

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 7
15th March 2023	Public Report

Report of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

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PUTTING COMMUNITIES FIRST - SUPPORTING PROBLEM SOLVING OF LOCAL ISSUES OF CONCERN

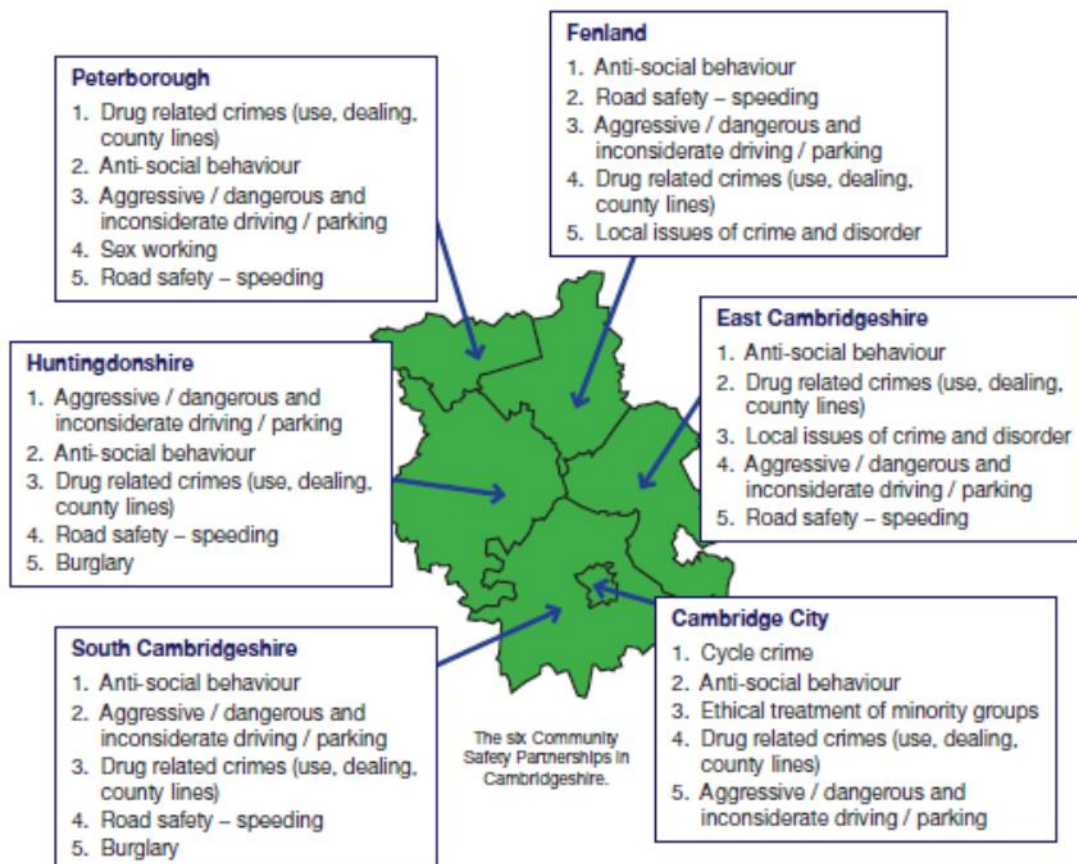
1.	PURPOSE
1.1	To provide the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) with details of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) approach to supporting problem solving of local issues of concern.
2.	RECOMMENDATION
2.1	The Panel is recommended to note the contents of this report.
3.	TERMS OF REFERENCE
3.1	Item 6 – to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner’s functions. Item 8 - To support the effective exercise of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
4.	BACKGROUND
4.1	Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the “Act”) the Panel has a role in scrutinising the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) in the exercise of his statutory functions.
4.2	As well as the Commissioner’s duties for holding the Chief Constable to account, the Act places wide-ranging statutory duties and powers on Commissioners relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working in co-operation with community safety partners; and • with criminal justice agencies, making arrangements so that their functions provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system. <p>The levers in the partnership arena are different from policing. The legislation does not provide for a holding to account role, rather reciprocal duties and powers for co-operation. This includes:</p>

- mutual duties for co-operative working;
- having regard to respective priorities;
- PCC powers to convene community safety and criminal justice partners and ask for reports; and
- PCC power to make grants.

The landscape is complex with a wide range of partners, each with specific duties. Good partnership working is, therefore, key. The PCC and the OPCC are uniquely placed to provide system leadership, facilitating and enabling these agencies to work effectively together.

4.3 The Commissioner is required to produce a Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”) which sets out how he will deliver against his statutory role set out in the Act. At the heart of the Plan is the Commissioner’s role in ensuring the voice of residents is listened to and acted upon. During the development of the Plan the Commissioner asked residents about what is important to them and the Plan highlights some of the issues highlighted by those residents who responded to his survey in July 2021:

