



South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Strategic Assessment 2012/13

Document Details

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Section 1: Executive Summary

This section summarises the key findings and recommendations for the partnership.

Section 1.1: Key Findings

The likelihood of being a victim of a crime or an anti-social behaviour incident is relatively low in South Cambridgeshire. This is due to a combination of factors, particularly the rural nature and affluence of the district means that the level of crime and anti-social behaviour is very low. Unlike other areas of the county there are few large town centres or pub clusters. It is the vulnerability of each victim or offender that determines the impact of the crime or incident.

Domestic abuse continues to feature as a problem within the area. Very little of the violence is attributable to the night-time economy, but some violence will be linked to alcohol. All violent crime is down 12% year to date (April – December 2012), or 661 offences compared to 583 offences.

Whilst anti-social behaviour (ASB) remains on some neighbourhood profiles, the nature is often low level. Speeding and parking still feature as issues for some residents. Less than 1% of people surveyed felt that ASB was a problem locally (fewer than 4 people in approximately 600 in a 12 month period).¹

Crime against businesses continues to be a problem in South Cambridgeshire. There are some vulnerable locations within the district. Crime prevention work continues with businesses in the district. Top ten businesses (highest volume of offences) in South Cambridgeshire include Supermarket's and petrol stations who are already engaged with the constabulary. Smaller independent industrial sites and public buildings continue to be targeted by offenders.

The CDRP continues to have a statutory duty to deliver the Integrated Offender Management scheme (IOM). This scheme is delivered county-wide with support from local partnerships. South Cambridgeshire has relatively few offenders that are prolific enough to qualify for the scheme, there are 2 or 3 on the scheme at any one time.

Section 1.2: Recommendations

It is recommended that the partnership continue with the following priorities for 2013/14

1. Tackling anti-social behaviour and supporting troubled families. In particular for 2013/14;

- Continue working in partnership to challenge perpetrators of anti-social behaviour and support victims.
- To reduce criminal damage and work with perpetrators to help change their behaviour and improve their understanding of the impact of their actions.

¹ Cambridgeshire Constabulary PIC survey data

Research & Performance Team, Cambridgeshire County Council

- In particular, the partners need to work with vulnerable people who are at higher risk of harm.
- Embedding the use of E-CINS the online multi-agency case management system and mainstreaming the case work within South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC).

2. Preventing and reducing crimes against businesses

This priority should remain for a further year whilst activity is embedded into mainstream work for the partners. In particular;

- To help licensed premises, who wish to, to become part of the existing CAMBAC scheme²
- To support business to reduce crime by providing crime reduction advice and support.

3. Shaping and supporting new growth, including taking account of its impact on existing communities

- In particular working together with planners developing Northstowe and Longstanton.
- Continue to improve engagement with all communities in the district.

4. Committing support and appropriate resources to the Integrated Offender Management scheme in Cambridgeshire

- To continue the excellent partnership working to support and challenge offenders in South Cambridgeshire.

5. Supporting work to reduce domestic abuse

- Raising awareness of the changes in definition, which now includes those ages 16 – 18.
- Working with partners to ensure younger victims and offenders have access to appropriate services.
- Continue work to reduce repeat victimisation.

² Cambridge Businesses against Crime

Section 2: Introduction

The purpose of this strategic assessment is to provide the South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) with an understanding of the crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse issues affecting the district. This will enable the partnership to take action that is driven by clear evidence.

Background

The strategic assessment is produced annually, and forms part of the business planning process for the South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). A variety of data sources were used in both the scanning and analysis stages (for a full list please see appendix A). The approach used for the strategic assessment follows the SARA model³. After scanning was carried out a meeting was held with key officers in the district and all the areas of concern were agreed for further analysis. A second meeting was held with key officers and board members to discuss the key findings and recommendations prior to finalising the document.

Structure of the document

In order to provide a holistic representation of problems across the district, the strategic assessment draws on a wide range of data that is shared across the partnership. The document is set out in four main chapters:

- Key findings and recommendations
- Overview of crime and disorder in South Cambridgeshire
- Performance and partnership activity during the last 12 months
- Analysis of key issues

The strategic assessment is the starting point of the wider partnership business planning process, which helps to inform the local action plans. To aid this process the analysis of key findings are organised according to the current partnership priorities. The action plan is reviewed and updated on a monthly basis by the Tasking and Co-ordination Group.

Additional data

The Research and Performance team has created an interactive community safety atlas that can be accessed here <http://atlas.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/crime/atlas.html>

This provides data for some of the main crime and disorder issues in the district at ward level. It is publicly available and shows 5 year trends and comparator data (where available). The atlas allows the user to review the trend data directly on the map or in a chart.

³ SARA: Scanning, Analysis, Reaction, Assessment - http://www.popcenter.org/library/reading/pdfs/Rocket_Science.pdf

Section 3: Overview of Community Safety

This section provides an overview of crime trends in the district and highlights any emerging issues.

South Cambridgeshire has a population of approximately 148,800⁴, which is 24% of the county total. Since the 2001 census the population has increased by 14%. The district is predicted to grow by a further 27% in the next 20 years.

As crime has fallen over time since 1995, so has the likelihood of being a victim of a crime. For Cambridgeshire, 85% of victims were aged between 16 and 65. Those living in more deprived parts of the county were more likely to be a victim.

