

Cumbria Crime & Community Safety Strategic Assessment

Allerdale District Summary

2014

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BACKGROUND

This Summary Report provides a narrative overview of community safety within Allerdale. 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 local authorities 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 responsible authorities and partnerships 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

In the past year levels of crime in Allerdale have increased, reflecting the picture across most of the county, despite this recent increase levels of crime over a three year period have fallen. The most significant contributing factors to the recent increase in crime are numbers of **burglary at a dwelling, drug crime and hate crime**.

Numbers of **burglary dwellings** have risen by almost 40%, alongside an increase in **burglary other**; and numbers of **hate crimes** have almost doubled in the last year. The increase in **drug crime** in Allerdale has been the most significant across the county. **Criminal damage** offences have increased and remain well above the average for Allerdale's most similar groups (other forces with similar characteristics). Incidents of **domestic violence** continue to increase and remain a priority for the district and county.

Anti-social behaviour continues to fall along with significant falls in **youth** related anti-social behaviour. **Thefts from motor vehicles** have fallen significantly however **thefts of a motor vehicle** has increased. Violence **against the person** has increased alongside alcohol related violence.

Allerdale has significant issues around alcohol misuse with rates of **alcohol specific hospital admissions – under 18 year olds** above national and regional levels and within the worst 10% in England. Rates of alcohol specific mortality for females are above national levels, as well as alcohol related hospital admissions. 11.4% of total crime is alcohol related, and over a third of violent and sexual offences are alcohol related.

The typical offender in Allerdale is most likely to be aged 18-30 years and male, the typical victim is female and aged 18-30years. Crime and disorder is most prevalent in deprived areas characterised by relatively low levels of household income and high levels of unemployment and child poverty.

The wards of St Michael's, St John's and Moss Bay in Workington continue to have the highest incidences of crime overall. Both St Michael's and Moss Bay fall into the 10% most deprived wards in Cumbria. Moss Bay is the second most deprived ward in all of Cumbria, containing areas which fall into the most deprived 3% in England.

Despite the continued fall in numbers of deliberate fires, Allerdale continues to have the highest rate than any other district across the county. And numbers of incidents in St. Michael's ward in Workington continues to be the highest than any other ward across Cumbria.

The implications of welfare reform and the impact this may have on individuals and families across the county should be taken into consideration when planning priorities and forecasting levels of crime throughout 2015. As we see levels of household income reduce through benefit cuts and low paid work we may see an increase in crime, potentially acquisitive crime as well as domestic violence, alcohol and substance misuse as financial pressures increase.

Existing changes to welfare reform have seen a number of people removed from a range of benefits. Numbers of working age benefit claimants in Allerdale have fallen by 580 from 8,470 (February 2013) to 7,890 (February 2014). Greater numbers of 'out of work' benefit claimants have fallen from 6,650 to 6,000 – a fall of 650 over the same period. Further changes are planned which will continue up to and throughout 2017. Services may see an increase in demand and support as changes to personal and financial

circumstances take place.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

The District of Allerdale is in West Cumbria. The district includes the Solway Coast Area of Natural Beauty, northern parts of the Lake District National Park including the tourist centre of Keswick, and the West Coast urban centres of Workington and Maryport. Other major towns in the district include the historic Cockermouth, the market town of Wigton and the seaside resort of Silloth.

Geography

Allerdale district covers an area of 1,242 square km. With an average population density of 78 people per square km, the district is marginally more densely populated than the county but much more sparsely populated than England & Wales. Allerdale is predominantly rural with 72% of its residents living in rural areas compared to 54% across Cumbria and 18% across England & Wales. The district is the third most populated in Cumbria after Carlisle and South Lakeland.

Demography

The resident population of Allerdale was estimated to be 96,200 persons as at mid-2013; an increase of 1,600 persons (+1.7%) since mid-2003. When compared to England & Wales Allerdale has an older age profile with lower proportions of younger residents (0 – 44 years) and higher proportions of older residents (45 – 85+ years). When compared to Cumbria, Allerdale's age profile is very close to the county average.

