

Cumbria Crime & Community Safety Strategic Assessment

Copeland District Summary

2014

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BACKGROUND

This Summary Report provides a narrative overview of community safety within Copeland. 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 crime in Copeland increased by 19.0%, the greatest increase in crime of all districts across the county.

Contributing to the overall increase in crime levels are numbers of burglaries (dwelling and other). The district experienced the greatest increase across all districts.

Copeland experienced the greatest increase of domestic violence and sexual offences (with numbers of sexual offences almost doubling); violence against a person and alcohol related violence; and business crime. Levels of criminal damage also increased.

Levels of anti-social behaviour continue to fall across the district, along with youth related anti-social behaviour. The district experienced falls in levels of theft from and of a motor vehicle; hate crime; drug crime; and numbers of those killed or seriously injured on the districts roads.

Alcohol misuse is an issue in Copeland evidenced by rising alcohol related hospital admissions and mortality. Most significant is that the district is ranked the worst out of all 326 authorities across England for rates of alcohol specific hospital admissions for under 18 year olds. 15.7% of Copeland's total crime is alcohol related, and over one third of violent and sexual offences are alcohol related.

Areas with high levels of crime and disorder are predominantly urban areas with high levels of deprivation, unemployment and benefit claimants where life expectancy is low and there are other health related issues. These communities have high proportions of low income households, high numbers of workless households, and high levels of child poverty. High crime areas tend to be cities or towns. Levels of crime were highest in Harbour Ward which includes Whitehaven town centre, the greatest contributing factors related to anti-social behaviour, violence against a person and business crime.

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 Copeland have fallen by 440 from 7,040 (February 2013) to 6,600 (February 2014). Greater numbers of 'out of work' benefit claimants have fallen from 5,550 to 5,050 – a fall of 500 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

The district of Copeland is in West Cumbria. The administrative centre is the coastal town of Whitehaven. Other towns in Copeland are Egremont and Cleator Moor in the north, and Millom in the south. Copeland has a rich natural landscape, including 56 miles of coastline. Two thirds of the district falls into the western Lake District National Park an area that includes England's highest mountain Scafell Pike.

Copeland is Cumbria's second smallest district, covering an area of 732 square km. With an average population density of 96 people per square km, the district is slightly more densely populated than the county average, but much more sparsely populated than the national average (Cumbria 74 people per square km, England & Wales 377 people per square km). 65% of the district's residents live in rural areas, compared to 54% across Cumbria and 18% across England & Wales.

Demography

The resident population of Copeland was estimated to be 70,000 persons as at mid-2013; an increase of 700 persons (+1.1%) since mid-2003. Population change over the last decade was not spread evenly across Copeland's wards, with some wards experiencing a decrease in their population size whilst other wards experienced large increases. The greatest proportional decrease was seen in Millom Without ward (-6.7%) while the greatest proportional increase was seen in St Bees ward (+14.5%).

When compared to England & Wales, Copeland 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 older age groups (45 – 85+ years). When compared to Cumbria, Copeland's age profile is very close to the county average.

Copeland's population is projected to decrease by 3,000 persons (-4.3%) over the next 25 years (to 2037); the third 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%).

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 300 persons in Copeland, while international migration (to and from overseas) accounted for a net increase of 400 persons.

The 2011 Census reported that 2,026 residents in Copeland were born outside of the UK (2.9%). Of these non-UK born residents, 152 were born in Ireland, 390 were born in EU countries that were EU member countries in March 2001, 283 were born in EU countries that joined the EU between April 2001 and March 2011 and 1,201 were born countries other than those listed above.

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups

1,924 residents in Copeland reported that they were from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups in their 2011 Census (2.7%); Cumbria 3.5%, England & Wales 19.5%. Across the district's wards, the proportion of residents from BME groups ranged from 1.2% in Holborn Hill ward to 7.8% in Haverigg ward.

