

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (ECCSP)

Update Report to ECDC Operational Services Committee Meeting on Monday 18 November 2024

Rationale

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are scrutinised by Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committees and under the 2006 Police and Justice Act, Councils are under an obligation to allocate this function to one of their committees. The ECDC's Operational Services Committee is the scrutiny committee for the ECCSP.

This report will be presented to the Committee by Lis Every, Chair of the ECCSP.

Author

Lis Every, Chair of the ECCSP

Report

This report updates the Operational Services Committee on its recent Partnership Board meetings held since June 2024, monitoring of the first quarter of the new Action Plan (available on the ECDC Website), based on evidence from the Strategic Assessment, and provides examples of current activities taking place.

Strategic Assessment and new Action Plan

The new Action Plan based on the updated Strategic Assessment continues to work on the CSP priorities of:

- 1) Understanding risk and susceptibility of individuals (people) and locations (places) and helping communities respond to this,
- 2) Work to tackle violence in East Cambridgeshire, with a particular focus on serious violence.

Further research has been commissioned to:

- a) build on exiting data including the community voice, particularly of young people, aiming to enhance understanding of local issues relating to violence;
- b) provide an analysis of anti social behaviour (ASB) in recent years, with a focus on the nature of incidents (both Police and ECDC recorded) as well as trend, temporal and geographic analyses.

Both will inform any potential further actions to be added to the Plan, with the agreement of the CSP Board.

Collaborative working with other agencies is key, in particular the East Cambridgeshire Integrated Neighbourhood Board. A recent joint meeting identified the following agreed themes:

- Young people and their well-being
- Mental health/well-being generally
- Integrated induction and training to facilitate a culture of collaboration
- Communication, raising and sharing of issues and access to expertise and support services.

Action Plan Monitoring: first quarter targets were met, with more work on cybercrime training required. The Cyber Crime Lead will present at the December meeting.

Case studies of priority work:

CSP activity supporting the campaign against Hate Crimes and Incidents

- In March 24 our Community Safety and Projects Officer initiated/ led and achieved County wide support for Hate Crime Awareness material (posters, leaflets, bookmarks, window stickers and pin badges) and working in partnership with the Police bid successfully into the OPCC Safer Communities Fund.
- The Kite Trust in Ely were recruited to become a third party Hate Crime Reporting Centre.
- Hate Crime Awareness material was launched outside The Kite Trust in August and press release produced.
- East Cambridgeshire District Council has become a Hate Crime Reporting Centre . Relevant officers in ECDC's Communities and Partnership Team are trained in Hate Crime reporting. Working with the Police, they have now trained the Housing and Community Advice Team and training for ECDC Customer Service staff will take place at the end of November.
- During Hate Crime awareness week (14th October) there was press release around ECDC becoming a third-party Hate Crime Reporting Centre.
- During Hate Crime awareness week (14th October) CSP has posted information around Hate Crime relating to disabilities, race/ethnicity, religion/beliefs, sexual orientation and transgender identity on social media platforms..

CSP working with the young people of East Cambridgeshire

- CSP attended ECDCs Youth Fusion events in Burwell and Haddenham promoting youth safety. Two examples are: information and advice was given on knife crime and the White Ribbon Promise was promoted to 14+ (in age) young men to encourage them to assist work being completed as part of the ECDCs accredited White Ribbon Action Plan. The events were well attended. They are an important part of ECDCs Youth Strategy and our CSP priority on youth. Funding is an issue, and every effort will be made to find the funding for next year. Both events were run in parishes where a Community Safety Forum had taken place, and this initiative supported actions from these.

