

Metro — Dynamics



# Lancashire LGR: detailed baseline findings report

September 2025



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# Population and demographics

# Lancashire's population is growing and ageing

Lancashire's population is projected to grow to 1.74m by 2047, a rise of 12% from the 2022 population figures upon which the projection was made. Preston is the most populous district and is projected to number over 187,000 residents by 2047. In proportional terms, growth is forecast to be the highest in Ribble Valley; in absolute terms, Preston is projected to add c.36,000 residents.

The population is unevenly distributed – Blackpool's population density is 4,135/km<sup>2</sup>, whilst the equivalent figure in Ribble Valley is 113/km<sup>2</sup>. Other areas with >1,000/km<sup>2</sup> include Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Preston and South Ribble. Life expectancy varies, with a c.7-year span between the lowest and highest for both males and females. The under 75 mortality rate and suicide rate are both higher than the England average, though again with significant variations between areas.

Internal migration is set to drive growth from 2026, with international migration especially important in Preston, Lancaster, Pendle, Burnley. Only Blackburn with Darwen and Preston are projected to have more births than deaths each year. Using adopted/emerging plans and the NPPF Standard Method adopted in Dec-24, Lancashire is estimated to add c.6,000–6,500 homes per annum.

Within the projections, younger cohorts shrink as a share, working-age numbers edge up only slightly, and older cohorts expand rapidly. Under-18s fall as a proportion across every area from 2026; working-age is broadly flat overall (buoyed a little in university/urban centres like Preston and Lancaster). The 65+ population rises strongly and the 80+ cohort almost doubles, pushing up the old-age dependency ratio (OADR). This is highest on the Fylde/Wyre coast (where over 30% of people are projected to be of state pension age by 2047) and lower in faster growing urban centres.

## Population



**1.74m**  
2047 projection

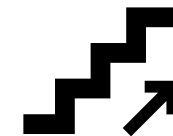
## Life expectancy



**73.1**  
Blackpool (males)

**85.0**  
Ribble Valley (females)

## Ageing cohort



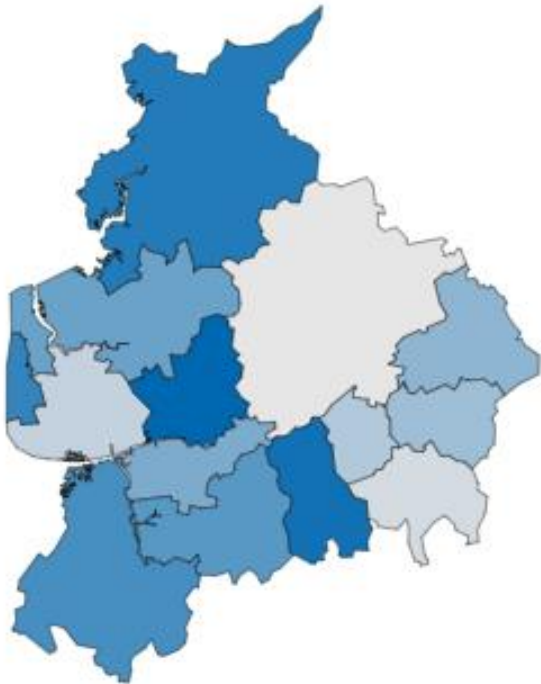
**-9.5%**  
0-17 group by 2047

**+86.9%**  
80+ group by 2047

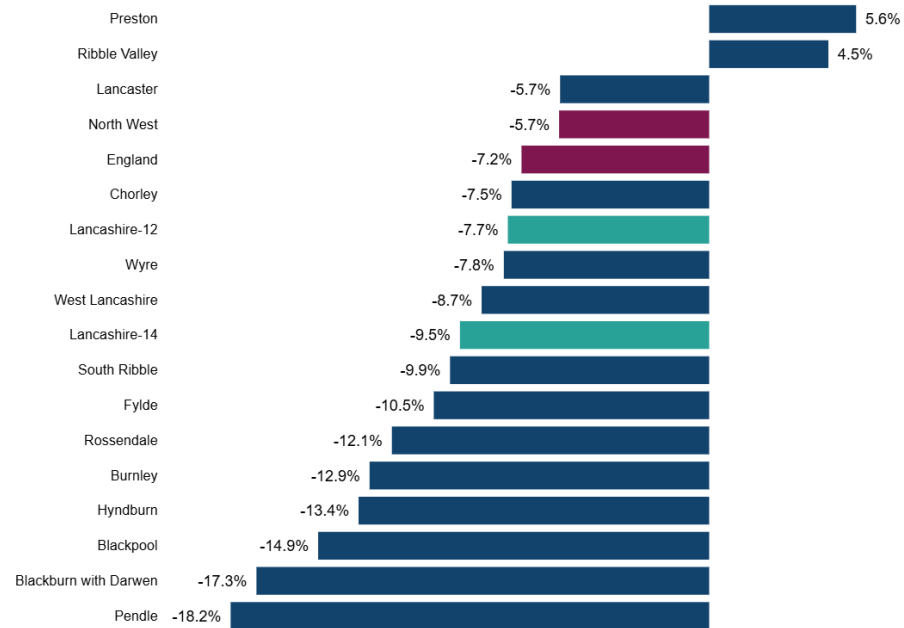
# Resident population and growth to 2047

	BwD	BPL	Bur	Cho	Fyl	Hyn	Lan	Pen	Pre	RVa	Ros	SRi	WLa	Wyr	LCC	Lancs-15
Projected Resident Population (2047, end year)	160,856	146,915	104,521	137,523	100,991	88,238	160,279	101,846	187,929	79,288	76,523	124,005	129,252	139,310	1,429,706	<b>1,737,476</b>
Rate of change from 2022	<b>3.2%</b>	3.7%	9.3%	15.9%	21.7%	6.0%	10.9%	5.9%	23.7%	<b>25.6%</b>	7.5%	10.5%	8.3%	21.2%	14.0%	<b>12.0%</b>

