

# Cumbria Crime & Community Safety Strategic Assessment

## Carlisle District Summary

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## **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 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**

Levels of crime in Carlisle district continue to fall. Over the past year crime has fallen by 0.1%, despite this, the overall crime rate in the district is the second highest out of all districts across the county.

The district has the highest rates in the county of: theft of a motor vehicle; theft from a motor vehicle; business crime; and hate crime. ASB and Youth ASB continue to fall in the district however rates of ASB in the district are the second highest in the county.

Numbers of incidents have increased of: **theft of a motor vehicle**; **violence against a person**; and **criminal damage** (3.8%). Levels of criminal damage in the district are above the average for its most similar groups/forces (ranked 13 out of 15 – 15 being the worst).

There has been a marginal increase in incidents of **domestic violence** and **sexual offences**.

Incidents of the following crime categories have fallen: **burglary dwelling**; **burglary other**; **theft from a motor vehicle**; **drug crime**; **business crime**; and **alcohol related violence against a person**.

11.0% of Carlisle's total crime is alcohol related, and almost one third of violent and sexual offences are alcohol related. Alcohol misuse is an issue in the district with increasing rates of **alcohol specific mortality of females**; and **admitted to hospital episodes with alcohol related conditions**. Rates of alcohol related hospital admissions are above the national average.

The typical offender in Carlisle district is most likely to be male and aged 18-30 years; and the typical victim is female 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, business crime, shoplifting, drug crime and criminal damage.

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 Carlisle have fallen by 650 from 9,510 (February 2013) to 8,860 (February 2014). Greater numbers of 'out of work' benefit claimants have fallen from 7,660 to 6,950 – a fall of 710 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 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.

### **Geography**

Carlisle district covers an area of 1,039 square km. With an average population density of 104 people per square km, the district is the second most densely populated district in the county, but is more sparsely populated than the national average (Cumbria 74 people per square km, England & Wales 377 people per square km). 27% of the district's residents live in rural areas, compared to 54% across Cumbria and 18% across England & Wales.

### **Demography**

The resident population of Carlisle was estimated to be 107,900 persons as at mid-2013; an increase of 5,200 persons (+5%) since mid-2003. Population change over the last decade was not spread evenly across Carlisle's wards, with a small number of wards experiencing a decrease in their population size whilst other wards experienced large increases. The greatest proportional decrease was seen in Lyne ward (-7.5%) while the greatest proportional increase was seen in Belle Vue ward (+17.8%).

When compared to England & Wales, Carlisle has an older age profile; with lower proportions of residents in each of the three younger age groups and higher proportions of residents in the oldest four age groups. When compared to Cumbria, Carlisle 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.

Carlisle's population is projected to increase by 200 persons (0.2%) over the next 25 years (to 2037). In contrast, Cumbria's population is 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**

5,335 residents in Carlisle reported that they were from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups in their 2011 Census (5%); Cumbria 3.5%, England & Wales 19.5%. Across the district's wards, the proportion of residents from BME groups ranged from 1.7% in Burgh ward to 12.9% in Castle 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 increase of 2,700 persons in Carlisle, while international migration (to and from overseas) accounted for a net increase of 1,700 persons.

The 2011 Census reported that 5,271 residents in Carlisle were born outside of the UK (4.9%). Of these non-UK born residents, 308 were born in Ireland, 1,063 were born in EU countries that were EU member countries in March 2001, 1,588 were born in EU countries that joined the EU between April 2001 and March 2011 and 2,312 were born countries other than those listed above.

## **Health**

A male living in Carlisle can expect to live to 78.5 years, below the county average (78.8 years) and national average (79.2 years). A female can expect to live to 82.0 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 Carlisle – life expectancy for a male born in Castle ward is 72.5 years compared to 84.2 years if they were born in Belah ward.

## **Economy**

The largest areas of employment in the district are wholesale and retail trade (18.6%), health and social work (16.5%), and manufacturing (10.1%).