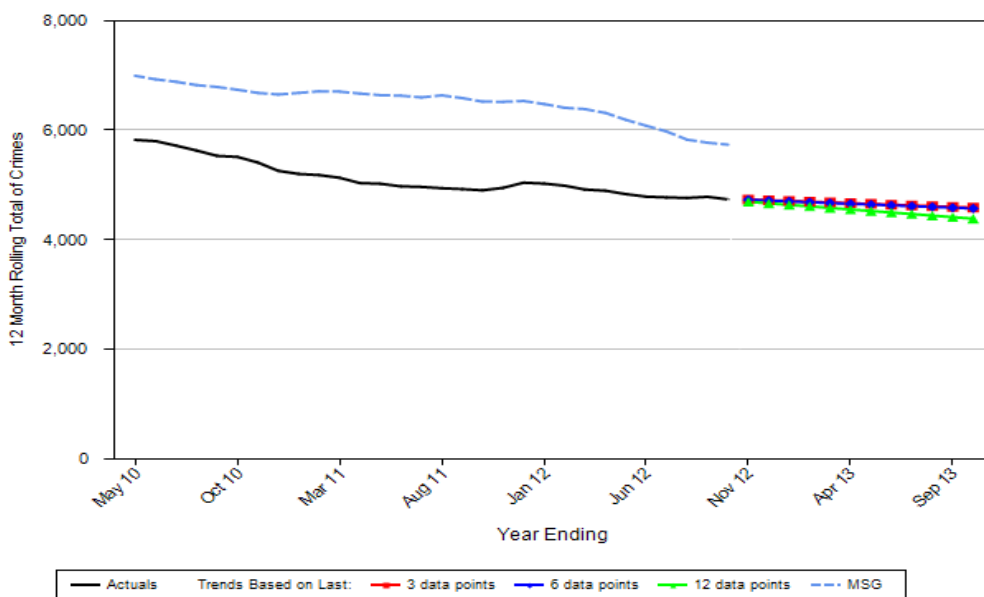
South Cambridgeshire CDRP remains in position 3 in its most similar group for total crime, where position 1 is the best performance with the lowest rate of crime. The rate for total crime was 31 per 1,000 population compared to the group average of 38 per 1,000.⁵

Rural South Cambridgeshire

There are two definitions of rural crime. The definition that most appropriately applies to South Cambridgeshire is a crime that occurs in a rural location. As South Cambridgeshire is a rural district with very few large settlements this applies to almost all of the crime here. There is no need therefore for a separate priority, as within the existing priorities the impact of the rural nature is considered. The likelihood of becoming a victim varies depending on personal circumstances and lifestyle. The lowest risk lies with someone in an older age range living in an affluent rural area.

Section 3.2: Long-term trends

Figure 1: Long-term trend of volume of total crime – iQuanta



⁴ Census population estimate 2011

⁵ 12 month data to October 2012

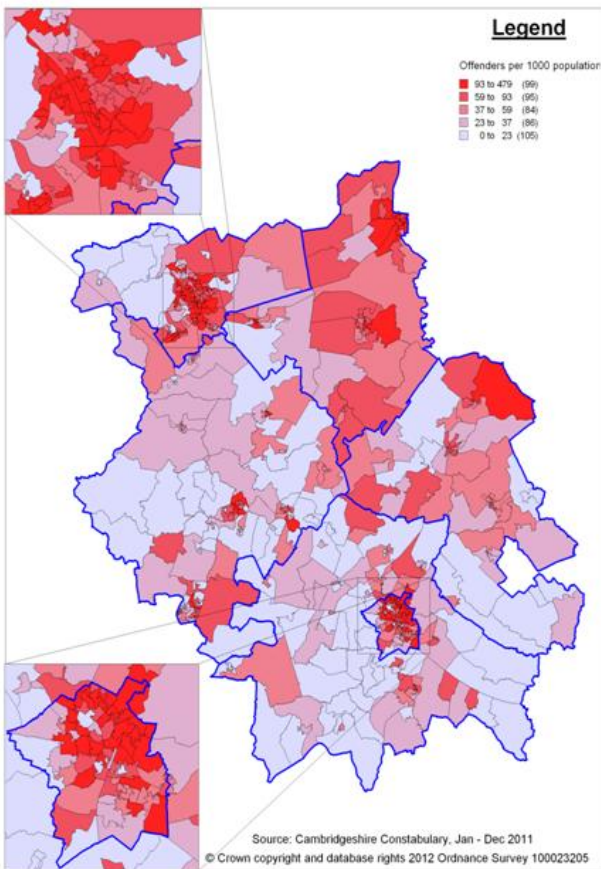
The recent trend for the volume of total crime is a slower rate of reduction compared to the previous two years. The long-term projection, based on recent data, indicates a continued reduction, albeit at a much slower rate of decline than previously. The rate of total crime for South Cambridgeshire for the 12 months ending November 2012 was 31 per 1,000 population for total crime compared to the previous year when the rate was 33 per 1,000 population.