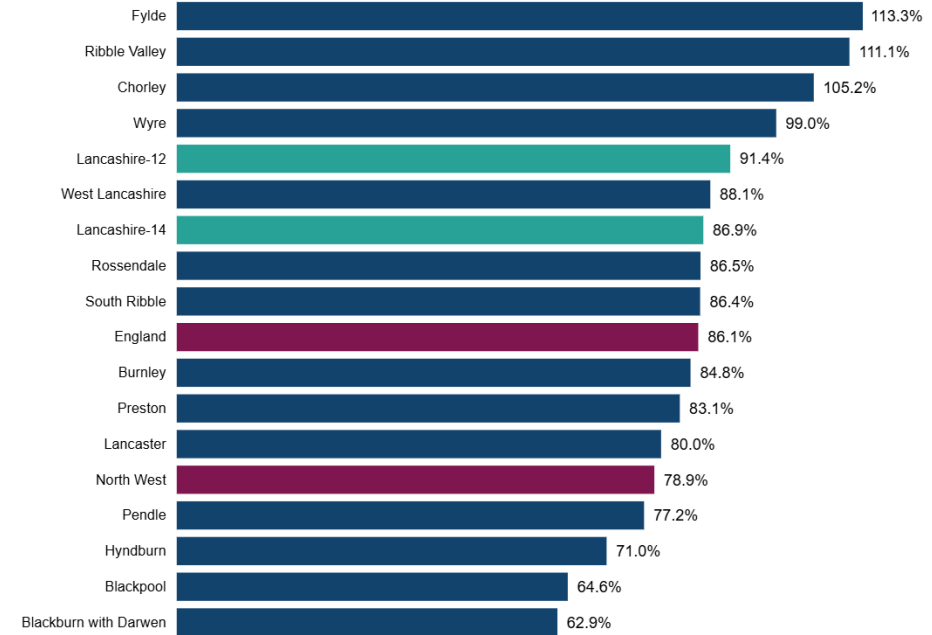
**Total resident population heatmap**



**Projected growth to 2047: 0-17**



**Projected growth to 2047: 80+**

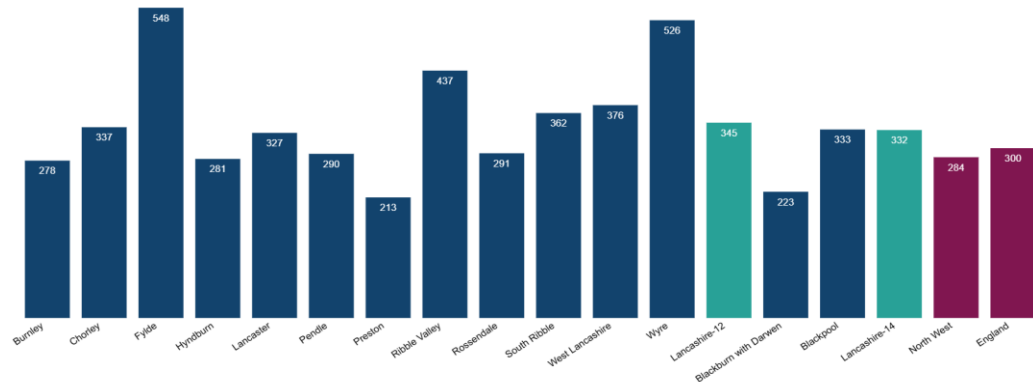


# Life expectancy, age growth and migration

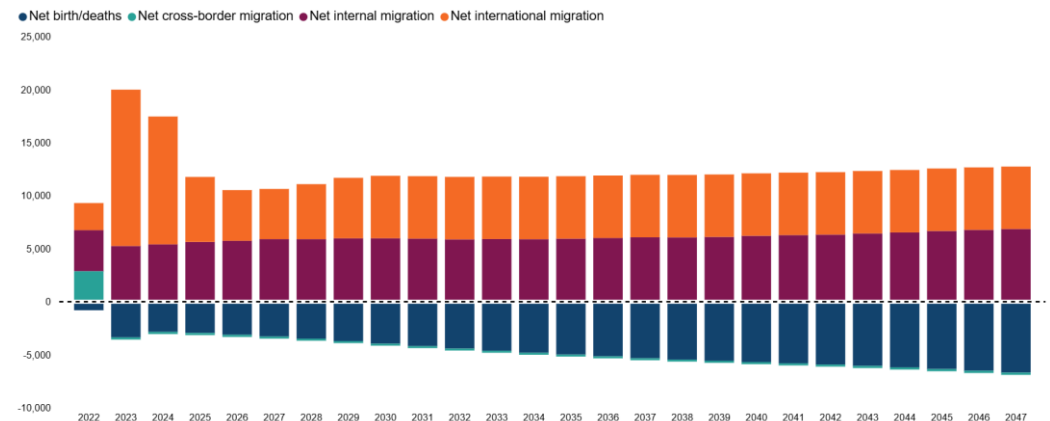
## Life expectancy and mortality

Authority	Life expectancy, males (3-year range)	Life expectancy, females (3-year range)	Under 75 mortality rate (all causes)	Suicide rate
Blackburn with Darwen	75.6	80.1	474.9	12.0
Blackpool	<b>73.1</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>622.1</b>	16.7
Burnley	75.5	80.1	495.8	17.4
Chorley	78.3	82.3	385.7	14.2
Fylde	79.0	83.0	313.8	<b>8.6</b>
Hyndburn	76.1	80.0	481.8	14.9
Lancaster	77.4	81.7	444.9	<b>17.8</b>
Pendle	77.7	81.4	432.6	15.2
Preston	76.3	81.3	454.5	<b>17.8</b>
Ribble Valley	<b>81.1</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>289.7</b>	12.1
Rosendale	77.1	81.3	409.4	10.3
South Ribble	79.9	83.7	327.0	12.5
West Lancashire	79.0	82.5	361.3	12.8
Wyre	78.6	81.9	369.4	12.1
North West	77.5	81.6	408.1	13.3
England	79.1	83.1	341.6	10.7

## Projected number of people of state pension age per 1,000 working age adults (2047)



## Net change in migration by component of change (2022-2047)



# Deprivation

# Deprivation varies significantly

As to be expected across such a diverse region, there is a varied picture on deprivation. Blackpool, Burnley, Blackburn with Darwen and Hyndburn are among the most deprived areas nationally ranked by the IMD, with little movement since 2015. Ribble Valley is the least deprived in the county.

These patterns reinforce a well-established divide between the urban east and Blackpool, where disadvantage is typically concentrated, and more rural or commuter areas, where outcomes are stronger. However, the IMD has limitations - it tends to understate hidden deprivation in rural areas, where issues like access to services and fuel poverty are acute but dispersed. The forthcoming 2025 release will be important in showing whether these trends have deepened through the COVID-19 pandemic and cost-of-living crisis.

Fuel poverty rates exceed the national proportion in several authorities, while insolvency data show persistently high levels in Blackpool, Preston, and Burnley. Taken together, this highlights significant challenges where low incomes, indebtedness, and poor housing quality reinforce each other, alongside pressures that are more dispersed such as rising insolvency and fuel poverty in semi-rural areas.

## Deprivation\*



**1**  
Blackpool

**283**  
Ribble Valley

\* Out of 324 – higher = less deprived

## Fuel poverty



**9**  
Out of 14 authorities with above-national proportion fuel poverty

## Insolvency



**4**  
Out of 14 authorities with below-average insolvency rates

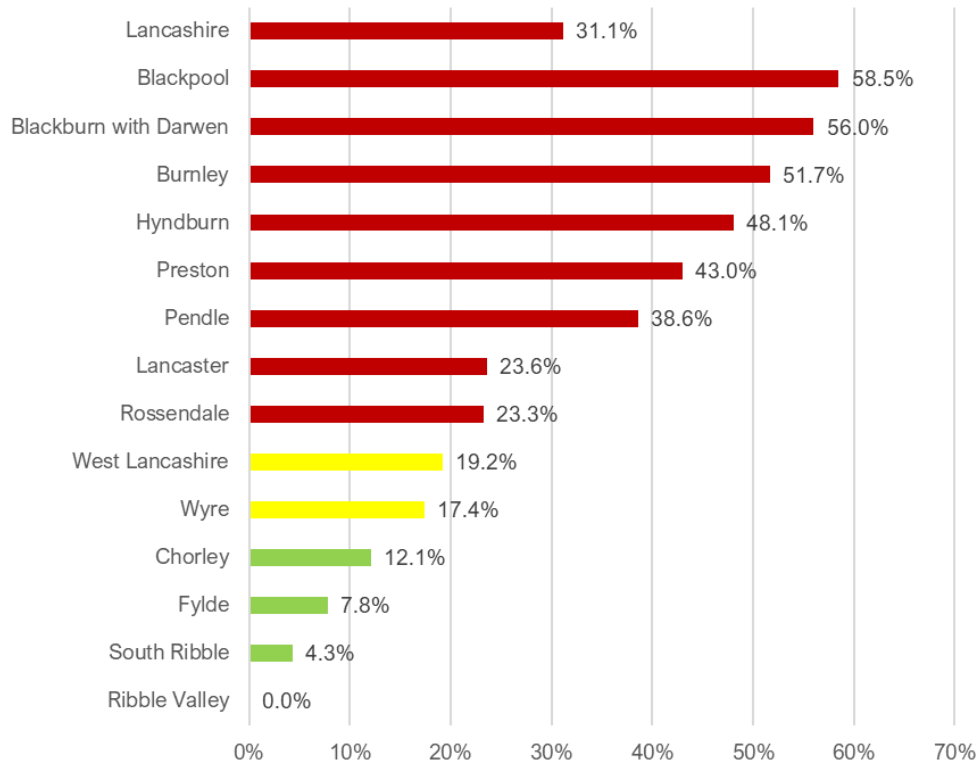
## Indices of Multiple Deprivation – Lancashire authorities (2015 to 2019)\* *Higher rank = better*

Authority	Rank of Average Score (2015)	Percentile (2015)	Decile (2015)	Rank of Average Score (2019)	Percentile (2019)	Decile (2019)	Change in Percentile
Blackburn with Darwen	15	4.6%	1	9	2.8%	1	-1.8%
Blackpool	<b>1</b>	0.3%	1	<b>1</b>	0.3%	1	No change
Burnley	9	2.8%	1	8	2.5%	1	-0.2%
Chorley	175	53.7%	6	177	55.8%	6	2.2%
Fylde	217	66.6%	7	195	61.5%	7	-5.1%
Hyndburn	26	8.0%	1	16	5.0%	1	-2.9%
Lancaster	105	32.2%	4	89	28.1%	3	-4.1%
Pendle	38	11.7%	2	33	10.4%	2	-1.2%
Preston	61	18.7%	2	45	14.2%	2	-4.5%
Ribble Valley	<b>292</b>	89.6%	9	<b>283</b>	89.3%	9	-0.3%
Rossendale	108	33.1%	4	92	29.0%	3	-4.1%
South Ribble	229	70.2%	8	204	64.4%	7	-5.9%
West Lancashire	139	42.6%	5	155	48.9%	5	6.3%
Wyre	145	44.5%	5	129	40.7%	5	-3.8%