- CSP and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Youth officers have worked with the East Cambridgeshire Police Cadets (the largest in the County), supporting with funding and providing safety training.
- “The Gateway” Ely underpass Street Art project, initiated by our CSP team, took place on 21-22 September 2024. It was funded by the City of Ely Council. The collaboration on this has been very effective. Led by the CCC Youth team, it involved our CSP officers, Ely young people, Police, the Cadets and volunteers. The young people were very engaged, and it has been well received by the local residents..
- CSP has fed into a Youth Survey being led by CCC.
- Court Experience: Funding has been confirmed for the following year and all five secondary school have confirmed their dates. The Serious Violence Lead will be visiting the Ely session. CSPs in Suffolk and South Cambs are interested in running sessions, using their own facilitators, but using our training materials, Sessions House and the ECDC Chamber, for which we are grateful. This forms part of our cross-border work.
- Partners of the CSP attended Burwell Parish Council’s Youth Forum on the evening of 14th October to discuss youth provision in the village and ASB distraction activities.
- Detached youth work continues in Burwell, Soham and Littleport. Work is being planned to extend this to Ely.

Community Safety Partnership Board

Membership: Unfortunately the Probation Service did not attend our meetings as agreed. As this is a Statutory Partner we continue to systematically pursue this. Our business representative has had to stand down, and we are seeking a replacement from the Federation of Small Businesses. We welcomed Jenny Harris, Head of Safeguarding, Cambridge University Hospital. We will be seeking a representative from local education.

The Problem Solving and Delivery Groups: Police Report: These were working well raising issues and identifying collaborative solutions for these. The Problem Solving Group had a high level of attendance from the schools and agencies, which was facilitating multi-agency solutions which were proving to be effective. There was an increase in ASB in Littleport, Ely, Sutton and Burwell. The current 3 priorities for the Police are drug dealing, ASB and anti-social driving. East Cambridgeshire has a low crime rate compared to other areas. General crime has been down over the summer months compared to this time last year, During June to August sexual offences had increased from last year.

Unauthorized encampments have become a priority and will be referred to the Delivery Group. ECDC confirmed they had had several damaged sites with lots of rubbish. This might lead on to further discussions at the next CSP Board. .

An overlap between the PSG and the Wellness Hub Meeting Members of ECDC was identified. The 'What matters to You' provides solutions not always requiring funding money. Many of the solutions were inspirational. It was agreed to identify collaboration which would be efficient and effective,

In addition to the current Task and Finish Group working on Youth Provision, based on evidence the Delivery Group had set up an additional Task and Finish Group to work on the identified spiking of anti-social behaviour in Ely and Littleport. This Group will also include representatives from the Town Councils which is a new approach. It was agreed that working with representatives from the local Parish and Town Councils was vital in ensuring agreed and sustainable outcomes.

Some of the problems in Burwell have reduced. Local multi agency and outreach has been particularly effective with local shops reporting fewer incidents. The Police Street Team officers have arrested the perpetrator of the graffiti and criminal damage in Ely. Good evidence has been collected from CCTV and the CSP is working with the City of Ely Council on their updated CCTV scheme

Other CSP Activities

Domestic Abuse: The Domestic Abuse Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Needs Assessment around women and girls had been shared and ECDC confirmed meeting all recommendations. ECDC are a White Ribbon accredited organisation. Active work continues by the ECDC Licensing Department to further raise awareness in hostellers, etc of the White Ribbon campaign and asking them to sign pledges to call out certain behaviours.

Community Safety Forums have been suggested for Ely and Sutton where there was a reported increase in ASB. These events are parish council-led and supported by the CSP.

Funding: Our PCC funded Officer had successfully obtained grants from the OPCC's fund, eg tool marking kits for the Police, CCTV for Cheveley Parish Council, a community safety pack for Burwell etc. Bids are identified locally and progressed through the PCC officer. The regular CSP Newsletter to all agencies and parishes advertises these opportunities.

We are advised that funding is available from the PCC to extend this officer post and this is to be explored.

Shopwatch Initiative: set up to combat shop lifting and encourage reporting to the Police this has been extremely successful with most of the shop keepers in Ely now fully engaged and part of the 'What's App' communication group. This is now being rolled out to the other parishes. The Police require a greater level of reporting to provide the statistics required to respond and identify themes and local activity. A greater level of local collaboration between our shop keepers has been a positive outcome.

