as criminal damage and arson offences.

Figure 13: Indexed trends in the number of police recorded violence against the person and public order and hate crime offences, year ending March 2013 to year ending March 2021 (year ending March 2013 = 100) (Source: Home Office 2021)



In terms of the total volume of offences with a hate crime marker, Cambridge City has recently been the location of a sharp increase in police recorded hate crime, shown in the figure below.

Figure 14: Monthly police recorded hate crime, Cambridge City

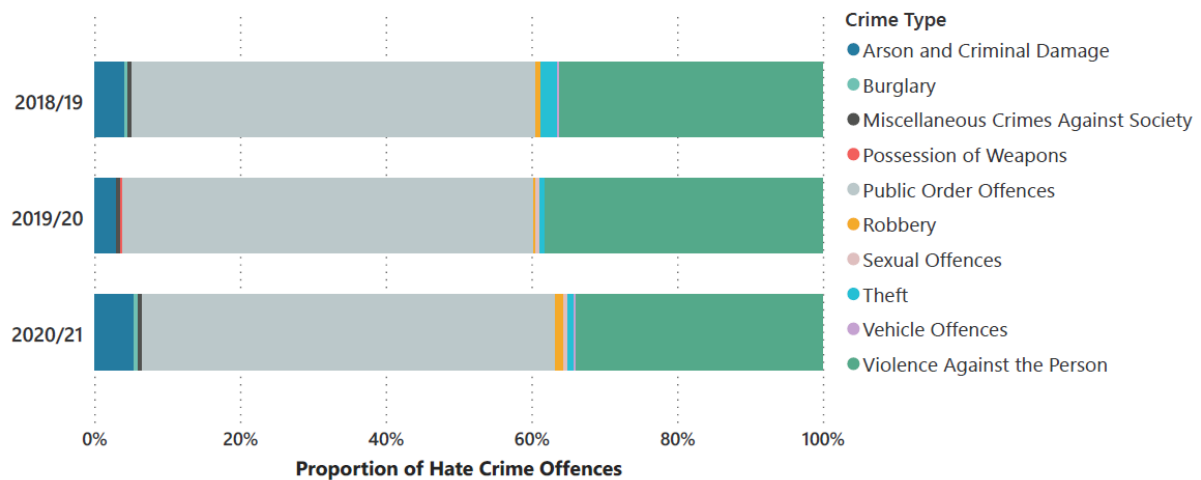


This significant recent spike in hate crime has been identified as a linked series occurring in the South of Cambridge City and City Centre. Police Operation Thoracic relates to this series which was unusual in its nature. This was found to be a pre-meditated spree of criminal acts for which the young perpetrators travelled into Cambridge to carry out over two weekends. Police activated a “Key individual network” process and the “Community impact assessment” protocol which all happened immediately. This meant that a local group was set up to speak directly with the Chinese community affected via their own nominated community leaders. At the time of writing three juvenile males have been charged and await trial.

Short term decreases in police recorded hate crime preceding this series have been attributed to the restriction of movement within national lockdown periods, reflecting national trends. The longer-term annual figures showed an increase of 27% between the year ending September 2019 and the year ending September 2020, with the number of hate crime-related offences increasing from 307 to 391. In the year ending September 2021 there was a reduction to 352 hate crime-related offences, however, this remains 15% above 2018/19 levels despite the restrictions on movement during this time period.

The figure below shows a breakdown of hate crime marker offences for Cambridge City for 3 years. The CSP should note that arson and criminal damage offences have formed an increased proportion of hate crime in the latest year, however the crime subgroup of criminal damage is driving this change rather than Arson.