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups

2,337 (2.4%) residents in Allerdale reported that they were from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups in their 2011 Census; Cumbria 3.5%, England & Wales 19.5%. Across the district's wards, the proportion of residents from BME groups ranged from 1% in Wampool ward to 7.3% in Derwent Valley ward.

Migration

Between mid-2003 - mid-2013, internal migration (to and from other parts of the UK) and other changes (i.e. changes in prisoners, armed forces personnel etc.) accounted for a net increase of 2,400 persons in Allerdale, while international migration (to and from overseas) accounted for a net increase of 800 persons.

The 2011 Census reported that 2,577 residents in Allerdale were born outside of the UK (2.7%). Of these non-UK born residents, 183 were born in Ireland, 534 were born in EU countries that were EU member countries in March 2001, 527 were born in EU countries that joined the EU between April 2001 and March 2011 and 1,333 were born in countries other than those listed above.

Health

The average male living in Allerdale can expect to live to 78.2 years, just below the county average (78.8 years) and the national average (79.2 years). Life expectancy for females in the district is 81.9 years, also below the county average (82.4 years) and national average (83.0). There is an approximate gap of 7.4 years between the best and worst areas in Allerdale.

Economy

Within Allerdale the largest areas of employment are manufacturing (16.2%), wholesale and retail trade (17.8%), and health and social work (11.9%).

61.1% of Allerdale's population are of working age. The median household income for Allerdale is £24,300, lower than the county average (£25,100) and the national average (£28,500). Amongst the district's wards, the median household income varied from £16,600 in Moss Bay ward to £36,700 in Dalton ward. 15% of households in Allerdale had an annual income of less than £10k (Cumbria 14.3%, GB 12.4%). Of the district's wards, Moss Bay ward had the greatest proportion of households with annual incomes of less than £10k (25.6%) while Dalton ward had the smallest proportion (7.3%).

The median house price in Allerdale is £129,400, lower than the county average of £140,900 and the national (GB) average of £172,800. House prices vary considerably across the district's wards; Moss Bay ward has the lowest median house price (£66,700), while Derwent Valley ward has the highest (£346,300). Housing is slightly more affordable in Allerdale than the rest of the county at 5.3 (median household income divided by median house price) compared to 5.6 in Cumbria.

2.1% of working age residents in Allerdale is claiming Job Seekers Allowance, above the county average of 1.6% but in line with the national average which is also 2.1%. Unemployment is falling in the district, in line with the rest of the UK; however, youth unemployment remains an issue with rates above national levels at 3.2% compared to 2.9% nationally.

Poverty and Deprivation

Within Allerdale there are pockets of significant deprivation. Allerdale has six communities that rank within the 10% most deprived in England. Furthermore, one of Allerdale's communities is classified as being within the 3% most deprived nationally (this community is located in the Moss Bay ward). There are pockets of rural deprivation across the district also with some communities ranking amongst the 10% most deprived in England in relation to geographical barriers to services.

Moss Bay ward in Workington is the second most deprived ward in the county, followed by Ewanrigg near Maryport. In Moss Bay the median household income is £16,552 (the lowest out of all wards in the county and more than £20,000 less than the highest ward); the average house price is £66,698. There are high levels of households claiming benefits, and 25.6% of households in Moss Bay have an income of less than £10,000, well above the county and national average. 5.0% of the population is claiming Job Seekers Allowance (more than double the average for Allerdale, Cumbria and England). 15.4% of children living in Allerdale are living in poverty, in Moss Bay these figures rise to 36.2%.

CRIME & COMMUNITY SAFETY INFORMATION

This section will present the narrative of community safety within Allerdale.

Two different measures of incidents have been used:

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

Substance misuse & alcohol

Alcohol and substance misuse not only has a significant impact on health but potentially crime. National research shows that in general alcohol misuse remains a significant contributing factor in crime and disorder as well as being detrimental to peoples' health and wellbeing. Alcohol related crime in Allerdale has increased in the past year. 11.4% of all crime in Allerdale is alcohol related, and more than 1 out of 3 (34.1%) of violent and sexual offences are alcohol related.

