

Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City East – January 2020



Wards: Abbey, Coleridge, Petersfield and Romsey

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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 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 data received from the following sources:

- The Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team for the area;
- The City Council's Community Safety Team;
- The general public, via online and telephone crime and intelligence reporting; and
- Consultation with elected Ward and County members.

2. *Current Areas of Concern*

At the East Area Committee meeting of 11 July 2019, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- Serious street-based violence, targeting offenders;
- Serious street-based violence, youth based interventions; and
- Drug related crime and acquisition crime related to drugs.

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

Serious street-based violence, targeting offenders

Objective: To identify and disrupt the perpetrators of serious street-based violence.

Action Taken: We have undertaken to scan and review incidences of serious street-based violence in all East wards of Cambridge City, to understand whether there is a pattern of behaviour, specific individuals and/or specific locations that are identifiable as being hotspots for this type of violent incident. As part of this scanning, we have included locations notified to us by local residents and Councillors as being of concern. The main location raised by residents and councillors as being of concern has been St. Matthew's Gardens, however it is worth noting that most of these concerns relate specifically to drug use and dealing and that the pattern of calls and information reports to police for the

localised St. Matthew's Gardens area do not represent a significantly higher number than for other localised areas across the East of the City.

We recognise that drug use and dealing is often linked closely to serious street-based violence. There have been three incidents of serious street-based violence in the East of the City since the last area committee meeting, all of which are still live investigations and the minutiae of which therefore cannot be fully disclosed:

- Abbey Swimming Pool, 2 September 2019 – a 14-year-old male victim was stabbed by a 15-year-old male suspect following an argument in which several other young people were also involved. Serious injury was caused. The suspect was very quickly identified and arrested at his home address, and the victim received immediate medical treatment. A 13-year-old male was identified within 24 hours by local officers and has been interviewed for his part in instigating the argument. Both suspects remain under investigation with a charging decision expected soon from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). In the aftermath of this incident, street surgery patrols were conducted jointly with Cambridge City Councillors and other community leaders. The feedback from residents in the wider Whitehill Road area was that they generally felt very safe and few were aware of the incident itself.
- Corrie Road, 19 September 2019 – a 33-year-old male victim was stabbed by a 25-year-old male defendant, causing serious injury. The victim received medical treatment and is now expected to make a full recovery. The 25-year-old male defendant has been charged with attempted murder and remains on remand in prison, awaiting trial. It became apparent in the early stages of this investigation that neither victim nor suspect had any personal connection to Corrie Road or the wider Romsey Ward. Immediately following this incident, the local neighbourhood policing team served a closure notice on a resident in a separate area of the city, to whose address all parties were believed to be connected through drugs. This has seen a noticeable drop in associated activity in the vicinity of this address and in the wider city. An Environmental Audit (EVA) was also carried out in the aftermath and several recommendations made to the Council about measures that could reduce its potential as a hotspot for serious street-based violence and other crime.
- St. Matthew's Gardens, 19 October 2019 – a 43-year-old male victim was stabbed by a 52-year-old male suspect, causing serious injury. The victim received medical treatment and is expected to make a full recovery. The suspect was identified and arrested within the week and remains under investigation pending a charging decision being received from the CPS. Neither the victim nor suspect have any personal connection to St. Matthew's Gardens or the wider Petersfield ward. In the aftermath, an EVA was carried out and several recommendations made to the Council about measures that could reduce its potential as a hotspot for serious street-based violence and other crime. We support the petition requesting cameras to be considered and installed, as this would complement the other measures suggested as a result of the EVA.

Current Situation: Where information and intelligence are passed to us regarding those areas susceptible to those intending to commit serious street-based violence, we include these areas in our local patrol plans using both overt and covert patrols. The Impact Team is regularly active in the East Wards of the City, proactively targeting those involved in

drug dealing; it is recognised that most persons engaged in this activity may be more likely to arm themselves or perpetrate violent offences.

