

# Neighbourhood Profile

## Cambridge City East – June 2021

***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 3 December 2020, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- Anti-social Driving;
- Cycle theft; and
- Drug dealing and the protection of local young people – child criminal exploitation.

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

### **Anti-social Driving**

**Objective:** To mitigate the impact of anti-social driving on residents in the East of the City, and to identify and act against repeat anti-social drivers.

**Action Taken:** The joint work across three of the four local area committee areas is now managed under a single city-wide policing enforcement operation. The most recent tactical activity included speed enforcement on Long Road and Barwell Road where 15 traffic offence reports were issued to speeding motorists. The highest recorded speed was 42mph in a 30mph zone. The most recent road safety activity, again targeting the roads above, resulted in dozens of informal warnings where poor road user behaviour did not reach the standard for criminal justice enforcement and ten traffic offence reports were

made to drivers for using their mobile phone whilst driving. Previous days of action included those areas highlighted by the committee in their previous meeting, specifically Whitehill Road, Wadloes Road and Peverel Road, and resulted in three traffic offence reports for driving without insurance, driving whilst disqualified and failing to wear a seat belt. Two vehicles were seized; a stolen motor vehicle was recovered, and a driver arrested for driving whilst over the proscribed limit for alcohol.

Current Situation: Neighbourhood Officers continue to scan their own areas of responsibility for reports from concerned residents about poor road user behaviour as well as using police systems to identify areas where traffic incidents are high to ensure that enforcement behaviour is effectively targeted. The unsafe use of the highway by all road users remains our primary focus with education and then enforcement being our primary tactics. A police representative attended the second meeting of the McDonald's Working Group and a third meeting is planned the middle of July.

Lead Officers: PS453 Jim Stevenson and PC2324 Kaci Ibeggazene

### **Cycle theft**

Objective: To reduce the impact of cycle theft on those living, working, and parking their bicycles in the East area of the City.

Action Taken: Police activity around this area of concern remains part of a city-wide operation targeting cycle thieves. Due to the national lockdown that ran for most of the first three months of this year, cycle theft was suppressed along with other forms of street crime, and as such the figures for cycle theft in January and February were very similar to the first national lockdown last year. Cycle theft for the whole city for a month was reduced by 75% compared to the same time in 2019. Since March, the figures have started a steady climb back towards the levels seen in 2019, although they still sit at about 50% of the recorded crime that we had for the same months in 2019. Several criminal investigations into known cycle thieves are progressing well and alternative prosecution tactics to the traditional ones employed against prolific thieves are being used.

Current Situation: Although Sgt Stevenson took over the East Area of Cambridge from Sgt Mazur at the start of the year, Sgt Mazur retains investigative control of the city-wide operation targeting cycle crime. The Constabulary maintains its membership of the multi-agency cycle crime task group. Continuous scanning of cycle crime reports to identify hot spots and trends occurs in order that days of action can be effectively targeted at the most impactful locations to catch prolific offenders. Crime prevention activity, including mass cycle marking and registration events, are now possible due to the relaxation of Coronavirus restrictions and some events are already in the planning stages.

Lead Officer: PS2393 Kiri Mazur

### **Drug dealing and the protection of local young people – child criminal exploitation**

Objective: To identify and disrupt the perpetrators of organised drug dealing, and to safeguard and divert young people at risk of becoming victims of criminal exploitation linked to drug dealing and County Lines.

Action Taken: The Neighbourhood Support Team retains primacy for the tactical activity targeting County Lines and they spend significant amounts of time carrying out patrols and enforcement activity in the East of Cambridge; making arrests and seizing significant amounts of criminal property in the form of drugs and cash. Support activity from staff assigned to the East Area Team has included the dismantling of a cannabis factory in the Dennis Road area; and three closure orders targeting addresses used for drug dealing in the East of the City. Two of these closure orders were “soft closures” designed to safeguard vulnerable residents being exploited at these locations, whilst the third was a “hard closure” to remove the use of the premises by organised drugs gangs and the resident who was complicit in supporting their activity. Preventative work in schools, helping to raise awareness in young people about the dangers of County Lines activity and the risk of falling victim to their exploitative tactics, has begun again with the relaxation of Coronavirus restrictions with seven inputs to children in key age groups being delivered since the start of the summer term. More of these prevention tactics are planned for the remaining school time before the summer recess. Patrols in the green spaces, especially the Coleridge and Romsey recreation grounds, in response to reports from residents about drug dealing in these areas have been carried out. Other areas targeted include Whitehill Road, Fairfax Road, Mill Road and Vinery Road.

Current Situation: Activity targeting County Lines, both preventative and enforcement, is and has been part of standard policing business for a considerable time. Information supplied by residents, either directly or via a third party, such as Crime Stoppers, or their locally-elected representatives, is an integral part of the intelligence gathering process. An accurate picture of what is happening in communities is essential to ensure that police resources are directed in the most effective manner.

Lead Officer: PS453 Jim Stevenson

### **3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues***

#### **Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

Our proactive work will continue to focus on the areas of concern identified at the last area committee meeting.

#### **Cambridge City Council**

The Community Safety Team is currently working in partnership with the police and other agencies to investigate concerns about drug-related activity in and around the Hilderstone House location. Residents have reported people congregating in the stairwell and suspicious or drug-related activity. Letter drops have been carried out to encourage residents to report issues and an application for temporary CCTV has been submitted for approval.

We are working in partnership with the police and support agencies in relation to reports of a group of rough sleepers in various locations in the Newmarket Road area. Individuals have been identified, support has been offered and we continue to monitor these locations.

Working in partnership with the police and other agencies in relation to drug-related activity in the Ashbury Close area, we supported the police in a closure order and arranged

support workers for the tenant. We have also sent a warning letter regarding another property in Petersfield which has had a positive outcome with no further complaints.

We are also liaising with support agencies in a case involving domestic abuse in the Abbey area.

The Community Safety Team is leading on a [Cambridge Community Safety Partnership](#) (CSP) project, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, to raise awareness about County Lines and Criminal Exploitation in the City, both for school aged children, professionals, and adults. Leading a multi-agency task group as part of this project, a survey was conducted which received over 1,000 responses from residents in the City. Using information from the survey and knowledge from colleagues in other agencies, a film was commissioned which will highlight issues around County Lines, grooming and criminal exploitation from a safeguarding perspective. It is expected that the film will be available for use in schools and community settings in the summer months and beyond.

Linked to the CSP, the multi-agency Cambridge Cycle Crime Prevention Task Group is chaired by Cambridge City Council. The Task Group, which includes Camcycle, businesses, the two universities and the police, has launched a [Save Our Cycles](#) campaign for the public to encourage locking and registering cycles.

#### **4. Additional Information**

At the 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 'statistics'. This gives a good overview of issues within the local area. To access the local area's relevant data, type "Cambridge" into the search engine on the homepage and then select the relevant area (Cambridge City Centre policing team, Cambridge – North policing team, or Cambridge – South policing team).

#### **5. Recommendations**

None are advised. We seek views from this committee on those local areas of concern that the police and partner agencies can work together to action and report on at the next reporting committee meeting.