

Community Safety Strategic Assessment: Cambridge City 2023/24

Policy and Insight Team – Cambridgeshire County Council

Current Priority

Reducing Violence in our City Centre

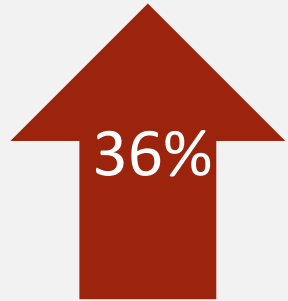
This priority aims to prevent violence and increase safety in the city centre at night. It is planned that this will be achieved by:

1. Developing educational campaigns to prevent violence, focussing on younger people
2. Working together to increase safety in our city centre.

Overall crime type patterns

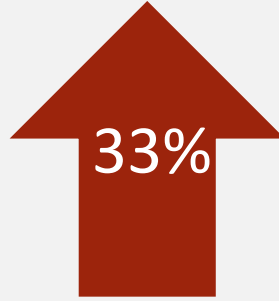
Change in Cambridge City crime count 2021/22 – 2022/23 (YE September):

Vehicle offences



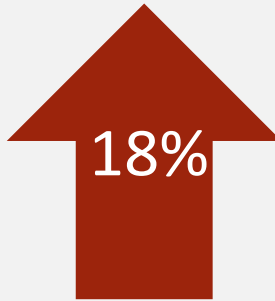
+320
offences

Theft



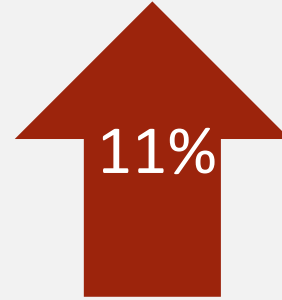
+1,302
offences

Burglary



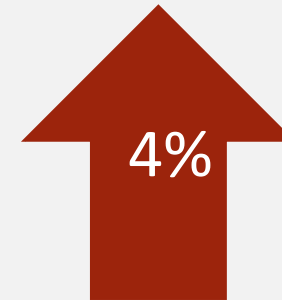
+100
offences

Robbery



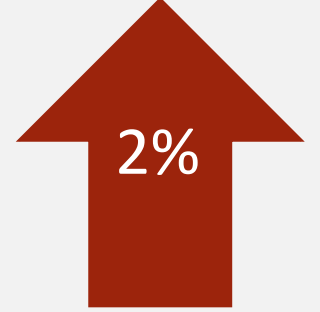
+21
offences

Arson & criminal
damage



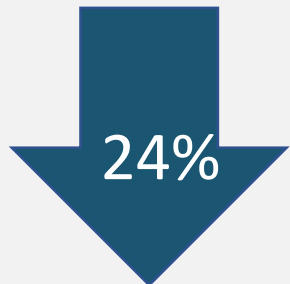
+54
offences

Public order



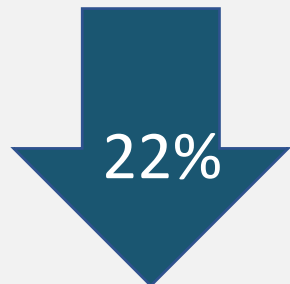
+34
offences

Sexual offences



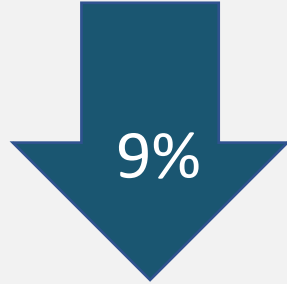