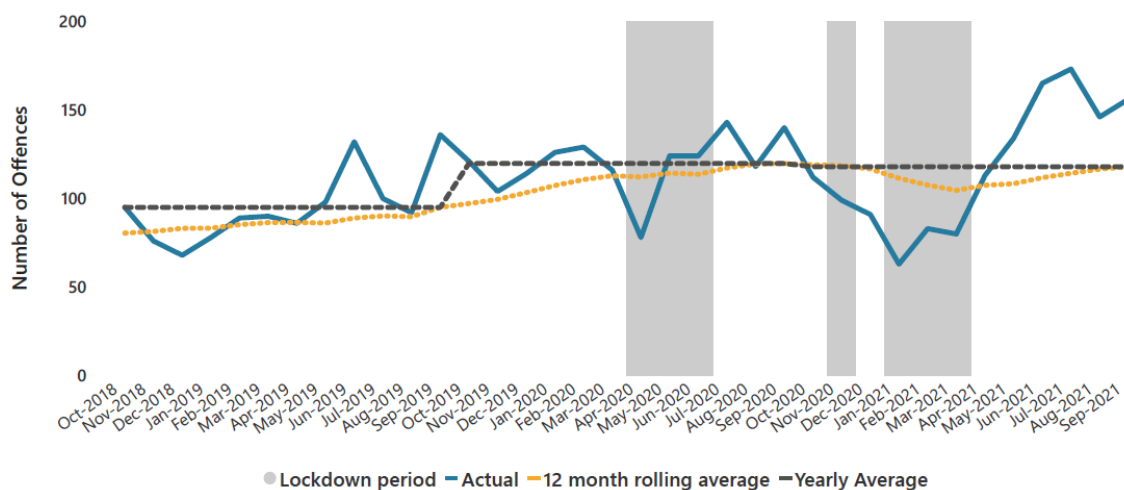
Figure 15: Hate crime marker offences in Cambridge City broken down by crime type.



## 4.6 Public Order

Public order offences have maintained a similar overall level in Cambridge City since early 2020, with short term decreases seen in each of the three national lockdowns. There was however a peak of offences in June and July 2021 (165 in June, 173 in July). This was substantially higher than those occurring in the previous years, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 16: Monthly breakdown in Public Order offences, Cambridge City (Source: CADET)



As outlined previously, there is a substantial overlap between trends in public order offences and hate crime, which have also seen a recent peak in 2021.

## 4.7 Fraud, scams and Cyber crime

### 4.7.1 Fraud and Scams – An emerging issue of concern nationally in the context of COVID-19

Fraud – according to Action Fraud, fraud is when “trickery is used to gain a dishonest advantage, which is often financial, over another person”.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) suggests people are more likely to be the victim of fraud or cyber offences than any other crime type<sup>36</sup>.

A scam is a type of fraud, for example mass marketing scams are a common type of scam.

Long-term data for 2011 onwards from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) suggests fraud and computer misuse offences have seen year-on-year increases from around 500,000 incidents in 2011/12 to over 800,000 in 2020/21<sup>37</sup>. Fraud and computer misuse offences reported to Action Fraud, a public facing reporting platform, saw a 27% increase from 2019/20 to 2020/21, though referrals to National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) from UK Finance and Cifas from their member organisations decreased slightly in 2020/21.

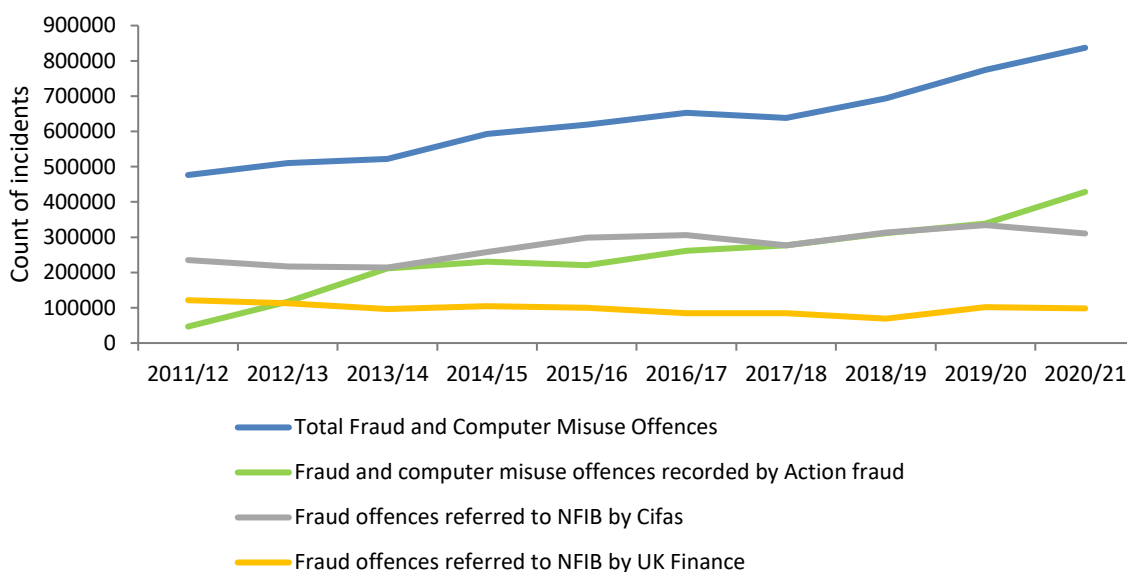
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<sup>36</sup> Action Fraud - <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/what-is-fraud>

