

Cambridgeshire's VitalSigns®

Vital Signs® is a programme initiated by the Community Foundations of Canada. The goal of Vital Signs® is to “take the pulse” of our community; to provide a sense of where we are at... and where we might be going.

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation's 2015 Vital Signs® mini report looks at safety in the community. We have focused on statistics published by GT Place Analytics to highlight how Cambridgeshire and Peterborough perform compared to the national average.

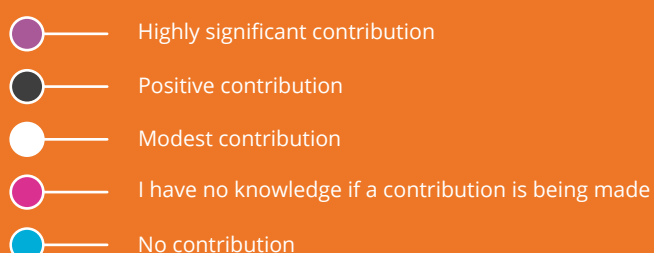
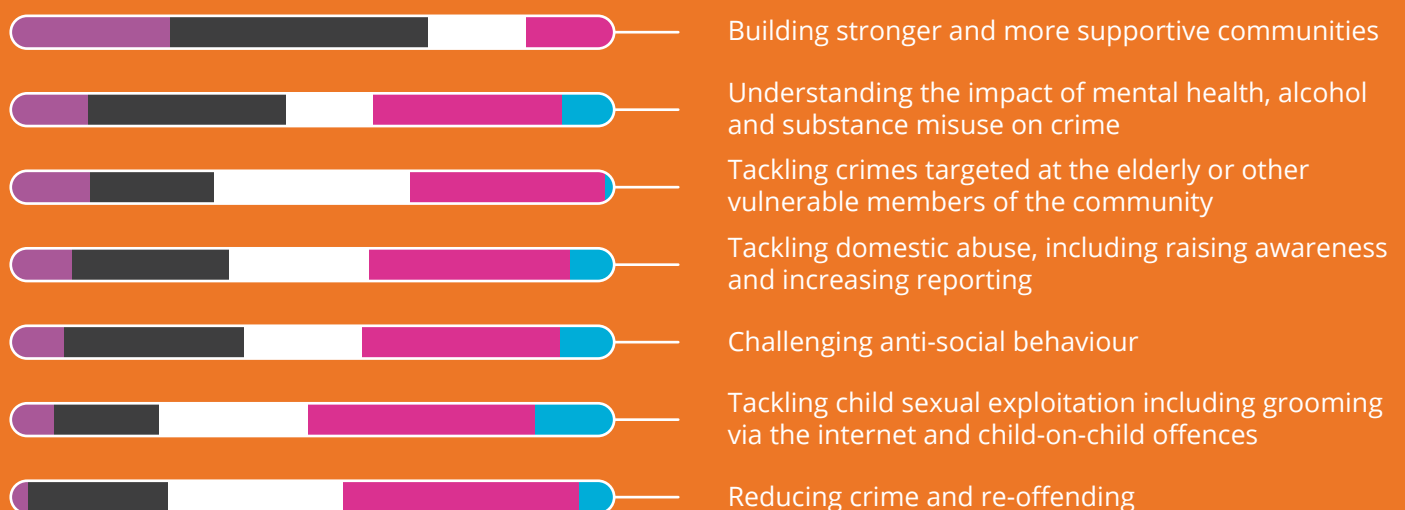
In addition, this report includes results from a survey we conducted recently. We asked local people how they would describe community safety in their area and what they felt should be prioritised. We also asked them about the contribution they felt the voluntary sector makes to reducing levels of crime and improving community safety.

The aims of this 2015 Vital Signs® mini report are to help us:

- Better inform our donors about crime and safety issues and opportunities in the community
- Assist us in making connections between individuals and groups to address those issues
- Set priorities and identify opportunities for our funding

In summary, we hope this report will be a catalyst for further conversation and consideration.

