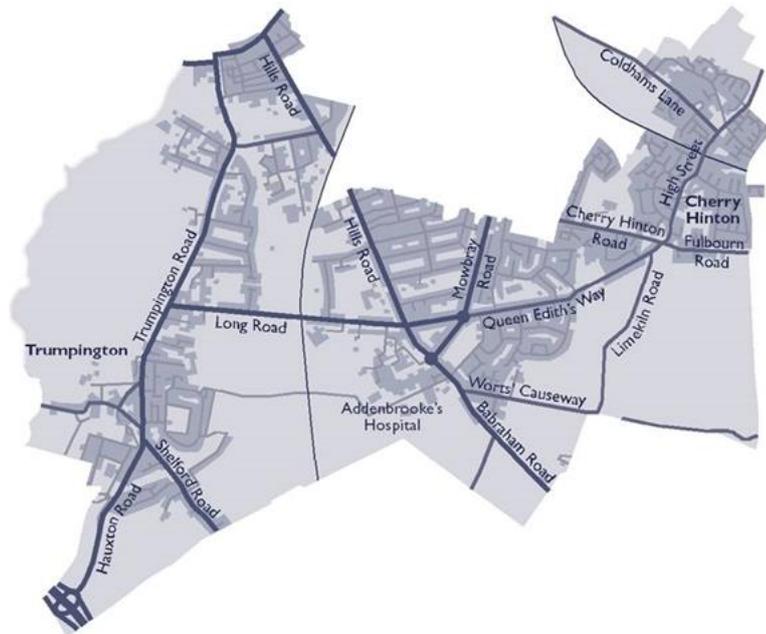


Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City South – September 2019



Wards: *Cherry Hinton, Queen Edith's and Trumpington*

Produced by:

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Contents

1. Introduction	3
Aim	3
Methodology	3
2. Current Areas of Concern	3
Drug dealing in the South Area, specifically in parks and open spaces	3
Anti-Social Behaviour in public areas in Trumpington village	5
Begging on streets in Cherry Hinton	6
3. Proactive Work and Emerging Issues	7
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	7
Cambridge City Council	7
4. Additional Information	7
5. Recommendations	8

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 areas of concern 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 the five months from March 2019 to July 2019, compared to the previous five months (October 2018 to February 2019) and the same five months last year (March 2018 to July 2018); and
- Information provided by the Safer Neighbourhood Policing team and the City Council's Community Safety Team.

2. Current Areas of Concern

At the South Area Committee meeting of 8 April, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- Drug dealing in the South Area, specifically in parks and open spaces;
- Anti-Social Behaviour in public areas in Trumpington village; and
- Begging on streets in Cherry Hinton.

Lead officers and actions to be taken were agreed following the committee meeting. The work undertaken and current situation is detailed below.

Drug dealing in the South Area, specifically in parks and open spaces

Objective: To identify the scale of, and take appropriate action against, drug dealing in parks and open spaces in the South Area.

Action Taken: The local police team began by first trying to understand the problem and gathering information from a range of sources. They consulted with local school and residents, and used call and crime data to inform patrol activity. Two key locations were identified around which activity has focused:

- **Play park on Woodland, Church End, Cherry Hinton.** This location was identified as an area of concern. Using a 'red amber green' assessment, PCSOs and police patrols were focused at the time of highest demand. Stop and search

powers were used to confirm any suspicion that a person might be in possession of drugs. Only one arrest was made: the suspect was found in possession of a significant amount of cash and cannabis. This suspect is currently on bail for possession with intent to supply. Further to this, there have been only a handful of calls about the areas and very little else picked up from patrols. It is not uncommon that areas used for street-based dealing will shift very quickly as dealers become aware of our work.