<sup>37</sup> Crime survey for England and Wales Appendix tables

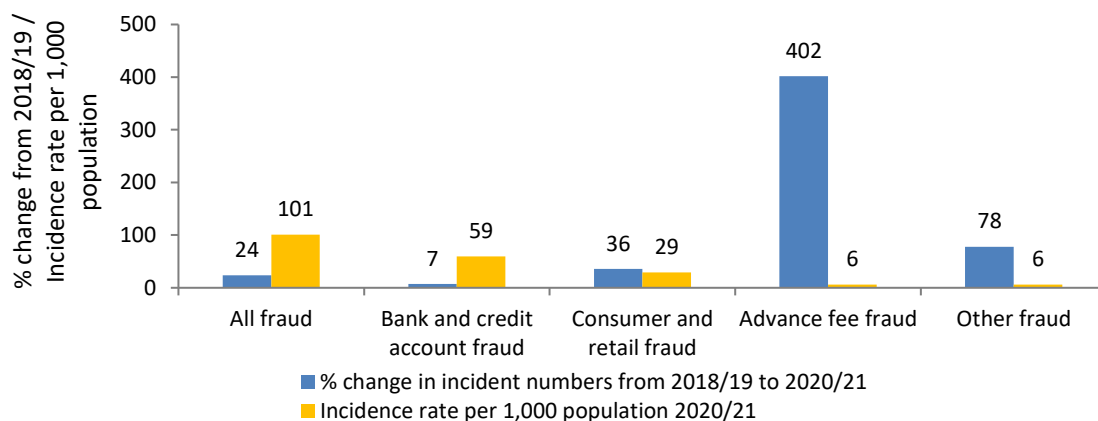
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandandwalesappendixtables>

Figure 17: Long term trends in Fraud and Computer misuse reported, England and Wales 2011/12 -2020/21 (Source: ONS)



Nationally, fraudsters have adapted to changes to public habits and behaviours during the pandemic such as increases in online shopping and investment of savings. In 2020/21, ‘Bank and Credit account’ fraud remained the most common type of fraud in England and Wales with a prevalence of 59 per 1,000 population<sup>38</sup>. However, all fraud categories saw an increase in the number of incidents from 2018/19 to 2020/21.

Figure 18: National incidence and change in incident number for key fraud types, 2018/19 to 2020/21 (Source: ONS)



8 Crime survey for England and Wales Appendix tables  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandanddwalesappendixtables>

'Advance Fee fraud' saw the largest increase, at 402% between 2018/19 to 2020/21. Advance Fee fraud sees fraudsters trick people into transferring money for employment, services or goods they do not then receive<sup>39</sup>. UK Finance suggests that during the pandemic, fraudsters played to people's fears and worries, tricking them into parting with money by offering desirable incentives supposedly from trusted organisations such as such as vaccines and Covid-19 related pay-outs, as well targeting people through online shopping, investment and dating scams. Other fraud categories which saw significant increases during the pandemic included 'Consumer and retail fraud' (36% increase) and 'Other fraud' (78% increase), whilst some fraud sub-categories, such as 'Plastic card fraud due to theft', decreased during the pandemic due to reduced opportunities.

24% of victims of fraud and computer misuse in 2020/21 experienced a loss of money or property<sup>40</sup>. On average, 29% of fraud and computer misuse victims will incur no cost, 47% will incur a cost that is fully reimbursed and 24% of victims will experience partial or total loss. The proportion of total incidents that result in total or partial loss varies by fraud category though. For example, 40% of 'Consumer and retail' fraud leads to total or partial loss but 71% of 'Other fraud' incurs no losses. However, these figures do not account for broader losses as a result of being the victim of fraud such as a loss of confidence for individuals, a negative reputation for businesses or loss of time to resolving the problem.

