

Cumbria Community Safety Strategic Assessment

Barrow-in-Furness District Summary

October 2011



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CONSTABULARY
SAFER STRONGER CUMBRIA



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TRUST



BACKGROUND

This Summary Report provides a narrative overview of community safety within Barrow-in-Furness. It forms part of a collection of documents which make up the Community Safety Strategic Assessment (CSSA) for Cumbria.

The Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 place a statutory duty on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to prepare a Joint Strategic Assessment of crime and disorder in their local areas. The aim of the CSSA is to provide partners with an understanding of the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse in the county and local areas, through statistical analysis, information about crime, changes and patterns over time, and, where possible, explanations as to why these changes have occurred.

The CSSA will highlight the county's priorities for the Safer and Stronger Thematic Partnership, the CSPs and other responsible authorities that are working together to tackle crime, disorder and substance misuse. The CSSA will provide the evidence base for the development of Cumbria's Community Safety Agreement by helping to identify and prioritise the resources and interventions required to combat crime and disorder. It will draw on issues raised by those working or living in local communities including areas that they feel should be addressed.

This report is one of six district Summaries which sit alongside an overall Cumbria Summary and the Cumbria Community Safety Technical Report to make up the CSSA. The narrative within this report draws on the data and analysis contained in the comprehensive Cumbria Community Safety Strategic Assessment Technical Report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Barrow is becoming a safer place to live, with levels of crime continuing to fall.

In the past year levels of overall crime have declined by 5.1%, greater than the decline for the county as a whole. Barrow-in-Furness had the lowest number of drug crimes in the county as well as the lowest number of people killed and seriously injured on its roads.

Despite the declining levels of crime overall, levels of burglary at a dwelling, theft from a motor vehicle, theft of a motor vehicle and domestic violence are on the rise.

Barrow-in-Furness has the second highest rate of crime overall in Cumbria. The district has the highest rate of anti social behaviour, burglary at a dwelling, criminal damage and domestic violence in the county.

The rates of alcohol specific mortality and hospital admissions attributable to alcohol are rising. Barrow-in-Furness is in the bottom 10% of districts nationally for performance in these indicators.

The typical offender in Barrow-in-Furness is most likely to be male and aged 18-30 years. There is a clear correlation between levels of crime and levels of overall deprivation in the county. Central ward in Barrow, which includes the city centre, had the greatest number of crime incidents in the district followed by Hindpool ward. Central is also the most deprived, and Hindpool the third most deprived, of all wards in Cumbria.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Barrow-in-Furness is in the South West corner of the county. The district is dominated by the town of Barrow the second largest settlement in Cumbria. Geographically isolated, with relatively poor transport links, the district is a historic centre of the ship building industry. Barrow-in-Furness also includes the small market town of Dalton in Furness.

At 78 km², the urban district of Barrow-in-Furness has by far the smallest geographical area of any district in Cumbria. It is also the most densely populated district in the county with a current population of 70,700.

Barrow-in-Furness is the only district in Cumbria where the population is in decline. Since 2001 the population has fallen by 1.8%, compared to a 1.4% rise for the county as a whole. The population of Barrow-in-Furness is also ageing. Since 2001 there has been a 10.8% rise in the number of residents aged over 65 years. This compares to a 15% decline in the population aged 0-14 years, the greatest fall in the county for this age range. The district has the second lowest proportion of the population from black and minority ethnic groups (4.1%), behind Copeland. Barrow-in-Furness has a life expectancy of 79.1 years and the lowest healthy life expectancy in Cumbria at just 66.8 years.

Barrow-in-Furness's economy is historically built on manufacturing, especially ship building. While this is in decline it remains the cornerstone of the district's economy. BAE Systems shipyard is one of the largest remaining shipyards in the UK and the largest employer in Barrow. In Barrow-in-Furness the largest areas of employment are manufacturing (23.2%), health (16.6%), wholesale and retail (16.2%), and business services (9.8%). 64.4% of Barrow-in-Furness's population are of working age, slightly above the county average.

