

Cumbria Crime & Community Safety Strategic Assessment

Barrow-in-Furness District Summary

2014

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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 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 the 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 overall crime in the district have increased by 4.2%, going against the previous year's declining trend.

Barrow-in-Furness has the highest rate of crime overall in Cumbria. The district has the highest rates in the county of: anti-social behaviour (ASB); ASB involving young people; burglary dwelling; criminal damage; violence against a person; domestic violence; and sexual offences.

Alcohol misuse is an issue in the district with increasing rates of alcohol related hospital admissions and alcohol specific admissions for under 18 year olds. Rates of alcohol specific mortality for both males and females remain above the national average. 16.1% of Barrow-in-Furness's total crime is alcohol related, and over a third of violent and sexual offences are alcohol related.

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

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 Barrow-in-Furness have fallen by 560 from 8,280 (February 2013) to 7,720 (February 2014). Greater numbers of 'out of work' benefit claimants have fallen from 6,540 to 5,950 – a fall of 590 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

Geography

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

Barrow-in-Furness is Cumbria's smallest district, covering an area of 78 square km. With an average population density of 870 people per square km, the district is the most densely populated district in the county and much more densely populated than the national average (Cumbria 74 people per square km, England & Wales 377 people per square km). 34% of the district's residents live in rural areas, compared to 54% across Cumbria and 18% across England & Wales.

Demography

The resident population of Barrow-in-Furness was estimated to be 67,800 persons as at mid-2013. The district's population has decreased by 3,100 persons (-4.3%) since mid-2003; the second biggest decrease out of all local authority districts in England & Wales. Population change over the last decade was not spread evenly across the wards in Barrow-in-Furness-in-Furness, with some wards experiencing large decreases in their population size whilst two wards experienced small increases. The greatest proportional decrease was seen in Hawcoat ward (-9.4%) while the greatest proportional increase was seen in Newbarns ward (+3.2%).

When compared to England & Wales, Barrow-in-Furness has an older age profile; with lower proportions of residents in each of the three younger age groups (0 – 44 years) and higher proportions of residents in the oldest four age groups (45 – 85+ years). When compared to Cumbria, Barrow-in-Furness has slightly higher proportions of residents in each of the three younger age groups and slightly lower proportions of residents in the oldest four age groups.

Barrow-in-Furness's population is projected to decrease by 3,200 persons (-4.7%) over the next 25 years (to 2037); the second greatest projected proportional decrease of England's 326 district/unitary authorities. Cumbria's population is also projected to decrease, by 5,900 persons (-1.2%), while England's population is projected to increase substantially (+16.2%).

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups

2,014 residents in Barrow-in-Furness reported that they were from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups in their 2011 Census (2.9%); Cumbria 3.5%, England & Wales 19.5%. Across the district's wards, the proportion of residents from BME groups ranged from 1.6% in Walney South ward to 5.2% in Central ward.

Migration

The Office for National Statistics estimate that between mid-2003 and 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 decrease of 3,000 persons

in Barrow-in-Furness, while international migration (to and from overseas) accounted for a net decrease of 100 persons.

The 2011 Census reported that 2,014 residents in Barrow-in-Furness were born outside of the UK (2.9%). Of these non-UK born residents, 185 were born in Ireland, 316 were born in EU countries that were EU member countries in March 2001, 313 were born in EU countries that joined the EU between April 2001 and March 2011 and 1,200 were born in countries other than those listed above.

Health

Life expectancy for both males and females in Barrow-in-Furness is the lowest out of all districts across the county. A male living in Barrow-in-Furness can expect to live to 77.1 years, below the county average (78.8 years) and national average (79.2 years). A female can expect to live to 81.4 years, also below the county average (82.4 years) and the national average (83.0 years). There is a significant gap between the best and worst areas in Barrow-in-Furness – life expectancy for a male born in Central ward is 70.2 years compared to 80.8 years if they were born in Roosecote ward.