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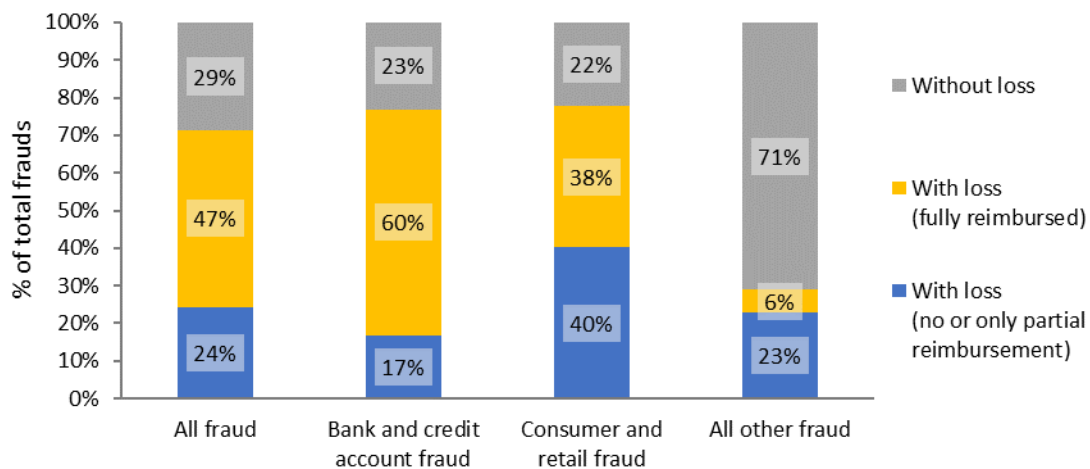
<sup>39</sup> Office of National Statistics Glossary:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/natureoffraudandcomputer misuseinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2019#glossary>

<sup>40</sup> (Crime survey for England and Wales Other Related Tables:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandandwalesotherrelatedtables>).

Figure 19: Proportion of Fraud reported nationally by type and loss affecting victims in 2020/21 (Source: Office of National Statistics)



**Cyber Crime** - Cybercrime is an umbrella term used to describe two closely linked, but distinct ranges of criminal activity <sup>10</sup>. There are numerous types of cybercrimes but the most common are cyber-dependent or cyber-enabled.

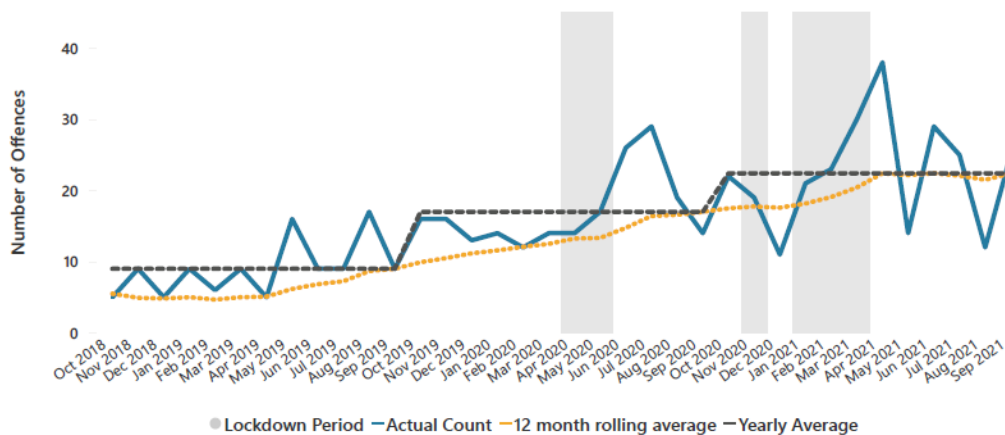
**Cyber-dependent crimes** - crimes that can be committed only through the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) devices, where the devices are both the tool for committing the crime, and the target of the crime (e.g. developing and propagating malware for financial gain, hacking to steal, damage, distort or destroy data and/or network or activity).

**Cyber-enabled crimes** - traditional crimes which can be increased in scale or reach by the use of computers, computer networks or other forms of ICT (such as cyber-enabled fraud and data theft).

Police recorded crime in Cambridge City with a cybercrime marker (online crime or cyber enabled) are shown in the figure below, with a clear increase in the annual average since 2019. While the overall volume of these crimes is relatively low, it should be acknowledged that this crime type is significantly under reported.



Figure 20: Police recorded crimes in Cambridge City with a cybercrime marker.



Fraud and cybercrime have been highlighted in national statistics and the trend in Cambridge City currently reflects national increases, however limited local data is available. The CSP needs to consider its role in supporting residents to be aware of, report and seek support around tech and digital enabled crime. The risks are likely to have increased with greater reliance on online services since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 4.8 Priority 2 Update: Listening to community needs and responding together to reduce harm

Area Committees within Cambridge City collate information from The Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team for the area; Cambridge City Council’s Community Safety Team; the general public (via online and telephone crime and intelligence reporting); and consultation with elected Ward and County members. At the time of writing the following local areas of concern were highlighted in each committee as shown below.

