

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (ECCSP)

Update Report to ECDC Operational Committee Meeting on Monday 29 September 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.

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:

- 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.

The strategic role of the CSP

The CSP influences and supports local, regional and national strategy on community safety matters. The Chair and Officers attend regional and area Committees and Boards providing intelligence and feedback on the initiatives that have been planned and implemented locally. The Chair sits on the High Harms Board and the CSP Area Chairs' Group. Emma Graves, our Neighbourhood & Community Safety Team Leader sits on the following Boards.

- CSP Board Meeting
- CSP Delivery Group
- CSP Problem Solving Group
- County Prevent Board
- Quarterly Community Safety Officers Meeting
- Serious Organised Crime Working Group
- Serious organised Crime Local Profile Meeting
- Organised Crime Gangs Management meeting

- Missing and Criminal Exploitation Meeting
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams

The 2025/2026 Action Plan

Most areas of the previous action plan update had been completed except for obtaining engagement with the Probation Office which we were still working on. The new plan has been agreed. The activities planned represent collaborative working with the Partners and is based on our Strategic Assessment. Each activity has an identified Lead agency. The Action Plan is monitored quarterly.

The new Action Plan is on the ECDC website and has been circulated to appropriate stakeholders.

Quarter 1 Action Plan Monitoring: All Actions are currently being monitored to ensure targets have been met or require reviewing. These include work on:

- Reviewing with Partners the findings of the Serious Violence Needs Assessment, and the Violence against Women and Girls assessment and sharing outcomes and identifying operational activities;
- Considering and reviewing the risk factors in the Strategic and Deep Dive assessments to develop preventative measures and programmes to address needs identified, eg Youth and ASB Deep Dive particularly relating to Littleport, encouraging them to sign up to the White Ribbon pledge;
- Communicating and supporting businesses in Littleport and Ely to develop measures and procedures to tackle shoplifting;
- Engaging with Littleport food bank to develop actions to support users during the cost of living crisis;
- Engaging with alcohol and drug services to obtain a better understanding of the links between addictions presenting in Littleport and aim to identify measures to reduce shoplifting

The Problem-Solving Group (PSG) and Delivery Group (DG)

The Problem-Solving Group continues to meet regularly to identify and work collectively on local solution. The numbers of different agencies engaged is very encouraging as this facilitates the multi agencies to work together on early solutions.

The Delivery Group is chaired by Inspector Simon Birch and includes representatives from the agency Partners. The Delivery Group deals with problems unsolved by the PSG, but also issues arising from the CSP Board and local issues. Examples of current working:

- Training packages being developed and delivered for young people on school hate crime awareness starting with Year 7 (identified from the County Council's survey as an issue);
- District wide reporting on anti-social driving;
- Task and Finish groups on Hate Crime, DAHA and White Ribbon, Youth Provision, ASB Hot spot areas, actions/response and Casefile Reviews.

Minutes of the DG meetings are circulated to all Partnership members.

Update on operational activities

Staffing

From a strong field we have successfully recruited Lydia Barlow to the role of Community Safety and Project Support Officer. This is the officer funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner. She started on 4 August 2025 and has completed her training. She has already supported two community events held to advise the public on community safety matters.

CSP working with the young people of East Cambridgeshire

The summer months can be challenging for some young people, and we have had a focus on engagement and awareness raising of support available around current issues. Some of the work undertaken is highlighted below.

- Phase 2 of “the gateway” Ely Leisure Park. Years 9 and 10 Ely students have designed and created the interactive street art seen on the Appendix attached. This is a CSP initiative involving the best of multi-agency work, including the ECDC Community Safety Team, the Cambridge County Council Youth Co -Ordinator, Ely City Council, Kilo, the street artist, and Ely College Staff and students.
- Summer Outreach youth work has taken place on the ASB Safer Summer initiative, working in the Ely City Centre and at the Riverside. This engagement programme with young people is vital in discussing and recording any concerns that the young people have..
- Summer drug and alcohol outreach work in Littleport. Again engaging, listening to concerns, signposting to support where appropriate and gathering intelligence.
- Court Knife Crime Sessions: In this period we held two more court experience days, which completed our programme for 2024-25. We have received 25-26 funding for next year 2025-2026 from the Serious Violence Duty Fund to continue with these. Our Court Experience Day has been nominated for the Police Problem Solving “ One More “Step awards. Next step acceptance will be published on 18 August. .
- Two youth fusion events have taken place in Ely and Isleham/Fordham. The CSP had a Community Safety Stall , including information on knife crime, Hate Crime, County Lines, Cybercrime, White Ribbon Campaign and Eyes & Ears.
- Haddenham hosted a Safeguarding evening with the Police and Robert Arkenstall Primary School which included information on County lines, online safety, drug awareness, knife crime and micro aggression. Approximately 35 attended, with representatives from the young people, parents and carers, the Careers Company and local sports groups.
- Bishop Laney Sixth Form students received a road safety talk by Vision Zero of the CPCA,