Health

Life expectancy for both males and females in Copeland is the second lowest out of all districts across the county. A male living in Copeland can expect to live to 77.6 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 Copeland – life expectancy for a male born in Mirehouse ward is 73.7 years compared to 85.7 years if they were born in Seascale ward.

Economy

Within the district the largest areas of employment are manufacturing (34.1%), health and social work (12.7%), wholesale and retail trade (12.0%).

62.7% of the districts population are of working age. The median household income in Copeland is £25,300 lower than the county average (£25,100) and the national average (£28,500). Amongst the district's wards, the median household income varied from £18,400 in Sandwith ward to £37,700 in St Bees ward.

14.3% of households in Copeland-in-Furness had an annual income of less than £10k in 2014 (Cumbria 14.3%, GB 12.4%). Of the district's wards, Sandwith ward had the greatest proportion of households with annual incomes of less than £10k (23.2%) while Ennerdale ward had the smallest proportion (6.7%).

The median house price in Copeland-in-Furness was £99,100 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; Sandwith ward had the lowest median house price (£66,000), while Ennerdale ward had the highest (£227,800). Housing is slightly more affordable in the district than the rest of the county at 3.9 (median household income divided by median house price) compared to 5.6 in Cumbria.

2.1% of working age residents in Copeland 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 4.1% compared to 2.9% nationally.

Poverty and deprivation

Levels of deprivation are significant in Copeland. There are five communities that rank within the 10% most deprived of areas in England, one of Copeland's communities are classified as being within the 3% most deprived nationally (this community is located in the Sandwith ward).

Sandwith ward is the fourth most deprived ward in the county. In Sandwith ward the median household income is £18,400 (almost £20,000 less than the highest ward in the county). There are high levels of households claiming benefits, and 1 in 4 households in

Sandwith have an income of less than £10,000. 4.4% of the population is claiming Job Seekers Allowance (more than double the average for the district, county and England). 16.6% of children living in Copeland are living in poverty, the second highest proportion of all districts across the county. In Sandwith ward these figures rise to 41.0% - a very stark reality.

COMMUNITY SAFETY INFORMATION

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

Two different measures of incidents have been used:

- **Number:** the exact number of incidents / offences within Copeland.
- **Rate:** the number of incidents in relation to Copeland's 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 misuse is an issue in Copeland evidenced by the district ranking the worst out of all 326 authorities across England for rates of **alcohol specific hospital admissions for under 18 year olds**. Rates of **alcohol specific mortality** for both males and females are increasing and are above national levels; **alcohol specific hospital admissions** are well above national levels and are the greatest of all districts across the county; and hospital episodes with alcohol related conditions are well above national levels and are the second highest in the county

Alcohol related crime in Copeland has increased in the past year (14.1%). 15.7% of all crime in Copeland is alcohol related, and more than 1 out of 3 (36.4%) 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 ward of Harbour (which includes the Whitehaven town centre), where there are also high levels of anti-social behavior. Harbour ward had a significantly greater number of offences against a person and anti-social behaviour than any other ward in Copeland. Other areas of issues include the wards of Hensingham and Mirehouse.

Throughout 2013-14, 432 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 Copeland, and in particular those accessing the service for alcohol related issues. 49.5% of clients use the service for alcohol misuse while 50.5% use the service for drugs misuse. 64.7% of drug service users in Copeland use heroin as their primary drug. The greatest proportion of service users are male and aged between 26-35 years; while 41% 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 North and West (which includes Copeland) 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 1,370 domestic violence incidents in Copeland, and 78 sexual offences. There has been a 16.8% increase in incidents of domestic violence along with an increase in the repeat victim rate. Numbers of sexual offences almost doubled in the district rising from 41 to 78 (90.0%) Rates of domestic violence and sexual offences are the second greatest in Copeland 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. Harbour ward had the greatest number of incidents of domestic violence in the district, followed by Cleator Moor North.