Section 3.3: Victims and Offenders

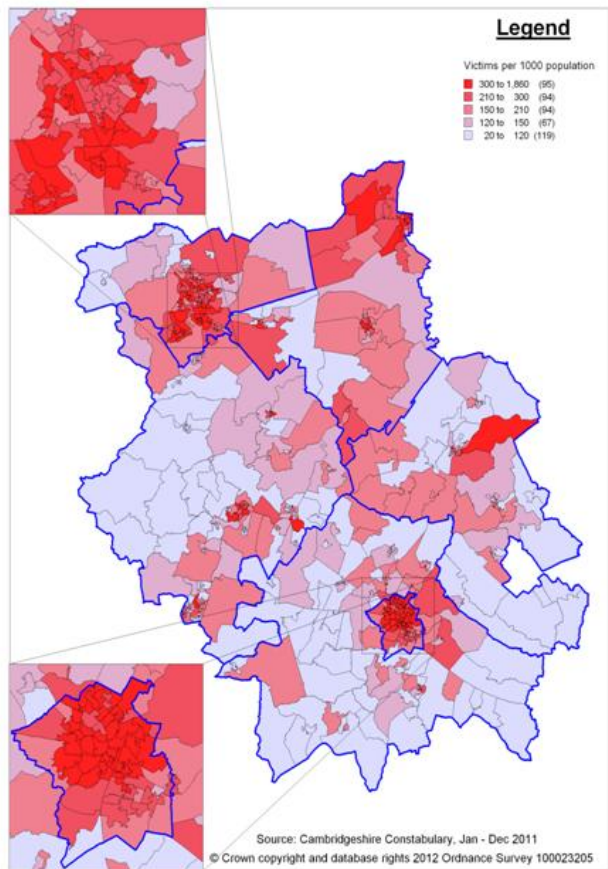
The map below demonstrates what a safe district South Cambridgeshire is. It shows the rate of victimisation and offending per 1,000 population by lower super output areas (LSOAs) in Cambridgeshire. The darker the colour, the higher the rate of victimisation or offending within the resident population. However, the majority of South Cambridgeshire is pale with no areas recording the particularly high levels of victims or offenders.

Figure 2: Rates of victimisation and offending by ward

Rate of Offenders per 1000 population



Rate of Victims per 1000 population



Section 3.4: Additional Monitoring

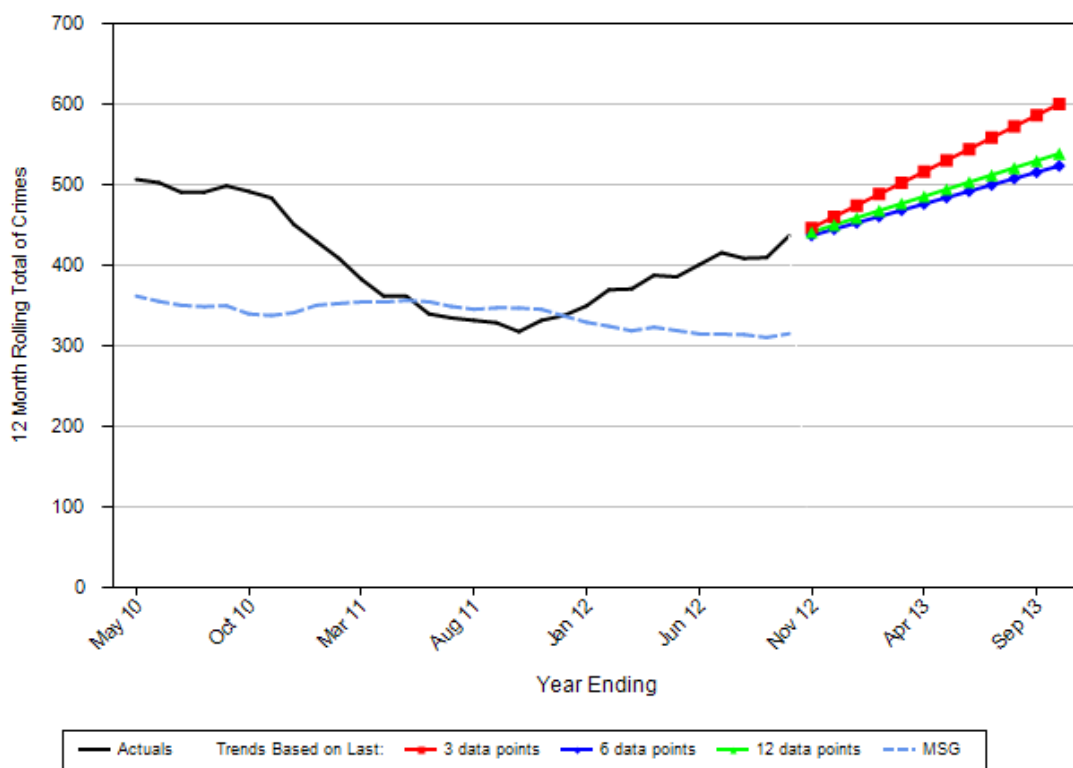
This section highlights issues within the remit of the partnership that are not covered elsewhere in the document

Burglary

Burglary has increased in the district by 16% comparing January – December 2012 with the previous year. That is an increase of 54 offences from 337 to 391. The CDRP is in position 13 in its most similar group (were 15 is worst).

The chart below shows the position the CDRP is compared to its most similar group of partnerships.