Despite recent falls, rates of **alcohol specific hospital admissions – under 18 year olds** are above national and regional levels in the district and fall within the worst 10% in England. Rates of **alcohol specific mortality for females**; and **admitted to hospital episodes with alcohol related conditions** are also above national levels in Allerdale. Rates of **alcohol specific mortality for males** have fallen in the district and are below national levels.

Throughout 2013-14, 588 service users came into contact with **Unity** (the provider of statutory drug and alcohol services in the county). Numbers of those accessing drug and alcohol services are increasing in Allerdale and in particular numbers of clients who are misusing alcohol. 41% use the service for alcohol misuse while 59% use the service for drugs misuse. 67% of drug users in Allerdale use heroin as their primary drug. The greatest proportion of service users are male and aged between 36-45 years; while 35% have a child or have children living with them. Drug dealing and drug crime, dependency on heroin and alcohol may cause users to commit crimes, by helping those with addictions may help to reduce levels of crime in the county and help to protect vulnerable children.

Incidents of alcohol related violence against a person are greatest in town centre areas and in particular in the wards of St. John's and St. Michael's in Workington, where there are also high levels of anti-social behaviour peaking on Friday and Saturday nights.

Reoffending

As of 1st June 2014 Cumbria Probation Trust merged with Lancashire Probation Trust to form the Cumbria & Lancashire Community Rehabilitation Company (CLCRC). The aim of CLCRC is to protect the public and to reduce reoffending.

As at 31st March 2014 there were 1,945 registered offenders in Cumbria, in the North and West (which includes Allerdale) there were 1,185 offenders. In the county, over a third (37.0%) of offenders are aged between 20-29 years, 28.7% are aged 30-39 years. 87% are male and 98% are of white origin. Violence accounts for one in three offences (33.7%), theft accounts for 10.9%. Over a three year period (up to 2013) actual rates of reoffending in Cumbria were below predicted rates. Over the same period, reoffending rates had fallen.

There are a series of factors which can contribute to someone offending which include housing issues, alcohol misuse, and the lack of opportunities through limited education or employment. Re-offending remains a priority in Cumbria and plans to help address re-offending are set out in the Police & Crime Commissioners Plan 2013 – 2017, restorative justice being one of them.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences

Throughout 2013-14 there were 1,616 domestic violence incidents in Allerdale, and 69 sexual offences. There has been a 6.4% **increase** in incidents of domestic violence while the repeat victim rate has remained the same. Numbers of sexual offences have also remained the same. Domestic violence is most common in areas where there are high levels of deprivation, high levels of unemployment, and greater numbers of households with low incomes. In addition to this, where there are high levels of domestic abuse there are high levels of child poverty. As expected, there is correlation between alcohol related crimes and domestic abuse, more than 1 out of 3 violent and sexual offences are alcohol related. Domestic abuse tends to take place in deprived urban areas, however, we must be mindful of hidden and unreported abuse in more affluent and more rural areas. Improving detection rates and access to services should be a priority.

St. Michaels ward in Workington had the greatest number of incidents of domestic violence in the district (the third highest in the county) closely followed by Moss Bay.

Changes in welfare reform may have a significant impact on victims of domestic abuse. Not only could the reduction in benefits and household income add further financial pressure in the home but it is planned for a *household* to receive the one benefit (Universal Credit) and not an individual therefore allowing greater power to the offender and increasing the vulnerability of the victim. The government has pledged to support known cases however many victims and cases are hidden and remain unknown. Some welfare reform changes have already taken place but further reforms are planned up until 2017. Services may experience an increase in demand.

Anti social behaviour (ASB)

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) definition of anti-social behaviour (ASB) defines ASB as follows: 'Acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as (the defendant).'

ASB can have a serious effect on an individual's quality of life and despite falling numbers of incidents it remains a continuing priority for Cumbria. ASB, particularly Youth ASB, can lead to further and more serious offending. Collaboration and restorative work with local partners and agencies can help to prevent this.

Throughout 2013-14 there were 4,100 incidents of ASB; and 900 incidents involving young people. ASB and Youth ASB continue to fall in the district, down by 8.2% and 26.5% respectively. 15.5% of ASB is alcohol related.