All three suspects in the above incidents were identified and quickly arrested, and significant sentences are to be expected, if convicted. We continue to support the work of the investigators managing the above serious offences through local evidence and information gathering. Overt and covert patrols and proactive stop and search continue to be carried out by local officers and Impact Team officers to identify and remove weapons and disrupt the drug use and dealing that often leads to this type of behaviour.

Lead Officer: Detective Sergeant Kiri Mazur

Serious street-based violence, youth based interventions

Action Taken: A long planning process, started before the last area committee meeting, has now resulted in the launch of two new city-wide initiatives: the first aimed at diverting young people away from serious criminality, with proportionate interventions to local ASB reports; the second engaging with local secondary schools to provide young people with the suitable skills they need to avoid becoming embroiled in serious criminality in the first place.

Participation cohorts are drawn from all schools across the city; both schemes are in the pilot stage at present. Mechanisms for reporting positive outcomes and interventions into local area committee meetings are also still being drafted.

Current Situation: This piece of work is ongoing and remains a priority for Cambridgeshire Constabulary as well as our Local Safeguarding Children Board partners.

Lead Officer: Inspector Paul Rogerson

Drug related crime and acquisition crime related to drugs

Objective: To identify the scale of, and disrupt offenders involved in, acquisitive crime linked to drug dealing and use.

Action Taken: Immediately after the last area committee meeting, extensive scanning was carried out to identify the scale of the issue, with cycle theft having been put forward during the meeting as the perceived largest crime type linked to drugs. Scanning confirmed that a particular hotspot for cycle theft was the Cycle Point at Cambridge railway station (crime figures are publicly available at [POLICE.UK](https://www.police.uk)) with high numbers of recorded crime.

Following the scanning phase, a project was implemented in August 2019 to tackle this issue. We have worked closely with Greater Anglia, the company responsible for running and securing the Cycle Point, and have made several target hardening recommendations, including: improving signage; improving CCTV coverage in blind spot areas; improving information provided to the public on how to report crime at this location; removing old information that proved to be misleading; recommending that they consider implementing access control methods, such as swipe access or user registration; and installing a proportion of velo-box type lockable storage. Updates will have to be sought from Greater Anglia regarding which, if any, of these measures, is to be implemented as this is not a matter over which Cambridgeshire Constabulary retain any control.

We have also provided further upskilling and re-training of Constabulary staff to ensure that all are aware of the Cycle Point falling under our jurisdiction and not the British Transport Police (BTP), and that they are correctly contacting Greater Anglia when requesting CCTV.

Several public engagement events have been run at the Cycle Point aiming to increase the proportion of users registering and security marking their bicycles, and uptake of this has been good. This is vital to enable us to identify stolen and recovered bicycles. We have also increased covert and overt patrols in the location as a deterrent.

One prolific cycle thief has recently been charged with theft at this location and three others, believed to be prolific, have been arrested and remain under investigation pending the outcome of ongoing enquiries.

A warrant was also recently conducted at a Mill Road address suspected of handling stolen cycles and being involved in the supply of drugs. This was carried out in conjunction with BTP with whom we are also now working more closely and sharing information. Since this warrant was successfully conducted, there has been a marked reduction in the number of cycles being reported as stolen, down from an average 55 a week to 28. This action seems to have had a significantly positive impact, although the longevity of this remains to be seen.

It remains that a permanent police presence at Cycle Point is not realistic or achievable. Whilst we accept and understand that cycle theft is a massive source of frustration and represents a large proportion of reported crime in Cambridge, it will always score low against recognised objective indicators of high threat, risk and harm. Cycle crime will, therefore, remain unlikely to ever be adopted as one of our main priorities, but we are keen to identify any proportionate opportunities for proactive enforcement. The work already undertaken has been labour- and resource-intensive and has impacted on our ability to be present in areas subject to other types of crime and remains a lower priority than other higher harm crime types, such as serious violence or anti-social behaviour.