\* - new IMD data is set to be released later in 2025

## Indices of Multiple Deprivation – Lancashire authorities (2015 to 2019)\* *Higher rank = better*

### Proportion in most 20% most deprived nationally

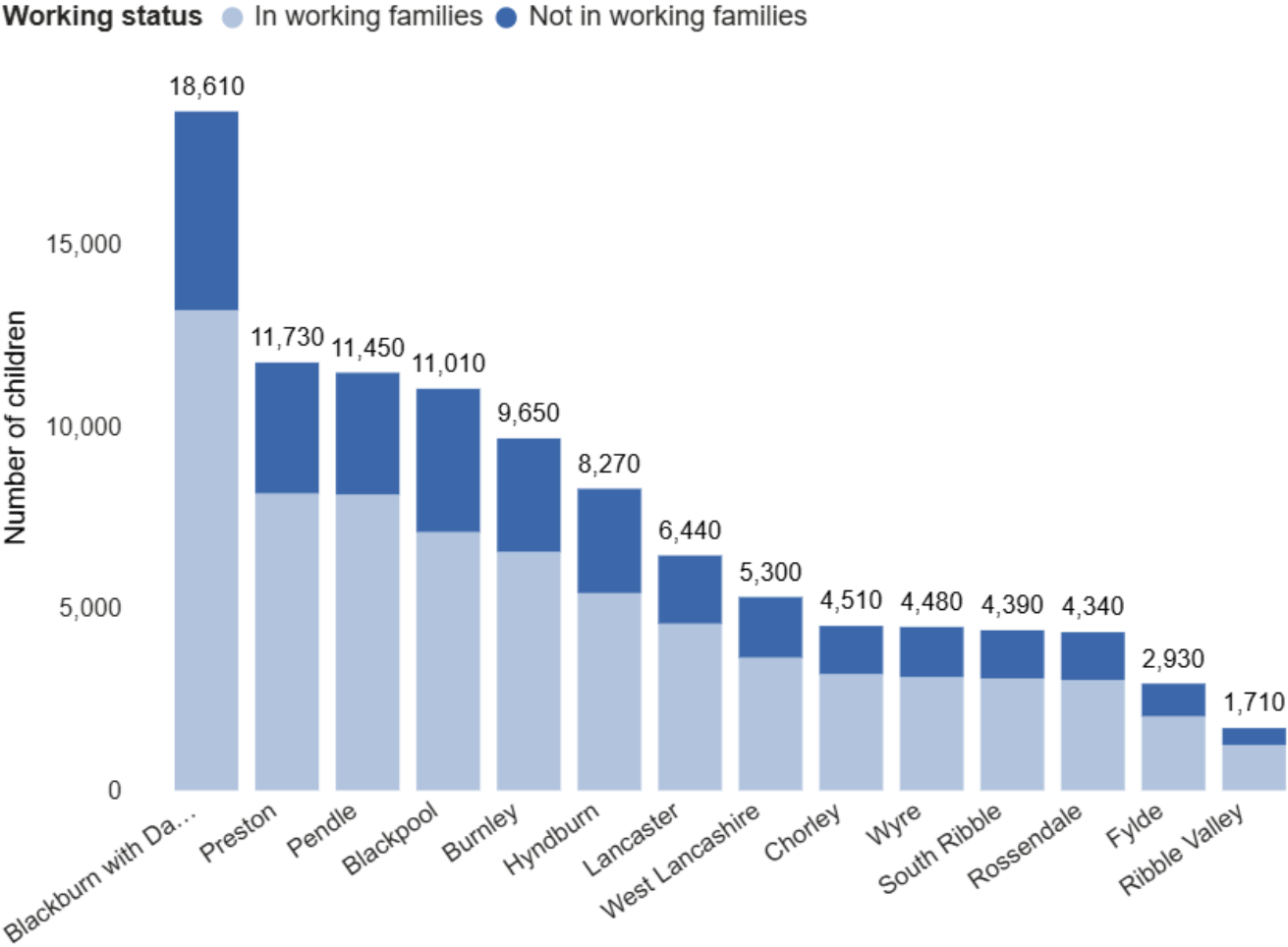


- The chart to the left shows the proportion of neighbourhoods which are in the most deprived 20% nationally across the 14 districts and across Lancashire.
- Almost a quarter of neighbourhoods are in the 20% most deprived nationally, much of which is concentrated in Morecambe. West Lancashire and Wyre have about 20% of neighbourhoods in the most 20% deprived nationally – in West Lancashire deprivation this is concentrated in Skelmersdale. Deprivation is more spread in Wyre, but Fleetwood is towards the highest the most deprived nationally.
- Inequality in lived experience in Lancashire is emphasised by no neighbourhoods in the least 20% deprived nationally in Ribble Valley, only 4% in South Ribble and 8% in Fylde. Chorley also experiences a relatively low level of deprivation particularly within Lancashire.
- Though useful in a range of ways to determine the scale, extent and nature of deprivation across urban areas, it is widely recognised that IMD rankings can underestimate rural poverty due to low densities of populations.

\* - new IMD data is set to be released later in 2025

# Deprivation and social mobility

**Number of children in relative low-income families by family working status (2023/24)**



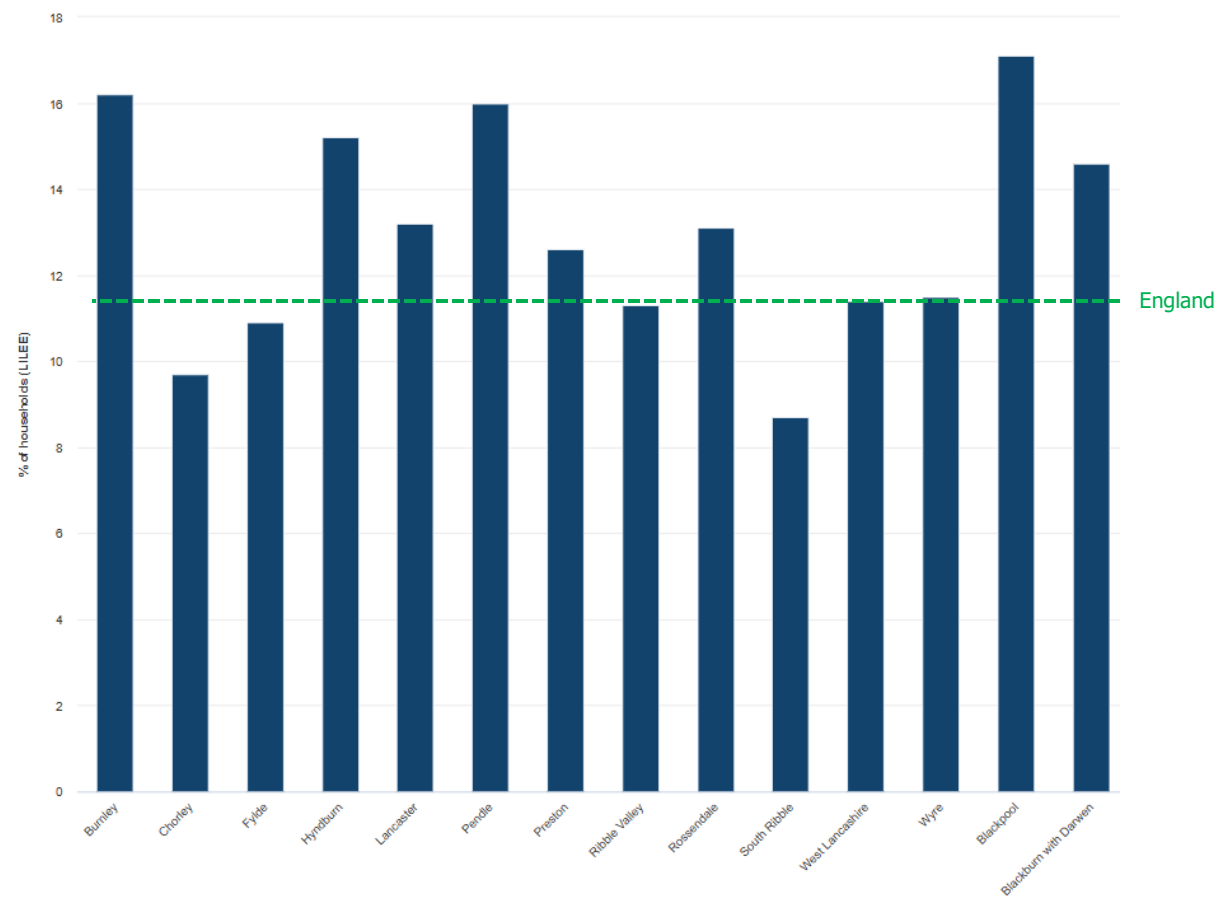
\*figures may vary due to rounding

# Insolvency and fuel poverty

### Personal insolvency cases (2014-2024)

Authority	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Ten-year rate of change	Insolvency cases per 10,000 18+ residents (2024)
Blackburn with Darwen	238	226	272	275	306	340	264	322	292	275	376	58.0%	32.1
Blackpool	422	334	384	421	492	552	467	427	501	491	571	35.3%	50.1
Burnley	163	136	137	209	274	287	235	277	296	241	291	78.5%	39.2
Chorley	229	185	215	201	211	336	268	219	233	224	214	-6.6%	22.4
Fylde	123	82	119	123	149	171	175	141	181	135	170	38.2%	24.3
Hyndburn	190	127	136	180	211	231	203	217	221	192	199	4.7%	30.5
Lancaster	222	195	213	236	280	309	265	259	284	260	323	45.5%	27.1
Pendle	159	133	136	180	197	198	169	206	222	201	231	45.3%	31.3
Preston	313	301	303	315	367	397	307	270	311	302	400	27.8%	32.9
Ribble Valley	95	72	77	71	91	89	87	103	103	83	70	-26.3%	13.4
Rossendale	135	120	140	156	148	187	153	157	223	178	195	44.4%	34.7
South Ribble	199	171	162	178	213	228	200	179	184	149	236	18.6%	25.9
West Lancashire	204	188	221	214	241	244	210	220	236	182	259	27.0%	26.3
Wyre	209	180	192	173	224	277	255	244	269	242	234	12.0%	24.3
England	91k	75k	84k	93k	108k	115k	105k	104k	112k	97k	111k	21.6%	24.4