-122
offences

Drug offences



-91
offences

Violence



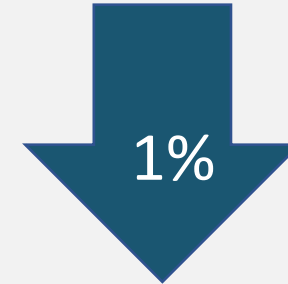
-395
offences

Misc crimes
against society



-12
offences

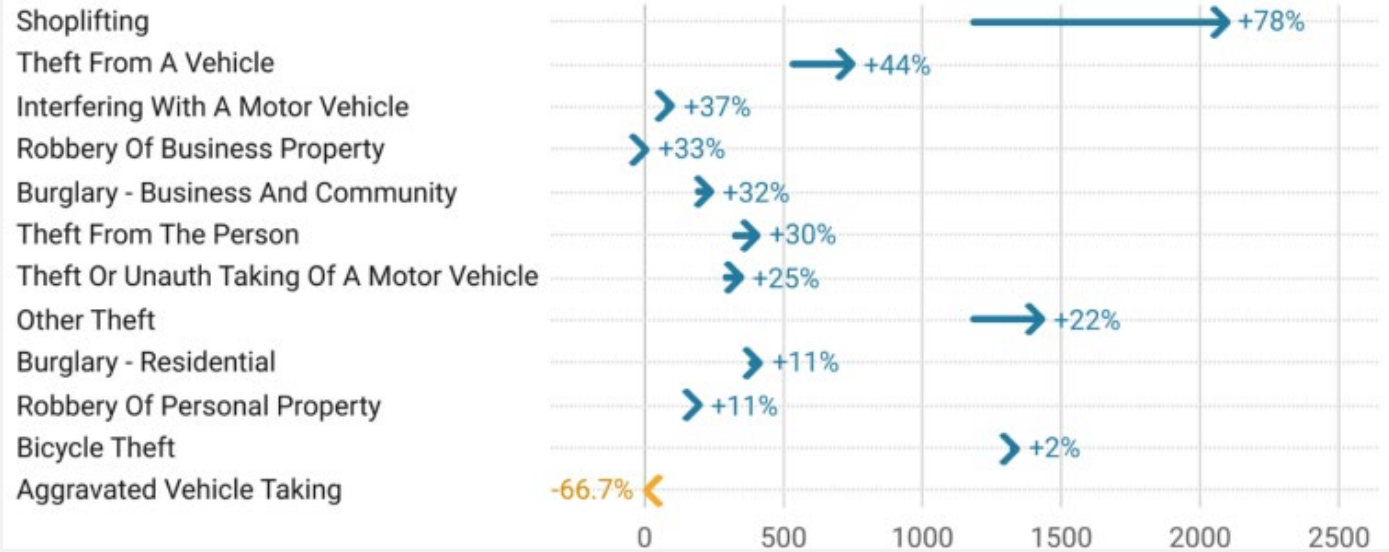
Possession of
weapons



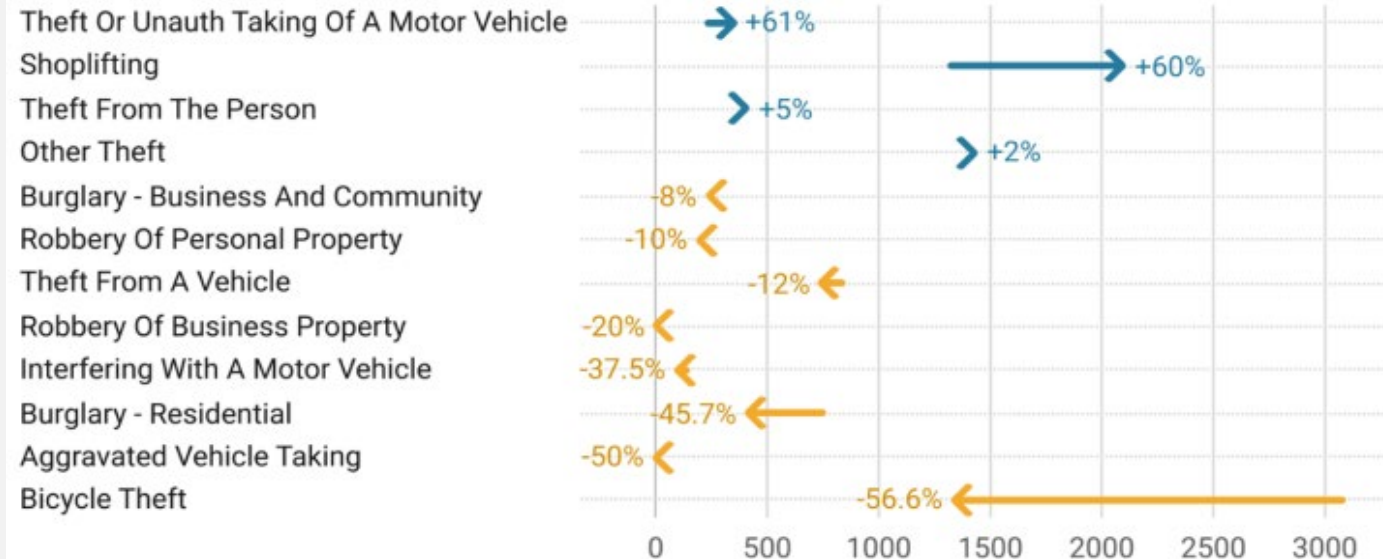
-2
offences

Acquisitive Crime

Offence count and % change between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (YE September), by offence sub-group

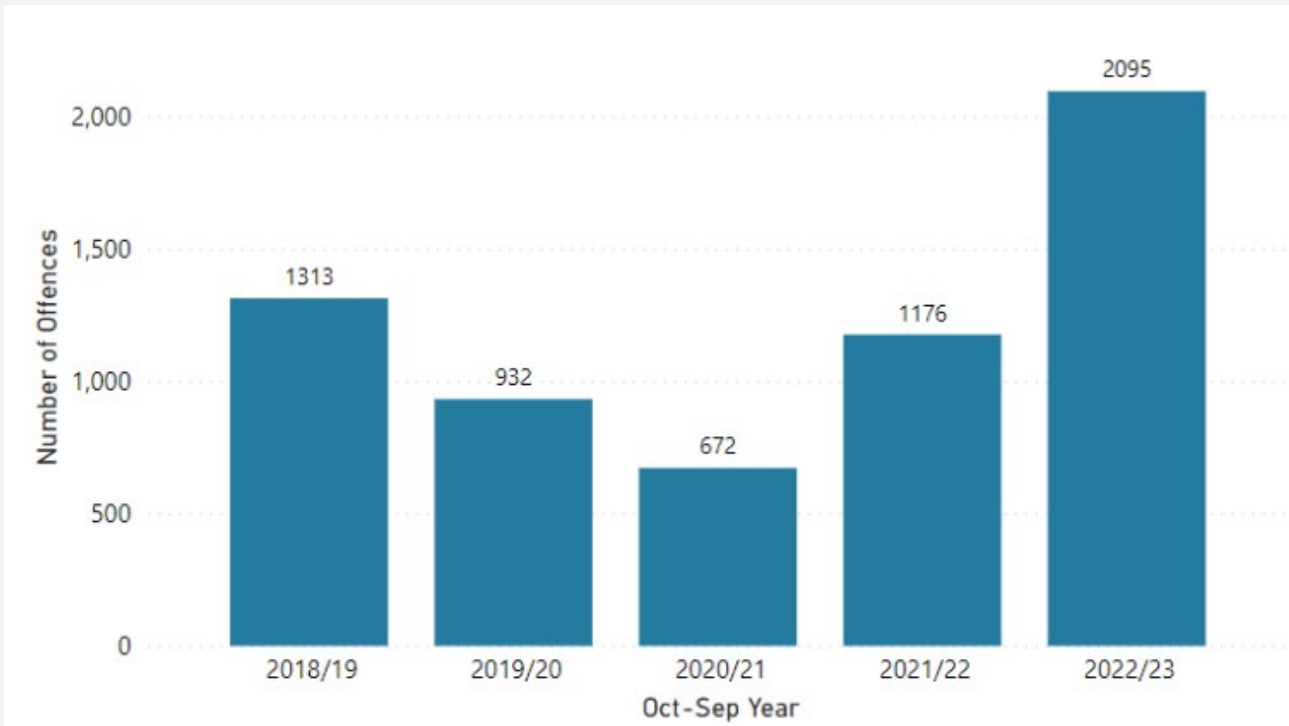


Offence count and % change between 2018/19 and 2022/23 (YE September), by offence sub-group