Our position is clear; where a crime is reported to us, we will centrally apply our triage principles to identify not only hypothetical solvability, but also the proportionality of the enquiries necessary to achieve a positive outcome. Inevitably, crimes with solvability dependent on CCTV do represent a significant investment of officer time and wider technological resources versus a very slim chance of a positive outcome. Even where CCTV is made available in a timely fashion and in a playable format, footage of any offender is rarely of sufficient quality from which an identification can be made. We will continue to assess every report on its own merits and where there are reasonable lines of enquiry and solvability is identified, we will endeavour to investigate.

Current Situation: Further periods of overt and covert enforcement are planned for the next month. The local team will continue working towards being seen as a centre of excellence for proactive response to cycle crime and will continue to focus on targeting spree offenders and handlers, and take action against those to reduce the resale market and thereby reduce the attractiveness of cycle crime as a means to fund a criminal lifestyle. We will not hold and investigate all cycle crimes, as to do so would mean we have no capacity to take on any but the smallest amount of additional work. Where crimes are held by officers on other teams, we will be intrusive and help with CCTV enquiries and

suspect location, arrest and search. We will also continue to regularly support partners at the Council and Greater Anglia with public engagement and cycle marking events but will look to extend this to additional beat areas across the City.

Lead Officer: Detective Sergeant Kiri Mazur

3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues*

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

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

During the last reporting period, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Officers in the Community Safety Team have been involved in dealing with several high-level cases and have acted, as appropriate, including:

- The Community Safety team has continued to work with police, housing and the street outreach support services regarding reports of street life community related ASB in the East area. We continue to look at these cases in terms of prevention and support and, where appropriate, enforcement action. In one case, we worked with a landlord who has taken practical steps in preventing the space from being used as a sleep site; in another case, we worked with housing, where again, practical, short term action has been taken to prevent the space being used as a sleep site.
- In July 2019, a committal application was submitted by the Community Safety Team, working with the Police, against an individual who had persistently breached his Injunction Order around begging and serious nuisance around the Grafton Centre and its surrounding areas. The individual received an immediate custodial sentence of six months.
- County Court action resulting in an outright possession against a tenant involved in serious nuisance in Ekin Road.
- Tenancy enforcement action was taken by the Community Safety Team, with the aim to reduce ASB in the Whitehill Road area.
- The Community Safety Team continues to be a key partner of CB1 and is responsible for making sure that issues of ASB are addressed and/or linked into the various partners working in the area. There have also been Christmas socials

organised which were set up to bring the residents and CB1 local businesses together.

- The Community Safety Team is in the process of working through the recommendations that arose out of Environmental Visual Audits (EVA) that were conducted in and around the open spaces within the East area. The Team is working with internal departments, such as street and open spaces, and housing, as well as the County Council, to address issues found in the EVAs.
- Preliminary work was carried out by the Community Safety Team, with Metropolitan Housing, in St. Matthews' Gardens. Metropolitan undertook a letter drop, asking residents to report any instances of ASB, and will feed results to the City Problem Solving Group. A joint visit to the area has been arranged for the new year, and Cambridgeshire Constabulary has completed an EVA.
- Door knocking was carried out in the Abbey ward by ASB Officers in the Community Safety Team, along with Councillors, people working in the ward and the local Police team, to reassure residents, following a serious incident that happened in the area.
- ASB Officers in the Community Safety Team attended a residents' meeting for Wycliffe Road and Seymour Street, due to the incidents of ASB that had been happening in the area. Residents said that things have been quiet and the ASB had stopped, due to several estate improvements that were undertaken.
- Preventative work, such as warning letters and joint visits with housing officers and police, was carried out to reduce ASB in Ditton Fields, Ekin Road, Ekin Walk, Headford Close, Stourbridge Common and Thorpe Way.
- The Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) that was signed during the last reporting period was successful, with the Council not receiving any further complaints about nuisance behaviour from the individual.

4. Additional Information

At neighbourhood level, the [POLICE.UK](https://www.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'; and 'view detailed statistics'. This gives a good overview of issues within the local area.

5. Recommendations

The following local areas of concern are recommended for consideration:

- Serious street-based violence, targeting offenders
- Serious street-based violence, youth-based interventions
- Drug-related crime and acquisition crime related to drugs