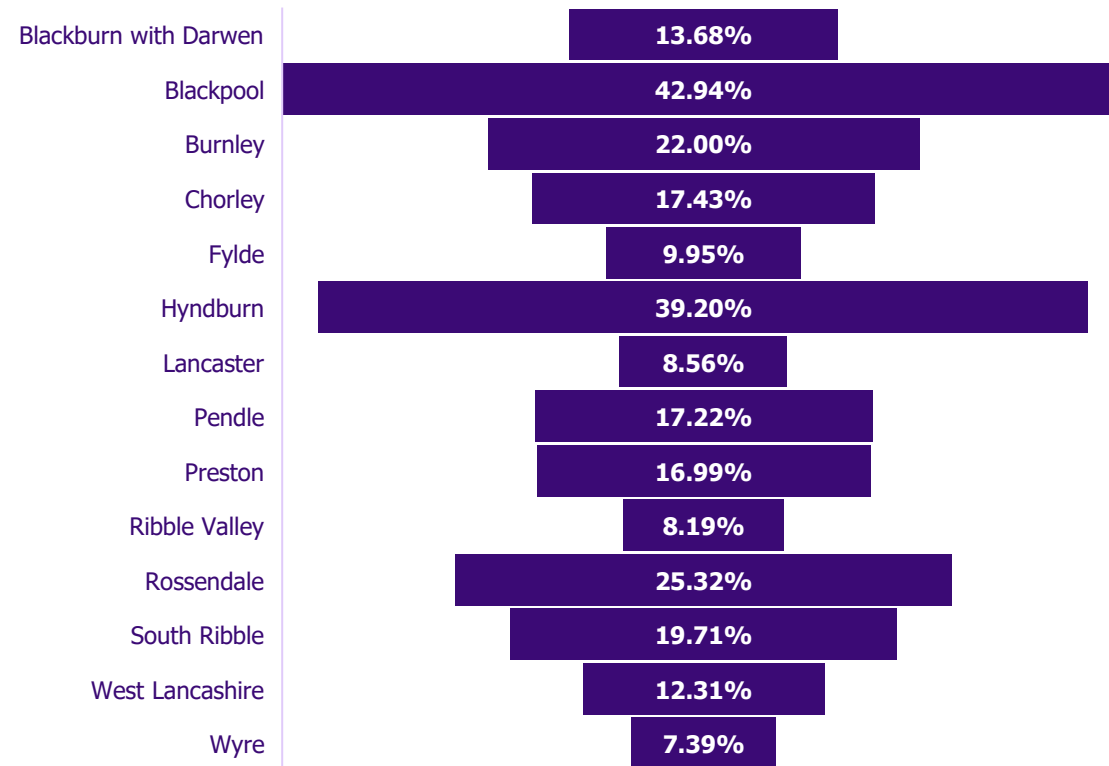
### Percentage of households in fuel poverty (2023)



## Access to broadband connectivity (Ofcom, Apr 2025)

Authority	Full Fibre availability (% premises – residential and commercial)
Blackburn with Darwen	78.3
Blackpool	<b>41.1</b>
Burnley	82.2
Chorley	83.4
Fylde	87.8
Hyndburn	<b>92.2</b>
Lancaster	85.4
Pendle	86.5
Preston	64.9
Ribble Valley	77.7
Rossendale	89.3
South Ribble	60.3
West Lancashire	77.1
Wyre	89.6
England	74.0

## High confidence' 5G coverage, all network operators (geographic) (Ofcom, Apr 2025)



England-wide figure is 9.37%

# Children, young people and families

## Overview of the service (what the service is)

Children's Social Care protects vulnerable children, assessing risks and needs, providing early help, family support, fostering, and adoption services. It intervenes when children are unsafe, works with partners, and promotes wellbeing, stability, and positive outcomes for children and families.

Education responsibilities include overseeing school admissions, allocating DSG funding, ensuring quality standards, supporting special educational needs and improving attainment.

## Current delivery process and structure (how it works now)

Children's social care and Education services are currently delivered by three upper-tier authorities: Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council. Recent inspections have highlighted significant weaknesses in SEND provision in Lancashire (last inspected in December 2024) and Blackpool (2024). Children's Services are rated Good in Lancashire (2022), Requires Improvement (Good for Care Leavers) in Blackpool (2022) and Good (except RI for Care Leavers) in Blackburn with Darwen (2025).

## Cost (current costs)

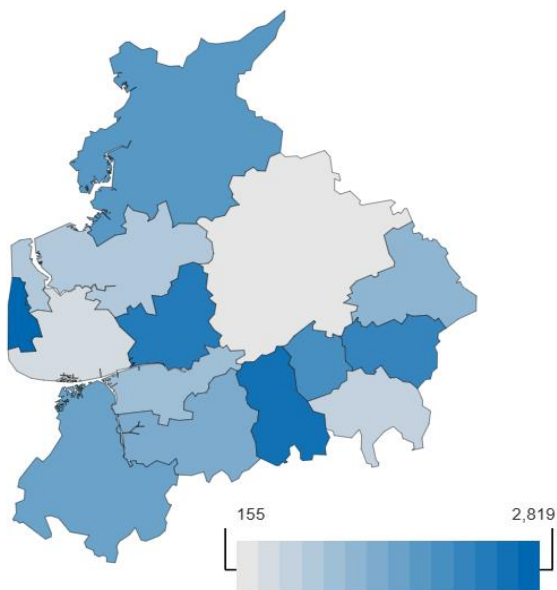
- Lancashire: £300m social care / £205m education
  - Blackburn with Darwen: £57m social care / £159m education
  - Blackpool: £78m social care / £78m education
- Taken together, gross annual spend exceeds **£875m** across social care and education.

## National/regional context and known challenges (what is happening outside of Lancashire)

- Children's Social Care and Education Services are under significant pressure nationally with rising costs of provision, increases in demand for support and increasing complexity of needs. This can be seen in the spiralling costs for SEND provision, Home to School Transport and Social Care Placements.
- Waitlists for health interventions (i.e. CMAHS, Autism Assessments, Therapies) continue to rise as the health system is under acute financial pressure across the North-West.
- The LGA have indicated that the funding gap for Children's Social Care alone will be £3.9b in 2026/27.
- The government are rolling out several initiatives aimed at reforming social care services including
  - **Families First** - providing early help to families, offering tailored support, improving parenting, strengthening relationships, preventing crises, and promoting children's wellbeing.
  - Family Hubs - providing local support, advice, and services for children, parents, and families in one place.
- SEND reforms are expected but it is currently unclear what form these will take and there is substantial lobbying ongoing both for and against significant overhauls of the current system that is widely regarded as broken or at best underfunded.

Metric	BwD	BPL	Bur	Cho	Fyl	Hyn	Lan	Pen	Pre	RVa	Ros	SRi	WLa	Wyr
Number of contacts	10,703	13,777	6,367	4,438	2,949	5,931	6,068	4,734	8,440	1,402	3,596	4,417	4,496	4,595
Rate of referrals per 10,000 0-17 year olds	674	975	385	264	214	409	287	263	333	126	259	270	300	224
Rate of assessments started per 10,000 0-17 year olds	806	960	431	304	239	417	318	293	369	120	260	307	305	239
Number of section 47 enquiries started in period	1,276	901	281	292	91	222	309	199	494	32	127	237	207	187
Rate of section 47 enquiries started per 10,000 0-17 year olds	305	312	122	122	64	114	117	83	136	26	82	104	92	90

## Total number of referrals heatmap

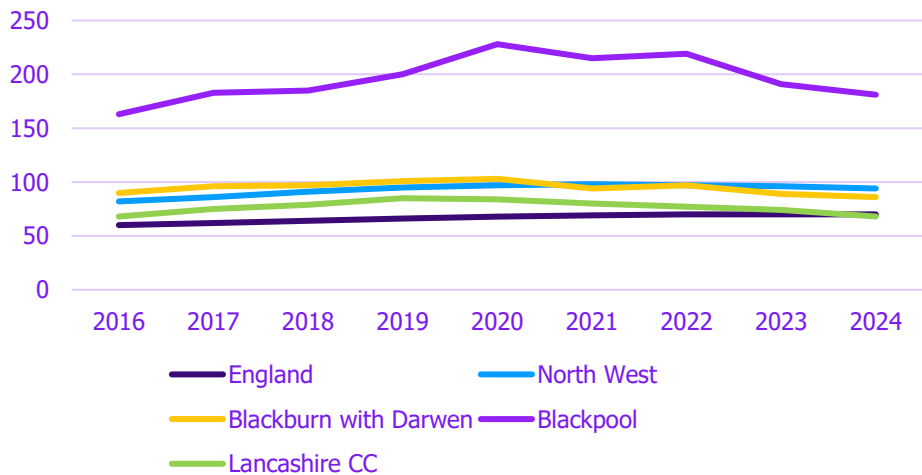


## Narrative/Insights

- Contact data should be treated with caution as it makes no distinction on the significance of the contact or the outcome. It is also very likely to contain significant levels of duplication. Comparisons across councils should also be treated with caution as there are inconsistencies in how data is recorded.
- Similarly, referral thresholds differ across councils and there can be issues with partners understanding local thresholds leading to inappropriate levels of referrals. Local areas do however have common thresholds in place.
- The rate of referrals for support per 10,000 children is higher than the England (518) and North-West (512) averages in Blackburn and Blackpool. However, the figure for both areas is in line with statistical neighbours. The figure for Lancashire as a whole is significantly below statistical neighbour figures.
- Blackpool and Blackburn have above average %s of referrals where children are assessed as having no need and below average rates of cases being closed with "no further action".
- Section 47 enquiries are initiated where serious harm is suspected and are arguably a better proxy for demand however the threshold can still be interpreted differently by LAs. Blackburn with Darwen do have a high rate of section 47 enquiries using this data although it should be noted this is in line with their statistical neighbours.

