

# Cumbria Community Safety Strategic Assessment

## South Lakeland District Summary

2014

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## **BACKGROUND**

This Summary Report provides a narrative overview of community safety within South Lakeland. 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.

From the Strategic Assessment, South Lakeland CSP will develop a Partnership Plan that will include the priority areas for 2014/15, how we will tackle them and targets we aim to meet.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

South Lakeland is a safe place to live. It has the second lowest crime rate in Cumbria and is the seventh least deprived district in terms of crime in the whole of England. In the past year crime in the district has fallen by 6.5%, continuing previous years downward trend.

Almost all categories of crime included in this assessment have fallen: **burglaries; criminal damage; theft from and of motor vehicles; hate crime; drug crime; and business crime.**

**Anti-social behaviour** has fallen, as well as **domestic violence** while numbers of **sexual offences** have remained the same.

Despite the overall fall in levels of crime in South Lakeland, incidents of **offences against a person** and **alcohol related offences against a person** have increased (18.1% and 1.1% respectively).

Alcohol misuse is a concern in the district with rates of **alcohol specific mortality for females** and **alcohol specific hospital admissions (under 18 year olds)** above national levels. 14.0% of South Lakeland's total crime is alcohol related, and over one third of violent and sexual offences are alcohol related.

Numbers of those killed or seriously injured on South Lakeland's roads have almost doubled; while numbers of deliberate fire incidents continue to fall.

The typical offender in South Lakeland is male and aged 18-30 years; the typical victim is male and aged 41-50 years, a reflection of the older population in the district. Crime and disorder is most prevalent in the area of Kendal specifically the ward of Kendal Fell which had the greatest number of incidents, mostly driven by high levels of anti-social behaviour, shoplifting, business 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 South Lakeland have fallen by 360 from 4,990 (February 2013) to 4,630 (February 2014). Greater numbers of 'out of work' benefit claimants have fallen from 3,620 to 3,270 – a fall of 350 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**

Kendal is the largest town and administrative centre of South Lakeland. The district contains popular areas of the Lake District National Park including Lake Windermere, Coniston Water and the Langdale Valley, as well as the tourist towns of Bowness, Ambleside and Grasmere. The south of the district contains the Lake District Peninsular. This area includes the market town and industrial centre of Ulverston, the Edwardian resort of Grange-over-Sands which overlooks Morecombe Bay and the Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In the east of the district is the town of Kirby Lonsdale as well as the book town of Sedbergh which is part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

### **Geography**

South Lakeland is Cumbria's second largest district, covering an area of 1,534 square km. With an average population density of 68 people per square km, the district is more sparsely populated than both the county and national average (Cumbria 74 people per square km, England & Wales 377 people per square km). 61% of the district's residents live in rural areas, compared to 54% across Cumbria and 18% across England & Wales.

### **Demography**

The resident population of South Lakeland was estimated to be 103,500 persons as at mid-2013; an increase of 500 persons (+0.5%) since mid-2003. When compared to England & Wales, South Lakeland 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). South Lakeland's age profile is also older than the county average. South Lakeland's population is projected to increase by 800 persons (+0.8%) 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%). Numbers of young people and working age residents are projected to decrease, while numbers of those aged 65+ are projected to increase.

### **Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups**

4,569 residents in South Lakeland reported that they were from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups in their 2011 Census (4.4%); Cumbria 3.5%, England & Wales 19.5%. Across the district's wards, the proportion of residents from BME groups ranged from 1.7% in Low Furness ward to 13.3% in Windermere Bowness South 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 1,800 persons in South Lakeland, while international migration (to and from overseas) accounted for a net increase of 2,100 persons.

The 2011 Census reported that 5,009 residents in South Lakeland were born outside of the UK (4.8%). Of these non-UK born residents, 280 were born in Ireland, 898 were born

in EU countries that were EU member countries in March 2001, 1,303 were born in EU countries that joined the EU between April 2001 and March 2011 and 2,528 were born countries other than those listed above.

