

Update Report to ECDC Operational Committee Meeting on Monday 24 March 2025

Rationale

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 Committee on its recent Partnership Board meetings held since December 2024, monitoring of the second quarter of the 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 Action Plan

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 requested reported:

The deep dive ASB report identified areas where our efforts should be focused. These were Ely East and West, and Littleport; with monitoring required of Burwell, Soham, Fordham and Stretham. A community action event will be held in Sutton, by request.

Action Plan Monitoring:. All Actions to the end of Quarter 2 have been met or have been reviewed to ensure completion.

Case studies of priority work from the Action Plan:

CSP activity supporting the campaign against Hate Crimes and Incidents

- ECDC became a third party hate crime reporting centre. Officers in their Customer Services, Housing, Communities and Partnership teams have been trained on Hate Crime and the third party Hate Crime Report Centres.

CSP working with the young people of East Cambridgeshire

- The Court Days continue, and we have delivered to Soham Village College, Ely and Bottisham Village College. Vista College and Witchford Village College will be completed by July.
- The CSP has been asked to present the Court Experience Programme to a Serious Violence Symposium on 5th March at Cambridge Anglia Ruskin University as a model of best practice on tackling knife crime and county lines with young people. Our ASB officer will be presenting this.
- 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.
- A talk was given to Millfield Primary School, Littleport around ASB and staying safe.
- A community meeting has been held in Littleport bringing 40 young people together to focus on what they wanted.
- This was replicated in Soham at the Football Club at a community evening with 35 attendees from younger and older youths including the topics of county lines, drugs, water safety etc. There is funding from the Soham Town Council to hold a further event in February.
- The pump track requested at Burwell is difficult to achieve with a BMX track. The Parish Council is liaising with Cambourne Parish Council who have been successful in building one.
- The Gateway project: it is believed that through this there is now a likelihood of a reduction in ASB in the underpass as the voices of young people have been listened to. CCTV of the area is being explored.
- The Cambridgeshire County Council youth survey has been very well received, identifying the needs of young people 11-19 with 879 responses. Collation of data is now taking place, and a meeting will be arranged for this to be fed into our Strategic Assessment. It is an item for the March agenda.
- The Youth Conference held in Ely was highly successful with over 100 signed up and will be an annual event. It was based on the '5 ways to well-being' and hosted many stalls as well as running workshops. Vaping is an important topic now. Some of the youth sessions had young people attending. The focus is on co-production and a chance to 'chat and chew'. There was lunchtime session networking. It is hoped that in the future representatives from youth clubs would come and have a social enterprise stall.
- Youth Clubs: Some youth clubs are thriving, and others are not. Mepal, Coveney and Littleport are doing well. The older youngsters are more difficult to engage with.

Fordham and Soham have closed. Ely has youth sessions at the Lighthouse and the Kite Trust. Haddenham Parish Council has a Youth Council who work to the main Council.

- ECDC's 2024 Youth Fusion events have been extremely popular. Plans for future events are being explored. Funding will be an issue, but the City of Ely Council has agreed that funding from their contractors for CCTV CSR has been offered to support the community safety for the youth event in Ely.

CSP working on ASB incidents

- We have several complex ASB cases: one is the unauthorized encampment in Burwell. The CSP became involved to co-ordinate the multi agency approach. The matter is not yet resolved as we are still awaiting Cambridgeshire County Council to act on the Eviction Notice they have served (now 3 months' overdue despite several letters from the CSP)
- Two very complex ASB Casefile Reviews have proceeded to panel stage, running concurrently.
- Multi agency work continues with the owners of the Cloisters in Ely and shops around, giving reassurance to businesses and customers alike around shoplifting that everything possible is being done.
- We are working with multi agencies/partners including the Community Payback Team to prepare the other side of underpass to complete the street art design.

Extracts from the December 2024 meeting of the Community Safety Partnership Board

Membership: Unfortunately a representative from the strategic level at the Probation Service still does not attend our meetings. As this is a Statutory Partner we continue to systematically pursue this. We are still pursuing representation from business, with reference to farming, and education.

