

Cumbria Community Safety Strategic Assessment

Carlisle District Summary

October 2011



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CONSTABULARY
SAFER STRONGER CUMBRIA



BACKGROUND

This Summary Report provides a narrative overview of community safety within Carlisle District. 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

Levels of crime in Carlisle district continue to fall.

Over the past year levels of crime have fallen by 4.3%, faster than levels for the county as a whole. Yet levels of overall crime in the district remain high when compared to the rest of the county.

Whilst levels of overall crime are falling, incidents of drug crime and domestic violence are on the rise. The number of people killed and seriously injured on Carlisle's roads increased in the past year, the greatest rise of all districts across the county.

Carlisle has experienced a rise in hospital admission episodes for alcohol-attributable conditions and for those aged under 18 years admitted to hospital with alcohol specific conditions. The rate of alcohol specific mortality among men is also on the rise.

The typical offender in Carlisle district is most likely to be male and aged 18-30 years. Crime and disorder is most prevalent in deprived areas characterised by relatively high levels of unemployment and child poverty.

Castle Ward, which includes Carlisle city centre, is the ward with the highest level of crime in the county. This is driven by high levels of anti social behaviour, offences against the person and business crime.

Crime was focused on the city of Carlisle. Currock ward had the third highest level of crime in the county. Other areas of the district with comparatively high levels of crime include the wards of Denton Holme, Upperby, Harraby and Botcherby. While levels of deliberate fires are falling, Botcherby ward in Carlisle had the greatest number of deliberate fires out of all wards across Cumbria.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

The district of Carlisle is in the north east corner of Cumbria. The historic city of Carlisle is the largest in Cumbria and acts as service centre and transportation hub for the north of the county and the south west of Scotland. The district includes the market towns of Brampton, Dalston and Longtown. Carlisle district contains two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Solway Estuary in the west of the district and the Pennines in the east. The district also includes the western part of Hadrian's Wall which is classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Carlisle district has a geographical area of 1,040 km². While the majority of the district is urban it still contains significant rural areas. The district's urban / rural split is approximately 60:40. Carlisle is the most populated district in Cumbria with a current population of 104,500 people.

The district's population has risen by 3.7% since 2001. This is the second greatest rise in Cumbria after Eden and is significantly faster than the county average of 1.4%. The population of Carlisle over the age of 65 years has grown by 8.3% below the county average of 13.2%. In contrast Carlisle's working-age population has increased by 5.4% greater than the county average of 0.8%. Carlisle district has the second highest proportion of residents from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups at 5.6% above the county average of 4.9%. The typical resident living in Carlisle district can expect to reach 79.3 years of age, 69.9 of them healthy.

The largest areas of employment in the district are wholesale and retail (20.4%), health (14%), manufacturing (12.4%) and business services (11.2%). This reflects the city of Carlisle's role as a service and administrative centre. While the role of manufacturing in Carlisle's economy has declined some major national companies still have a presence in the district including Nestle, Pirelli Tyres and United Biscuits. The city of Carlisle also hosts the head quarters of Stobart Group.

65.6% of the district's population are of working age, above the county average. The median average annual household income in Carlisle district is also above the county average at £26,154. The mean house price in the district is £144,690, over £20,000 less than the county average. As of April 2011 3% of working age residents in Carlisle district were claiming Job Seekers Allowance, slightly above the county rate, but below the national average.

Within Carlisle district there are pockets of deprivation. Upperby Ward is the most deprived in the district and the seventh most deprived in Cumbria. In Upperby the median household income is £19,056, the average house price is £90,314 and 5.3% of the population are claiming Job Seekers Allowance. 13.7% of households in Carlisle district have an annual income of under £10,000, while 16.1% of children live in poverty. In Upperby these figures rise to 21.1% of households with an annual income less than £10,000 and 32.7% of children living in poverty.

COMMUNITY SAFETY INFORMATION

This section will present the narrative of community safety within Carlisle district.

Two different measures of incidents have been used:

- **Number:** the exact number of incidents / offences within Carlisle district.
- **Rate:** the number of incidents in relation to the population of Carlisle district.

Substance misuse & alcohol

The impact of alcohol on the health of the district'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.

19.4% of the district's population aged over 16 years report engaging in binge drinking, just below the county and national average. Both the rates of general hospital admissions, and admissions of those aged under 18, for conditions caused by alcohol are rising and are above the county and national average. Carlisle district falls into the bottom 10% in England for the rate of those aged under-18 years admitted to hospital with alcohol specific conditions.

The rate of alcohol specific mortality among males is rising in the district and is above the county and national average. The rate of alcohol specific mortality among females is falling but still remains above the county and national average.

Carlisle district also has a comparatively high level of heroin use. 63.7% of drug users in the district that came into contact with Cumbria Drug & Alcohol Services (CDAS) used heroin as their primary drug, while 30.2% used alcohol. 746 drug users had contact with CDAS the most of any district in Cumbria.

Within Carlisle district there is a continuing relationship between crime and alcohol. While both the number of crime and violent crimes attributable to alcohol are falling, the district's rates are the highest in the county and above the regional and national average. Castle ward in the city centre of Carlisle had the greatest number of alcohol related offences against the person in Cumbria, while Currock ward had the third highest.

Reoffending

The north and west of the county currently has a significantly higher number of offenders than the South. 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

There has been a 7% increase in the number of incidents of domestic violence in Carlisle district, lower than the 15.3% rise for Cumbria as a whole. However Carlisle has had the most significant rise in repeat incidents which have increased by 12% in the past year. Domestic

violence is most common in deprived areas with high levels of crime, child poverty and unemployment, and low levels of household income. Upperby ward in Carlisle which has the highest level of domestic violence in the district and the fourth highest in Cumbria is also the district's most deprived ward. The correlation between deprivation and domestic violence is evidenced by other areas where levels of domestic violence are high, specifically Botcherby, Castle, Currock and Denton Holme wards.