## **Health**

Life expectancy in the district is good. A male living in South Lakeland can expect to live to 80.9 years, above the county average (78.8 years) and national average (79.2 years). A female can expect to live to 83.4 years, above both county (82.4 years) and national averages (83.0 years). There is up to 12.6 years difference between some of the best and worst areas in the district (males living in Kendal Highgate (73.8 years) compared to Levens (86.4 years); females living in Kendal Highgate (78.2 years) compared to Kendal Strickland (90.8 years).

## **Economy**

Tourism plays a central role in South Lakeland's economy, due to the presence of both the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. South Lakeland is the district in the county which generates the greatest economic impact from tourism. Within the district the largest areas of employment in the district are: wholesale and retail trade (18.5%), accommodation and food service activities (17.7%), and health and social work (12.4%).

58.7% of South Lakeland's population are of working age. The median household income in South Lakeland is £27,000, 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 £19,800 in Kendal Kirkland ward to £37,500 in Whinfell ward. 12.6% of households in South Lakeland have an annual income of less than £10k (Cumbria 14.3%, GB 12.4%). Of the district's wards, Kendal Kirkland ward had the greatest proportion of households with annual incomes of less than £10k (20.1%) while Whinfell ward had the smallest proportion (6%).

The median house price in South Lakeland is £203,000, higher than the county average of £140,900 and the national (GB) average of £172,800. House prices varied considerably across the district's wards; Ulverston East ward has the lowest median house price (£108,700) while Hawkshead ward has the highest (£352,300).

There are low levels of unemployment in South Lakeland with just 0.6% of the district's working-age population claiming job seekers allowance, compared to 1.6% in the county and 2.2% nationally.

## **Poverty and Deprivation**

South Lakeland is a relatively affluent district and is the least deprived district in the county. Despite this there are pockets of poverty and deprivation. 18 communities across South Lakeland rank amongst the 10% most deprived in England in relation to geographical barriers to services; with nine of these communities falling within the 3% most deprived in the country for this measure. These communities are located in the Whinfell, Hawkshead, Low Furness & Swarthmoor, Broughton, Staveley-in-Cartmel, Sedbergh, Lyth Valley, Crooklands and Coniston wards.

7.5% of children living in the district are living in poverty, well below county (14.1%) and national (18.6%) levels; however, this increases to 21.9% for children living in the ward

of Kendal Underley, well above the county and national average. 11.6% of households in South Lakeland are in fuel poverty, below national levels; this increases to 20.7% in some communities (Hawkshead) across the district. Because of the rurality of some areas of the district this makes access to some essential services for part of the district's population very difficult, particularly those living in the very rural areas with poor or no access to transport or public transport.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY INFORMATION**

This section will present the narrative of community safety within South Lakeland.

Two different measures of incidents have been used:

- **Number:** the exact number of incidents / offences within South Lakeland.
- **Rate:** the number of incidents in relation to South Lakeland'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.

14.0% of South Lakeland's total crime is alcohol related, and over one third of violent and sexual offences are alcohol related.

Rates of **alcohol specific mortality for females** are falling but are above national levels. Rates of **alcohol specific hospital admissions (under 18 year olds)** are increasing and are above national levels.

Rates of **alcohol specific mortality for males** and **hospital admissions with alcohol related conditions** are also rising.

There is a relationship between overall levels of crime, domestic violence and alcohol abuse. Incidents of violence against a person are greatest in town centre areas, specifically in Kendal where there are also high levels of anti-social behaviour.

Throughout 2013-14, 409 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 South Lakeland, in particular those accessing the service for alcohol related issues. 53.1% of clients use the service for alcohol misuse while 46.9% use the service for drugs misuse. 65.1% of drug service users in South Lakeland use heroin as their primary drug. The greatest proportion of service users are male and aged between 36-45 years; while 27% 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 South (which includes South Lakeland) 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 and Sexual Violence**

Throughout 2013-14 there were 794 domestic violence incidents in South Lakeland, and 72 sexual offences. There has been a 2.0% decrease in incidents of domestic violence along with a fall in the repeat victim rate. Numbers of sexual offences remained the same. South Lakeland continues to have the second lowest rate of incidents of domestic violence in the county, after Eden.

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. Kendal Kirkland ward had the greatest number of incidents of domestic violence in the district.