Figure 21: Cambridge City Area Committees: Current local areas of concern

North (East Chesterton, West Chesterton, Kings Hedges and Arbury Wards)
ASB (Antisocial Behaviour) and dangerous driving across the north of the city (including Fen Road and the High Street) and NO2 (Nitrogen Dioxide) canisters; Street-based drug dealing, including cuckooing; and Youth and knife crime.
South (Cherry Hinton, Trumpington and Queen Ediths Wards).
Continue work to tackle vehicle-related antisocial behaviour and driving across the South of the City; Continue work (patrols and diverting young people away from crime and antisocial behaviour) across the South of the City, with specific focus on Trumpington Ward; Drug dealing, moped riding and anti-social behaviour around Cherry Hinton Rec and Cherry Hinton Hall; and Bike theft in Nine Wells and Trumpington Ward.
West/Central (Castle, Market and Newnham Wards)
Road Safety. Issues within the area around the issues of pedal cycles/scooters going the wrong way and other road safety issues in the area; Begging (This will be split into two parts. We will hold primacy over aggressive begging and working with the city council towards the injunction work for passive begging); and Policing of the Green Spaces and the Night-Time Economy (NTE). As well as the normal work to look at safeguarding of the people who are using these spaces.
East (Coleridge, Romsey, Petersfield and Abbey Wards)
Anti-social Driving; Cycle theft Drug dealing and the protection of local young people – child criminal exploitation.

As the table above shows, road safety is a common concern across all area committees in Cambridge City. At a countywide level Road Safety

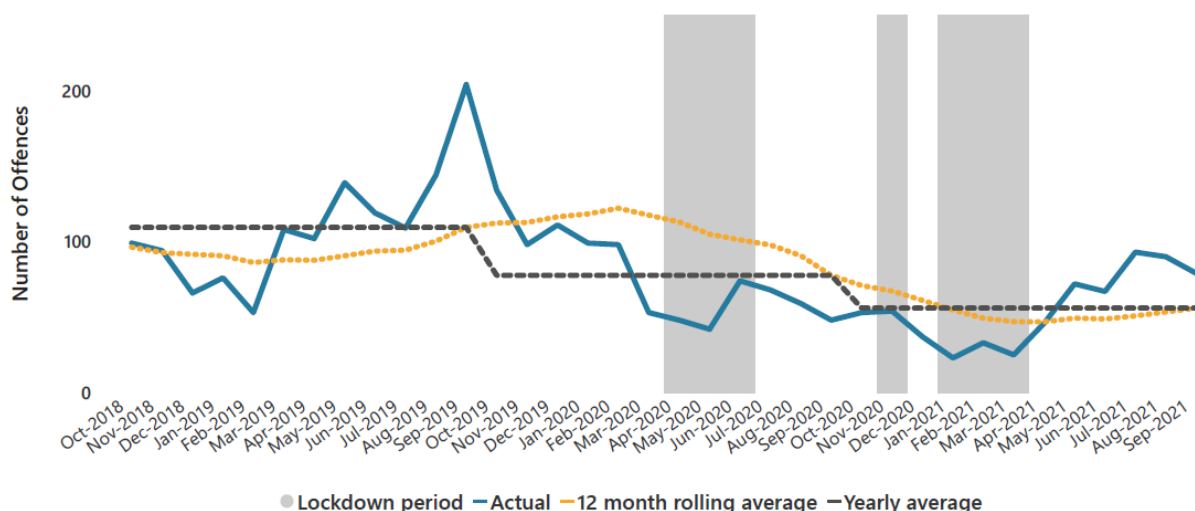
is within the remit of the Vision Zero partnership, a road safety partnership for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Vision Zero partnership aims to achieve its goals by the adoption of local targets to measure and monitor progress, with an emphasis upon empowering and working with local communities to deliver local priorities.<sup>41</sup> The Community Safety Partnership could therefore explore how it can link with the Vision Zero Partnership to help address road safety concerns within the City.

## 5. Cambridge City Centre Specific Issues

Shoplifting was impacted by the national lockdowns which included the closure of non-essential retail as well as restriction of movement. Police recorded shoplifting in Cambridge City declined sharply at the beginning of the first national and has remained markedly lower than levels seen in 2019 until recent easing of the third lockdown.