Figure 3: Burglary dwelling trend for South Cambridgeshire - iQuanta



Recent police analysis has highlighted that some areas have been particularly vulnerable to repeat burglaries.

- Some of these locations are long roads that can sometimes be the focus of a series of offences.
- There are some specific addresses that are more vulnerable to repeat offences due to temporary circumstances such as a property being vacant while work is being carried out.
- As would be expected there are specific addresses which appear to be more vulnerable to repeat offences due to the remote location of the property and/or due to the occupants being elderly.
- Some properties are also more vulnerable to repeat offences due to the property being associated in some way with potential offenders.

Overall the level of dwelling burglaries remains low, but higher than the comparator group and higher than the level in 2011/12. It is therefore important to consider the rate of dwelling burglaries within the district which shows that the rate has decreased slightly from 6 per 1,000 population to 5.4 per 1,000 population between November 2011 and November 2012. As the district continues to grow and increase in population the number of burglaries is very likely to increase. Current evidence indicates that the rate of dwelling burglary is less likely to increase.

Road safety⁶

South Cambridgeshire had a reduction from the baseline (2005-09 average) of 28% in killed and seriously injured. This was the largest reduction in Cambridgeshire. In 2011 there were 403 accidents in South Cambs, 23% of those that occurred in the county.

It should be noted that last year 45% of all casualties, 51% of serious injuries and 88% of deaths occurred on rural roads (those having a speed limit of more than 40 mph).

Whilst South Cambs has a high rate of injured per head of population, the indicator does not take into account the volume of 'through' traffic (non-residents) included within the figure and therefore the measure is not a good indicator of risk of being injured in an accident.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership (CPRSP) continue to work on their priorities. Within South Cambridgeshire the constabulary and initiatives such as Community Speedwatch continues to respond to local concerns.

⁶ Key findings taken from The 2011 Joint Road Casualty Data Report

Section 4: Performance and Partnership Activity

For 2012/13 the partnership adopted a new way of working. The full board now meets only twice during the year and remains responsible for agreeing the budget, priorities and targets, approving the annual report and challenging the half-year review. A new Tasking and Co-ordination Group meets on a monthly basis to set specific actions, review progress and performance, identify emerging issues and manage the budget. The new approach focuses on shared intelligence and taking swift joint action.

Key partnership activity within the last 12 months;




- Addressed anti-social behaviour by challenging perpetrators about their behaviour and enforcing tenancy agreements
- Direct support to victims of domestic abuse to access support services
- Prosecuted perpetrators of benefit fraud
- Taken action in 38 cases of Housing & Council Tax Benefit fraud totalling over £100,000
- Fire safety advice delivered to over 300 school children
- Dealt with over 150 abandoned vehicles and cleaned up 350 fly tipping incidents
- Reduced vehicle crime by providing crime prevention advice to residents
- Tackled metal theft through regular action days
- Tackled speeding by providing communities with the speed limit stickers to display
- Allocation of a PCSO to specifically work alongside businesses and build communication channels
- Working with the Local Health Partnership to better understand mental health referral pathways and the mental health 'system' and build relationships with mental health professionals
- Engaging with the troubled families agenda (Together for Families) to ensure the children in these families have the chance of a better life

The Partnership set a target to reduce total crime by 4% by March 2013. Partnership is on track to meet this target if performance for total crime remains in-line with current recording. For the period April 2012 to December 2012 the district recorded 3,608 crimes: 7% or 255 fewer crimes than the previous year.

Section 4.1: Partnership Calendar of Community Safety Issues

To assist with partnership planning the Research and Performance Team produced a calendar based on 5 years data (local, county and national where appropriate) to provide the group with an understanding of when there are typical peaks in selected crime types and community safety issues.

South Cambridgeshire - Community Safety Partnership Calendar

		Offence Volume	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Personal	Violence against the person	MEDIUM	PEAK B						PEAK B					
	Sexual offences***	LOW			PEAK B					PEAK B				
	Domestic abuse incidents	MEDIUM												
	Assault less serious injury	MEDIUM				PEAK B			PEAK A					
	ASB	LOW					PEAK B							
Property	Domestic Burglary	HIGH								PEAK A	PEAK B		PEAK B	
	Vehicle Crime	HIGH					PEAK C		PEAK C					
Business	Non domestic burglary	MEDIUM								PEAK B				
	Robbery of business property*	LOW												
	Theft from shops	LOW	PEAK A	PEAK A	PEAK A								PEAK A	
Environmental	Arson	MEDIUM					PEAK A							
	Criminal Damage	LOW		PEAK C										
	Fly Tipping**	HIGH												
Rural****	Diesel Theft	MEDIUM												
	Hare Coursing													
	Metal Theft													
	Other thefts from farms													
Key Events														
2012 Olympics						25th July	12th August							
2012 European Football Championships					Start 8th	End 1st	England 11th, 15th, 19th (all evening matches)							
School Holidays			30th - 16th HOL		4th-8th HT	23rd July HOL	to 4th Sept		29th Oct HT	to 2nd Nov	21st Dec HOL		13-17th HT	
Other National Holidays					5th June DJ									
Summer Proms						Mid July								



Produced By the Research & Performance Team, Cambridgeshire County Council

References:

- *Seasonality in recorded crime: preliminary findings, RDS Home Office Report 02/07
- ** Fly Tipping, Causes, Incentives, Solutions, JDI, UCL, 2006 (based on Dudley only)
- *** Peak extended for Cambridgeshire as per reports findings
- **** Source: Adapted from Rural Crime Action Team Calendar

Key:

5 Year data:

-  Seasonal High or Peak Close to Upper
-  Seasonal Peak Above Upper SD

Last year 2011/12

- PEAK A 2011/2012 Peak Above Upper SD
- PEAK B 2011/2012 Peak Above Mean
- PEAK C 2011/2012 Peak Below Mean

Section 5: Priority Analysis

This section of the document provides the key findings for the each of the partnerships current priorities.