Survey respondents were asked about the contribution, if any, they believe the charitable sector is already making locally to the priorities listed.

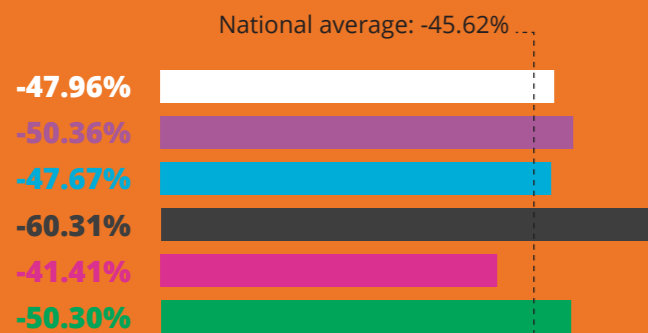


Cambridgeshire:

- FENLAND
- PETERBOROUGH
- HUNTINGDONSHIRE
- EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
- SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE
- CAMBRIDGE CITY



Overall since 2003/4 the total number of offences has decreased in all Cambridgeshire districts and Peterborough.



Total offences include all types of theft, domestic and non-domestic burglary, robberies, criminal damage and arson, drug offences, sexual offences, fraud, weapons offences, public order offences and violent offences. East Cambridge-shire has the lowest crime score in the county (53.61) compared to Cambridge which has a crime score of 146.97.

CRIME SCORE - This indicator provides an index of the total number of offences per 1,000 resident population.

District	CRIME SCORE (2013/14)	NATIONAL RANK
Cambridge	146.97	30
Peterborough	140.89	33
Fenland	93.28	167
Huntingdonshire	72.83	249
South Cambs	55.31	318
East Cambs	53.61	327

(National rank out of 348)

BUT...



Violent crimes

2013/14 data shows that violent crimes per 1,000 population in Cambridge (12.72) Peterborough (15.22) and Fenland (12.11) were above the national average of 12.09 per 1,000 population.



Burglaries

2013/14 data shows that burglaries per 1,000 population in Cambridge (3.87) and Peterborough (3.73) were above the national average of 3.59 per 1,000 population.

111 people responded to our community consultation survey. Respondents were asked to describe community safety in their area in one word:



Respondents particular concerns:



Over 1/3 of respondents said they were not concerned about crime in their area



Just under 1/3 were concerned about burglary and anti-social behaviour



Just under 1/4 were concerned about drugs



Just over 1/10 were concerned about vehicle crime and criminal damage (inc. arson)

"There is a strong feeling of community. I have very caring neighbours."

"Good community spirit, which leads to sense of safety."

"We do have some anti-social behaviour in a few locations, mostly by youths and possibly linked to drink or drugs."

"It's rare to see PCSOs or PCs wandering around. It is quite common to see drug deals happening."

Respondents were asked what improvements they felt could be made to community safety in their area, responses included: a more obvious police presence, more activities for young people, improved street lighting and road safety measures including speed limits, pedestrian crossings and parking improvements.

