

# Neighbourhood profile update Cambridge City South Neighbourhood

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**Matt Johnson, Safer  
Neighbourhoods  
Inspector**

**Lynda Kil Kelly, Safer  
Communities Manager,  
Cambridge City Council**



Creating a safer  
Cambridgeshire



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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **Aim**

The aim of the Neighbourhood profile update is to provide an overview of action taken since the last reporting period, identify on-going and emerging crime and disorder issues, and provide recommendations for future priorities and activity in order to facilitate effective policing and partnership working in the area.

The document should be used to inform multi-agency neighbourhood panel meetings and neighbourhood policing teams, so that issues can be identified, effectively prioritised and partnership problem solving activity undertaken.

### **Methodology**

This document was produced using the following data sources:

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) incident data for January to May 2015, compared to the previous reporting period (August to December 2014) and the same reporting period in 2014; and
- Information provided by the Safer Neighbourhood Policing team and the City Council's Safer Communities team.

## 2 CURRENT PRIORITIES

At the South Area Committee meeting of 02 February 2015, the committee recommended adopting the following priorities:

- Target the supply of controlled drugs (Class A);
- Target road safety by addressing anti-social cycling and speeding;
- Reduce dwelling burglary.

The Neighbourhood Action Group, at its meeting of 09 February 2015, assigned the actions to be taken and the lead officers for each of the priorities. The tables below summarise the action taken and the current situation.

<b>Continue to target the supply of controlled drugs (Class A)</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Target individuals and organised groups travelling to the South area of Cambridge to engage in the unlawful supply of controlled drugs, particularly Class A drugs.</li> <li>□ Target the supply of drugs; particularly Class A drugs, by individuals resident in the South area.</li> </ul>
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p>During this reporting period a new operation was formulated to safeguard the most vulnerable connected with drug supply which has been called operation 'Hexham'.</p> <p>Operation Hexham was instigated in January 2015 to review how the issue of London Gangs operating drug supply lines in Cambridge city is tackled. The mantle for dealing with this problem traditionally sits within the Problem Solving Teams (East, South, West &amp; North teams). When dealers are caught investigations are completed but these have been purely reactionary. Operation Hexham has instigated a more proactive way of policing these issues.</p> <p>Illegality of the drug supply aside, London Gangs generally cause three main problems:</p> <p><b>1) Use of extreme violence.</b></p> <p>Extreme violence has been used to enforce debts, force people to deal, settle disputes and wage turf wars. Often gang violence goes unreported and we hear about it anecdotally via intelligence. When crimes are reported victims are often unwilling to cooperate and investigations are difficult.</p> <p>Violence used is often with knives and intelligence</p>

reports have linked gang members to kidnappings and beatings. There have also been several incidents of gang members targeting the wrong address.

**2) Exploitation of vulnerable people to assist their drug supply business model.**

The exploitation of vulnerable people is generally focused on drug users and those with mental health conditions. This takes the form of occupation of their home addresses. Generally the dealers will first occupy with consent, offering mutual benefit to the drug user in the form of free drugs in return for the use of their property as a base for drug supply. Things turn threatening and violent when dealers are asked to leave or admittance to the property is refused. Dealers will often acquire keys and arm themselves with the user's kitchen knife upon entering the premises, creating a veiled threat.

Often this partnership is extended and the dealer will distance himself from risk by having the vulnerable person sell his drugs for them. Often these deals go wrong, the vulnerable person loses the drugs and subsequent enforcement from the dealer takes place. This often leads to the vulnerable person being indebted to the dealer.

**3) Exploitation of children to assist their drug supply model.**

Exploitation of children (those under the age of 18) often follows a similar form to the above. Dealers will proactively recruit children aged between 14 - 17 to sell or store the drugs on their behalf in order to minimise the dealer's risk. Dealers have been linked via intelligence to approaching children in the street at random for this purpose.

Children are recruited in the London area and sent to Cambridge to deal drugs. Traditionally when these children have been encountered they have been dealt with purely as suspects in crime. The challenge of this strategy will be to catch and safeguard these individuals in a joint approach with partners in their local area.