Shoplifting

Annual count of shoplifting offences in Cambridge City



- Shoplifting up 78% in the latest year, compared to 25% nationally
- Monthly count data shows a continuing upward trend with the peak seen in September 2023

Dip sample analysis:

- Primarily supermarkets
- Food and drink (primarily higher value)
- 1 in 10 offences involved aggression towards shop workers

Potential influencing factors:

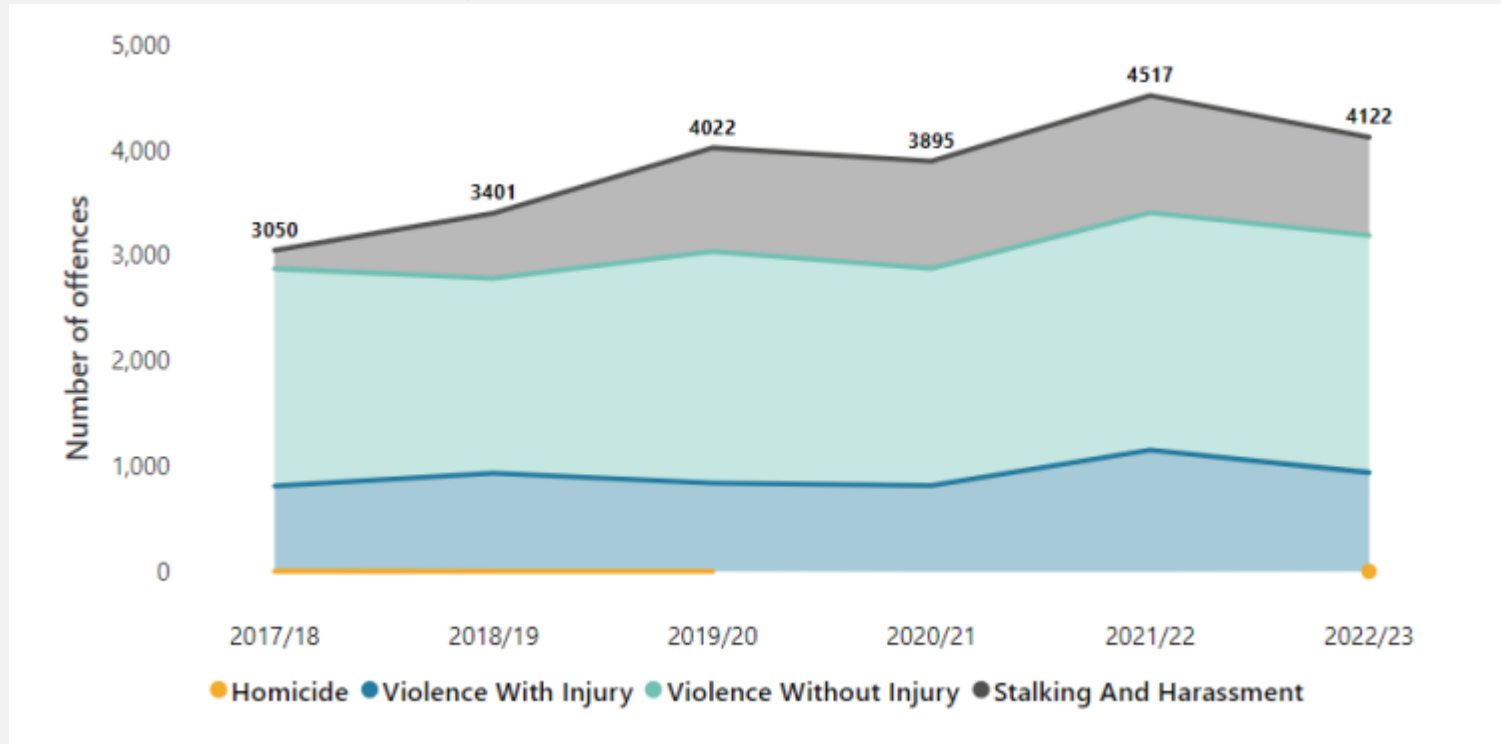
- Cost-of-living pressures, technological developments, police response and CJS outcomes, a shift in serious organised acquisitive crime

Recommendation

It is not recommended that acquisitive crime be adopted as a priority for the CSP at this time, as levels still remain below those seen historically in the city and higher harm issues are present. It is recommended, however, that the CSP completes work to better understand the offences and driving factors behind the increases, in order to inform activities to tackle this emerging issue.