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 3,177 incidents of ASB; and 640 incidents involving young people. ASB and Youth ASB continue to fall in the district, down by 6.9% and 22.5% respectively. Rates of ASB in the district are the second lowest across all districts in the county. 16.5% 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 Kendal Fell ward, followed by Ulverston Town. Incidents were relatively high in the wards surrounding Kendal town centre and Windermere town centre. 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**

South Lakeland is a safe place to live. It has the second lowest crime rate in Cumbria and is the seventh least deprived district in terms of crime in the whole of England. In the past year crime in the district has fallen by 6.5%, continuing previous years downward trend.

Almost all categories of crime included in this assessment have fallen: **burglary dwelling** (33.0%); **burglary other** (8.3%); **criminal damage** (27.1%); **theft from a motor vehicle** (25.4%); **theft of a motor vehicle** (13.0%); **hate crime** (22.9%); **drug crime** (8.2%); and **business crime** (11.4%).

Despite the overall fall in levels of crime in South Lakeland, incidents of **offences against a person** and **alcohol related offences against a person** have increased (18.1% and 1.1% respectively).

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 Kendal Fell ward, which includes Kendal town centre. Other hot spot areas within the district include Lakes Ambleside and Windermere Bowness South.

Crime in the district is typically committed by men aged 18-30 years; victims of crime in the district are typically male and aged 41-50 years, perhaps a reflection of the older population in South Lakeland.

## **Killed and seriously injured**

Throughout 2013, 69 people were killed or seriously injured on South Lakeland's roads, almost double compared to the previous year (97.1% increase from 35 incidents in 2012). South Lakeland has the second highest rate of KSIs across the county. The greatest number of incidents took place in the Whinfell ward (24 KSIs) followed by Crooklands (11 KSIs). There are a number of key roads in these areas including a stretch of the M6 motorway, the A6 and A684. In the most recent annual Public Consultation Survey speeding vehicles was the main area of concern for South Lakeland's residents.

## **Deliberate fires**

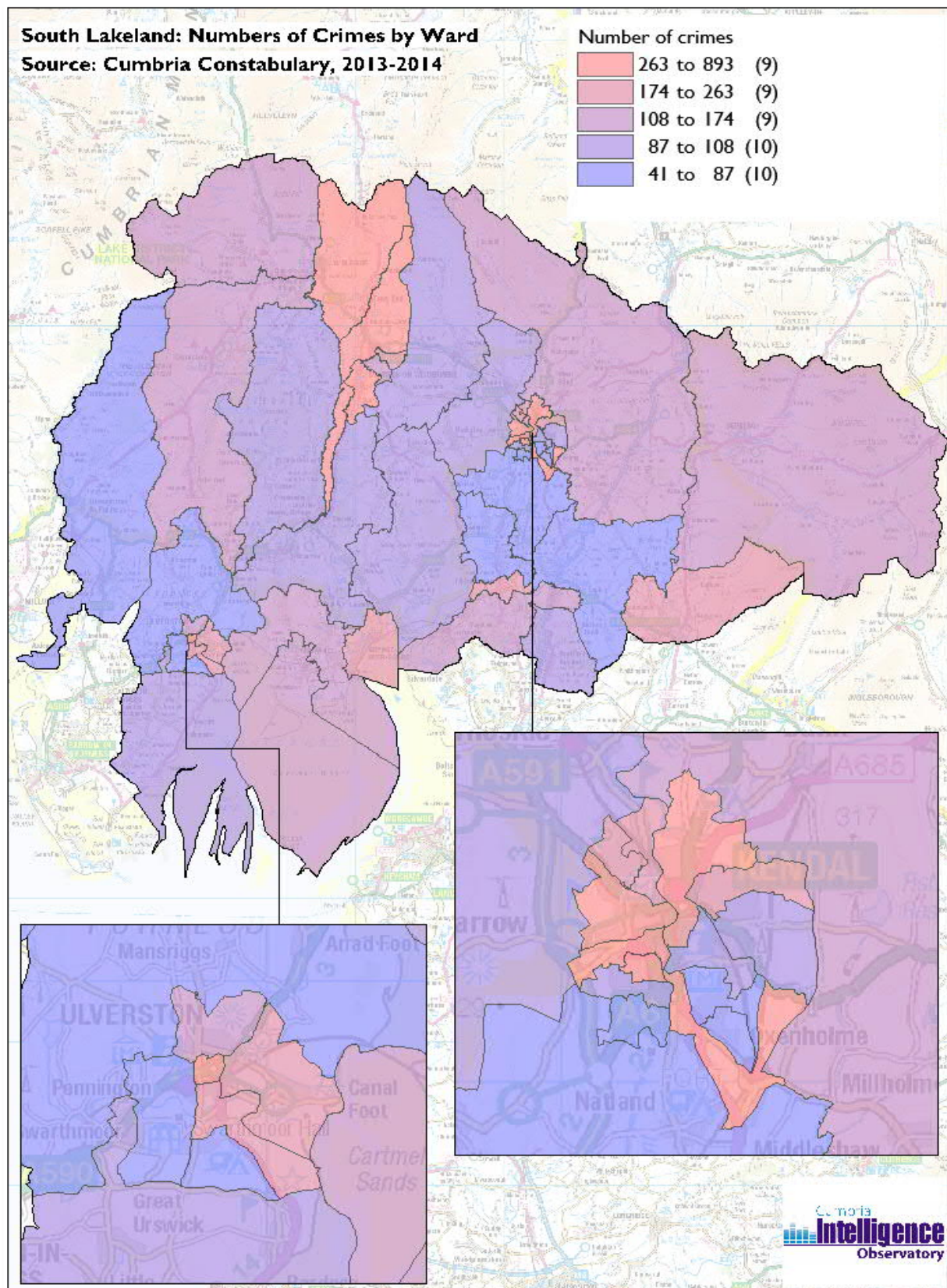
Throughout 2013-14 there were 42 deliberate fires in South Lakeland. Numbers of incidents have decreased in the district in the past year (down by 21 incidents, 33.3%); and have fallen over a three year period (40.8%). South Lakeland has the second lowest rate of deliberate fires across Cumbria. Deliberate fires tend to take place in urban areas, areas with high levels of deprivation and other crime. The greatest number of deliberate fires took place in the ward of Kendal Fell (10 incidents).