ASB is most prevalent in town centres and areas with high levels of deprivation and unemployment. The greatest number of ASB incidents took place in the wards of St Michael's, St. John's and Moorclose in Workington. The wards of Wigton, Netherhall (Maryport) and Keswick also have relatively high levels of ASB. Incidents typically increase throughout the summer and holiday months and then fall again during the

winter months. Support and activity should reflect these trends and should continue to focus on those months.

Reducing the number of incidents involving repeat offenders and repeat victims remain a priority for Cumbria Constabulary.

Crime

In the past year levels of overall crime in the district have increased by 12.3%, going against the previous year's declining trend.

Incidents of **burglary dwelling** have increased significantly in Allerdale (39.7%). Other crimes which have increased are: **burglary other** (15.9%); **drug crime** (26.1%), the greatest increase out of all districts in the county; **violence against a person** (20.2%); **alcohol related violence against a person** (7.4%); **theft of a motor vehicle** (5.4%); and **criminal damage** (10.1%) which is above the average for Allerdale's most similar groups/forces (ranked 13 out of 15 other forces). . Levels of **business crime** have also increased (8.4%); and a numbers of **hate crimes** (76.7%), the greatest increase out of all districts in the county. Numbers of **theft from a motor vehicle** have fallen in the past year – down 31.4%, the greatest fall across the county.

The greatest levels of crime are typically in town/city centres. These areas tend to have high levels of anti-social behaviour and violence, business crime, shoplifting, and criminal damage incidents. Typically there are high levels of deprivation and unemployment. Incidents of crime were highest in the wards of St Michael's, St. John's and Moss Bay. There are other hot spots within Allerdale which include Netherhall in Maryport; and Moorclose in Workington.

Crime in Allerdale was typically committed by men aged 18-30 years; victims of crime in the district are typically female and aged 18-30 years.

Killed and seriously injured

In 2013, 41 people were killed or seriously injured on Allerdale roads, a slight increase of 2.5% from the previous year. The ward of Keswick had the highest number of KSIs in the district, followed by Harrington ward in Workington. In the most recent annual Public Consultation Survey speeding vehicles was the top area of concern for Allerdale's residents, dangerous driving was the top third concern.