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 headquarters of Stobart Group.

The median household income in Carlisle is £25,300, higher than the county average (£25,100) but lower than the national average (£28,500). Amongst the district's wards, the median household income varied from £18,500 in Morton ward to £35,600 in Great Corby and Geltsdale ward. 14.1% of households in Carlisle have an annual income of less than £10k (Cumbria 14.3%, GB 12.4%). Of the district's wards, Upperby ward had the greatest proportion of households with annual incomes of less than £10k (21.6%) while Wetheral ward had the smallest proportion (7.4%).

The median house price in Carlisle is £123,200, 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; Upperby ward had the lowest median house price (£78,800), while Great Corby and Geltsdale ward had the highest (£230,100). Housing is slightly more affordable in the district than the rest of the county at 4.9 (median household income divided by median house price) compared to 5.6 in Cumbria.

Unemployment levels in the district are low. 1.5% of working age residents in Carlisle is claiming Job Seekers Allowance, below 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. The youth unemployment rate is 1.7, below the national average of 2.9%.

## **Poverty and Deprivation**

Within Carlisle district there are pockets of deprivation. Carlisle has five communities that rank within the 10% most deprived of areas in England, these communities are located in the wards of Upperby, Botcherby and Castle.

Upperby ward is the most deprived ward in the district. In Upperby ward the median household income is £18,595 (almost £20,000 less than the highest ward). There are high levels of households claiming benefits, and 1 in 5 households in Upperby have an income of

less than £10,000, well above the county and national average. 2.7% of the population is claiming Job Seekers Allowance (above the district and county average). 15.3% of children living in Carlisle are living in poverty (below national levels of 18.6%). In Upperby these figures rise to 33.4%, 1 in 3 children.

## **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**

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. 11.0% of all crime in Carlisle is alcohol related, and 1 out of 3 (31.6%) of violent and sexual offences are alcohol related.

Alcohol misuse is an issue in the district with increasing rates of **alcohol specific mortality of females**; and **admitted to hospital episodes with alcohol related conditions**. Rates of alcohol related hospital admissions are above the national average.

Rates of **alcohol specific mortality of males** are falling and are below the England average, along with **alcohol specific admissions for under 18 year olds**.

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 Castle and Currock, where there are also high levels of anti-social behaviour.

Throughout 2013-14, 849 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 Carlisle, and in particular those accessing the service for alcohol related issues. 38.3% of clients use the service for alcohol misuse while 61.7% use the service for drugs misuse. 81.5% of drug service users in Carlisle use heroin as their primary drug. The greatest proportion of service users are male and aged between 36-45 years; while 31% 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 there were 1,945 registered offenders in Cumbria, in the North and West (which includes Carlisle) 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**

Throughout 2013-14 there were 1,503 domestic violence incidents in Carlisle, and 91 sexual offences. There has been a 1.1% increase in incidents of domestic violence, but a fall in the repeat victim rate. Numbers of sexual offences rose marginally from 89 to 91 (2.0%). 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. Castle ward had the greatest number of incidents of domestic violence in the district, followed by Upperby and Botcherby wards.

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 6,309 incidents of ASB; and 1,054 incidents involving young people. ASB and Youth ASB continue to fall in the district, down by 11.2% and 30.5% (the second greatest fall in youth ASB across the county) respectively. Rates of ASB in the district are the second highest in the county. 16.2% 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 Castle ward. Incidents were relatively high in the wards of Currock, Upperby, St. Aidan's and Denton Holme.

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**

Levels of overall crime in Carlisle continue to fall, in the past year they have fallen by 0.1%, despite this the district has the second highest rate of crime overall across the county.

The district has the highest rates in the county of: theft of a motor vehicle; theft from a motor vehicle; business crime; and hate crime.

In the past year numbers of incidents have increased of: **theft of a motor vehicle** (1.0%); **violence against a person** (10.0%); and **criminal damage** (3.8%). Levels of criminal damage in the district are above the average for its most similar groups/forces (ranked 13 out of 15 – 15 being the worst).