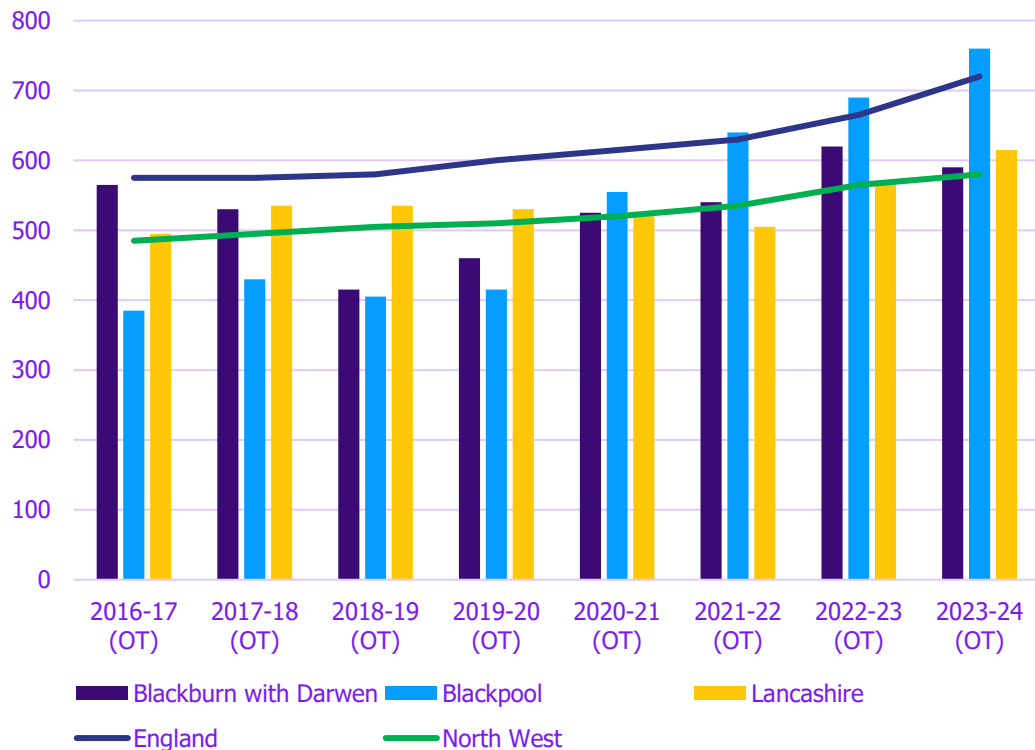
Metric	BwD	BPL	Bur	Cho	Fyl	Hyn	Lan	Pen	Pre	RVa	Ros	SRi	WLa	Wyr
Children open to EH / Children subject of active Early Help plan end of period	446	753	302	156	115	250	267	243	336	61	142	207	289	212
CIN Plans	386	408	100	90	60	78	135	98	156	26	42	107	106	87
Child Protection Plans	328	249	101	98	29	77	86	75	111	14	53	77	67	64
Children Looked After	374	531	265	123	50	167	172	156	272	26	66	102	95	100
Care leavers who have reached the threshold for leaving care services	358	283	88	62	27	72	89	76	195	18	30	86	44	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,892</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>500</b>

LAC rates per 10000



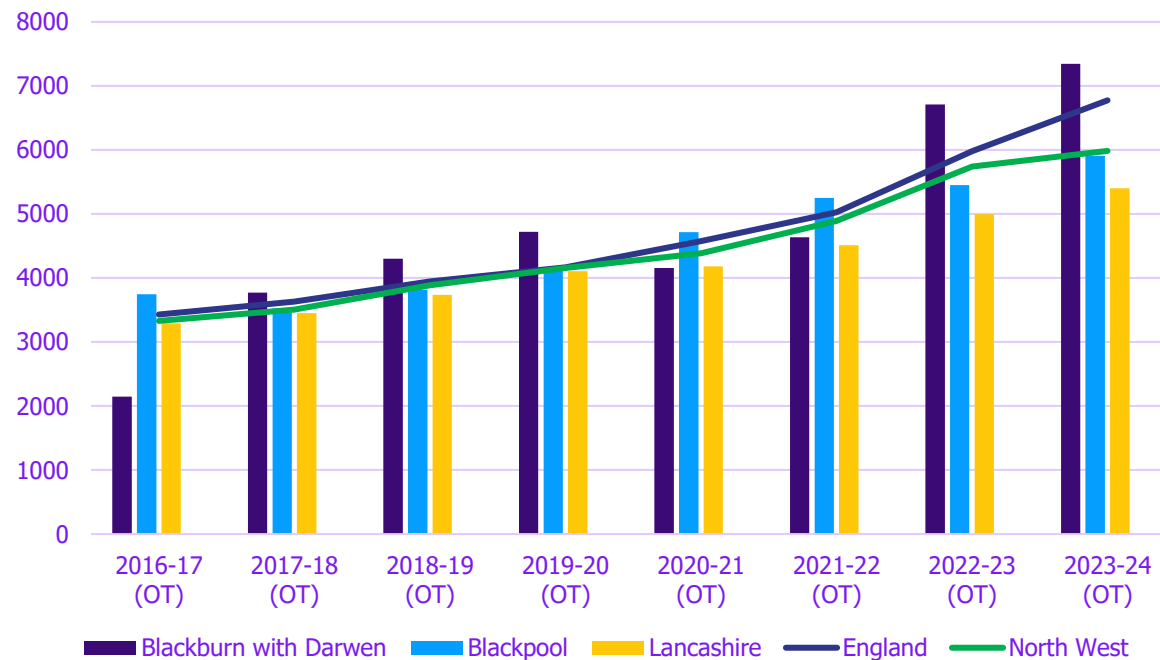
- Early Help thresholds and support can vary across Councils although the Government are rolling out significant reforms aimed at increased Family Support and Multiagency working. None of the 3 LAs were involved in Government pilots for this new approach but will now be planning roll out following a 2025 funding announcement.
- There is a common threshold approach covering the 3 upper tier LAs in Lancashire.
- Blackpool have a higher rate per 10,000 of children subject to a Child Protection Plan than statistical neighbours, Blackburn are broadly in line and Lancashire CC are well below.
- Rates of Looked After Children are decreasing in line with regional and national trends however weekly costs (£251) in both Lancashire and Blackpool are above their statistical neighbours which is in line with national coverage of increasing unit costs for Children’s Social Care.
- OFSTED judgements on the experience of Care Leavers is mixed across the 3 LAs with Lancashire CC and Blackpool rated good and Blackburn requires improvement.

## Fostering - S251/Outturn weekly unit costs over time



- Fostering costs have risen by between 4%-97% across the three LAs since 16/17 broadly in line with the national trend although Blackpool has seen a sharper increase from a lower starting point.

## Residential Care - S251/Outturn weekly unit costs over time



- Residential care costs have risen by between 58%-242% since 16/17
- Blackburn have seen a greater increase than other areas although they started from a lower starting point.



- Lancashire County Council has established a comprehensive network of 29 Family Hubs, launched in phases starting September 2023. These hubs serve as central points where families can access a wide range of services, including support from the NHS, schools, police, and voluntary organizations.
- Blackburn with Darwen has transformed four children's centres into Family Hubs, offering integrated early help and support while Blackpool operates three family hubs.
- In July 2025, the government relaunched and expanded the Sure Start programme, rebranding it as Best Start. This initiative aims to establish up to 1,000 Best Start Family Hubs across every local authority in England by 2028, with a £500 million investment to support families with children under five.