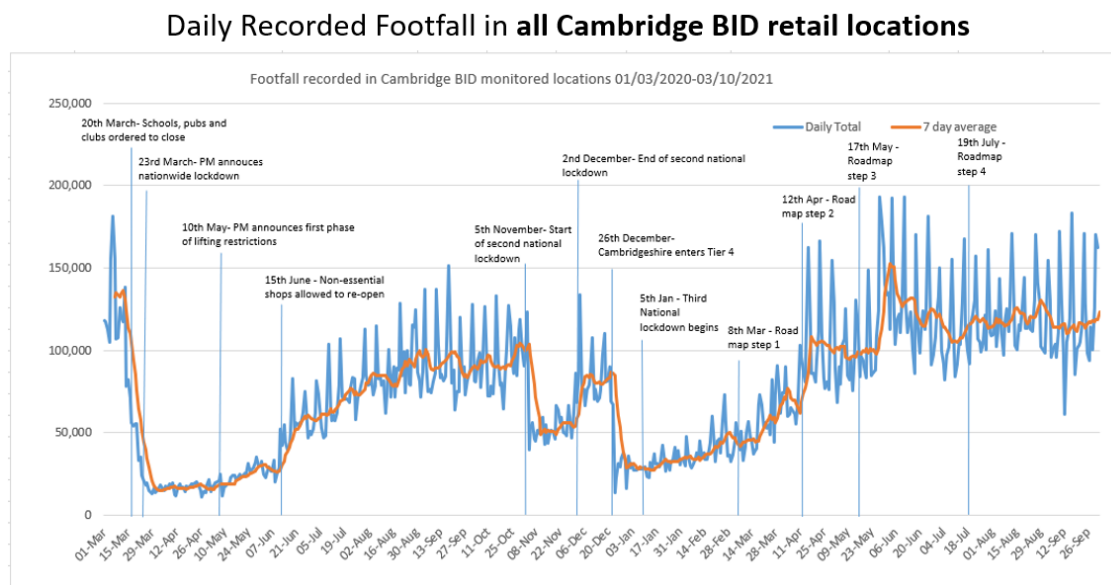
The most recent Jul-Sep 2021 offence counts are closer to those seen pre-pandemic. The daily recorded footfall figures for the BID (Business Improvement District) retail locations in Cambridge are also provided below for some context. The lowest footfall levels in April-June 2020 and Jan-Feb 2021 do indeed coincide with the lowest counts of police recorded shoplifting across the whole city.

Figure 22: Monthly police recorded shoplifting offences, Cambridge City



<sup>41</sup> [About the Vision Zero Partnership - Road Safety Partnership \(cprsp.co.uk\)](http://cprsp.co.uk)

Figure 23: Weekly retail footfall measured by Cambridge BID locations from March 2020 onwards (Source: Cambridge BID)



While this data shows us patterns in overall volume of offences, it does not indicate the type and value of items being stolen or any adjustment in methods in the pandemic period.

For some of the data recording period shown here, only essential retail venues were open and as such the nature and value of items stolen may have varied.

Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC) reports that significant changes in shoplifting behaviour are being observed. Crimes appear to be more organised and carried out by transient offenders. Retailers are being supported by a variety of enforcement options that can be delivered by Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Cambridge City policing team have an ongoing designated shoplifting operation – Operation Fulfordgate – which looks to share intelligence and reduce offending of the most prolific and persistent shoplifters. The methods used by shoplifters remains relatively consistent. Many offenders will use de-tagging devices and foil lined bags to evade shop alarm systems, so staff are not alerted to the theft. The goods are very often resold at a fraction of the RRP (Recommended Retail Price), either to order or via social media pages. The introduction of face coverings to mitigate COVID-19 has made the identification of offenders more difficult at this time.

## **5.1 CSP Activities – City Centre Specific Issues**

### **Purple Flag Award**

The Purple Flag award for Cambridge City was renewed in October 2021, having been first achieved in September 2019. Cambridge BID, in partnership with CAMBAC (Cambridge Business Against Crime) leads a cross-city steering group which includes businesses, emergency services and the City Council<sup>42</sup>.

### **Safeguarding, equality and protection training**

In its role as a licensing authority, since 2016, the city council provides safeguarding, equality and protection training for all licensed taxi drivers, to allow them to identify and respond to concerns about the safety of their passengers, including those who may be at risk of sexual violence. The council supports the work of Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC) and their training for staff at licensed premises to be able to identify and respond appropriately to crime, including sexual offences. There is support for campaigns such as 'Ask For Angela', led by CAMBAC, which aims to keep people safe while dating – helping to prevent and reduce sexual violence and vulnerability within the night-time economy.