Barrow-in-Furness is the most deprived district in Cumbria and one of the 10% most deprived districts in the country. The district is the thirty second most deprived in England overall, the fifth most deprived for housing quality and the third most deprived nationally for health. The median household income in Barrow-in-Furness is £22,835. The mean house price is £111,852, over £55,000 less than the county average. 4% of residents in Barrow are claiming job seekers allowance, the only district in Cumbria where this figure is above the national average. Overall 16.6% of the population of Barrow-in-Furness is claiming some form of out of work benefit, significantly above the 11.5% average for Cumbria. 16.8% of the district's population have a household income of less than £10,000 per year, while 22.1% of children live in poverty.

The level of deprivation is not evenly spread across the district, with deprivation concentrated in the town of Barrow. Central ward in Barrow is the most deprived ward in the county. The mean house price in Central ward is more than £50,000 less than the district average while 8.7% of the population are claiming job seekers allowance, over double the rate for the district as a whole. 46.9% of children in Central ward are living in poverty.

COMMUNITY SAFETY INFORMATION

This section will present the narrative of community safety within Barrow-in-Furness.

Two different measures of incidents have been used:

- **Number:** the exact number of incidents / offences within Barrow-in-Furness.
- **Rate:** the number of incidents in relation to Barrow-in-Furness's population.

Substance misuse and alcohol

The impact of alcohol on the health of Barrow-in-Furness's population is significant, a reflection of the situation in Cumbria as a whole. The district performs poorly in a number of indicators when compared to the situation at a county and a national level. Alcohol abuse remains a significant contributing factor in crime and disorder in the district, as well as being detrimental to peoples' overall health and wellbeing.

In Barrow-in-Furness the rates of hospital admission for conditions caused by alcohol and alcohol specific mortality in both men and women are rising. In these measures the district has the highest rates in the county as well as falling in the bottom 10% of districts nationally. While the rate of under 18s admitted to hospital with alcohol specific conditions are falling they remain significantly higher than the national average.

In Barrow-in-Furness there is a continuing link between crime and alcohol abuse. Levels of both crime and violent crime attributable to alcohol have fallen but remain above the county, regional and national average. Central ward had the second highest number of offences against the person attributable to alcohol in the county.

Barrow-in-Furness also has a comparatively high level of heroin use. 59.8% of drug users in the district that came into contact with Cumbria Drug & Alcohol Services (CDAS) used heroin as their primary drug compared to the county average of 36.6%. 545 drug users had contact with CDAS the most of any district in Cumbria after Carlisle. 26.6% of drug users in the district used alcohol as their primary drug.

Reoffending

The south of the county currently has a significantly lower number of offenders than the north and west. Reflecting the situation in Cumbria as a whole, offenders are typically male and aged between 20-29 years. While the rates of reoffending in Cumbria are falling they remain above the level of the North West region. Reducing the level of reoffending in Cumbria remains a priority for the partnership.

Domestic Violence

Barrow-in-Furness has the highest rate of domestic violence in the county. The number of incidents has risen by 25.8% in the past year, the greatest increase in Cumbria. The repeat victim rate is also rising, increasing by 2.7% in the past year. Central ward in Barrow had the highest number of domestic violence incidents in Cumbria, while Hindpool had the third highest. Within Barrow-in-Furness there is a strong correlation between levels of overall deprivation and domestic violence. Areas with high levels of domestic violence are characterised by a high

number of children living in poverty and high levels of overall crime. Ormsgill and Risedale wards in Barrow also had a high level of domestic violence.

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

Barrow-in-Furness has the highest rate of ASB in Cumbria despite the number of incidents declining by 9.1% in the past year. There is a clear correlation between deprivation and levels of ASB. ASB is most common in severely deprived areas of Barrow, in particular Central, Hindpool, Ormsgill and Risedale wards. Central ward had the second highest number of ASB incidents in the county.