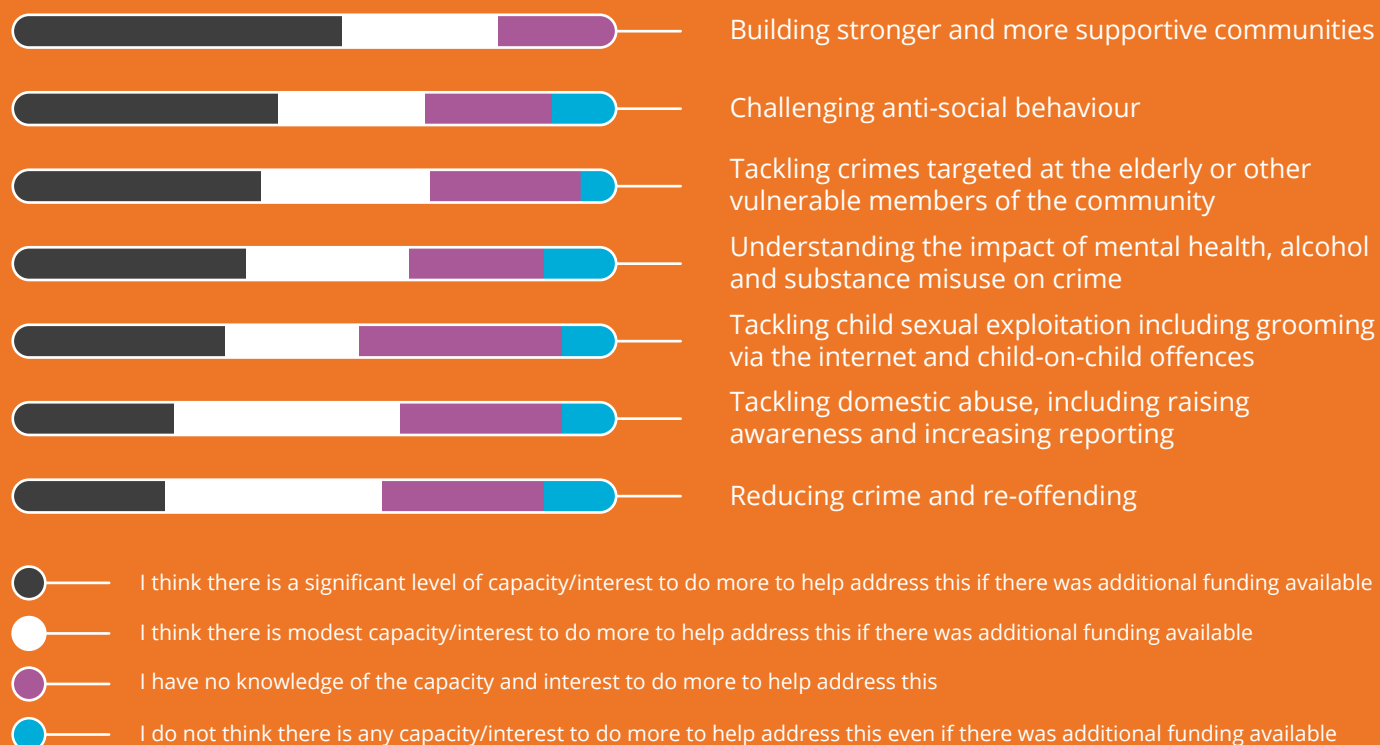
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Since the 1st of April 2014, Cambridgeshire Community Foundation has awarded over £80,000 in grants to 33 projects tackling crime. Grants have been made from a number of funds including the Cambridgeshire High Sheriff's Award Scheme, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority Community Fund, the Dulverton Trust Fund, the Microsoft Research Limited Fund, the Ridgeons Community Fund, the Ridgeons Family Charity Fund and the Police and Crime Commissioner Youth Fund for Cambridgeshire.

2 examples of recent grants made:

- £8,000 to the Cambridgeshire Police Shrievally Trust to provide home security for vulnerable and persistently targeted domestic abuse victims (and their children) and for older victims of crime.
- £1,965 to the Romsey Mill Trust towards running an open access youth club in the Abbey Ward of Cambridge for young people at risk of being involved in anti-social behaviour and crime.

Survey respondents were asked which (if any) of the priorities listed they think there is capacity and interest in the local charitable sector to do more to address, if there was additional funding available.



Cambridgeshire
Community
Foundation

Vital Signs® is a community philanthropy guide from your local community foundations, measuring the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs® is supported by UK Community Foundations. The Vital Signs® trademark is used with permission from Community Foundations of Canada, our partner and supporter in Vital Signs®.

To read more about Vital Signs® and the work of Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (registered charity 1103314) please visit our website www.cambscf.org.uk