Section 5.1: Anti-Social Behaviour

This section focuses on anti-social behaviour occurring in the district and the public perception of it.

The rate of anti-social behaviour continues to fall in South Cambridgeshire. The rate is half that of five years ago, going from 37 per 1,000 population in 2008 to 18 per 1,000 population in 2012. The district has consistently recorded the lowest rate of incidents in the county.

Table 1: Volume and rate of police recorded ASB

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Rate per 1,000 population	37	33	28	23	18
Volume of incidents	5,247	4,773	4,059	3,378	2,620

There were reductions seen in all the neighbourhood areas over the same period. These were particularly notable in Melbourn and Cambourne which reduction by 57% and 55% respectively.

In 2012 17% of all recorded crime in South Cambridgeshire was criminal damage or 706 crimes. This is a large proportion for a single crime type. Perpetrators of criminal damage are often associated with other anti-social behaviour problems in their communities. Identifying and engaging with persistent offenders that are causing a concern in relation to ASB and criminal damage would provide an opportunity for the partnership to reduce crime and ASB further.

In general public perception is that anti-social behaviour is not a problem within the district. Specific issues raised at neighbourhood panels during 2012 were;

- The most frequently mentioned issues were vehicle issues which included parking and speeding (49%)
- The second most discussed issue was crime which included burglaries (11%)
- The third most often mentioned was general ASB (9%)
- The forth most discussed was vandalism/criminal damage, which included graffiti (7%)

It should be noted that speeding issues are not always borne out by data capture and can sometimes reflect the perception of speeding.

Approximately 13% of 'personal' anti-social behaviour recorded by the police was medium or high risk.⁷ This is in line with the proportion of high/medium risk assessed in the county. The introduction of E-CINS will allow the partnership to better understand the nature of the vulnerability of victims and offenders.

⁷ Data reflects that police recording of risk assessment commenced in April 2012

Section 5.2: Crimes against Businesses

This section focuses on offences committed at 'business' locations or against businesses.

A quarter of crime in the district (1,139 offences) was recorded as occurring at a 'business' location. Of these offences 87 offences occurred at agricultural locations (less than 2%).

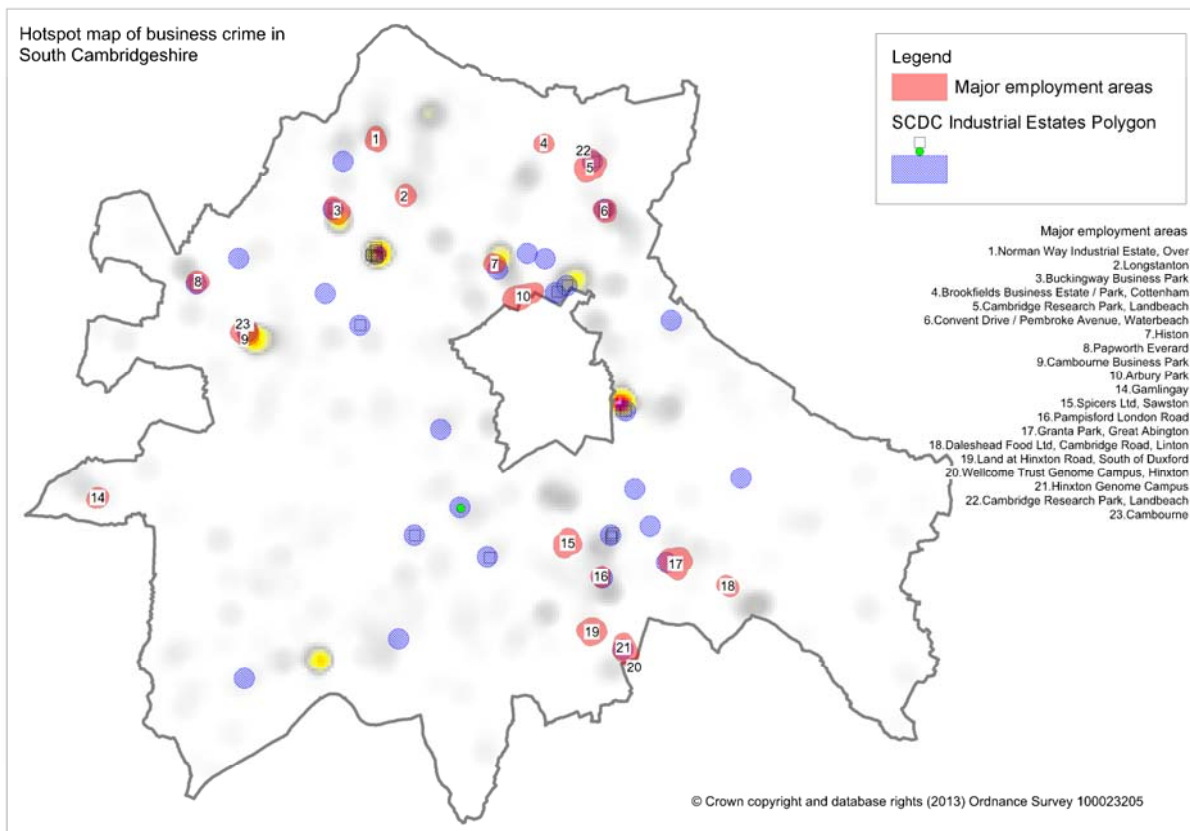
The distribution of crime types at business locations were;