Blackpool  
 Family Hubs

LANCASHIRE  
 FAMILY  
 HUBS  
 NETWORK

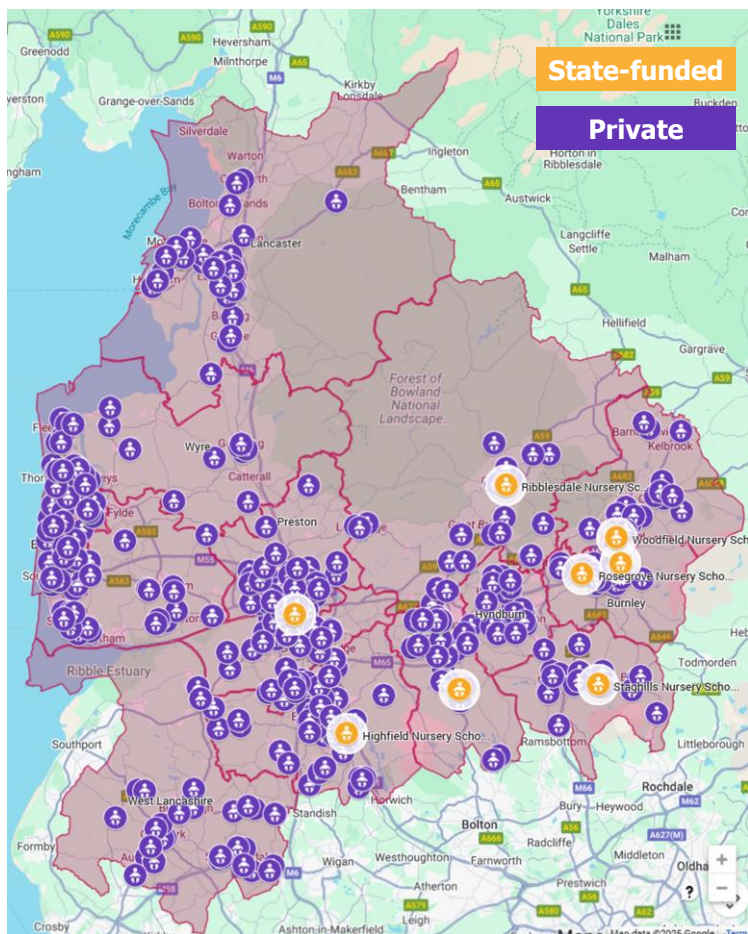


Family  
 Hub



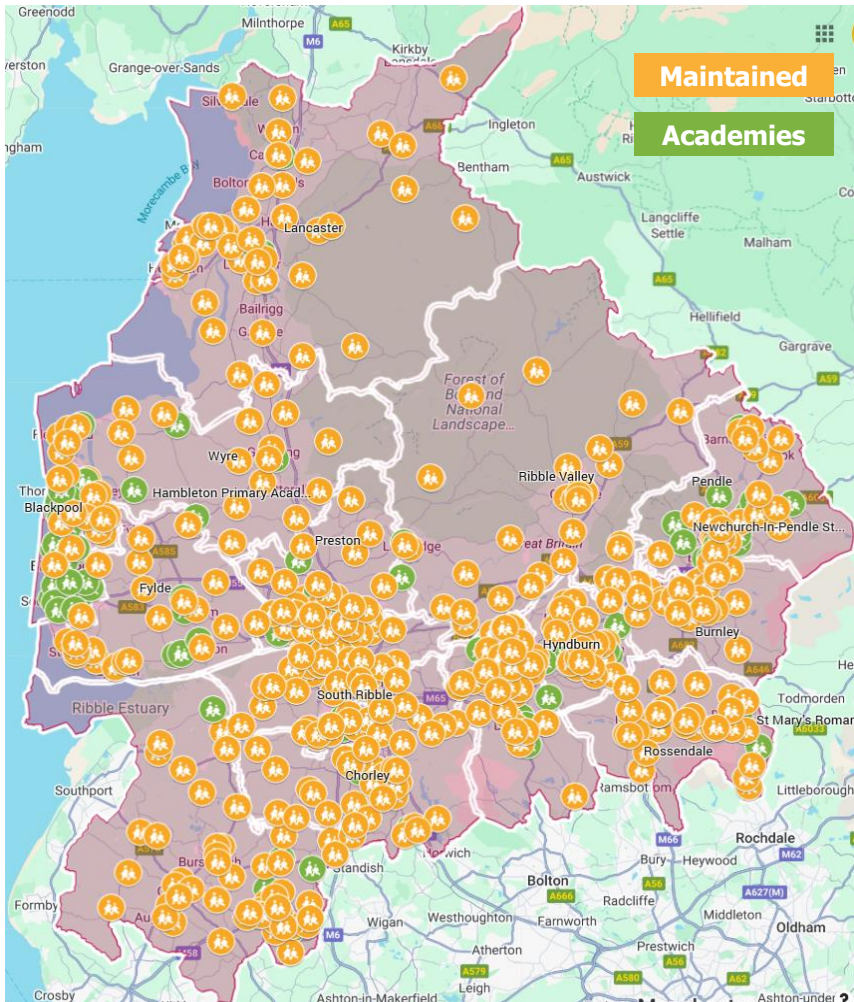
Darwen | Little Harwood | Livesey | Shadsworth

## Nursery provision across Lancashire (Ofsted and childcare provider-level data, Aug 2025)



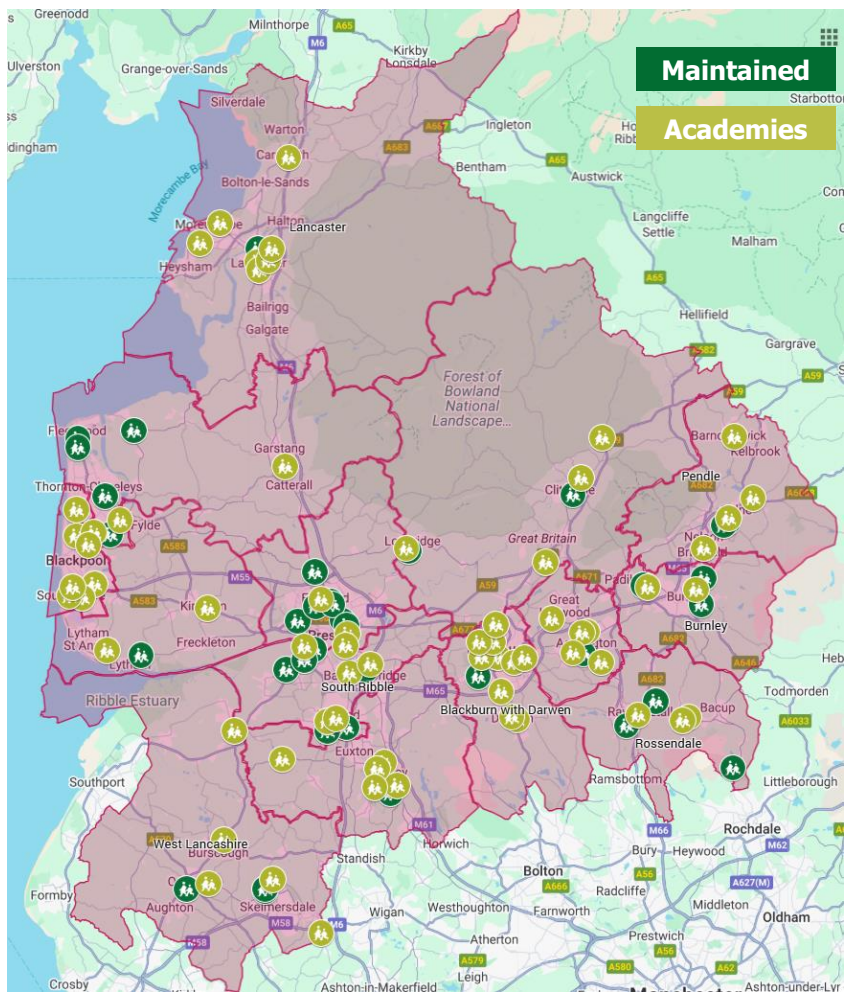
- Across Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool, there are over 450 Ofsted-registered nurseries. Provision is dominated by the private and voluntary sector, with just eight maintained (state-funded) nursery schools still operating across the area, in sharp contrast to the hundreds of private settings (this balance is not uncommon across England, as state-funded nurseries have declined in number).
- Provision is urban-centred - Preston, Blackburn, Burnley and Blackpool show the greatest concentrations of nurseries, with further clusters in Accrington, Chorley and Ormskirk. This broadly reflects demand, ensuring most families in larger towns live within reach of a setting.
- Rural coverage is thinner. Ribble Valley, Wyre and northern Lancaster have relatively few providers, meaning families may face longer journeys or reduced choice, with provision noticeably sparser compared to urban areas.
- The reliance on private provision makes the system more sensitive to local market pressures, including workforce shortages, financial sustainability, and fee structures. These pressures are likely to intensify as the recent expansion of free childcare entitlements (from April 2024) works through the system. While urban areas are relatively well covered in absolute numbers, rural districts and deprived neighbourhoods remain most at risk of access constraints, with implications for both family support and wider economic participation.

