

## **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (ECCSP)**

### **Update Report to ECDC Operational Committee Meeting on Monday 23 March 2026**

#### **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**

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#### **Report**

This report updates the Operational Committee on its recent Partnership Board meetings held since December 2025, monitoring of the third 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 other relevant Boards

#### **The 2025/2026 Action Plan**

Most areas of the previous action plan update have been completed. The final monitoring process is being undertaken and preparation is in hand for the 2026/2027 Action Plan are in hand.

### **Update on the delivery, performance and emerging issues since our last report to the Operational Services Committee based on the Partnership meetings and operational activities.**

**Prevent Delivery and Support:** In line with national requirements, this continues to be an important item on our agendas and a briefing document was circulated. We will receive a further update at the next meeting..

**Overview of the City of Ely CCTV Scheme:** The CCTV scheme has undergone significant restructuring and is now operated from Sessions House rather than the police station with a full time staff manager.

- The scheme relies heavily on volunteers, covering 8 four-hour shifts per week aligned to police-prioritised times and special events.
- Phase 1 (upgrade of existing cameras) has been completed.
- Phase 2 will extend coverage to perimeter areas of the city.
- Additional coverage is in place during peak times when volunteers are unavailable.

### **Impact and Partnership Working**

- CCTV supports the Stopwatch initiative, contributing to more positive enforcement outcomes.
- Funding has been secured from East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) for coverage of:
  - The Ely side of the underpass
  - Hive Leisure Centre

**The CSP Shopwatch scheme:** This is currently coordinated via a WhatsApp group and administered by the Chair of the Ely Traders Association

- Most local businesses are now signed up.
- There is a plan to promote Shopwatch district-wide and share success stories.

**Emerging Picture for local Serious Organised Crime (SOC):** We have been advised that SOC activity is expanding beyond traditional drugs and firearms to include:

- Fraud and cybercrime
- Organised shoplifting
- Exploitation and corruption
- Online grooming networks
- Child sexual exploitation
- Human trafficking and modern slavery

Technology, particularly social media, is a significant driver of criminal activity. There is increasing evidence of:

- Grooming of young males to recruit and groom others

- Coercion involving self-harm imagery
- Exploitation within care settings

### **Our Local Vulnerabilities include:**

- Rural immigration “drops”
- Youth violence hotspots in Ely
- Identified vulnerabilities in Littleport, Soham and North Ely
- East Cambridgeshire increasingly used for movement of arms and stolen goods
- Two identified SOC groups operating locally (drugs, exploitation, immigration crime)

Across Cambridgeshire, over 30 SOC groups are estimated to be active. Regional hotspots include Peterborough and Cambridge City, with increasing concerns in Fenland and Huntingdon.

### **Enforcement Activity and Successes**

Recent activity in Ely by the Police resulted in the closures of premises including vape shops, cannabis factories and a local brothel.

Neighbourhood policing teams are conducting joint operations with Immigration Officers, retail visits and youth engagement programmes.

### **Recommendations for the CSP priorities are to**

- Increase public awareness of rural and acquisitive crime
- Strengthen cross-border liaison with Norfolk and Suffolk.
- Build community resilience working with Councillors and Parish Councils.
- Establish a cross-CSP SOC Working Group.
- Add SOC as a standing agenda item at CSP Leads meetings

### **Considerations for success and sustainability:**

- Adequacy of resources to address technology-enabled crime.
- Data-sharing and cross-border coordination.
- Early intervention and youth prevention capacity.

### **CSP Action Plan 2025–26 is in the final stage of monitoring**

#### **PSG/ASB Update**

##### **Youth Projects**

1. Littleport – improved access and positive outcomes.
2. Soham – Connections Youth Project launching January at the Recreation Ground.
3. Ely – Fitness Rush Bus achieving increased engagement with identified young people.

Ely remains the principal ASB focus area. The CSP is reporting to the City of Ely Full Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Targeted Police patrols and outreach work are improving reporting levels.

### **Retail Crime and Enforcement**

- Retail Crime Week saw strong police engagement in Ely.
- Additional foot patrol funding was secured.
- Emphasis on accurate reporting to be able to access additional funding streams.

The forthcoming Crime and Policing Bill is expected to strengthen housing enforcement powers, including closure orders and Respect Orders.

**ASB Case Reviews:** Councillors may be aware of the above which are triggered when a complainant feels that their complaint has not been fully investigated or reached a satisfactory conclusion from their perspective. They are very often neighbourhood disputes which are on the increase in East Cambridgeshire. A review of ASB Case Review processes has identified opportunities for streamlining and improved efficiency to deal with the increased number of these.

**CSP Showcase Event:** We are currently planning the best way for this which may include a closed CSP meeting followed by a public-facing event with presentations, stalls and themed break-out sessions (e.g., cybercrime). This approach is being piloted in South Cambridgeshire and we will liaise with them regarding success or otherwise and lessons to be learnt.

**Anti-social Vehicle-Related Issues:** The District-wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) consultation commenced 12 January (5–6 weeks). If implemented:

- It puts Police enforcement powers in place.
- ECDC will be responsible for Fixed Penalty Notices (£100) and prosecutions.
- There will be a requirement to ensure public awareness of PSPO areas.

### **Summary**

The Partnership continues to demonstrate strong operational activity across CCTV provision, youth engagement, SOC disruption and retail crime. However, key themes emerging include:

- Sustainability of volunteer-dependent services (CCTV).
- Rising complexity of technology-enabled and organised crime.
- Need for stronger cross-border and multi-agency intelligence sharing.
- Ensuring analytical information directly informs operational activity.
- Performance monitoring and consistent partner engagement.

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**Conclusion**

## Appendix 1

The above report was prepared on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 just prior to the next CSP meeting on 2 March 2026. If more relevant updated information is available we can provide this to the meeting. We continue to welcome observers to our meetings and are also looking to record meetings. We recently had observers from our MP's office, and Anglia Ruskin University Criminology graduate students with mutual benefit activities planned regarding research. Support from our local Councillors is very much part of the multi agency approach and Councillors are also 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](mailto:emma.graves@eastcambs.gov.uk).