- 48% of fraud and forgery
- 31% of theft and handling
- 27% of burglary
- 14% of violence

22% has no location type recorded. Examining the crime description revealed that a further 134 crimes had been committed against businesses. These were 102 non-dwelling burglaries, 25 shop thefts and 7 criminal damage offences to a building that is not a dwelling. Metal theft⁸ – 65 offences of metal theft were recorded by the constabulary between April and October 2012. There is however, no comparison data available for the previous year.

Crimes at business locations or against businesses are very much spread around the whole district and village centres still. When analysed geographically there are specific hotspots evident within South Cambridgeshire. The map below shows which business locations are more vulnerable than others.

Figure 4: hotspot for business crime in South Cambridgeshire



⁸ Official figure – CADET, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Employment areas definition - These are the areas defined by district councils as "employment areas" - i.e. the defined business parks and employment spaces in local plans.

Key findings are;

- Crimes not within main industrial or agricultural areas are often along high streets, e.g Cottenham.
- Petrol stations also account for 2 hotspots along the A14, some of this relates to offences of making off without payment.
- Public buildings can also be vulnerable such as libraries, halls, nurseries, schools and hospitals. Hospitals were located at 2 of the hotspots.
- There was a hotspot at the Swavesey business park, which recorded a particular cluster of incidents.
- There is a hotspot at Cambourne, some of these offences do not match known business locations. Some of these may be non-dwelling burglary related to shed or garages not attached to residential buildings. But also highlights the difficulty in analysing the data where the Home Office categories confuse the overall picture.
- Top ten businesses are retail stores (including petrol stations), they are engaging well.

Section 5.3: Supporting Communities and Growth

This section highlights some issues with South Cambridgeshire that may impact on crime and anti-social behaviour, in relation to growth and new communities. The population in the district has grown considerably and is predicted to continue increasing.

Design and new developments

The district council's affordable housing policy states "that the Council will seek 40% or more affordable housing on all sites of two or more dwellings."⁹ Further, of this 70% will be social rent and 30% intermediate housing. Locations with a higher proportion of social rent accommodation tend to have higher rates of anti-social behaviour. However, there are ways the partnership can influence developments that would mitigate against this.

Recent research¹⁰ has highlighted four key areas of design that require attention in order to reduce the likelihood of crime and anti-social behaviour

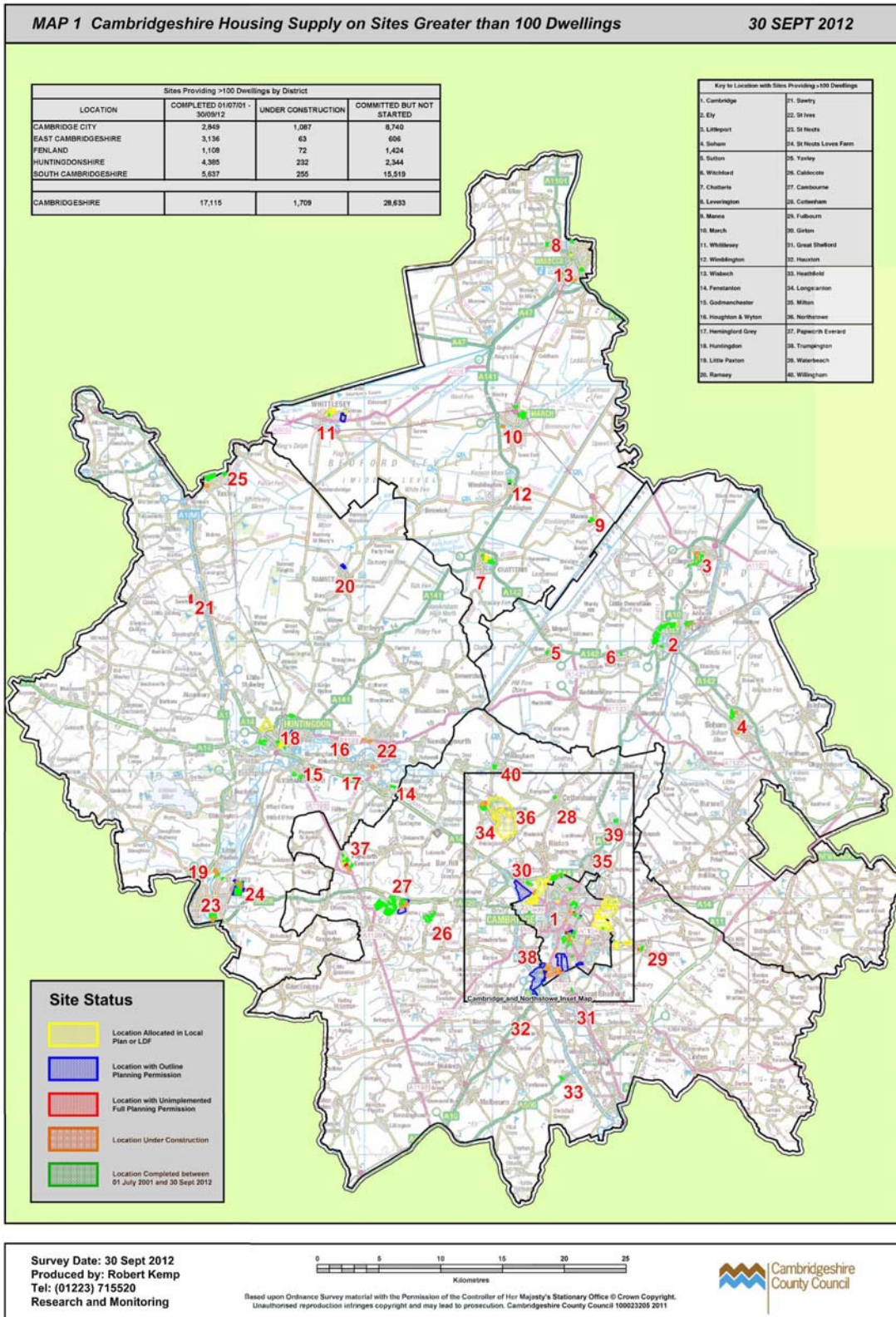
- **Parking** – Can be a major source of neighbour disputes, anti-social behaviour and in some cases criminal damage and assault.
- **Design quality** – Avoiding 'weak points' such as areas that are not overlooked, crime and ASB tend to happen here.