Economy

Within the district the largest areas of employment are manufacturing (26.0%), health and social work (17.4%), and wholesale and retail trade (14.0%).

62% of the districts population are of working age. The median household income in Barrow-in-Furness is £22,500 lower than the county average (£25,100) and the national average (£28,500). Amongst the district's wards, the median household income varied from £16,700 in Hindpool ward to £30,100 in Roosecote ward.

16.9% of households in Barrow-in-Furness had an annual income of less than £10k in 2014 (Cumbria 14.3%, GB 12.4%). Of the district's wards, Hindpool ward had the greatest proportion of households with annual incomes of less than £10k (26%) while Roosecote ward had the smallest proportion (9.8%).

The median house price in Barrow-in-Furness was £95,200 in 2014, much lower than the county average of £140,900 and the national (GB) average of £172,800. House prices varied considerably across the district's wards; Hindpool ward had the lowest median house price (£55,200), while Hawcoat ward had the highest (£175,200). Housing is slightly more affordable in the district than the rest of the county at 4.2 (median household income divided by median house price) compared to 5.6 in Cumbria.

2.9% of working age residents in Barrow-in-Furness is claiming Job Seekers Allowance, above the county average of 1.6% and above the national average of 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 5.0% compared to 2.9% nationally.

Poverty and deprivation

Barrow-in-Furness is the most deprived district in the county and is one of the 10% most deprived districts in England. Levels of deprivation are significant in the district with 13 communities that rank within the 10% most deprived of areas in England. Six of Barrow-in-Furness's communities are classified as being within the 3% most deprived nationally

(these communities are located in the Barrow Island, Central, Hindpool and Ormsgill wards).

Central ward is the most deprived ward in the county. In Central ward the median household income is £16,869 (the third lowest out of all wards in the county and more than £20,000 less than the highest ward). There are high levels of households claiming benefits, and 1 in 4 households in Central have an income of less than £10,000, well above the county and national average. 6.0% of the population is claiming Job Seekers Allowance (more than double the average for the district, county and England). 20.4% of children living in Barrow-in-Furness are living in poverty (above national levels of 18.6%), in Central these figures rise to 48.4%, almost half of all children and the greatest proportion out of all wards in the county.

COMMUNITY SAFETY INFORMATION

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

Two different measures of incidents have been used:

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

Substance misuse and 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 Barrow-in-Furness has increased in the past year. 16.1% of all crime in Barrow-in-Furness is alcohol related, and more than 1 out of 3 (38.3%) of violent and sexual offences are alcohol related.

Alcohol misuse is an issue in the district with increasing rates of **alcohol related hospital admissions** (the highest rates in the county); and **alcohol specific admissions for under 18 year olds**. Rates of **alcohol specific mortality** for both males and females are higher than any other district in the county and remain above national levels; as well as **alcohol related recorded crimes** and **alcohol related violent crimes**. 16.1% of Barrow-in-Furness's total crime is alcohol related, and over a third of violent and sexual offences are alcohol related.

There is a relationship between overall levels of crime, domestic violence and alcohol abuse. Incidents of alcohol related violence against a person are greatest in town centre areas and in particular in the wards of Central Hindpool, where there are also high levels of anti-social behavior.

Throughout 2013-14, 728 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 Barrow-in-Furness, and in particular those accessing the service for alcohol related issues. 40.5% of clients use the service for alcohol misuse while 59.5% use the service for drugs misuse. 75.7% of drug service users in Barrow-in-Furness use heroin as their primary drug. The greatest proportion of service users are male and aged between 36-45 years; while 38% 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.

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 South (which includes Barrow-in-Furness) there were 760 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

Throughout 2013-14 there were 1,408 domestic violence incidents in Barrow-in-Furness, and 87 sexual offences. There has been an 8.5% **increase** in incidents of domestic violence while the repeat victim rate fell from 48 to 44. Numbers of sexual offences almost doubled in the district rising from 48 to 87 (81.0%) Rates of domestic violence and sexual offences are greater in Barrow-in-Furness than any other district in the county. 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. Central ward had the greatest number of incidents of domestic violence in the district and county, closely followed by Hindpool (second highest in the district and county).