Violence

Annual count of police recorded Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences in Cambridge City (YE September)



- VAP accounted for 27% of all crime recorded in Cambridge in 2022/23
- The rate of VAP offences (based on Census 2021 population) in Cambridge City in 2022/23 was lower than the national rate at 28.3 per 1,000 resident population, compared to 35.3 for England and Wales (YE June)
- Domestic Abuse (DA) related offences were down 23% in 2022/23, whilst non-DA offences were down 3%

Recommendation: Despite the reduction seen in the most recent year, it is recommended that the CSP retain the newly adopted priority of 'reducing violence in our city centre' to put into practice the newly developed action plan and improve safety in the city centre

Exploitation & vulnerability

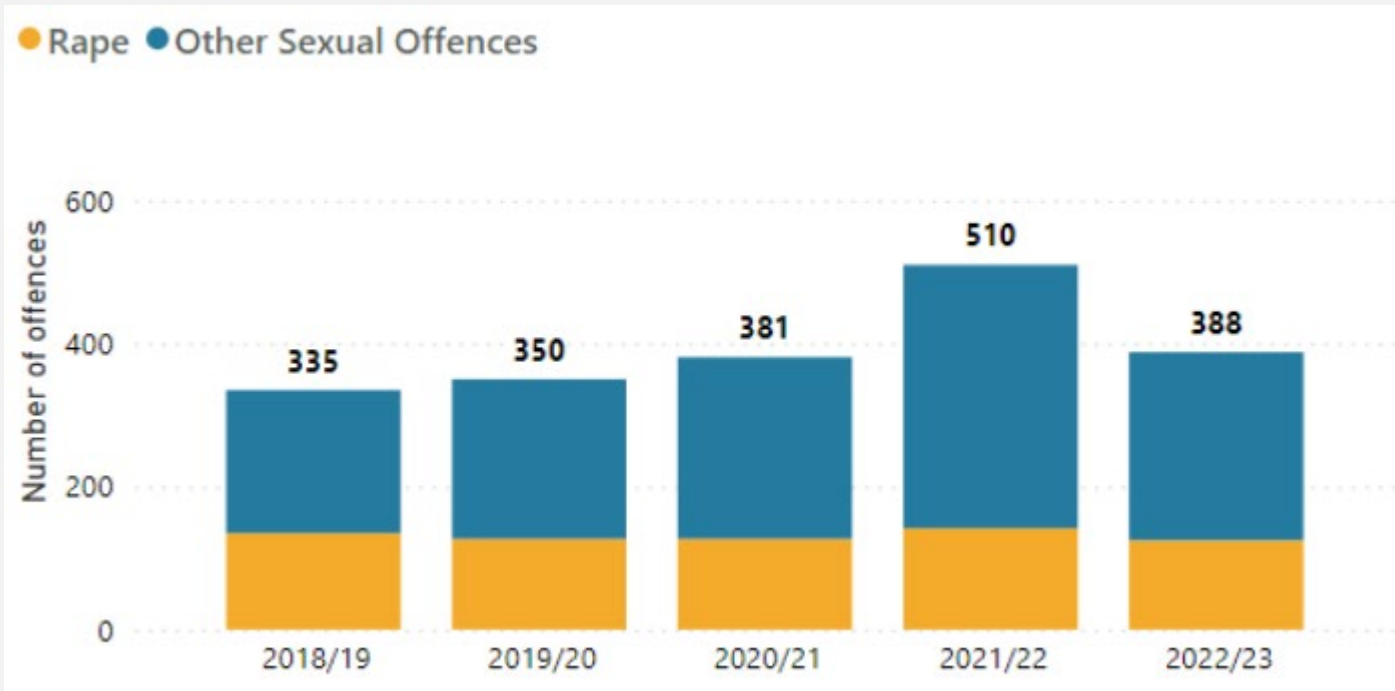
- The issues of modern slavery, county lines, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation are all interlinked and present high risk of harm to vulnerable individuals
- Intelligence held by Cambridgeshire Constabulary indicates that county lines are currently active in Cambridge City
- There were 70 CSE related offences recorded in Cambridge City in 2022/23 (YE September), consistent with the previous year