## Primary school provision across Lancashire (DfE data, 2023/24)



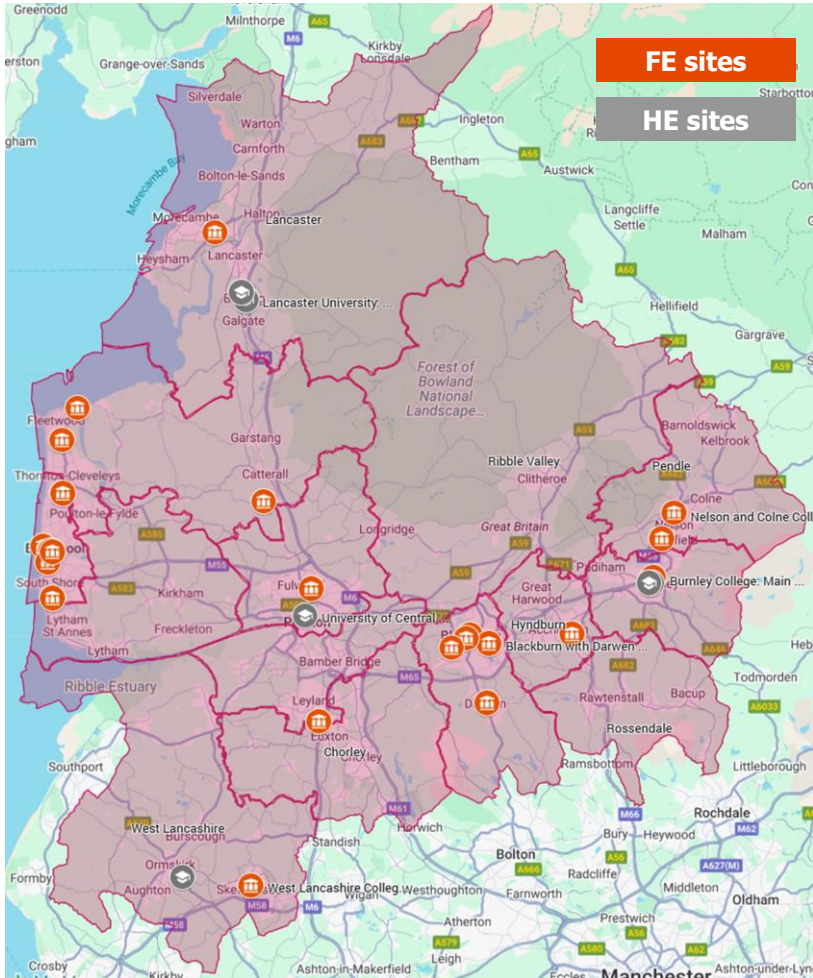
- There are 570 open primary schools across Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool, split between maintained (462) and academy governance (108). The distribution varies across the three authorities: Lancashire remains dominated by maintained schools, Blackburn with Darwen has a more mixed pattern, and Blackpool has the highest proportion of academies, with most primaries now within multi-academy trusts.
- This shows that Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen have relatively dense provision, while Blackpool stands out with fewer schools per head of pupils, reflecting its compact geography and larger average school sizes.
- Lancashire’s rural districts typically host smaller, village-based schools, ensuring local access but raising questions about long-term sustainability as pupil rolls fluctuate. In urban areas such as Preston, Blackburn and Burnley, schools are larger and denser, meaning choice and accessibility are less of a concern, but pressure on places can be acute in growth areas.
- The continued presence of many maintained schools in the county contrasts with the more extensive academisation in the unitaries, shifting system leadership towards trusts in Blackpool and, to a lesser degree, Blackburn with Darwen.
- Looking ahead, demographic pressures will shape demand. Forecasts suggest a flattening or decline in primary-age cohorts over the next decade in many districts, particularly in more rural areas, which may exacerbate viability issues for small schools. Urban centres, however, face more complex pressures from new housing growth and higher birth rates among some communities. Balancing capacity across shrinking and expanding catchments is a key future challenge.

## Secondary school provision across Lancashire (DfE data, 2023/24)



- There are 102 open secondary schools across Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool, of which nearly two-thirds are academies and the remainder maintained. This reflects the national trend towards academisation at secondary level, though the balance still varies by district.
- Provision is concentrated in the main urban centres (Preston, Blackburn, Burnley and Blackpool) where pupils have a choice of several schools within close reach. In contrast, Ribble Valley, Wyre and northern Lancaster are much more sparsely served, meaning pupils often face longer travel times and limited choice, with some areas dependent on a single large school to serve a wide rural catchment.
- Blackpool illustrates the challenges of compact provision - though schools are physically close to communities, there are relatively few per head of pupils, and most are large. This limits choice and contributes to a system highly dependent on the performance of a small number of institutions.
- Outcomes remain below national averages, underlining the importance of sustained improvement efforts. Blackburn with Darwen has a higher ratio of schools to pupils, but a mixed profile with a combination of strong performers and schools requiring improvement. Provision is geographically well spread, ensuring reasonable accessibility.
- Secondary rolls are still rising as larger primary cohorts feed through, but projections forecast a plateauing later in the decade. This will intensify sustainability pressures for rural schools with small intakes, while urban centres must continue to manage concentrated demand in growth neighbourhoods.
- Local authorities continue to have a vital role around admissions, place planning and transport, but with two-thirds of schools in trusts, MATs hold many of the levers to improve outcomes, particularly in Blackpool and parts of Burnley and Blackburn.

## Further and higher education provision across Lancashire (Ofsted, DfE and UCAS data, 2023/24)



- There are three campus universities across Lancashire (Lancaster, Edge Hill and UCLan) alongside a strong network of FE colleges including Blackpool and The Fylde, Blackburn, Burnley, Preston, Lancaster & Morecambe, Myerscough, Runshaw, Nelson & Colne Group, and West Lancashire. Collectively, they anchor a student population of over 70,000 in higher education and tens of thousands more in FE. This is significant in shaping the labour market, both through the pipeline of skills into local sectors and the wider economic footprint of students and institutions.
- Lancaster and Preston host large universities, while Burnley, Ormskirk, Blackburn and Blackpool have more specialist campuses and colleges. This ensures most districts are within reach of higher-level study, but with variations. Coastal and rural areas are more dependent on FE colleges and adult learning centres, which provide essential pathways into employment and reskilling for mature learners. Libraries and outreach centres reinforce this accessibility, particularly in Lancashire County Council where a countywide adult learning offer is embedded in community settings.
- Curriculum strengths map onto key sectors of the economy. Lancaster is internationally recognised for research in computing, environment and health innovation, UCLan has strong provision in engineering, nursing and creative industries, and Edge Hill specialises in teaching, health and social care.
- FE colleges focus heavily on technical and vocational routes, with specialisms such as nautical training in Fleetwood, land-based industries at Myerscough, and health, construction and digital provision across Burnley, Preston and Blackburn. Adult learning services support lower-level qualifications, English, maths and digital inclusion.
- The system underpins growth in health and social care, advanced manufacturing, digital, energy and the visitor economy. However, there is a mismatch between the scale of need and the distribution of provision. Blackpool, for instance, has a relatively small HE presence despite acute skills challenges, while rural areas face accessibility barriers despite strong demand in land-based sectors. This limits the capacity of the system to fully align with growth ambitions and employer needs across Lancashire.
- Local government reform offers opportunities to influence and shape Lancashire-wide initiatives, but councils have only partial levers - collaboration with providers, the combined authority and employer bodies is essential to shape FE and HE provision that continues to support the growth of Lancashire's future economy.

## Key attainment metrics

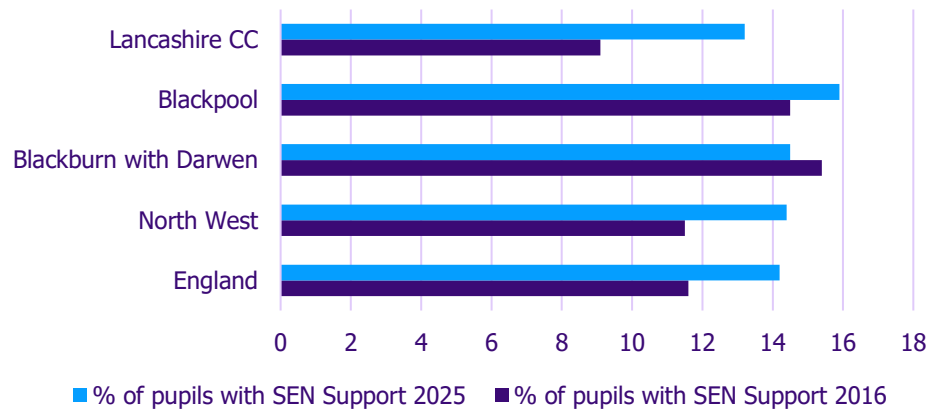
Metric	BwD	BPL	LCC	England
<b>KS2 - % reading, writing and mathematics, expected standards – all pupils</b>	62.0	53.0	60.0	61.0
<b>KS4 – Average Attainment 8 score per pupil</b>	44.2	34.8	44.9	46.1
<b>KS4 – Progress 8 Score</b>	-0.11	-0.96	-0.11	-0.03
<b>KS5 – Average point score (APS) per entry</b>	33.77	31.59	35.65	34.38
<b>KS5 - % achieving grades AAB or better at A level (inc.2 facilitating subjects)</b>	16.3%	10.6%	15.5%	17.1%

*Progress 8 tracks pupils progress between the end of Primary School and taking their GCSEs. A negative score indicates they are performing worse than their KS2 scores would expect and a positive score means they are out-performing their expected scores.*

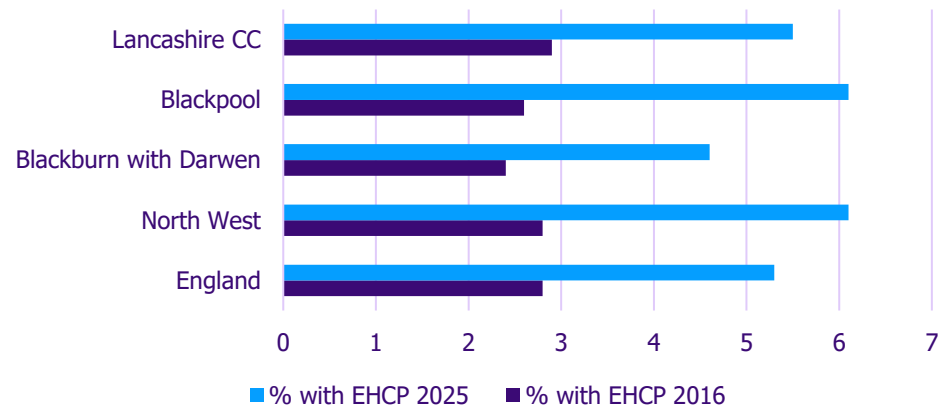
# Special educational need and disabilities

In line with national and regional trends the % (and numbers) of pupils requiring SEND support are rising across Lancashire, although Blackburn has seen a small fall in the percentage of pupils labelled as SEN support since 2016.