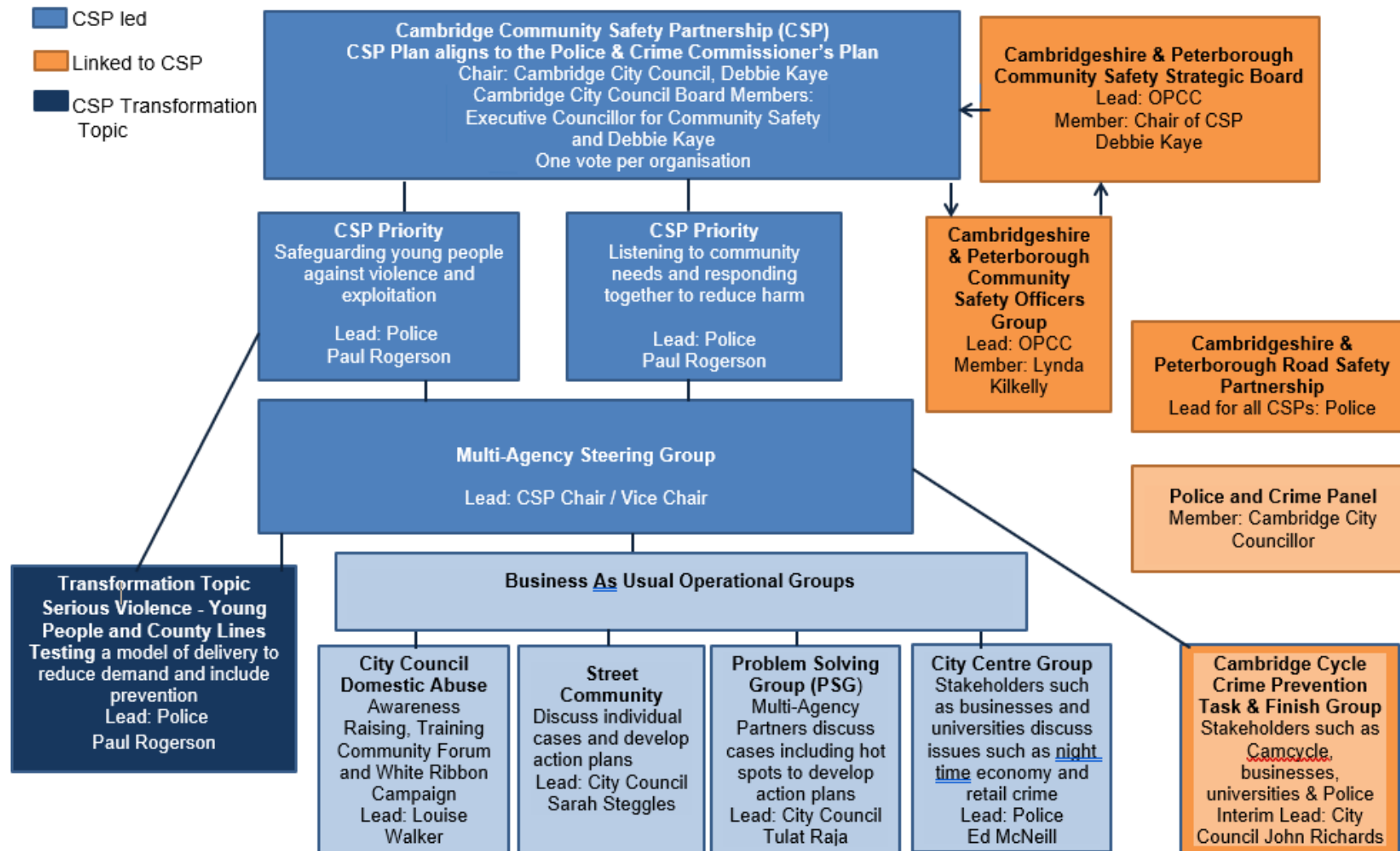
### **Retail Crime**

CAMBAC continues to work closely with Cambridge City Council and City police partners to increase intelligence of offenders and offending behaviour. Training is regularly offered to all CAMBAC members in relation to retail crime.