⁹ Policy HG/3 of the Development Control Policies DPD

¹⁰ <http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/crimeresearch>

- **Management and maintenance** – particularly important for larger development, where work will be phased. Good management and maintenance increases feelings of ownership. Consistent and well resourced management has strong buy in from residents.
- **Gating** - Strong perimeter security through gating is not a cure for good or bad design within a development. The highest crime scheme in the research was the only one that was gated.

Map 1: Map of new developments in Cambridgeshire



People

The population of South Cambridgeshire is expanding. The analysis of the 2011 census shows that an increase has been seen in all the broad age-groups above the England and Wales change.

Table 2: Population change by age group, 2001-2011

	2001-2011 Population Change (%)		
	0-19	20-64	65+
South Cambridgeshire	11.4	10.6	28.6
Cambridgeshire	7.2	10.7	22.6
England and Wales	3	8.2	11

The data shows that whilst the over 65 population has recorded the highest percentage increase since the 2001 census; there was also considerable increase in the 0-19 year olds. As the district continues to grow, the community needs will grow with it. Of particular relevance are the needs of children and young people. Tension can arise when young people have little to do beyond wandering the streets and older members of the community perceive anti-social behaviour.

Gypsy and Traveller communities

"The East of England Plan requires at least 69 new permanent pitches to be provided in South Cambridgeshire between 2006 and 2011, and an allowance for future household growth beyond 2011, adding up to a total minimum requirement of 127 pitches between 2006 and 2021. Taking account of completed sites since 2006 outstanding permissions at 2009, the residual minimum requirement to be found through new permanent sites is 88 pitches."¹¹

Finding the required sites for these pitches has been challenging and the process slow. The difficulties involved are emphasised by the response to the 2009 Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan consultation.

"A significant number of representations have been received and it has taken longer than anticipated to register and consider the issues raised. 3,795 representations were received from 714 people and organisations. Of these 3,114 (82%) were objections, 266 (7%) were support and 415 (11%) were comments. In addition a petition signed by 1,111 people was submitted objecting to the site option of Spring Lane Bassingbourn....A small proportion of those making representations included material that the Council cannot lawfully publish."

¹¹ South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework, Gypsy And Traveller Development Plan Document, Issues and Options Report 2: Site Options and Policies

Section 5.4: Offending

The recent Victim Offender Needs Assessment analysed the full data for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It stated that to reduce offending partners need to understand the 'Life Course' model of offending. This explains what factors and events increase the risks of an individual becoming a prolific offender. These break down as follows;

Onset of offending: The time at which someone first offends;

- Those who commit offences at an early age 10-13 are more likely to be persistent and prolific offenders.
- Family factors are important in explaining some offending behaviour as well as community factors.
- Risk factors overlap with those for other negative outcomes e.g. substance misuse and ill-health.

Persistence of offending: The length of time (often in years) over which someone will continue to offend.

Frequency: The rate at which someone offends;

- Prolific Offenders

Desistence: The point at which the offending behaviour conclusively ends.