PCC SURVEY JULY 2021 – TOP FIVE ISSUES



4.4 Each area within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has a Community Safety Partnership

	<p>("CSP") made up of local partners from the police, local authority, fire service, health service, probation, and others (the "Responsible Authorities"). CSPs are able to address local issues that the police cannot solve alone, such as bike theft, fly tipping, anti-social behaviour ("ASB") and vandalism. They produce a Community Safety Plan. These plans focus on priorities of local importance and set out what collective actions can be taken to add value to the day-to-day work undertaken by individual agencies and organisations to make communities safer. CSPs will often be supported by 'Problem Solving Groups' ("PSGs") which will bring tactical partners together to deal with individual issues in a joined up way. As part of the theme of 'Putting Communities First', the Plan included a clear commitment to support the CSPs to address these issues.</p>
4.5	<p>To provide support and leadership around higher harm issues, countywide delivery groups ranging from the Domestic Abuse / Sexual Violence Strategic Board to the counter-terrorism PREVENT board are well-established and were identified previously where complexity or wider impact suggests a countywide approach would add value. The Countywide High Harms Board, chaired by the Commissioner, has been established to provide strategic direction and leadership across four priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drugs; • serious violence; • violence against women and girls; and • serious and organised crime.
5.	SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING
5.1	<p>As outlined above, core to the Commissioner's approach and the Police and Crime Plan is listening to local people and ensuring their concerns are addressed. In terms of championing public concerns and supporting the county's six Community Safety Partnerships to address local issues, this has included a range of activity, including up to £730,000 funding allocated to tackle local crime and disorder.</p>
5.2	<p>There is a proactive approach within the OPCC to responding to local issues of concern through correspondence and calls with members of the public and local councillors. The Commissioner has also undertaken a range of visits to understand issues of concern.</p>
5.3	<p>All six CSPs now have the capacity in place to co-ordinate problem solving work to tackle local issues that matter to our communities. Four areas took up the opportunity for PCC funding to provide additional staff capacity for problem solving, funded through to March 2025. These posts are hosted in the local authorities. This has provided more capacity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engage and communicate with local communities;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respond in a co-ordinated way through local problem solving arrangements; and • deliver visible and appropriate local responses to issues such as anti-social behaviour and develop links with road safety initiatives.
5.4	<p>CSPs have reported on how this additional funding is having a positive impact on community safety. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports were made to a CSP by a resident and businesses relating to street drinking and anti-social behaviour. The community safety team were able to engage with those who had reported the issues, and other stakeholders, to gather evidence, inform them of how issues could be reported and develop options for dealing with the issue. As a result, two individuals were engaged through Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s ongoing Operation Luscombe initiative (tackling anti-social behaviour and begging) and were referred to a support hub where district and town councils, drug and alcohol support services, health professionals, housing associations and the Department for Work and Pensions can offer support. Feedback from the original complainant indicates an improved situation and confidence in local services to tackle such issues. • Concern was raised about a neighbour, via a district councillor, causing persistent nuisance and concern, as well as demand on public services such as ambulance and police. The neighbour had complex long-term issues but with joint engagement from the community safety team and police gained consent for their parent/carer to be contacted. This revealed the parent/carer felt they needed more support. With their consent contact details were provided to help them access substance misuse and adult social care early help support. There has so far been no recurrence of the problems that first prompted the concerns. • The community safety team were able to support the re-establishment of a shopwatch scheme that was sustainable without an expensive radio system. • The community safety team developed a court experience days for secondary school students that focussed on preventing knife crime. • Various examples of engaging directly with parish councils and members of the public to identify and respond to safety concerns from members of the community.
5.5	<p>A new Safer Communities Fund opened to CSPs in May 2022 to fund local initiatives which reassure people that they are dealing with local issues of concern which matter to them. CSPs are able to bid for up to £5,000 for initiatives which provide a swift response to issues such as anti-social behaviour, road safety, bike theft and fly tipping. CSPs have been proactive in identifying a wide-range of appropriate initiatives, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted cycle theft prevention leaflets for Cambridge students and cycle marking

	<p>kits. The Commissioner has championed the need to tackle the issue of bike theft in Cambridge. Cambridge is no longer in the top five cities for cycle crime – targeted, robust policing, more investment in CCTV technology and good partnership working has led to a 60% drop in cycle thefts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearance, signage, physical deterrence and cameras depending on local circumstances to tackle and prevent fly-tipping in Fenland and Peterborough. • Bike repair sessions and bike lights for low-income families in South Cambridgeshire, to support road safety. • Taxi marshalls in Peterborough and Cambridge to provide presence and reassurance to prevent incidents within the context of the night time economy and tackling violence against women and girls. • CCTV in Cambridge in hot spot areas for crime and disorder within the night time economy. <p>In some cases it has also enabled them to identify bids appropriate for the Commissioner’s Youth Fund. This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted youth work with young people who had been responsible for ASB in South Cambridgeshire. • Portable outdoor lights to enable young people to enjoy outdoor group activities in Cambridge on darker winter nights to deter anti-social behaviour.
5.6	<p>In order to support the sharing of best practice, the Commissioner meets with CSP chairs regularly. The OPCC also supports the Community Safety Officer Group identifying opportunities to share best practice and information on cross-cutting themes.</p>
6.	Safer Streets Funding
6.1	<p>Total investment from successful bids in four rounds of government Safer Streets funding now amounts to £1.8m across the county. The Safer Streets Fund is targeted to prevent violence against women and girls in public spaces, neighbourhood crime (such as burglary, robbery and theft) and anti-social behaviour in specific areas. Previous rounds have included Cambridge, Fenland, Peterborough, as well as countywide work targeted to prevent violence against women and girls in public spaces.</p>
6.2	<p>In the latest round, in July 2022, £634,285k was secured to roll out a package of improvements to tackle anti-social behaviour and violence against women and girls. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two new ASB Officers recruited within Peterborough City Council and Fenland District Council. They are looking into prolific offenders and gathering evidence in preparation for robust enforcement action. • More than 200 professionals across several public safety agencies have received

	<p>specialised anti-social behaviour training to ensure they fully understand and can exhaust the full range of powers and legislation available to successfully tackle problems. They can also access specialist advice on individual cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile cameras to respond to and detect crime, manage ongoing incidents and provide better evidence for investigations.
7.	CSP Accountabilities
7.1	Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with power to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the CSP in their area and to make reports and recommendations to the local authority and the Partnership. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 require Local Authorities to scrutinise CSPs at least once a year.
7.2	The Government is expected to consult on its review of the community safety landscape imminently. This will inform next steps.
	BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
	<p>Police and Crime Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 2024 https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/</p> <p>Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents</p>