- The CSP has been successful in bidding for Serious Violence Duty Funding for Soham youth engagement, The Port Youth Group summer engagement programme and the Engage Ely young people project.

ASB incidents

One Case review has seen a successful resolution orchestrated by the CSP team and there have been no further incidents reported since March 25. Two more cases are ongoing.

Extracts from the June 2025 meeting of the Community Safety Partnership Board

Membership: We have secured a Partner representing local businesses

CSP presentations and discussions

Presentation by Rachel Speechley ROTH (Risk outside the home). As Team Manager for the Missing and Exploitation team she spoke about her role to foster safer relationships for exploited children and the processes that are in place.

Serious Violence Presentation by Leigh Roberts from the CC Research Team. Data is available at different levels, including Ward level. A data summary is published on an interactive dashboard on Cambridgeshire Insight. More information would be coming eg health. Data was showing that East Cambs (EC) was at the lower level of crime, but it was increasing. Opiate use was higher in EC, but use of alcohol was lower. Statistics from the hospitals indicated that there was a decline in numbers for treatment from violent incidents. However there are indications of a greater exposure to violence among children of school age. There is a school survey every 2 years for Years 8 and 10. This was only published at District level, and we need a discussion to share data with schools. A higher number are exposed to violence in home, particularly domestic abuse, but these were mostly from Year 8 students

Key findings: Information on violence from the Police indicate EC is at the bottom of the league tables and remaining stable. This data can be broken down by Ward. There is an under recording of domestic violence from victims. There is a higher proportion of male suspects with predominantly female victims, although there are some men victims. Emergency Department attendance is also monitored. Use of weapons is identified as a rise in incidents, with the use of knives and sharp objects, but punching and fighting injuries featured as the highest number of incidents. Those offending are mostly men, age 30-39. More detailed information is available in the report and information is on the dashboard with the District breakdown of information.

Inspector Birch outlined the new arrangements for Neighbourhood Policing (the Policing Guarantee). He was anticipating more staff and funding for the area. South Cambs now had an Independent Advisory Group which he hoped to replicate in the other Districts. Members of the community, not necessarily councillors, were members of the Board. It provided the opportunity to consider ten or fifteen changes that might affect the community, eg should the police have flat caps instead of the current headgear?

He was hoping to recruit 7 PCSOs across the patch with one coming to EC. Engagements now had to be F2F which was presenting challenges particularly finding FOC venues. His priorities were drugs and youth ASB. Modern day slavery was growing with ongoing investigations into nail bars and barbers. He confirmed the shutting down of 2 vape shops in Ely. Knife crime and ROTH were also increasingly. The ASB in the Cloisters was a concern but there would be new CCTV installed. Soham has had an increase in criminal damage in the car park and in the Co-op shoplifting has increased. Plain clothes police were working on these and young people had been identified. It was reported that had been an increase in ASB in the libraries.

There were 9 ongoing criminal investigations. Parking enforcement had taken place with 95 tickets issued. The Police were planning to agree more overtime to help tackle the boy racing in this area. They were doing what they could with the current staffing levels. Investigations into anti-social driving in Littleport had resulted in the parents becoming involved. Travellers had arrived in St Johns Road on two occasions opposite the school on the recreation ground. A multi-agency approach had been successful in removing them and the area was deep cleaned the next day. The cost of this is approximately £4,000 paid by the City of Ely Council.

Conclusion

The above report was prepared on 18 August 2025. If more information is required we would be delighted to provide this. Support from our local Councillors is very much part of the multi agency approach.

Councillors are welcome to attend the CSP Partnership Board meetings as observers. Please request the forthcoming dates and an invitation from Emma Graves, emma.graves@eastcambs.gov.uk.