Crime

Barrow-in-Furness is becoming a safer place to live, with levels of crime continuing to decline. Overall crime has fallen by 5.1% greater than the decline for the county as a whole.

Despite the declining levels of crime overall the district still has the second highest rate of crime in the county, after Carlisle. Barrow-in-Furness had the most significant rise in levels of burglary at a dwelling (14.3%), theft from a motor vehicle (16.1%), theft of a motor vehicle (12.1%) and domestic violence (25.8%) in Cumbria.

The typical offender in Barrow-in-Furness is most likely to be male and aged 18-30 years. There is a clear correlation between levels of crime and levels of deprivation in Barrow-in-Furness. Crime is concentrated in deprived areas of Barrow characterised by low levels of household income, high unemployment and high levels of child poverty. Central ward, the most deprived in the district, had the highest level of crime followed by the second most deprived ward of Hindpool. Ormsgill and Risedale also had high levels of crime overall, while Walney South had the second highest number of thefts from a motor vehicle in the county.

Barrow-in-Furness district had the highest rate of burglary at a dwelling and criminal damage in the county. Central ward had the greatest number of incidents of burglary at dwellings and criminal damage in Cumbria. Hindpool, Ormsgill and Risedale wards also had a high number of incidents for both forms of crime.

While Barrow-in-Furness has a comparatively poor performance in terms of crime overall, there was an overall decline in the number of incidents of burglary at non dwellings (17.4%), criminal damage (6.5%), drug crime (4.1%), offences against the person (9.2%) and business crime (14.3%). The district had the lowest rate of drug crime in the county.

Killed and seriously injured

Barrow-in-Furness continues to have the lowest number of people killed or seriously injured on its roads. In the past year 17 people were killed or seriously injured on the districts roads, a fall of 15% from the previous year. Despite the declining number of incidents, speeding vehicles were reported as the greatest concern for the residents of Barrow-in-Furness in the most recent annual Public Consultation Survey.

Deliberate fires

Levels of deliberate fires in Barrow-in-Furness have fallen by 14.7% in the past year. Central ward had the greatest number of deliberate fires in the district and although there is correlation between crime and deprivation in Central this picture is not as significant throughout the rest of the district. Other areas with high levels of deliberate fires include the wards of Roosecote and Walney North.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Indicator	Number	Rate	Trend (Change from 2009/10 - 2010/11)
Total Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	4,705	66.5	down
Anti-Social Behaviour (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	6,602	93.4	down
Youth Disorder (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	2,221	31.4	down
Burglary Dwelling (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	152	2.1	up
Burlary Other (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	181	2.6	down
Criminal Damage (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	1,312	18.6	down
Drug Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	191	2.7	down
Offences Against the Person (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	1,174	16.6	down
Alcohol Related Offences Against the Person (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	380	5.4	down
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	187	2.6	up
Theft of a Motor Vehicle (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	74	1.0	up
Business Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	758	10.7	down
Hate Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	50	0.7	down
Domestic Violence (including Repeat Victim Rate) 2010/11	1,376	47.2	down
Alcohol specific mortality: Males (all ages, per 100,000) 2007-09	27	23.6	up
Alcohol specific mortality: Females (all ages, per 100,000) 2007-09	13	12.0	up
Under 18s admitted to hospital with alcohol specific conditions (per 100,000) 2007-09	48	104.5	down
Admission episodes for alcohol-attributable conditions (all ages, per 100,000) 2007/08-2009/10	2,178	2528.1	up
Recorded crime attributable to alcohol (Persons, all ages, per 1,000) 2010/11	503	7.1	down
Violent crimes attributable to alcohol (Persons, all ages, per 1,000) 2010/11	431	6.1	down
Killed or Seriously Injured (Rate per 1,000) (2010/11)	17	0.2	down
Deliberate Fire Incidents (Rate per 1,000) (2010/11)	232	3.3	down