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.

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 5,134 incidents of ASB; and 1,124 incidents involving young people. ASB and Youth ASB continue to fall in the district, down by 2.0% and 14.5% respectively, however, despite the fall rates of ASB are greater in Barrow-in-Furness than any other district in the county. 15.3% 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 Central and Hindpool. The wards of Ormsgill and Risedale 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.

Barrow-in-Furness has the highest rate of crime overall in Cumbria. The district has the highest rates in the county of: anti-social behaviour (ASB); ASB involving young people; burglary dwelling; criminal damage; violence against a person; domestic violence; and sexual offences.

In the past year numbers of incidents have increased for: **burglary dwelling** (27.5%); **drug crime** (14.6%); **business crime** (8.7%); **violence against a person** (14.6%); and **alcohol related violence against a person** (13.5%).

Incidents in the following categories have fallen: **theft of a motor vehicle** (43.7%); **theft from a motor vehicle** (18.5%); **hate crime** (31.9%); **burglary other** (10.5%); and criminal damage (1.5%) however, despite the fall Barrow' is above the average for its most similar groups/forces (ranked 13 out of 15 other forces).

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. Typically there are high levels of deprivation and unemployment. Incidents of crime were highest in the Central ward followed by Hindpool. Other hot spot areas within the district include Ormsgill and Risedale wards.

Crime in the district is 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

Barrow-in-Furness continues to have the lowest number of people killed or seriously injured on its roads. In the past year 18 people were killed or seriously injured, an increase of 5 incidents from the previous year. Numbers of collisions and casualties are low however the ward of Hindpool had the greatest number at 6. Speeding vehicles were reported as the greatest concern for the residents of Barrow-in-Furness in the most recent annual Public Consultation Survey, followed by dangerous driving.