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 3,548 incidents of ASB; and 720 incidents involving young people. ASB and Youth ASB continue to fall in the district, down by 8.7% and 34.0% (the greatest fall in youth ASB across the county) respectively. Despite this rates of youth ASB are the second highest in the county. 19.4% 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 Harbour ward. Incidents were relatively high in the wards of Hensingham and Egremont South. 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 crime in Copeland increased by 19.0%, the greatest increase in crime of all districts across the county.

Contributing to the overall increase in crime levels are numbers of **burglary at a dwelling** (41.8%) - the greatest increase across all districts; and numbers of **burglary other** incidents (60.6), again, the greatest increase across the county. The wards of Sandwith, Mirehouse and Newtown had the greatest number of burglaries at a dwelling.

Copeland experienced the greatest increase of **domestic violence** (16.8%) and **sexual offences** (90.2% almost doubling); **violence against a person** (36.5%) and **alcohol related violence** (22.9%); and **business crime** (36.5%). Levels of **criminal damage** also increased (4.1%). In terms of criminal damage, Copeland is ranked the worst (15) out of its most similar groups/forces.

15.7% of Copeland's total crime is alcohol related, and over one third of violent and sexual offences are alcohol related.

The district experienced falls in levels of **theft from a motor vehicle** (7.1%); **theft of a motor vehicle** (20.6%); **hate crime** (19.4%); and **drug crime** (9.2%). In the most recent annual Public Consultation Survey drug dealing was the third highest area of concern for Copeland's residents.

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 Harbour ward. Other hot spot areas within the district

include Hensingham, Cleator Moor North and Mirehouse 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

Copeland had the second lowest number of people killed or seriously injured on its roads. In the past year 25 people were killed or seriously injured, a decrease of 5 incidents from the previous year. Numbers of collisions and casualties are relatively low however the ward of Millom Without had the greatest number at 4. Speeding vehicles were reported as the greatest concern for the residents of Copeland in the most recent annual Public Consultation Survey, followed by dangerous driving.