Communications Plan: The purpose is to raise awareness of the CSP work amongst stakeholders and communities. This would be done by working with communities, the Parishes, City, Town Councils, and businesses. The focus was very much on the crime rate in East Cambridgeshire being relatively low, and the need to work on it remaining the case. Issues likely to be tackled are violence (although not high), particularly domestic abuse,

commenting on the excellent work being done on knife and hate crime, drink spiking, and embedding the Eyes and Ears programme in our schools. There was a 3 month action plan highlighting what is going on nationally and locally using social media and press releases. The quarterly newsletter created has already been sent to stakeholders

Eyes and Ears programme: Three talks given , 1 in Little Thetford and 2 in Ely, focusing on scams and cybercrime to organised group meetings for the older demographic.

Strengthening and building new relationships: For example, with the Islamic Centre after offering reassurance and advice after various violent riots across the Country.

Training: In order to keep up to date with fast moving issues and be able to disseminate information across the District, the CSP team have attended various training sessions and webinars, eg domestic abuse, Hate Crime, prevent, serious violence, violence against women and girls.

External Meetings

Prevent: The funding for this goes to the County Council. Training is a priority. CCC are producing materials for young people and parents, and will be organising local District face to face workshops with a guest speaker. This guest speaker would be either a victim or someone who has had some involvement from the angle of safeguarding

Youth workers are to be educated on what to look for. The county Prevent action plan outlines statutory duties in place. Risk mapping sessions have been held with local authorities, Police, NHS, etc to create cohesion, aimed at limiting extreme activity in the Eastern Region. There will be a follow up session in October with a report being published in December. Although the workshops are CCC led, our CSP officers will also be involved in delivery.

High Harms Board, reported to the CSP: It is important that the Partners are aware of the work of the High Harms Board and how the strategies and work undertaken impacts on the local CSPs

The overall aim of the area's High Harms Board is to provide multi-agency strategic direction to enable the delivery of its key priorities to help make Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's communities safer.

Membership of the Board includes local authorities, Police, Fire and Rescue, Probation and Health, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Community Safety Partnerships - all have statutory duties in relation to reducing crime and disorder.

The Board is responsible for helping these key partners to coordinate and deliver their statutory duties with respect to agreed specific priority issues such as drugs, serious violence, violence against women and girls, and serious and organised crime.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough acts as the Chair of the countywide Board which meets on a quarterly basis

Current agenda items include strategies on violence against women and girls, drugs, serious violence, serious and organised crime.

Any issues from the Home Office and Central Government which required the CSPs to act, are transmitted through the PCC.

PCC Update

The PCC holds regular CSP Chairs' meetings which provides the opportunity to share good practice and access resources. One example is that we assisted South Cambs District Council in becoming a White Ribbon Accredited organisation.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Plan on Tackling Crime and Keeping Communities Safe is currently being developed and will be coming out for consultation. It will, again be centred around the 4 pillars supporting Safer Communities, ie

- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Tackling Crime and Anti-social Behaviour
- Supporting Victims and Witnesses
- Building Trust and Confidence

These include the themes of keeping communities safe, early intervention and prevention, working with Police partners, keeping women and girls safe, tackling crime and ASB, including road safety, rural and business crimes, working with communities, holding the Police to account.

For information

- The ECCSP Terms of Reference and Action Plan are on the ECDC website.
- ECCSP now has X and Facebook accounts which are operated via our PCC funded Officer who works with the ECDC Communications Team. Positive stories or issues of concern can be submitted to her for consideration and uploading, jo.andow@eastcambs.gov.uk.
- The next CSP Board meeting is on 4 December 2025. Councillors are welcome to attend as observers. Please request an invitation from Emma Graves, emma.graves@eastcambs.gov.uk.