Anti social behaviour (ASB)

Carlisle district has the second highest rate of ASB in the county. While levels of ASB have fallen by 14.5% over the past year, the most significant fall in the county, ASB still accounts for a large proportion of the district's overall crime. ASB is most prevalent in deprived areas within the city of Carlisle, characterised by high levels of unemployment, child poverty and crime and low levels of household income. Castle ward in Carlisle had the highest number of ASB incidents in Cumbria, while Currock ward had the third highest. There were also particularly high levels of ASB in the relatively deprived wards of Denton Holme, Upperby, Harraby, St Aidan's and Botcherby.

Crime

Overall Carlisle district is becoming a safer place to live with crime falling by 4.3% in the last year, slightly above the county average of 4%. All areas of crime within the district are falling with the exception of drug crime which has risen by 10.2%. The decline in incidents of burglary at dwellings (15.1%), criminal damage (13.2%), theft from a motor vehicle (25.1%) and crimes against businesses (2.4%) has been greater than the average decline for the county as a whole.

Despite the falling levels of crime overall, Carlisle district had the highest rate of crime in the county. Crime in the district was typically committed by males aged 18-30 years in deprived areas of the city of Carlisle.

Castle ward, which includes Carlisle city centre and the nightlife zone, had the highest levels of crime in the district. With the exception of burglary at a dwelling, Castle ward had the greatest number of incidents for all forms of crime within the district. For the crimes of burglary at non domestic properties, drug crime, offences against the person, theft from/of a motor vehicle, hate crime and business crime Castle had the greatest number of incidents of any ward in Cumbria. Levels of crime in Castle ward were significantly higher than the rest of Carlisle district. Levels of business crime were four times higher, while levels of drug and hate crime were double that of any other ward.

Currock had the second highest level of crime in the district, and the third highest levels in Cumbria. There were notably high incidences of offences against the person, theft from a motor vehicle and criminal damage. Other wards with high levels of crime include Denton Holme, Upperby, Harraby and Botcherby wards which all share similar characteristics of deprivation.

While crime is concentrated in deprived areas of Carlisle there was also a notable number of incidents within the wards of Dalston, Brampton, and Longtown & Rockcliffe which include the district's three other main towns. Both Dalston and Longtown & Rockcliffe have high levels of burglary at a non dwelling.

Overall Carlisle has the highest rate of burglary at dwellings, theft of a motor vehicle, offences against the person, business crime and hate crime in the county. This suggests that these areas require prioritisation.

Incidents of burglary at a dwelling were most common in the comparatively deprived residential wards of Botcherby and St Aidan's in Carlisle, while theft of a motor vehicle was highest in Castle and Botcherby wards. Reflecting the picture for overall crime, offences against the person, business crime and hate crime were highest in Castle and Currock wards.

Killed and seriously injured

There has been a 23.3% rise in the number of people killed or seriously injured on the district's roads in the past year. This is the greatest increase in the county and reverses the decline between 2008 and 2009. Overall 37 people were killed or seriously injured in Carlisle district in 2009/10. Following this, in the most recent annual Public Consultation Survey speeding vehicles were the main area of concern for Carlisle district's residents.

Deliberate Fires

Numbers of deliberate fires in the district continue to fall and in the last year they fell by 5.3%, this was smallest decline for any district in Cumbria. Between 2008/09 and 2009/10 numbers of deliberate fires fell by 21%. Botcherby ward in Carlisle had the highest number of deliberate fires in the county. There were 69 deliberate fires in Botcherby during 2010/11 more than double that of any other ward in the district. Deliberate fires were highest in relatively deprived areas of Carlisle city including Morton, Currock, Castle, Harraby and Upperby wards.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Indicator	Number	Rate	Trend (Change from 2009/10 - 2010/11)
Total Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	7508	71.8	down
Anti-Social Behaviour (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	9019	86.3	down
Youth Disorder (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	2788	26.7	down
Burglary Dwelling (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	158	1.5	down
Burglary Other (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	348	3.3	down
Criminal Damage (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	1662	15.9	down
Drug Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	474	4.5	up
Offences Against the Person (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	1921	18.4	down
Alcohol Related Offences Against the Person (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	555	5.3	down
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	221	2.1	down
Theft of a Motor Vehicle (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	144	1.4	down
Business Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	1754	16.8	down
Hate Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2010/11	86	0.8	down
Domestic Violence (including Repeat Victim Rate) 2010/11	1493	42.4	up
Alcohol specific mortality: Males (all ages, per 100,000) 2007-09	23	14.0	up
Alcohol specific mortality: Females (all ages, per 100,000) 2007-09	13	7.9	down
Under 18s admitted to hospital with alcohol specific conditions (per 100,000) 2007-09	68	110.4	up
Admission episodes for alcohol-attributable conditions (all ages, per 100,000) 2007/08-2009/10	2590	2021.7	up
Recorded crime attributable to alcohol (Persons, all ages, per 1,000) 2010/11	800	7.6	down
Violent crimes attributable to alcohol (Persons, all ages, per 1,000) 2010/11	712	6.8	down
Killed or Seriously Injured (Rate per 1,000) (2010/11)	37	0.4	up
Deliberate Fire Incidents (Rate per 1,000) (2010/11)	358	3.4	down