CSP presentations and discussions

Rehabilitation services: In the absence of the strategic lead from the Probation Service, the Board were delighted to receive a presentation from DI Jo Crussall from the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Department which brings a cross-agency response to the crime and reoffending threats faced by local communities. The most persistent and problematic offenders are identified and managed jointly by partner agencies working together. IOM helps to improve the quality of life in communities by:

- reducing the negative impact of crime and reoffending
- reducing the number of people who become victims of crime
- helping to improve the public's confidence in the criminal justice system

She advised that she was working with 98 people on probation across the County, although few in East Cambridgeshire. She explained the process of Fixed, Flex and Free and how criteria was scored by agencies to determine actions to be taken. Fixed: highest score, therefore highest risk. Some engage in projects because they must to obtain release. Unfortunately, younger inmates were not so engaged; Flex: this is not

scored but looks beyond burglars and robbers, ie a prolific shop lifter could be encouraging youngsters to become involved. 18-25 year olds are more likely to be involved in firstly drugs, then knife crime etc. Working for success, she engages with businesses and charities. She particularly asks for businesses to help and give the clients a chance to build a new life. Some can stay with the scheme for about a year Even if they go back to re-offending, the scheme will still look after them Their aim is to move people off the scheme and subsequently disengage. A fishing scheme has been particularly successful. Support is given for addiction, and the key need is to find settled, stable accommodation and employment. Support was offered from the Partners who could offer contacts and places of well-being. There was agreement around the table about the usefulness of this connection and they invited her to update the CSP regularly.

Presentation by Nigel Sutton, Fraud and Cyber Advisor for Cambridgeshire. His role is to raise awareness of how scams are impacting on businesses, charities, as well as the individual. The national picture is that 50% of all recorded crime is in some way fraud or internet related which is costing billions. Locally, for the period 2021/2 (over 13 months), Cambridgeshire reported £21M lost to fraud and scams (recorded public data). The unreported figure must be far higher. Its growth is that it is low risk with high reward and it is really hurting local communities. As there are no geographical boundaries there is an extremely low risk of getting caught. This is not local crime. It tends to be investment crime, computer service and banking fraud where the receiver gives access to the computer enabling the fraud. It is never BT or your bank on the phone. The fraudster just wants remote access to their computer and the victim has no idea. They want your bank details and the last 3 digits on your debit/credit card. The requests come in the form of changing a business mandate to change the method of payment or a different account. Carrier fraud is on the increase and hits the more vulnerable people. Email hijacking is also on the increase as many do not have strong unique passwords. He provided a link to stoptinkingfraud.campaign.gov.uk

The Police have a Fraud Risk Group, led by a senior manager and attended by officers and staff. His own team of 4 give talks to local community groups particularly working with those who have given money.

The OPPC funding has been useful as has the social media strategy. Dedicated analysis is done every month resulting in a monthly report. In November there is a programme of community talks; he supports at local events having reached 319 people. Various forms of communication are used which convey protective messaging. Local lorries are engaged in the scheme, as are WI's, they go into schools and the latest Cyber Escape Room is offered.

CSP has offered help with local communication.. The human impact is huge, and the demands made by criminals is unbelievable. Neighbourhood Watch participate in East Cambridgeshire and they and others will receive ambassador scheme training. The team particularly want to engage with young people on what behaviours could result in committing crime and ending up with Police involvement.

Effective Communication is a priority, and the Board received an update on the Communications Strategy on the following:

- Press releases, social media and a stall in Ely Market had supported the White Ribbon Campaign. The Octagon was lit up.
- Media support would be provided for ASB awareness week, road safety and hate crime awareness campaigns supported by the CSB officers.
- International fraud week including local government fraud would also be publicised. Stop Think Fraud would feature in February.
- The ECDC Communications Team is regularly in touch with central Government and had a tool kit which supported central messages.
- Support was given for ‘Ask for Annie’ to raise awareness through the Christmas period.
- Improving our social media; Tik Tok was being reviewed by the ECDC Communication Team on behalf of the CSP for use to reach the younger people, and it was noted that YouTube is the fastest growing social media channel.

Vision Zero: ECCSP is to be used as a pilot working with Vision Zero to showcase work around road safety. There will be a presentation to the March Board by Chris Mills, the Vision Zero lead at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

High Harms Board, reported to the CSP: Much of what is discussed is confidential and therefore not for circulation. We have recently agreed the proposed changes to the updated Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Safety Agreement.

In addition to the Chair of the CSP, Sally Bonnett, Director, Community, ECDC also attends the meetings and any actions for us are included in discussions for the CSP agenda and our action plan, if appropriate.

For information

- The 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 meeting is on 5 March 2025. Councillors are welcome to attend as observers. Please request an invitation from Emma Graves, emma.graves@eastcambs.gov.uk.