- **Cherry Hinton Hall Park.** The nature of the problem in this area was focused more around young people, thus we have worked together with the City Council's Community Safety Team and local schools to better understand how to tackle the problems.
 - Our work in this area has been not only location-based but also concerned with identifying those young people who are at risk of being exploited or coming into contact with drugs, drugs users and dealers. As such, our patrol work (as with all the areas) has generated a lot of unseen safeguarding work. In partnership with the schools, we have made some significant child protection interventions as a result of our work in this area.
 - CCTV provision was reviewed in the area and some feedback has been provided in regards where ASB and criminality overlaps with the CCTV blind spots.
 - Patrols plans were written and carried out based on the range of information sources (reports and public perception data). As a result, the area was subject to significant patrols by police teams, specifically into the late hours of the evening. As one would expect, we quickly came into contact with a group of young people. Our patrols deterred their behaviour whilst we were present. We looked at trying to work with the group with other professionals to try and change the behaviours of the group rather than simply police it.
 - We looked carefully at the recorded crime to ensure there were no missed opportunities to take any necessary criminal action. The vast majority of crime recorded in this area had no specific descriptions or named persons. Likewise the drug taking reported was not attributable to any one person; our approach thus was a preventive one.
 - Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) were used to address the behaviour of a group of young people who were the cause of problems (criminal damage and nuisance) on a persistent basis. ABCs are voluntary, formally-written agreements with conditions agreed by the parties: they can include curfews or non-association clauses and can be adapted to suit the individual involved and in agreement with their parents. These are typically (and in this case) led by the City Council's Community Safety Team. The young people involved were identified and, following discussions with them and their parents, two individuals agreed to sign ABCs. Following the implementation of the ABCs (and no doubt by word of mouth between unidentified perpetrators), the nuisance behaviour stopped almost overnight. There was a subsequent sharp reduction in the number of calls for service.
 - Between March and May 2019 we were recording between one and three calls each week reporting youth-based ASB in this area, but since 24 June 2019,

there have been no calls for service regarding this. Continued patrols have also observed no visible evidence of ASB and dealing.

Since the last area committee meeting, two section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act search warrants were conducted at an address in the South area. These were negative but the situation is being monitored. Information is still being gathered and if further enforcement opportunities arise then these will be exploited.

Current Situation: We continue to receive intelligence regarding persons, addresses and vehicles believed to be involved in drug dealing. Some of this information is under active development and if sufficient corroboration can be gathered, further enforcement action will be taken. Our work thus far has increased our understanding of the problems. We are also working with the City Council's Community Safety Team to target some individuals at addresses believed to be connected to this issue, with a view to supporting tenancy enforcement.

Since the last Committee Meeting, Operation Carmel was conducted on the border of East and South areas in the train station area. Future Operation Carmel work is planned for two areas in the South of the city and will be completed by the end of 2019.

We thank you for the information you provide to us. It will rarely be possible to provide detailed updates on specific action, but we will seek to publicise successful outcomes. Please continue to keep passing information to us – always call 999 in an emergency, but otherwise telephone 101 or use the online "Report" section on our website, www.cambs.police.uk

Anyone wishing to see, in more detail, how we process and use information can apply to spend some time with the team through Operation Insight, also via the Force website.

Anti-Social Behaviour in public areas in Trumpington village

Objective: To reduce the incidence of ASB in Trumpington village area.

Action Taken: As is common with more serious ASB, the problems experienced in Trumpington village were attributable to just two people. We found that these two young people were at the nucleus of many recorded crimes and calls to police.

Both young people have been subject to a holistic piece of partnership working which has involved police, schools and social care teams. It was believed right to impose criminal sanctions on one young person and a range of community resolutions on the other to curtail their behaviour. A court hearing is pending regarding two charges.

We find it common that in these cases people who have been on the periphery of ASB and crime tend to be "warned off" fairly swiftly once the main perpetrators are dealt with. It was however deemed necessary to make a number of safeguarding referrals for these people.

Whilst they had stopped any immediate harm we are still concerned for them as future source of harm for the community.

Current Situation: We continue to receive reports of youth ASB in the Anstey Way estate and are currently working to confirm the identities of those responsible. At present, we are

receiving occasional calls (two or three in a week over the last month) regarding a group of youths acting anti-socially by the shops opposite the Shell garage and in the building site to the rear of those shops. Loose descriptions have been given, but more reports would help. The behaviour is, at present, anti-social and civil trespass and is not criminal. The City Council's Community Safety Team has also been made aware and will be considering ABC's as and when we, together, identify more people. Any positive identification will be followed by a continued holistic approach involving partners and engagement to issue ABCs as a first option. This has proved successful in tackling ASB in other areas across the South and wider City.