Recommendations:

- **The CSP should continue to focus resources on the protection of young people from violence and exploitation in the upcoming year.**
- **The CSP is advised to seek Cambridge City specific insight from the constabulary as soon as their Serious Organised Crime assessment is completed.**
- **It is advised that the CSP considers how it links within the county process relating to contextual safeguarding.**

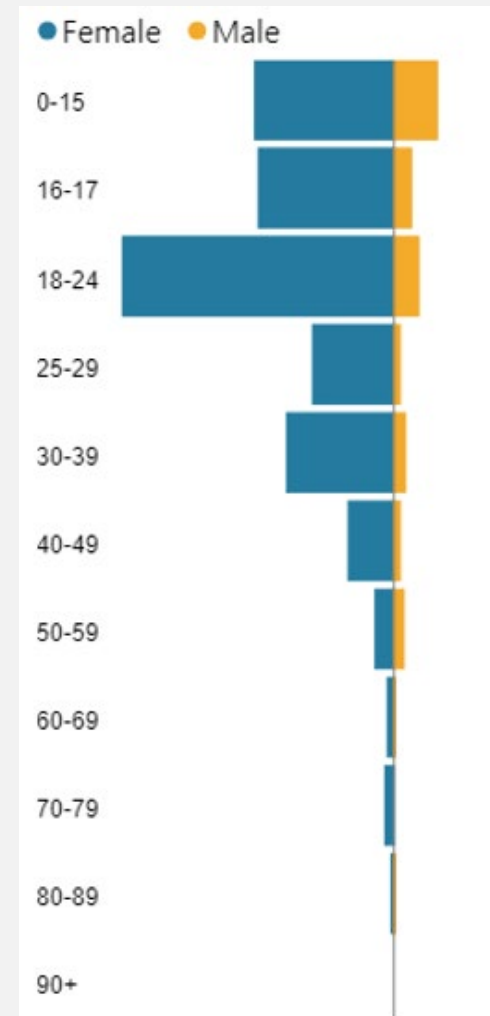
Sexual Offences

Annual count of police recorded sexual offences in Cambridge City, by sub-type (YE September)



