



LANCASTER 2025

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT LOCAL PROFILE

Lancaster is an authority in the north of Lancashire that contains 27 wards.

The number of people per square kilometre is below the national average and 2nd lowest across Lancashire.

It is estimated that there will be a population increase of approximately 8% over the next 10 years.

Health varies compared with the England average.

Lancaster is ranked 112/317 in the **Index of Multiple Deprivation** against all local authorities in England and is the 8th most deprived across Lancashire.

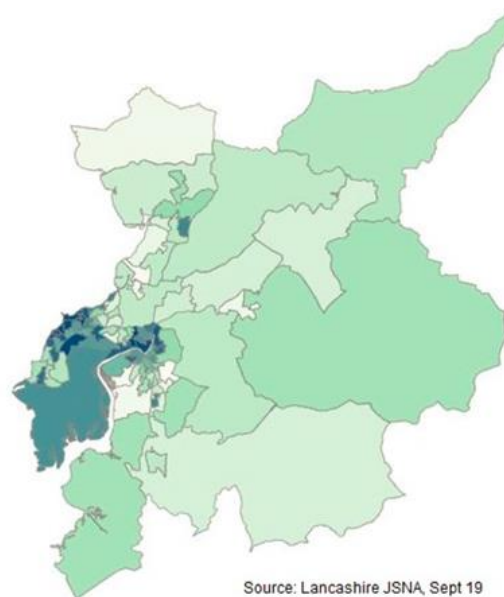
Approximately 21.4% (4,958) of children live in relative low-income families.

Life expectancy for both men and women are lower than the England average. There are inequalities within the district between the most deprived areas and the least deprived – 10.0 years lower for males and 9.8 years lower for women.

Alcohol related hospital admissions have remained similar in the last 5 years but are worse than the region and England average.

Hospital admissions for **intentional self-harm** are decreasing and similar to the North West average but above the national average. **Suicide rates** are above the regional and national average.

Hospital admissions for **violence** (including sexual violence) are similar to the national statistics and are the 7th lowest across Lancashire when looking at rate per population.



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

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour headlines

There has been a 2.7% increase in all crime from 2021 to 2024.

Lancaster had the 6th highest rate of all crime per 1000 population across the county in 2024 and was 4th highest by volume.

There has been an increase in burglary during 2024. Lancaster had the 2nd highest by volume across the county.

Lancaster has rates lower than the Lancashire average for robbery, vehicle crime, and violent crime.

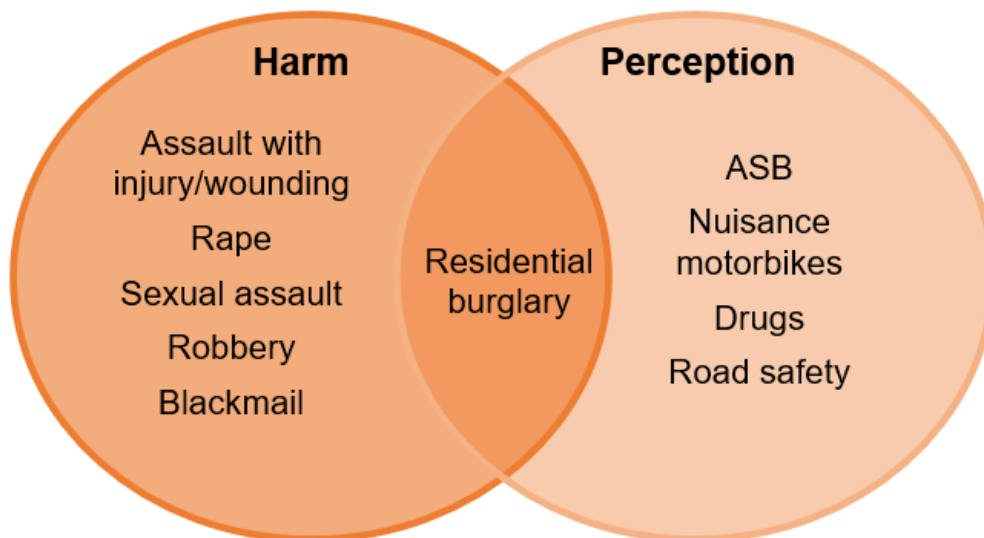
The reoffending rate for all crime is 29.8% and is above the national rate of 26.3%.