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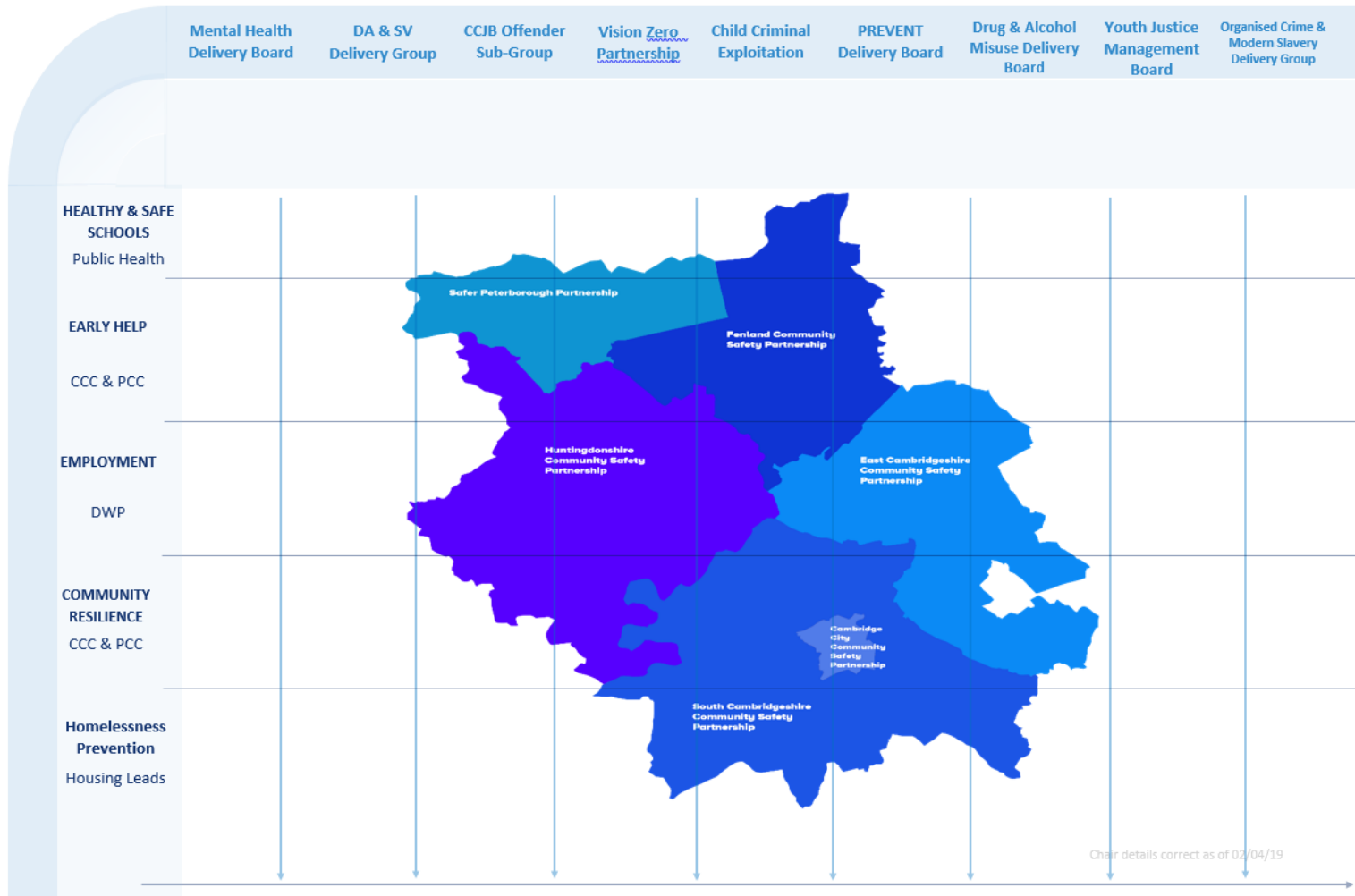
<sup>42</sup> More information available at <https://www.atcm.org/purple-flag> and <https://www.cambridgebid.co.uk/purple-flag>

# Appendix A: Cambridge City CSP Structure Chart 2021-2022 (as at June 2021)



# Appendix B: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Thematic Matrix

## PARTNERSHIP MATRIX



## Appendix C: Sources for lockdown periods and relevant coronavirus restriction periods by date

23rd March 2020

[Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus \(COVID-19\): 23 March 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-s-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-23-march-2020)

15th June 2020 – Non-essential retail reopens.

[Prime Minister sets out timeline for retail to reopen in June - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-sets-out-timeline-for-retail-to-reopen-in-june)

4th July 2020 – Pubs, restaurants, hairdressers, two households meeting, staycations, some leisure and tourist attractions, etc.

[PM announces easing of lockdown restrictions: 23 June 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-announces-easing-of-lockdown-restrictions-23-june-2020)

14th Oct 2020 – three tier system introduced to replace local lockdowns.

[Covid-19 local alert levels: Three-tier system for England - House of Lords Library \(parliament.uk\)](https://www.parliament.uk/library/subject/subjects/covid-19/local-alert-levels-three-tier-system-for-england)

5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020:

[Prime Minister announces new national restrictions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-announces-new-national-restrictions)

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2020:

[403 | The Institute for Government](https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/news/403-the-institute-for-government)

6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021

[Prime Minister announces national lockdown - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-announces-national-lockdown)

29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

[COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021 \(Summary\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary)