

Source: Lancashire JSNA, Sept 19

West Lancashire Lower Super Output Area deprivation map. The darker the colour the more deprived the area.

WEST LANCASHIRE 2021

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT LOCAL PROFILE

West Lancashire is an authority that covers 347 kilometres and contains 25 wards.

It is a district of contrasts and contains a number of small towns and villages that offer a very good quality of life.

West Lancashire contains a university and a hospital.

Health varies compared with the England average.

West Lancashire is ranked 178/317 in the Index of Multiple Deprivation compared to all local authorities in England.

Approximately 13.7% (4,995) of children **live in low income families**.

Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average. In the most deprived areas life expectancy is 8.6 years lower for men and 7.9 years lower for women compared to the least deprived areas.

Alcohol related hospital stays are increasing, however, the rate is better than the regional average and similar to the England rate.

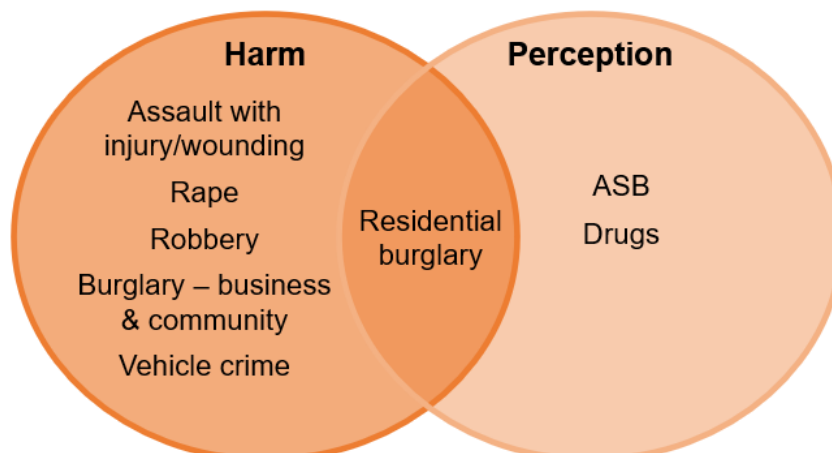
Hospital admissions for **intentional self-harm** are increasing and above the national rate. **Suicide** rates are increasing slightly and are above the regional and national rate.

Hospital admissions for **violence** (including sexual violence) are showing a minor increase but are lower than the regional rate and slightly above the England average.

HARM AND PERCEPTION

Office for National Statistics crime severity tool was used to calculate the level of **harm** of crime in West Lancashire.

Lancashire Talking provided an indicator of the public's **perception** of the crime and community safety issues important to West Lancashire.



Residential burglary is a concern to the public and results in a high level of harm.

RISK AND THREATS

A threat assessment undertaken by Lancashire Constabulary using Management of Risk in Law Enforcement methodology found these crime types were the **highest risk** across Lancashire.

- Gun & knife crime
- Domestic abuse
- Violence linked to drug supply
- County lines
- Modern day slavery/trafficking
- Child criminal & sexual exploitation
- Anti-social behaviour
- Road safety
- Cyber crime
- Fraud
- Homicide
- Robbery & burglary

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME



As part of Operation Genga (partnership approach to tackling organised crime) the following were highlighted in the **Serious Organised Crime** profile as **key issues** for West Lancashire:

- County Lines OCGs (organised crime groups) travelling from Liverpool to supply Class A drugs.
- Cuckooing of home addresses involved in the supply of drugs.
- Exploitation of vulnerable drug users and children to deal Class A drugs.
- OCG violence which often includes weapons and or firearms.
- Modern day slavery in farms across West Lancashire.
- Organised acquisitive crime from cross border OCGs.
- Illicit tobacco and alcohol sales funding OCGs.

ROAD SAFETY

- West Lancashire has recorded a 44% reduction in road traffic collision (RTC) casualties during the ten-year period 2010-2019.
- Motorcyclists make up 10% of all RTC casualties in West Lancashire and 27% of killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties.
- Pedal cyclists make up 14.5% of the West Lancashire KSI casualty total.
- 4.5% of all injury collisions and 4.6% of all KSI casualties in the district occurred on the 7.5 miles of M58 that traverses West Lancashire.



VICTIM PROFILE

Where **gender** details were recorded 54% of all victims are female and 46% are male.

Predominant group of victims were **White British**, aged **30-34 years**.

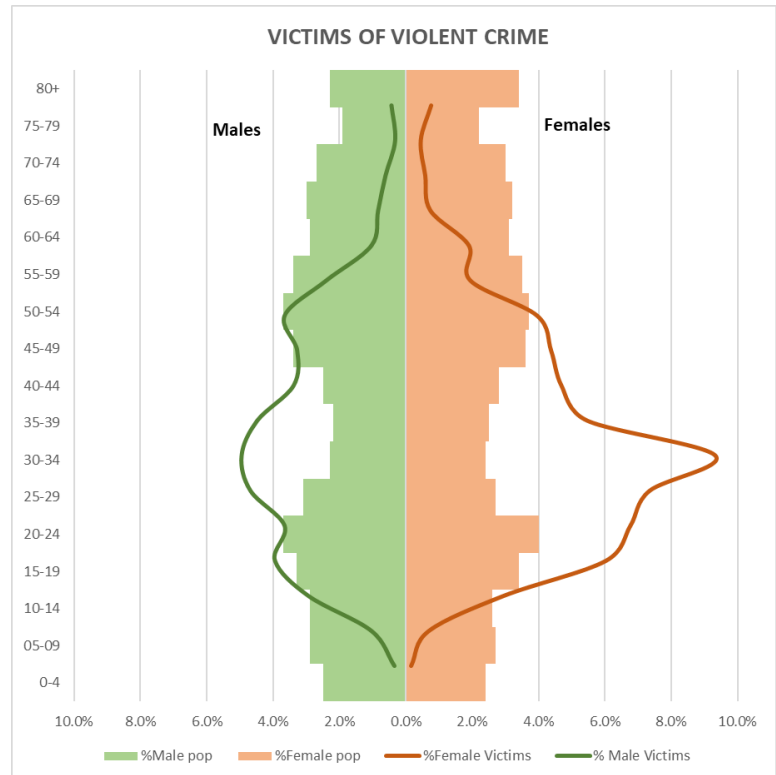
Domestic Abuse was a factor in 17% of cases.

Assault without injury was the most common recorded offence type for both males and females.

There is an overrepresentation of **male** victims of **violent crime** aged 25-44 compared to the overall male population breakdown for those age groups.

A greater disproportionality can be seen amongst **female** victims of **violent crime** aged 15-49 compared to the overall female population breakdown for those age groups, with the 30-34 age group revealing the greatest overrepresentation.

The **elderly** are less likely to be victims of crime.



The chart depicts the West Lancashire **population** breakdown by age and gender within the bar charts, whilst the line depicts the breakdown of **victims of violent crime** by age and gender.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

- Females accounted for 78% of victims of domestic abuse (DA) and males 22%.
- The peak age group was 25-34 years.
- Victims were predominantly White British.
- Just over a quarter of domestic abuse offences were alcohol related.
- In West Lancashire the most commonly reported DA crime types were assault with injury and assault without injury.
- The highest number of offences were in Tanhouse and Digmoo wards.

In West Lancashire, a third (33%) of all domestic abuse victims fell within the “Financially Stretched” category (ACORN, MADE Apr19-Mar21), which key characteristics include:

- All ages
- House tenure – social renting
- Children at home – mixed
- House – semi-detached or terraced



This is disproportionate when compared to the West Lancashire district population, where 25% make up this category. Therefore, showing an overrepresentation of DA victims within the Financially Stretched category compared to the district population.

REOFFENDING

The reoffending rate for West Lancashire is 15.1%, which is the lowest rate recorded across Lancashire. (MoJ release May 21)

Previous research has shown that the **gender** split is 93% male, 7% female. This differs from the Lancashire picture which records a breakdown of 85% male and 15% female.

Peak crime types are **theft from shop, assault with injury** and **assault without injury**.

Peak age groups are **25-31** and **32-40 years** – almost half of all reoffenders are within this age range.

More than half of all **female reoffenders** are aged 32 years and over.

Female reoffenders commit a higher proportion of theft from shop offences than males.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) features as one of the primary concerns for the people of West Lancashire in the Lancashire Talking Survey.

The wards with the highest volume of ASB reported were **Scott, Birch Green** and **Tanhouse**.

Mental health is a common factor in anti-social behaviour and **neighbour** disputes.

22% of all ASB in West Lancashire is **youth related**, which involves groups **congregating**, being **rowdy** and causing **other issues**.

Seasonal trends within ASB include **moto-nuisance** in and around parks, open fields and residential areas.

There is a direct correlation between the increase in ASB and the **Coronavirus pandemic**.



SUBSTANCE MISUSE



For young people in Lancashire **Cannabis** is the primary substance, followed by alcohol use.

In young adults there is an increase in the use of illicit **Benzodiazepines** commonly linked with mental health issues. (Source: WAWY)

40% of individuals in treatment services are aged between **40-49**. (Source: CGL Inspire Lancashire)

Of the adults that required substance misuse treatment following **release from prison**, 41% successfully engaged in community-based structured treatment, compared to the national average of 37%.

The number of individuals entering **drugs treatment** – opiate, non-opiate, alcohol and alcohol with non-opiate – who were also identified as requiring **mental health** support was higher than the national average.

The number of **deaths** in treatment for opiate, non-opiate and alcohol in Lancashire were above the national average.

(Source: National Drug Treatment Monitoring System)

SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC INEQUALITIES

Health and deprivation are determining and interlinking factors in community safety.

The average **life expectancy** in West Lancashire is lower than the England average – in the most deprived areas of the district this is 8.6 years lower for men and 7.9 years for women.

West Lancashire's has a lower rate of out of work **benefit claimants** with 5.2% compared to the North West rate of 7% (2020).

The **unemployment** rate in West Lancashire is lower than the North West average.

Hate crime impacts individuals and communities. A high proportion of hate crimes are **racially motivated**, however there is currently a rise in **sexual orientation** and **transgender** motivated offences. The monitoring of **community tension and cohesion** increases confidence.

The **elderly** are more susceptible to cybercrime (including **fraud** and **online scams**) anti-social behaviour and health related injuries.

The growing elderly population coupled with **technological advancements**/changes and the impact of **COVID** (more people reliant on technology than ever before) has led to an increased risk of the elderly becoming a victim of these sorts of crimes.



The rate of children (under 16's) living in **low income families** within West Lancashire has reduced from 18% to 13.7% since 2016.

West Lancashire has the 3rd highest rate of **NEET** (not in employment, education or training) across Lancashire.

Within Lancashire, West Lancashire has the 2nd highest rate of permanent **school exclusions**.

West Lancashire's **attainment 8 score** (average grade across 8 core subjects) is below the Lancashire average.

The impacts of COVID have affected not just the elderly, but the wider community. With young people and the vulnerable likely feeling the effects of **isolation**, increasing the risk of them being coerced into **exploitation**.

The **economic downturn** and **deprivation** as a result of COVID has **reduced living standards** for many, and again links to the possibility of more people becoming victims and being exploited.

PROCESS

This profile forms part of the output of the 2022-25 Pan-Lancashire Strategic Assessment – it is accompanied by 13 other profiles covering the Lancashire district authorities and unitary authorities, along with a strategic overview at a pan-Lancashire level. Here you will find more detailed references.

Analysis in this profile is underpinned by the strategic threat matrix, developed on a Lancashire wide footprint and highlighting key threats at a local level. Existing Partnership Intelligence Assessments and local analytical products have been used to provide supporting evidence; additional research and analysis was conducted where necessary.

Consultation with local stakeholders has taken place through local area Consultation Workshops (June 2021).

The data parameters for analysis within this profile (unless otherwise stated) is within the last 3-year period.

For any queries relating to the information and analysis contained within, or underpinning, this profile, please contact the **CSP analyst team using the email address:**

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