Anti-Social Behaviour incidents – Lancaster ranked 4th by volume and 8th by rate per 1000 population across Lancashire in 2024 and is below the Lancashire rate.

HARM AND PERCEPTION

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

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



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

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 Lancaster:

- Importation of drugs from abroad.
- County Lines OCGs (organised crime groups) travelling to the area to supply Class A drugs.
- Exploitation of vulnerable drug users and children to deal Class A drugs.
- OCG violence including the use of offensive weapons.
- Money laundering through businesses or gambling in attempt to legitimise monies.

ROAD SAFETY

- The number of collisions (all severities) in 2024 (n=210) were the lowest recorded in the last six years.

In 2024:

- 56% of all casualties were involved in collisions on roads with speed limits of 30mph or less.
- 32% of casualties were involved in collisions on roads with speed limits of 60mph+ which is above the Lancashire rate of 21%.
- 62% of all casualties were male, 38% female.
- The peak age groups for casualties were 15-24 years.
- 17% (n=15) of all killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties in Lancaster during 2024 were motorcyclists, which is above the Lancashire rate of 15%.
- 16% (n=14) of KSI casualties in Lancaster were pedestrians.
- 46% (n=6) of KSI child casualties in Lancaster were pedestrians.



VICTIM PROFILE

Where **gender** details were recorded 52% of all victims of crime were female and 48% were male.

76% 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 16% 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 (with the exception of the 20-24 age group) 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 Lancaster **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 for around 72% of victims of domestic abuse (DA) and males 28%.
- The peak age group was 30-39 years.
- Victims were predominantly White British (94%).
- 29% of domestic abuse offences were alcohol related.
- Assault without injury, assault with injury, and stalking were the most reported DA crime types in Lancaster.
- In 2024 the highest number of offences were reported in the Westgate ward, followed by West End, Scale Hall, and Poulton wards.

In Lancaster, 37% 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 Lancaster district population, where 14% make up this category. Therefore, showing an overrepresentation of DA victims within the Urban Adversity category compared to the district population.

REOFFENDING

The reoffending rate for Lancaster is 29.8%, 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 85% male, 15% female – this has remained similar in recent years. Males have a higher repeat rate than females.

The average number of reoffences per reoffender is generally greater for males than females.

The ethnicity of 95% of repeat offenders is white. The repeat rate for white ethnicity is higher than other ethnic backgrounds.

Peak age groups are between **30-39 years** – 30% of all reoffenders are within these age ranges.

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 Lancaster 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 **Castle, Poulton, West End, and Westgate** – these wards account for 43% of ASB across the district.

- 16% of incidents were **noise nuisance**.
- 12% of incidents were **neighbour disputes**.
- 18% of incidents were **youth related**.
- 6% were **moto nuisance** related.

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

Lancaster is ranked 112th **most deprived** district in England.

Life expectancy in Lancaster is lower for males and females than the UK average.

The **rate of employment** (70.9%) has remained similar over the last 5-year period and is below both the region (73.2%) and national rate (75.7%).

Lancaster has the 7th lowest rate of **claimant count** (3.0%) across Lancashire and is also lower 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 higher than the region and national rate (2023/24).



Lancaster has the 4th lowest rate of pupils achieving the **Key Stage 2** (aged 11 years) expected levels of **reading, writing** and **mathematics** across Lancashire, and is below the Lancashire and UK average.

Across all districts in Lancashire, Lancaster has the 8th highest **attainment 8** score (average grade across 8 core subjects, 15–16-year-olds) and is lower than the national rate.

Lancaster (3.2%) has a higher proportion of **NEET** (not in education, employment, or training) 16-17-year-olds than the Lancashire rate (3.1%), and ranks 7/14 across the county.

Lancaster has the lowest rate of 16–20-year-olds with no qualifications across the county.

Lancaster has the 8th lowest rate of **child obesity** (10–11-year-olds) across Lancashire and is lower than the region and national rate.

Overweight prevalence in adults (18+ years) is lower than the regional and national rate and ranks 3rd lowest across Lancashire.

Physically active adults (19+ years) are significantly better than the region and national rate and 2nd highest in Lancashire (2022/23).

20% of the population in Lancaster are deemed **disabled under the Equality Act** – 6th highest 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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