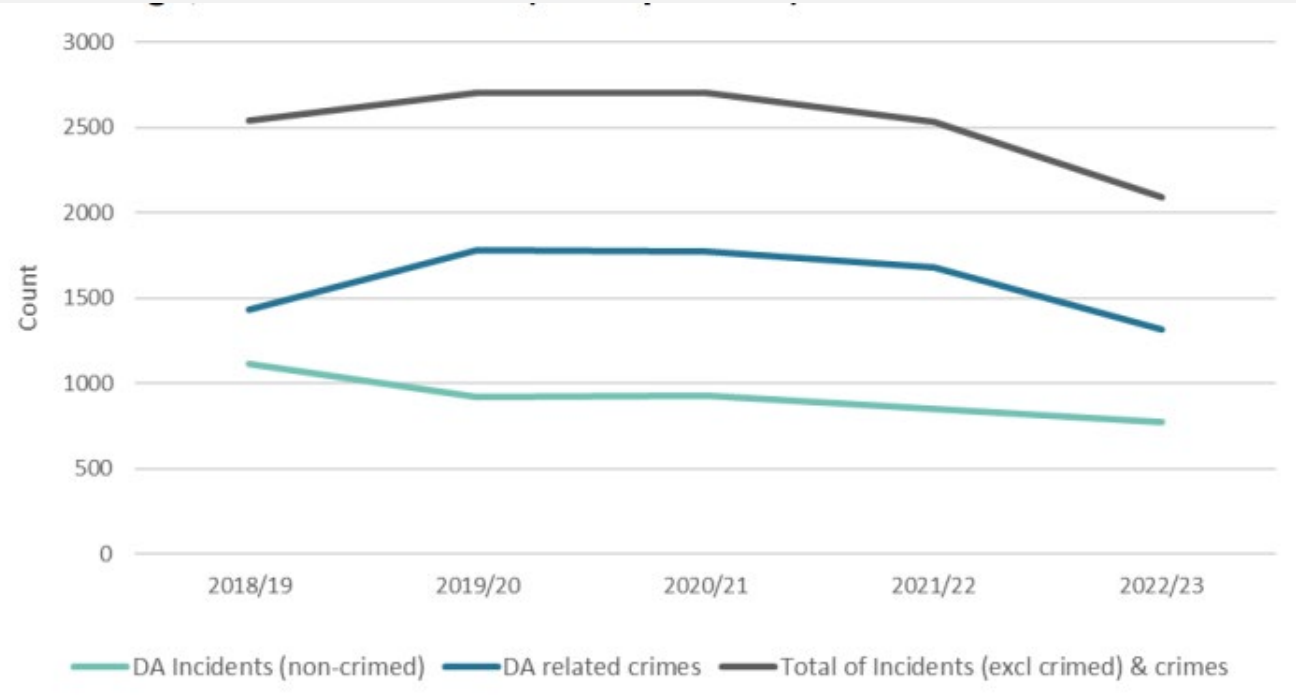
- Following a notable spike in 2021/22 offence levels dropped by 24%. This reflects the national picture of a spike in 2021/22.
- Victim demographics show young females to be the primary victims of sexual offences

Count of unique victims of sexual offences, by gender and age (at the time of offence) Cambridge City, April 2021 – March 2023



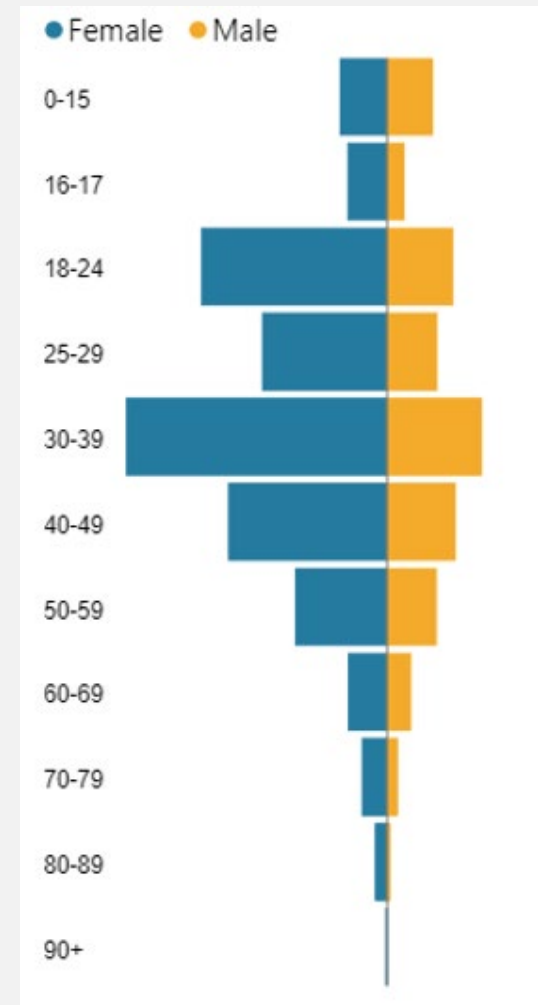
Domestic abuse (DA)

Annual count of police recorded DA incidents and crimes in Cambridge City, YE September



- DA related offences were down 18% in 2022/23 whilst non-crimes incidents were down 10%
- Victim demographics:
 - Female victims aged 18-24 and 30-39 were the dominant groups
 - Male victims – a notable proportion aged under 16