Deliberate fires

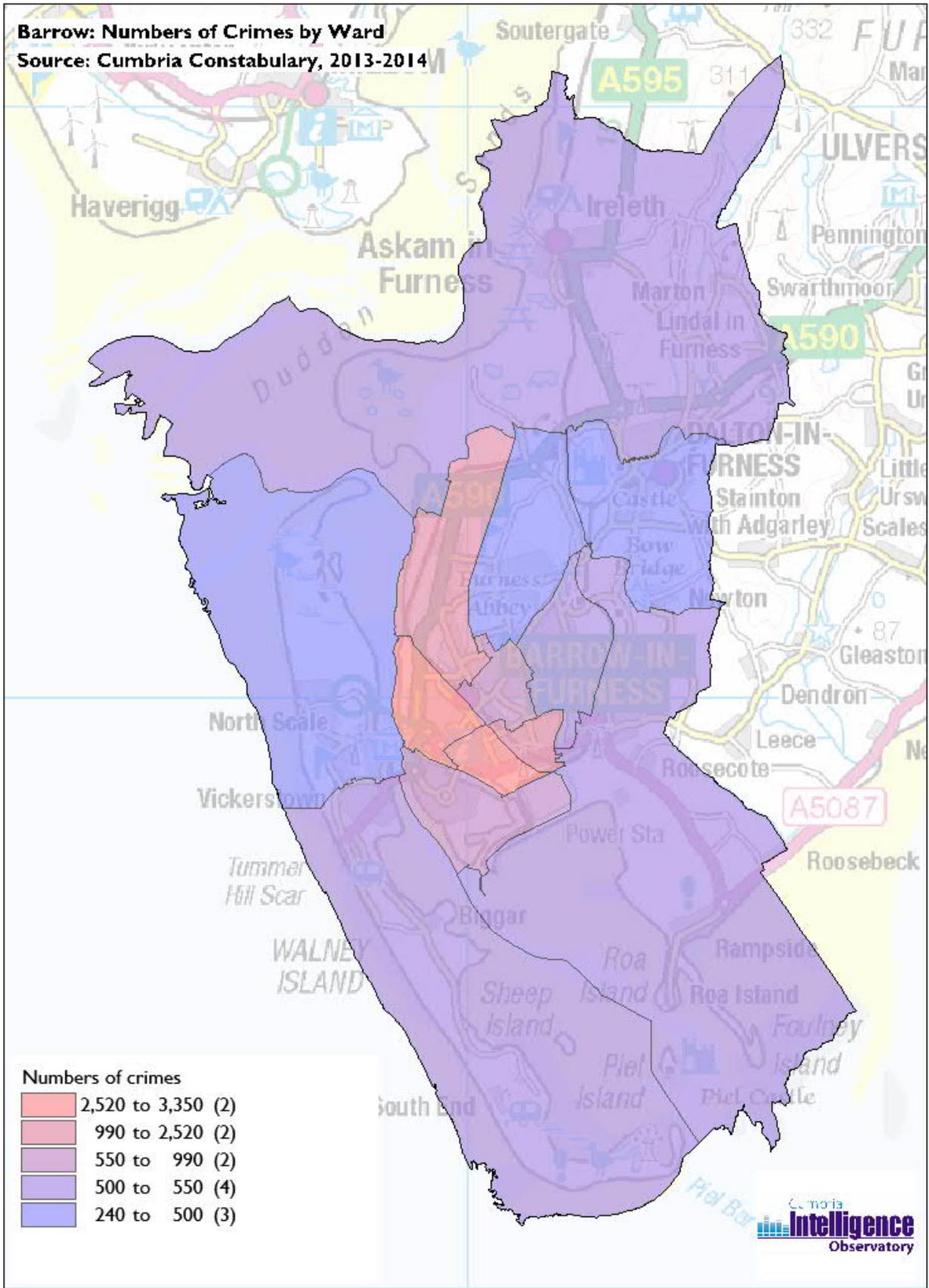
Throughout 2013-14 there were 129 deliberate fires in Barrow-in-Furness. Numbers of incidents have increased in the district in the past year (up by 7.5%) however, they have fallen by 17.3% over a three year period. Deliberate fires tend to take place in urban areas, areas with high levels of deprivation and crime. Hindpool ward had the greatest number of incidents in the district followed by Central and Ormsgill wards.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY – BARROW-IN-FURNESS

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Trend (change from 2012/13 – 2013/14</u>
Total Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	4,307	61.0	up
Anti-Social Behaviour (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	5,134	75.7	down
Anti-Social Behaviour involving young people (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	1,124	16.6	down
Burglary Dwelling (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	153	2.3	up
Burglary Other (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	197	2.9	down
Criminal Damage (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	973	14.4	down
Drug Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	236	3.5	up
Violence Against the Person (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	1,114	16.4	up
Alcohol Related Offences Against the Person (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	446	6.6	up
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	132	1.9	down
Theft of a Motor Vehicle (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	40	0.6	down
Business Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	696	10.3	up
Hate Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	32	0.5	down
Domestic Violence (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	1,408	20.8	up
Sexual offences (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	87	1.3	up
Alcohol specific mortality: Males (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2010-12	27	25.91	down
Alcohol specific mortality: Females (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2010-12	10	9.77	up
Alcohol specific hospital admissions – under 18 year olds (persons, crude rate per 100,000) 2010/11-2012/13	48	113.01	up
Admitted to hospital episodes with alcohol related conditions (broad) (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2012/13	1,832.17	2,664.97	up
Alcohol related recorded crimes (persons, all ages, crude rate per 1,000) 2012/13	419.97	6.08	down
Alcohol related violent crimes (persons, all ages, crude rate per 1,000) 2012/13	361.12	5.23	down
Killed or Seriously Injured (rate per 1,000) 2013	18	0.3	up
Deliberate Fire Incidents (rate per 1,000) 2013/14	129	1.9	up

(DSR: Directly Standardised Rate)

MAP 1: Numbers of Crimes by Wards in Barrow-in-Furness



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