



Lina Joseph
Cambridgeshire County Councillor

February-March Report

Dear all,

It has been a rather freezing few months, early this week was the first day I was able to walk along Haslingfield's paths and enjoy a bit of sunshine. I hope you have been following the County Councils messages of keeping warm and looking after your neighbours. I feel extremely lucky to live in this area as we have such a magnificent community and everyone cares about others.

February has flown by and we are already in March. As always it's been a very busy month. I am over the moon to have been appointed Vice-Chair for the South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Will be working closely with the County board and the Police and Crime Commissioners office. We are currently setting our priorities. I must say it's for a reason that we are one of the safest districts in the country, if I dare to say! The reports show that individuals come from other counties to commit crimes. We must be vigilant and make sure your home is secure and that we don't leave handbags and valuables at sight inside the cars. In addition, we have been running some campaigns in order to identify if there is Hate Crimes in our district. The response has been quite positive, however, officers are analysing in more detail all the interactions. I hope you have seen them in Facebook.

There have been days of great discussion and challenges. We are currently in a position that we must review all our services. We do this thoroughly and compare with what other councils are doing, no matter their political colour. We have discovered that our council is one of the few that remains most protective of the most vulnerable in our society. We don't charge for many things that other councils have started doing or are planning on doing. When it has been decided to put a fee on a service, this has been carefully thought, researched and made sure residents who could be negatively impacted would be protected.

Finally, raising awareness on Safeguarding:

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Boards are keen to raise awareness of Safeguarding, how to report cases of abuse and neglect against children and adults at risk of abuse and neglect as part of a local Safeguarding Awareness month.

Abuse can happen anywhere, by anyone, some **signs of** abuse and neglect **are** obvious, others are hidden and members of the public can help by spotting signs of neglect or exploitation of children they see regularly, or noticing signs of self-neglect in an adult who has care and support needs, perhaps someone who is frail because of age or poor health.

Behavioural signs of adult neglect can include: becoming quiet and withdrawn; being upset or angry for no obvious reason; looking unkempt, dirty or thinner than usual; sudden changes in character such as appearing helpless, depressed or tearful; physical signs such as bruises, wounds, fractures or other untreated injuries; the same injuries happening more than once; not wanting to be left by themselves or alone with particular people; being unusually lighthearted and insisting there's nothing wrong.



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Behavioural signs of child neglect can include: poor appearance and hygiene - they may be smelly or dirty, have unwashed clothes or seem hungry; health or development problems - such as untreated or repeated injuries, poor muscle tone, thin or swollen stomach, tiredness or faltering weight or growth; housing and family issues - living in an unsuitable home, being left alone for a long time, taking on the role of carer for other family members.

Throughout this month, agencies across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be working to raise awareness of safeguarding. There will be events for professionals and members of the public – such as at local Hospitals, and information will also be available at local libraries, which will be promoted on social media.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns about someone, please contact your local authority:

- For Cambridgeshire call 0345 045 5202
- For Peterborough call 01733 747474
- If someone is in immediate danger call 999.
- If contact is made early enough, it might be possible to prevent harm and exploitation of a child or adult from taking place

You can find out more information on our website: www.safeguardingpeterborough.org.uk

Just to remind you that the public is very welcome to attend committee meetings and Full Council. You can find all the details [here](#).

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Lina Joseph