Deliberate fires

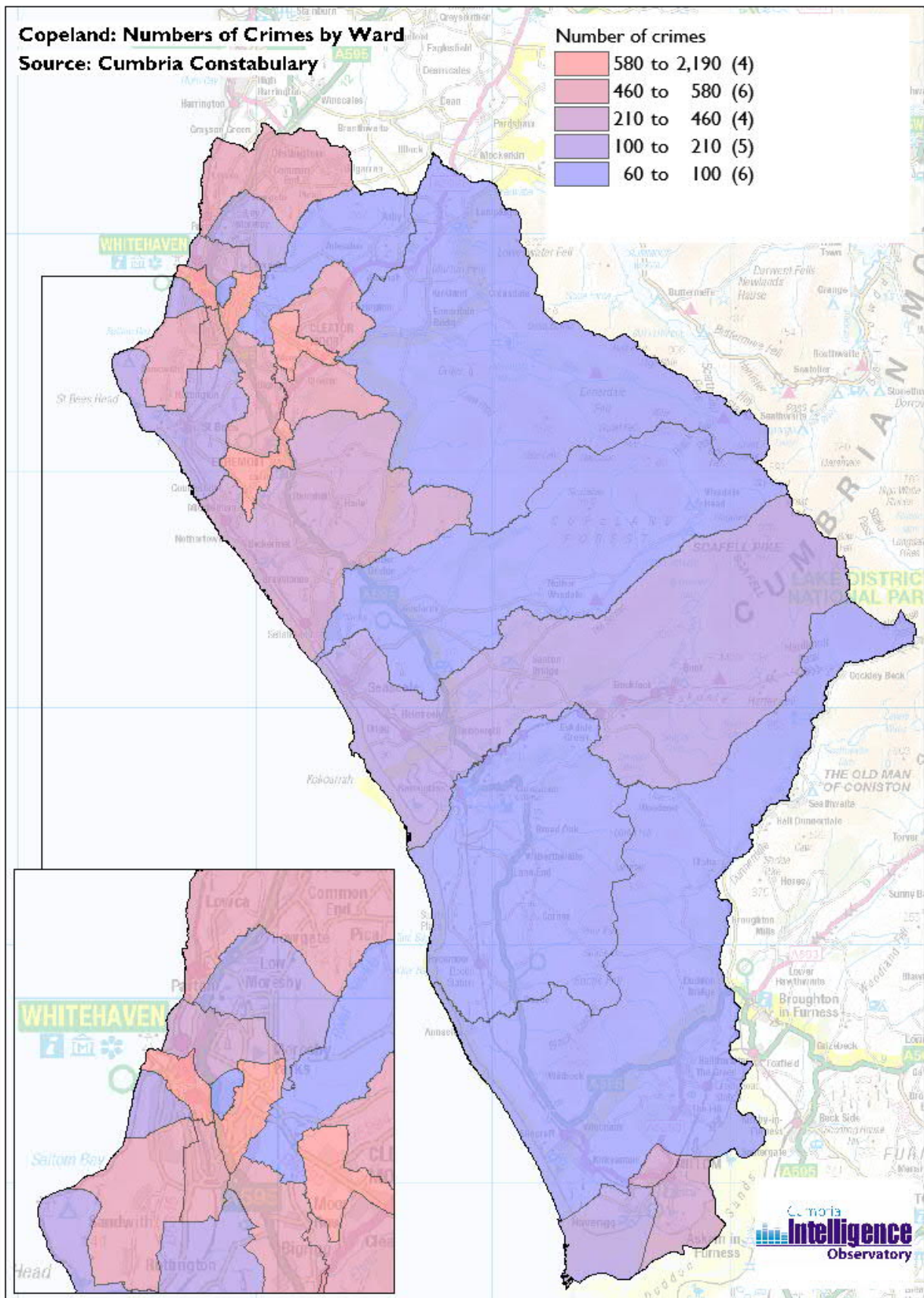
Throughout 2013-14 there were 113 deliberate fires in Copeland. Numbers of incidents have increased in the district in the past year (up by 18.9%) however, they have fallen over a three year period (6.0%). Deliberate fires tend to take place in urban areas, areas with high levels of deprivation and crime. Distington ward had the greatest number of incidents in the district followed by Cleator Moor North and Sandwith wards.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY – COPELAND

<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	3,409	40.9	up
Anti-Social Behaviour (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	3,548	50.7	down
Anti-Social Behaviour involving young people (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	720	10.3	down
Burglary Dwelling (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	78	1.1	up
Burglary Other (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	204	2.9	up
Criminal Damage (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	880	12.6	up
Drug Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	188	2.7	down
Violence Against the Person (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	898	12.8	up
Alcohol Related Offences Against the Person (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	343	4.9	up
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	79	1.1	down
Theft of a Motor Vehicle (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	27	0.4	down
Business Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	561	8.0	up
Hate Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	25	0.4	down
Domestic Violence (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	1,370	16.8	up
Sexual offences (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	78	1.1	up
Alcohol specific mortality: Males (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2010-12	20	17.97	up
Alcohol specific mortality: Females (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2010-12	6	5.17	up
Alcohol specific hospital admissions – under 18 year olds (persons, crude rate per 100,000) 2010/11-2012/13	52	126.66	up
Admitted to hospital episodes with alcohol related conditions (broad) (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2012/13	1,915.34	2636.06	up
Alcohol related recorded crimes (persons, all ages, crude rate per 1,000) 2012/13	274.15	3.88	down
Alcohol related violent crimes (persons, all ages, crude rate per 1,000) 2012/13	243.09	3.44	down
Killed or Seriously Injured (rate per 1,000) 2013	25	0.4	down
Deliberate Fire Incidents (rate per 1,000) 2013/14	113	1.6	up

(DSR: Directly Standardised Rate)

MAP 1: Numbers of Crimes by Wards in Copeland



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