We have also had a number of calls reporting quad bikes on land owned by the Trumpington Meadows Wildlife Trust. Advice has been given to the Trust regarding target hardening as a fence is completely missing at one corner which is being exploited and there are other weak points too. The trespass is for the Trust to manage as there is no evidence trespass has become aggravated yet. The local officer has met directly with a group of residents and a representative from the Trust to discuss this. At this time, police action is proportionate or justified, but patrols can be increased in the area as appropriate. One specific advice has been given to one family group who were seen to be using a mini dirt bike.

Lead Officer: PC 207 Adam Catling

Begging on streets in Cherry Hinton

Objective: To identify and disrupt those responsible for this behaviour and reduce / eliminate it.

Action Taken: Research enabled us to identify that two key individuals were responsible for the majority of the behaviour: one being a local resident and the other an acquaintance who was visiting the area. The local resident is currently serving a custodial sentence following arrest for various related offences. Following his arrest, there was a significant decrease in reported and observed incidents of begging. The second individual also de-escalated his behaviour although it was then identified that he had begun instead to establish and possibly exploit a third, vulnerable individual. This third individual has been safeguarded through work with him directly and via partnership agencies, and this appears to have successfully disrupted the relevant behaviour. We wish to highlight that a significant role is played by the City Council's Community Safety Team supporting this work, which remains highly complex. Essentially, the substance addiction driving such behaviour remains significantly dependant on the individual's circumstances and willingness to engage with local agencies.

Current Situation: Five incidents of begging have been reported in the South area following a search of police systems; all of these occurring some distance away, bordering the Central and East areas of the City. The situation appears to have been resolved as a result of the action taken following April's meeting. We remain alive to the fact that many residents might still choose not to report begging. Our advice remains to call 101 or report online so between us (police and City Council's Community Safety Team) we can understand where our resources need to be focused. Likewise we can target support to persons using emerging begging hotspots.

3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues*

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

We believe it is necessary to continue work around the Anstey Way estate and Trumpington Meadows, as above.

Operation Carmel will continue to focus on the hot spots via continued monitoring and development of intelligence relating to drug use.

Serious street-based violence, child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation remain priorities for the Constabulary. We are currently focusing on proactive identification (in conjunction with our partners) of those young people (aged under 18) who are most vulnerable to being exploited and becoming involved in county lines drug dealing. This is being used as a basis on which to engage with these young people directly, at home and with their parents and guardians present, or indirectly via school and other partner services, to offer support and opportunities for diversion away from criminal behaviour. We believe this is the most important piece of work for our team which supports all the aforementioned.

Cambridge City Council

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Officers within the City Council's Community Safety Team continue to take proactive action in tackling serious cases of anti-social behaviour in the south of City, working in close partnership with other agencies, such as housing providers and the police neighbourhood teams across the area.

ASB Officers have been working with the Police Community Safety Officer in conducting a number of Environment Visual Audits (EVAs) on public spaces in the south of the City, including Coleridge Rec and St. Thomas's Road Rec. The EVAs have been carried out as part of the joint working around Operation Carmel, tackling street-based drug dealing and related anti-social behaviour.

EVAs have also been carried out in residential areas where there have been reports of crime or ASB, including Walpole Road Sheltered Scheme, where residents were reporting feeling very worried. The report, which includes recommendations by the Community Safety Officer, will be discussed with the Council's internal departments and any relevant stakeholders who may have shared responsibility across the locations, to assist in measures that may help to prevent or reduce crime and ASB.

ASB Officers are currently working with partner agencies to investigate a number of ASB cases in the South area, including in St. Bede's Crescent, Birdwood Road, Paget Road, Heatherfield, Tweedale and Colville Road.

4. *Additional Information*

At neighbourhood level, the POLICE.UK website allows for swift access to local crime and anti-social behaviour data at street level. The website can display crimes on a map as well as in chart format, along with trend lines. The three most important sections within this website are: 'overview'; 'crime map'; and 'view detailed statistics'. This gives a good

overview of issues within the local area. For the South area, the specific link is:
https://www.police.uk/cambridgeshire/CamCity_South_City/

5. Recommendations

The following local areas of concern are recommended for consideration:

- Address youth ASB on the Anstey Way estate.
- Address youth ASB in Trumpington Meadows.
- Continue work to address serious street-based violence, child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation.