



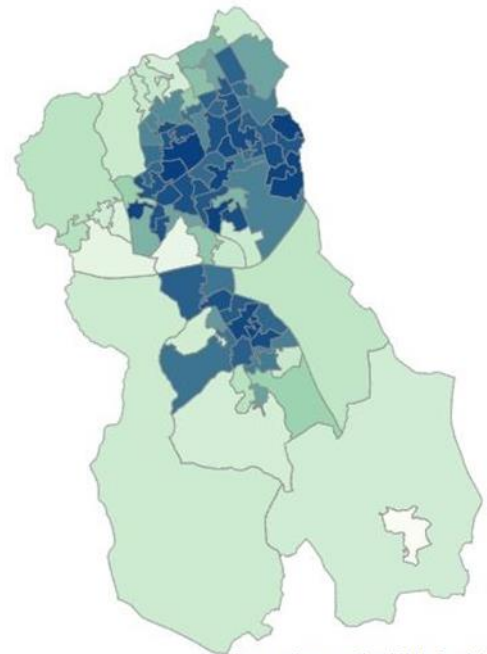
BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN 2025

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT LOCAL PROFILE

Blackburn with Darwen is a unitary authority in East Lancashire that contains 17 wards.

Blackburn with Darwen has more than twice the number of people per square kilometre as the North West and England and Wales average.

Latest estimates (2023) show that the population has increased by 2% since Census 2021.



Source: Lancashire JSNA, Sept 19

Blackburn with Darwen Lower Super Output Area deprivation map. The darker the colour the more deprived the area.

Health varies compared with the England average.

Blackburn with Darwen is ranked 14/317 in the **Index of Multiple Deprivation** against all local authorities in England and 3/14 across Lancashire.

Approximately 40.4% (14,295) of children live in relative low-income families.

Life expectancy for both men and women are lower than the England average. There are also inequalities within the district between the most deprived areas and the least deprived – 11.4 years lower for males and 9.6 years lower for women.

Alcohol related hospital admissions have remained similar and are significantly lower than both the regional and England average.

Hospital admissions for **intentional self-harm** are decreasing and are better than the national average. **Suicide rates** are above the national average.

Hospital admissions for **violence** (including sexual violence) are significantly higher than the region and national statistics and are the 4th highest across Lancashire when looking at rate per population.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour headlines

There has been an 9.9% reduction in all crime from 2021 to 2024.

Blackburn with Darwen had the 5th highest rate of all crime per 1000 population across the county in 2024.

There has been a reduction in burglary. Blackburn with Darwen had the 5th highest number of burglaries by volume, and 6th highest rate across the county in 2024.

Blackburn with Darwen had rates above the Lancashire average for robbery, vehicle crime, and violent crime. The volume and rate for vehicle crime was 2nd highest across the county.

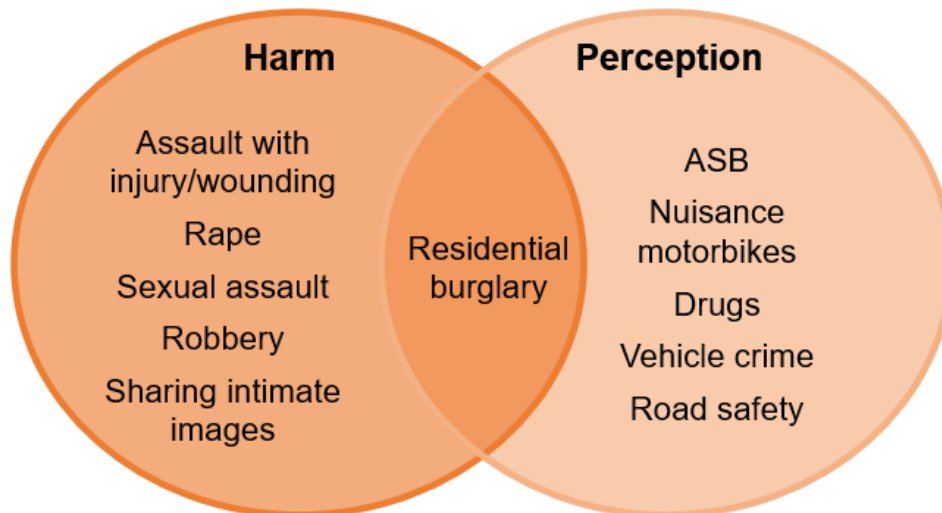
The reoffending rate for all crime is 31.9% and is above the national rate of 26.3%.

Anti-Social Behaviour incidents – Blackburn with Darwen was 3rd highest by volume and 5th highest by rate per 1000 population across Lancashire in 2024.

HARM AND PERCEPTION

Office for National Statistics crime severity tool was used to calculate the level of **harm** of crime in Blackburn with Darwen.

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



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

RISK AND THREATS

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

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- County Lines/violence related to drug supply
- Cyber crime
- Domestic abuse
- Exploitation of young people – child criminal exploitation
- Fraud
- Gang crime
- Homicide
- Knife Crime
- Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking
- Road Safety
- Violence Against Women and Girls

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME



As part of Operation Genga (partnership approach to tackling organised crime) the following were highlighted as **key issues** of **Serious Organised Crime** for Blackburn with Darwen:

- Local Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) supplying Class A drugs – namely heroin and crack cocaine.
- Adult coerced criminality.
- Child exploitation/use of THC (psychoactive cannabinoid).

ROAD SAFETY

- The number of collisions (all severities) have increased slightly from 2022 (n=278) but are lower than 2023 – 2023 (n=297) and 2024 (n=284).

In 2024:

- 83% of all casualties were involved in collisions on roads with speed limits of 30mph or less.
- 61% of all casualties were male, 39% female.
- The peak age groups for casualties were 15-24 years and 40-44 years.
- 11% (n=12) of all killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties in Blackburn with Darwen during 2024 were motorcyclists, which is below the Lancashire rate of 15%.
- 24% (n=22) of KSI casualties in Blackburn with Darwen were pedestrians, which is above the Lancashire rate of 18%.
- 40% (n=6) of KSI child casualties in Blackburn with Darwen were pedestrians.



VICTIM PROFILE

Where **gender** details were recorded 51% of all victims of crime were female and 49% were male.

79% of all victims were aged under 50 years old.

The most prevalent group of victims were **White British**, aged **25-44 years**.

Domestic Abuse was a factor in 18% of all recorded crime.

Assault with injury and assault without injury were the most common recorded offence type for both males and females.

There is an overrepresentation of **male** victims of **violent crime** aged 10-44 compared to the overall male population breakdown for those age groups.

A greater disproportionality can be seen amongst **female** victims of **violent crime** aged 10-49 compared to the overall female population breakdown for those age groups.

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



The chart depicts the Blackburn with Darwen 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 73% of victims of domestic abuse (DA) and males 27%.
- The peak age group was 25-39 years.
- Victims were predominantly White British (72%).
- 22% of domestic abuse offences were alcohol related.
- Assault without injury, assault with injury, and stalking were the most reported DA crime types in Blackburn with Darwen.
- The highest number of offences were reported in the Blackburn Central ward, followed by Blackburn South East, Mill Hill & Moorgate, and Darwen East wards.

In Blackburn with Darwen, 51% of all domestic abuse victims fell within the “Urban Adversity” category (ACORN, Jan22-Dec24), which key characteristics include:

- Age 25-34
- House – flat or terraced
- Children at home – 1+
- House tenure – social renting



This is disproportionate when compared to the Blackburn with Darwen district population, where 27% make up this category. Therefore, showing an over representation of DA victims within the Urban Adversity category compared to the district population.

REOFFENDING

The reoffending rate for Blackburn with Darwen is 31.9%, which is above the Lancashire rate of 28.1% and the national rate of 26.3%. (MoJ release Jan 25).

Previous cohorts have shown that the **gender** split is 90% male, 10% female – this has remained similar in recent years. Males have a higher repeat rate than females.

The ethnicity of 83% of repeat offenders is white and 14% Asian. The repeat rate for white ethnicity is higher than other ethnic backgrounds

Peak age groups are between **30-39 years** – over one-third of all reoffenders are within this age range.

Peak crime types fall within the **theft** and **violence against the person** categories.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) features as one of the primary concerns for the people of Blackburn with Darwen in the Lancashire Talking Survey. Annual totals of reported ASB have been reducing in recent years.

In 2024, the wards with the highest volume of ASB reported were **Blackburn Central, Blackburn South East, Darwen East, Ewood, and Mill Hill & Moorgate** – these wards account for 55% of ASB across the district.

- 16% of incidents were **noise nuisance**.
- 13% of incidents were **neighbour disputes**.
- 19% of incidents were **youth related**.
- 7% were **moto nuisance** related.

Peak locations include in and around the hospital, fast food restaurants, supermarkets, and bus station.



SUBSTANCE MISUSE



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

The gender split for young people in treatment is 65% male and 35% female.

For adults in treatment the gender split is consistent with the England average – 66% male, 34% female.

In 2023/24 58% of adults in treatment were aged 30-49 years, with a further 30% aged 50+ years.

For adults, the main drugs of concern are **heroin/opiates** and alcohol. There are also significant levels of use of cocaine powder and crack cocaine, whilst cannabis is widely used as a secondary or tertiary drug. Legal and illicit use of **benzodiazepines** is also noted – commonly linked with mental health issues.

Of the adults that required substance misuse treatment following **release from prison**, 63% successfully engaged in community-based structured treatment, compared to the national average of 47%.

In 2023/24 49% of people in treatment showed substantial progress in their treatment – comparing favourably with the England average of 47%.

SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC INEQUALITIES

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

Blackburn with Darwen is the 14th **most deprived** district in England.

Life expectancy in Blackburn with Darwen is lower for males and females than the UK average.

The **rate of employment** (67.9%) has remained similar over the last 5-year period and is lower than both the region (73.2%) and national rate (75.7%).

Blackburn with Darwen has the 2nd highest rate of **claimant count** (6.4%) across Lancashire and is higher than the North West (4.4%) and UK (4.1%) rate. This count includes people on Universal Credit who are required to seek work and be available for work (2024).

Homelessness – households owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act is significantly higher than the region and national rates.(2023/24).



Blackburn with Darwen has the 6th highest rate of pupils achieving the **Key Stage 2** (aged 11 years) expected levels of **reading, writing and mathematics** across Lancashire, and is above the Lancashire average and similar to the UK average.

Across all districts in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen has the 7th highest **attainment 8** score (average grade across 8 core subjects, 15–16-year-olds) and is above the region and national rates.

Blackburn with Darwen (4.0%) has a higher proportion of **NEET** (not in education, employment, or training) 16-17-year-olds than the Lancashire rate (3.1%), and ranks 2nd highest across the county.

Blackburn with Darwen has the 6th lowest rate of 16–20-year-olds with no qualifications across the county.

Blackburn with Darwen has the 4th highest rate of **child obesity** (10–11-year-olds) across Lancashire and is above the region and national rates.

Overweight prevalence in adults (18+ years) is below the regional and national rates and ranks 2nd lowest across Lancashire.

Physically active adults (19+ years) are significantly below the region and national rates and 5th lowest in Lancashire (2022/23).

18% of the population in Blackburn with Darwen are deemed **disabled under the Equality Act** – 5th lowest in the county.

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 some of the key threats at a local level. Existing Partnership Intelligence Assessments and local analytical products have been used to provide supporting evidence.

Consultation with local stakeholders has taken place through local area Consultation Workshops (June 2024).

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

Sources for this product include:

[Lancashire Insight - Lancashire County Council](#)

[Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

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