In support of this operation, search warrants in relation to drug dealing continue to be executed across the Division,

	<p>supported by the local team.</p> <p>The most recent was conducted at the new CB1 development where evidence was obtained of drug dealing and the occupant(s) dealt with accordingly. In addition, supported by the City Council ASB team, the landlords were alerted to the events and the question of continued tenancy is currently being examined. This action certainly reduced the amount of reports of ASB in this area. It also sent a clear message to all local residents that joint action will be taken against persons breaking the law and breaching their tenancy by their behaviour disturbing the peace and quiet of their neighbours.</p> <p>We have also conducted numerous visits to 5 addresses identified on the South area. In each case this has led to all of the occupants engaging with the visiting officers and staff. This approach has in turn generated some useful intelligence.</p>
<b>Current Situation</b>	With ongoing work under Op Hexham and a continued risk to the vulnerable this remains a priority.
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sergeant Chris Horton, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

<b>Target road safety by addressing anti-social cycling and speeding</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	To address cycling and speeding offences; this will also complement efforts against cycle crime and road safety.
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p>During this reporting period each of the South area PCSOs have been set a requirement to complete a minimum of one hour each week at specified locations in order to combat inconsiderate cycling &amp; parking.</p> <p>Action has been undertaken at numerous locations throughout the South area during this reporting period as detailed below. This is in addition to their daily duties in support of crime investigations by actioning tasks set, general patrol duties and being the eyes and ears of the community.</p> <p><u>Inconsiderate cycling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total time spent on the priority was 64 hours.</li> <li>• Words of advice were given on 236 occasions.</li> <li>• Traffic offence reports were completed on 35 occasions.</li> </ul>

	<p><u>Inconsiderate Parking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total time spent on the priority was 60 hours.</li> <li>• Words of advice were given on 129 occasions.</li> <li>• Fixed penalty notices were issued on 26 occasions.</li> <li>• Traffic enforcement tickets were issued on 31 occasions.</li> </ul> <p>Indirectly linked to this priority is that Sergeant Chris Horton is also the Single Point Of Contact (SPOC) for cycle crime in Cambridge City and is in the process of commencing a number of initiatives in an attempt to address this historic problem.</p> <p>These include target hardening measures, improving the flow of information sharing between Forces (as there is evidence of persons residing out of the City coming in to steal) and commencing a Cambridge City Cycling Unit and co-chairing the first Cambridge City Cycle Crime Tasking Group meeting.</p> <p>Sergeant Horton is hopeful that with this joint approach to problem solving, the percentage of total crime that cycle crime is traditionally quoted as accounting for (20%) may be reduced, despite the fact that there are more bikes in Cambridge than ever owing to the expanding population of the City.</p>
<b>Current Situation</b>	As an ongoing issue this remains a priority.
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sergeant Chris Horton, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

<b>Reduce dwelling burglary</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Reduce the incidents of dwelling burglary.</li> <li>□ Increase the awareness of local residents about the risks of becoming a victim of crime, and inform them of suitable simple crime prevention measures they can take.</li> </ul>
<b>Action Taken</b>	Dwelling burglary on the South area continues to be sporadic with no real spike or hot spot areas. Cocooning actions are directed around those areas that have been affected in order to alert all close neighbours and to check no potential evidential lines of enquiry are missed.
<b>Current Situation</b>	Overall burglary figures remain relatively low with no identified hotspot areas or patterns (see further burglary update under item 3 below)
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sergeant Chris Horton, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