Cambridgeshire's Integrated Offender Management scheme

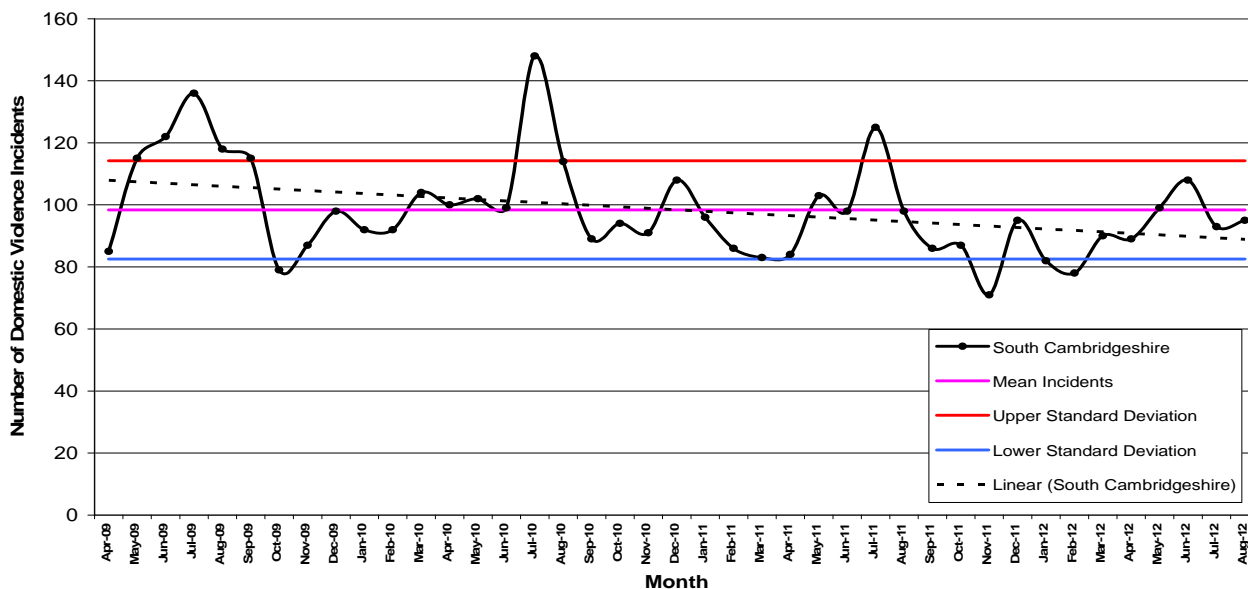
Locally it was noted that 86% of prolific offenders received their first conviction in a Cambridgeshire Court as a juvenile. The mean length of criminal career (time since first conviction) prior to offenders joining the PPO scheme was seven years.

South Cambridgeshire has relatively few offenders that are prolific enough to qualify for the scheme, there are 2 or 3 on the scheme at any one time. These individuals will move off the scheme as their offending reduces. Those that do not engage and continue to offend, once reconvicted tend to serve subsequent prison sentences.

Section 5.5: Domestic Abuse

The level of domestic abuse reported to the police has for the most part remained below the long term mean. The overall long-term trend is a decline in incidents. Nationally the small reduction in self reported domestic abuse was not significant.¹² Further work should be done to increase awareness about services that are available to victims.

Recent trend in police recorded domestic violence incidents



The rate of incidents has remained relatively static over the previous 2 years at approximately 7.6 incidents per 1,000 population.

The number of referrals to the Independent Domestic Abuse Service (IDVAS) was 121, 18% of the county total. For the third quarter of this year, 91% of referrals were engaged with the IDVAS. This was the highest for the county and well above the target.

The Home Office definition of Domestic Abuse will change from the 1st April 2013 to include ‘those aged 16 or over’. This is supported by the findings from the British Crime Survey 2008/10 found that 16-19year olds were the most likely to suffer abuse from a partner. This is likely to increase the number of individuals, particularly young women in need of support and intervention. The partnership should consider how it will respond to the increased need in the district.

“The impact of domestic abuse on children should not be underestimated. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in Cambridgeshire reported that eight per cent of respondents in the Year 8 and 10 Cambridgeshire Secondary Survey in 2010 indicated they experienced domestic abuse within the home. In addition at least 75 per cent of looked after children, and 50 per cent of children subject to a Child Protection Plan in Cambridgeshire come from domestic abuse backgrounds.”¹³

¹² Crime Survey for England and Wales 2011

¹³ Victim Offender Needs Assessment 2012

APPENDIX A. Data Sources and Acknowledgements

On behalf of the South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, the Research and Performance Team would like to thank all partners who have supported the process by providing data, information or analysis. A list of data sources used in the production of the continuous assessment is below:

PROVIDER OF DATA	DESCRIPTION OF DATA
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	PIC survey anti-social behaviour public perception (monthly phone survey) Point level crime and incident data (including postcodes and grid references) Crime detection rates Prolific and other priority offenders (including Integrated Offender Management offenders) analysis of cohort
Cambridgeshire County Council	Youth Offending Service – analysis of cohort Drug and Alcohol Action Team – Needs Assessments Research & Performance team – socio-demographic data (including housing, population, deprivation and economic indicators) Research and Monitoring – New developments
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Partnership activity update
Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service	Point level deliberate fires data (including grid references)
East Anglian Ambulance Trust	Ambulance call outs for assault/sexual assault (including grid references)
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Probation Trust	Analysis of cohort (including OASys risk and needs profile)

Where possible, data has been sourced from the most recent period available. Specific time periods for each data source are stated within the analysis.