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY – SOUTH LAKELAND

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Trend (change from 2012/13 – 2013/14</u>
<b>Total Crime</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	3,271	33.8	down
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	3,177	30.7	down
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour involving young people</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	640	6.2	down
<b>Burglary Dwelling</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	65	0.6	down
<b>Burglary Other</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	288	2.8	down
<b>Criminal Damage</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	577	5.6	down
<b>Drug Crime</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	169	1.6	down
<b>Violence Against the Person</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	724	7.0	up
<b>Alcohol Related Offences Against the Person</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	287	2.8	up
<b>Theft from a Motor Vehicle</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	147	1.4	down
<b>Theft of a Motor Vehicle</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	40	0.4	down
<b>Business Crime</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	592	5.7	down
<b>Hate Crime</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	27	0.3	down
<b>Domestic Violence</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	794	7.7	down
<b>Sexual offences</b> (rate per 1,000 population) 2013/14	72	0.7	no change
<b>Alcohol specific mortality: Males</b> (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2010-12	10	5.91	up
<b>Alcohol specific mortality: Females</b> (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2010-12	13	7.33	down
<b>Alcohol specific hospital admissions – under 18 year olds</b> (persons, crude rate per 100,000) 2010/11-2012/13	39	70.79	up
<b>Admitted to hospital episodes with alcohol related conditions (broad)</b> (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2012/13	1,989.17	1,696.68	up
<b>Alcohol related recorded crimes</b> (persons, all ages, crude rate per 1,000) 2012/13	287.09	2.77	down
<b>Alcohol related violent crimes</b> (persons, all ages, crude rate per 1,000) 2012/13	227.55	2.19	down
<b>Killed or Seriously Injured</b> (rate per 1,000) 2013	69	0.7	up
<b>Deliberate Fire Incidents</b> (rate per 1,000) 2013/14	42	0.4	down

(DSR: Directly Standardised Rate)

**MAP 1: Numbers of Crimes by Wards in South Lakeland**



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