Deliberate Fires

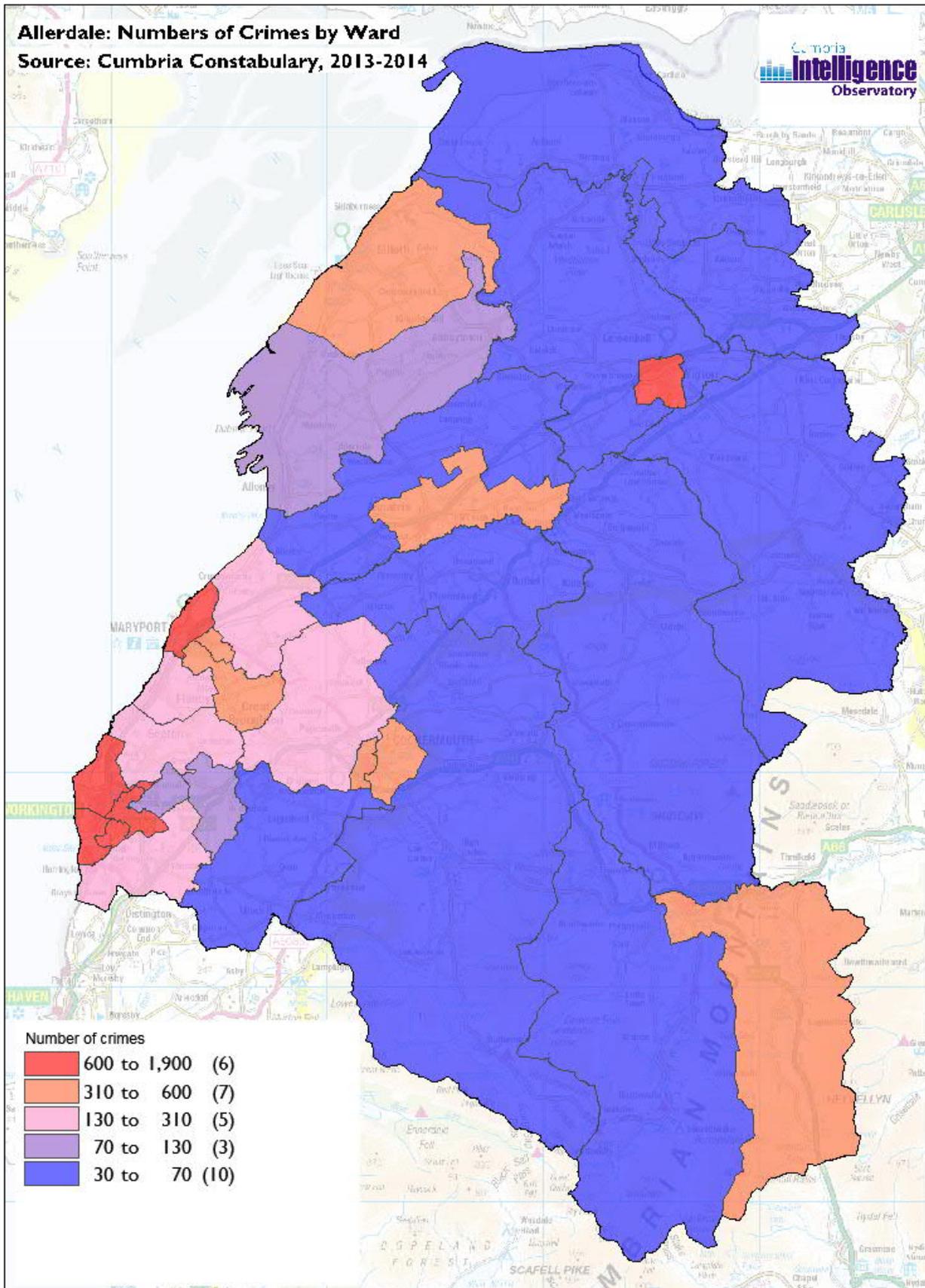
Throughout 2013-14 there were 195 deliberate fires in Allerdale. Incidents continue to fall, falling by 15.6% over the last year and by 22.9% over a three year period. Although numbers are falling in the district Allerdale has the highest rate of incidents in the county. Deliberate fires tend to take place in urban areas, areas with high levels of deprivation and crime. St. Michael's ward in Workington had the greatest number of incidents in the district (and county) followed by Moss Bay ward.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY – ALLERDALE

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Trend</u> <u>(change</u> <u>from</u> <u>2012/13 –</u> <u>2013/14</u>
Total Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	4,919	45.5	up
Anti-Social Behaviour (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	4,100	42.6	down
Anti-Social Behaviour involving young people (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	900	9.4	down
Burglary Dwelling (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	204	2.1	up
Burglary Other (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	328	3.4	up
Criminal Damage (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	1,208	12.6	up
Drug Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	396	4.1	up
Violence Against the Person (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	994	10.3	up
Alcohol Related Offences Against the Person (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	347	3.6	up
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	177	1.8	down
Theft of a Motor Vehicle (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	59	0.6	up
Business Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	875	9.1	up
Hate Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	53	0.6	up
Domestic Violence (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	1,616	16.8	up
Sexual offences (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	69	0.7	no change
Alcohol specific mortality: Males (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2010-12	14	9.12	down
Alcohol specific mortality: Females (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2010-12	58	8.76	down
Alcohol specific hospital admissions – under 18 year olds (persons, crude rate per 100,000) 2010/11-2012/13	51	90.94	down
Admitted to hospital episodes with alcohol related conditions (broad) (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2012/13	2,211.70	2,174.16	up
Alcohol related recorded crimes (persons, all ages, crude rate per 1,000) 2012/13	382.07	3.96	down
Alcohol related violent crimes (persons, all ages, crude rate per 1,000) 2012/13	306.73	3.18	down
Killed or Seriously Injured (rate per 1,000) 2013	41	0.4	up
Deliberate Fire Incidents (rate per 1,000) 2013/14	195	2.0	down

(DSR: Directly Standardised Rate)

MAP 1: Numbers of Crimes by Wards in Allerdale



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