Count of unique victims of DA offences, by gender and age (at the time of offence) Cambridge City, April 2021 – March 2023



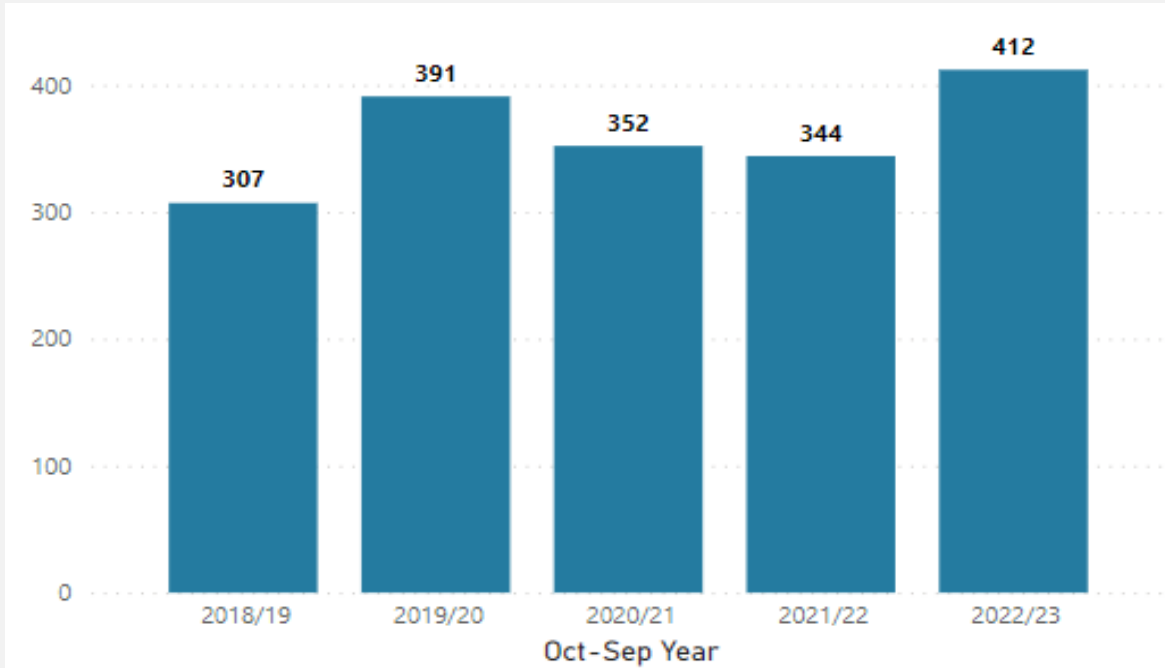
Recommendation

Domestic Abuse related offences and sexual offences have both shown notable reductions in Cambridge City in the latest year, following a trend of increases seen in recent years. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) commissioned a needs assessment in 2023 which is due to be published shortly.

It is recommended that the CSP utilise the findings of the Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment to increase understanding of the current VAWG issues impacting Cambridge City and Cambridgeshire as a whole.

Hate crime

Annual count of police recorded Hate Crimes in Cambridge City, (YE September)



- Hate crimes were up a fifth in the latest year (20%), in contrast to a reduction seen nationally (-5%) and in Cambridgeshire as a whole (-5%)
- Hate crimes in 2022/23 up 34% on 2018/19 levels

Recommendation: The CSP should consider and discuss what all agencies understand to be the scale and nature of hate crime and community tensions within Cambridge City. This may include case studies and community engagement.

Offending

- Newly shared data from the Probation Service was included in this assessment along with Youth Offending Service (YOS) data to provide cohort demographics for Cambridge City
- 43% of individuals in the Cambridge probation caseload are assessed as at high or very high risk of reoffending, the highest percentage across the Cambridgeshire districts
- The YOS cohort is predominantly male (68%), although the count of male offenders has reduced by 24% since 2020/21 whilst the count of female offenders has increased by 30%.

Recommendation: The CSP should continue to liaise with the Probation Service to establish data sharing which facilitates the tackling of re-offending within Cambridge City and other areas of the county.