### 3 PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES

- There has been an overall increase in total recorded crime in the South area of just 2.7%, or 20 more offences by comparison to the previous reporting period.
- Reports to the police of anti-social behaviour for the South area has seen a reduction of 12.5% or 38 fewer incidents by comparison to the previous reporting period.
- Overall, dwelling burglary for the South area has remained stable at 52 offences which is on a par with the previous reporting period. Although a higher number than in comparison to this same reporting period last year this figure has been affected by a spike of 21 crimes in December of 2014 which has not been replicated so far in 2015.
- Overall, non-dwelling burglary for the South area has seen an increase of 100% or 25 more offences by comparison to the previous reporting period. Although also a higher number than in comparison to this same reporting period last year, this figure has been affected by a spike of 19 offences back in April and also some very low reported figures for this crime type in December and January. These increases affected both Cherry Hinton and Trumpington, with Queen Edith's remaining stable. The April spike was the highest figure since November 2008 and was not replicated in May when the numbers fell back to 12.
- All violent crime for the South area has reduced with 22 fewer offences than in the previous reporting period. Of note is that the current reporting period captures both the New Year period and the beginning of the summer months and associated events. Over time all violent crime is on a downward trend.
- Theft of vehicle for the South area has remained stable at just 6 offences in the past five months.
- Theft from vehicle for the South area has seen an increase of 29.1% or 14 more offences by comparison to the previous reporting period. Although also a higher number than in comparison to this same reporting period last year, this figure has been effected by a spike of offences back in both February and April and also some low reported figures for this crime type in other months. May's figure at just 7 crimes is below the year to date average of 10.2 crimes per month.

- At 172 offences, cycle crime for the South area overall has remained stable by comparison to the previous reporting period. It is however significantly higher than seen in this same reporting period in 2014 where it stood at 105 offences.
- Previous years has seen issues at Cambridge Lakes over the summer months.
- The Safer Communities team issued a Notice of Seeking Possession for ASB activity in Cherry Hinton and obtained outright possession of a property in Trumpington.
- One case is being referred to the Neighbourhood Resolution Panel Scheme.
- Cambridge City Homes have reported that there has been an increase in relation to hoarding. Housing Officers have had additional training in this complex area and are working with various support agencies with regards to this. Also currently ASB Officers are working with City Homes South on a serious hoarding case.
- The Safer Communities team have received a number of reports of nuisance and ASB around Cherry Hinton Hall Park. ASB Officers have been working with the local police team and they have increased their patrols in the area. Residents have been reassured that their complaints are being tackled.
- CB1 development: A number of meetings have taken place between stakeholder agencies (developers / management representatives, Police, BPHA (social housing providers), ARU and the ASB team) to discuss issues around ASB in the area. We are currently looking at the green / park area regarding possibly redesigning the area.
- The Safer Communities team will be meeting with ARU student accommodation managers and the police to plan for the arrival of the Language School students who arrive in the summer in the CB1 area.

## 4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### CURRENT CRIME & ASB INCIDENT LEVELS BY WARD

			Dwelling Burglary	Other Burglary	Violent Crime	Robbery	Theft of Vehicle	Theft from Vehicle	Cycle Theft	Theft from Shop	Criminal Damage	Other Crime	TOTAL CRIME	TOTAL ASB
<b>AREA</b>	<b>City South</b>	Jan 15 – May 15	52	50	96	3	6	62	172	15	104	191	751	265
		Aug 14 – Dec 14	52	25	118	5	6	48	173	19	81	204	731	303
		Jan 14 – May 14	43	23	84	3	5	38	105	11	42	211	565	310
<b>WARDS</b>	<b>Cherry Hinton</b>	Jan 15 – May 15	22	14	24	0	1	27	25	7	30	35	185	89
		Aug 14 – Dec 14	26	3	39	3	4	7	27	3	32	53	197	97
		Jan 14 – May 14	20	2	35	2	1	5	8	1	16	57	147	95
	<b>Queen Edith's</b>	Jan 15 – May 15	13	6	33	1	1	8	44	0	31	63	200	38
		Aug 14 – Dec 14	19	4	33	0	1	7	45	0	19	66	194	69
		Jan 14 – May 14	7	6	18	0	1	8	40	0	9	63	152	71
	<b>Trumpington</b>	Jan 15 – May 15	17	30	39	2	4	27	103	8	43	93	366	138
		Aug 14 – Dec 14	7	18	46	2	1	34	101	16	30	85	340	137
		Jan 14 – May 14	16	15	31	1	3	25	57	10	17	91	266	144

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DATA**

As agreed with the chairs and vice-chairs of the Area Committees, this data will not be covered in this report as it is already covered in the Environmental Data Reports.

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Discharge dwelling burglary priority
- Continue to target the supply of controlled drugs (Class A)
- Continue to target road safety by addressing anti-social cycling and parking
- New priority around management of the Cambridge Lakes