Incidents in the following categories have fallen: **burglary dwelling** (14.0%); **burglary other** (3.2%); **theft from a motor vehicle** (23.0%); **drug crime** (13.5%); **business crime** (10.2%); and **alcohol related violence against a person** (8.5%).

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 Castle ward. Castle ward has the greatest number of incidents of shoplifting, business crime, anti-social behaviour and drug crime. Other hot spot areas within the district include Currock, Botcherby, Upperby and Denton Holme 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.

The most significant change in crime was the increase in levels of **hate crime** (51.9%, from 54 incidents in the previous year to 82) It is worth noting that the aim of Cumbria Constabulary is to increase the reporting of hate incidents and crimes. The cause of the majority of hate crimes is racism, accounting for 69.5% across the county. Hate crime incidents tend to take place in and around town centres and are also linked to areas where there are greater proportions of black and ethnic minority groups and migrant workers. The increase in the number of hate crimes may not necessarily reflect an absolute increase in crimes as it could relate to improved reporting systems which are available online via multi agencies and organisations.

## **Killed and seriously injured**

Throughout 2013, 35 people were killed or seriously injured on Carlisle's roads, a 13.0% decrease from the previous year. The greatest numbers of KSI s took place in the wards of Castle, Dalston and Stanwix Rural. In the most recent annual Public Consultation Survey speeding vehicles was the main area of concern for Carlisle's residents, followed by dangerous driving.

## **Deliberate Fires**

Throughout 2013-14 there were 123 deliberate fires in Carlisle. Numbers of incidents have fallen in the district in the past year (down by 12.8%) and have fallen over a three year period (45.1%). Deliberate fires tend to take place in urban areas, areas with high levels of deprivation and crime. Botcherby ward had the greatest number of incidents (23) in the district followed by Castle (12) and Dalston (12) wards.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY – CARLISLE

Indicator	Number	Rate	Trend (change from 2012/13 – 2013/14)
<b>Total Crime</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	6,337	58.8	down
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	6,309	58.5	down
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour involving young people</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	1,054	9.8	down
<b>Burglary Dwelling</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	160	1.5	down
<b>Burglary Other</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	422	3.9	down
<b>Criminal Damage</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	1,288	11.9	up
<b>Drug Crime</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	403	3.7	down
<b>Violence Against the Person</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	1,247	11.6	up
<b>Alcohol Related Offences Against the Person</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	407	3.8	down
<b>Theft from a Motor Vehicle</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	244	2.3	down
<b>Theft of a Motor Vehicle</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	100	0.9	up
<b>Business Crime</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	1,443	13.4	down
<b>Hate Crime</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	82	0.8	up
<b>Domestic Violence</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	1,503	13.9	up
<b>Sexual offences</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	91	0.8	up
<b>Alcohol specific mortality: Males</b> (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2010-12	20	12.44	down
<b>Alcohol specific mortality: Females</b> (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2010-12	11	6.51	up
<b>Alcohol specific hospital admissions – under 18 year olds</b> (persons, crude rate per 100,000) 2010/11-2012/13	28	44.65	down
<b>Admitted to hospital episodes with alcohol related conditions (broad)</b> (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2012/13	2,745.07	2533.59	up
<b>Alcohol related recorded crimes</b> (persons, all ages, crude rate per 1,000) 2012/13	519.43	4.83	down
<b>Alcohol related violent crimes</b> (persons, all ages, crude rate per 1,000) 2012/13	420.69	3.91	down
<b>Killed or Seriously Injured</b> (rate per 1,000) 2013	35	0.3	down
<b>Deliberate Fire Incidents</b> (rate per 1,000) 2013/14	123	1.1	down

(DSR: Directly Standardised Rate)

**MAP 1: Numbers of Crimes by Wards in Carlisle**

**Carlisle: Numbers of Crimes by Ward**  
**Source: Cumbria Constabulary 2013-14**

Numbers of crimes