### Percentage of pupils with SEN support



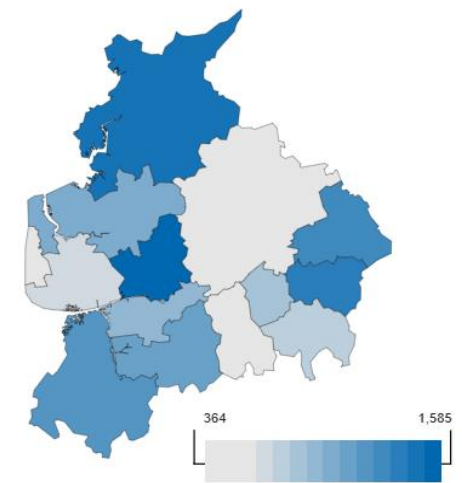
### Percentage of pupils with EHCPs



Metric	BwD	BPL	Bur	Cho	Fyl	Hyn	Lan	Pen	Pre	RVa	Ros	SRi	WLa	Wyr
Total number of EHCPs	1522	1661	1196	1043	706	865	1529	1131	1585	364	811	925	1124	956
Rate per 10,000 0–25-year-olds	259	406	373	317	362	315	318	342	276	216	381	293	304	327

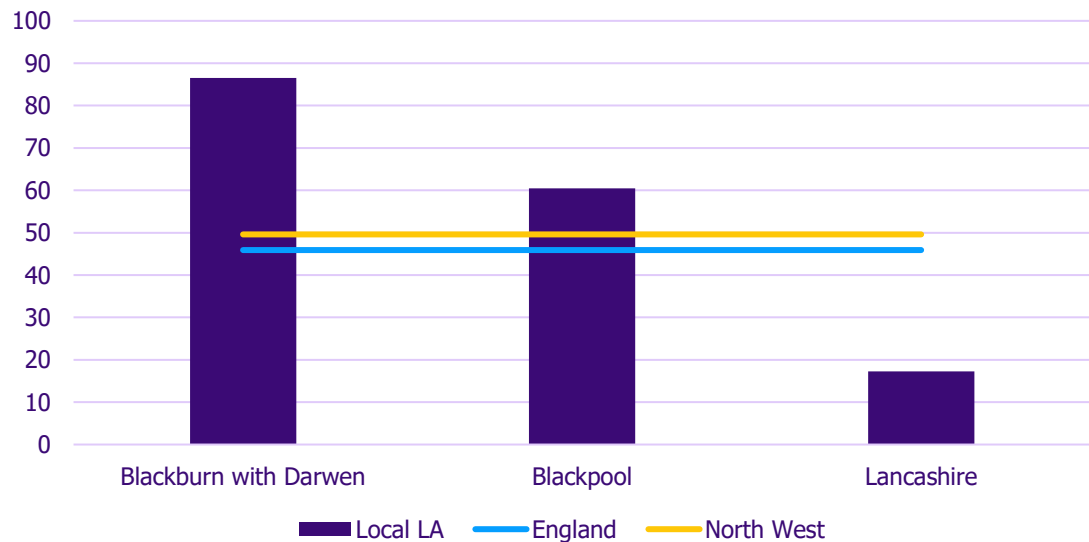
Data shows a relatively even spread of EHCPs by population size across Lancashire, with patterns tracking expected population clusters and levels of affluence.

### Total number of EHCPs heatmap

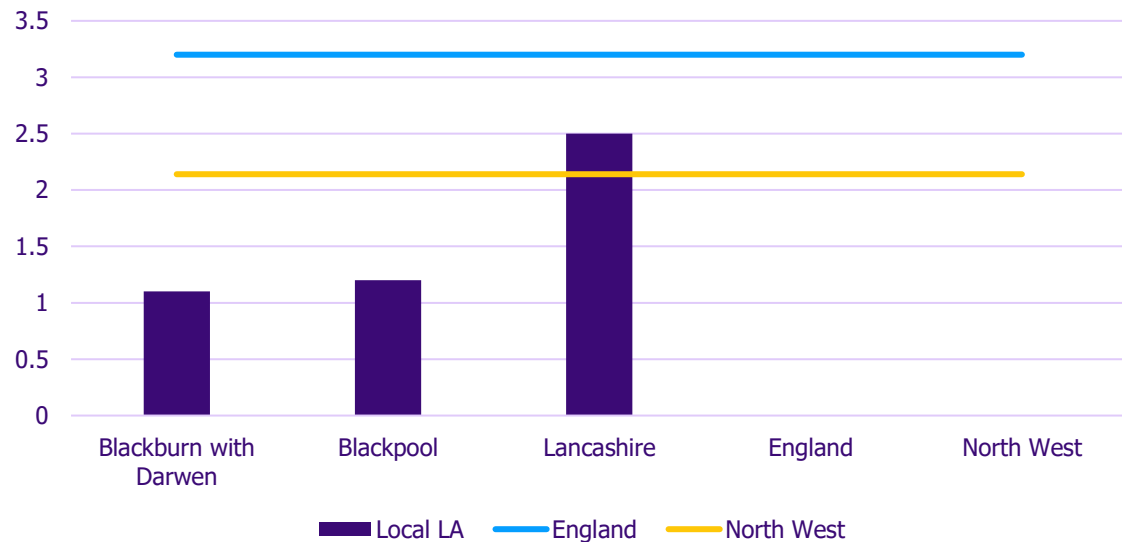


- Recent inspections in Blackpool and Lancashire have highlighted areas for improvement in SEND provision across Lancashire:
  - **Lancashire:** Delays in assessments, poor-quality EHC plans, inconsistent health service commissioning, unsuitable neurodivergent pathways, poor transition to adulthood, fragmented communication, and limited parental voice.
  - **Blackpool:** Inconsistent experiences for children with SEND, including long wait times for some services, a lack of joined-up practice between agencies, and low academic outcomes and high exclusions
- Performance in issuing EHC plans in 20 weeks is varied across the 3 upper tier areas with Lancashire looking to be a significant outlier in this regard
- Appeal rates to tribunal are below the national average in all 3 areas

**New EHC plans issued in 20 weeks (including exceptions)**



**Appeal rates to tribunal**



# Home to School Transport Spend

- Home to school transport is a particular challenge for County Councils across the Country. A LGA report has stated that the cost of Home to School Transport is “a product of the number of children and young people requiring transport multiplied by the length of the journeys provided; the type or mode of transport used; and the basic costs per mile determined by the price of fuel, vehicles, maintenance, drivers’ salaries and the robustness of the market.”
- With EHCP numbers and inflation both rising inevitably the cost of home to school transport is also rising across the Country.

Transport category	Gross spend		
	Blackburn with Darwen	Blackpool	Lancashire CC
Home to school transport (pre-16): SEN transport expenditure	£4,579,600	£1,953,422	£36,062,292
Home to school transport (pre-16): mainstream	£494,500	£233,435	£17,318,620
Home to post-16 provision: SEN/ LLDD (aged 16-18)	£ -	£20,000	£1,471,531
Home to post-16 provision: SEN/ LLDD (aged 19-25)	£ -	£97,429	£1,949,044
Home to post-16 provision transport: mainstream home to post-16 transport expenditure	£ -	£27,000	£ -

Lancashire-14 total: **£64.2m**



## What options do Local Authorities have?

In 2023 ADEPT published a comprehensive toolkit that describes the full range of actions that local authorities are taking to manage the increasing costs of home to school for children and young people with SEND. It groups initiatives under six core areas of activity: route optimisation and planning; independent travel training; eligibility; commissioning; personal transport budgets; and supplier management and market strengthening. We know that councils in Lancashire have been exploring all of these options in an effort to manage rising costs.

# Adult social care and health

## Overview of the service (what the service is)

Councils are responsible for ensuring adults with care and support needs receive appropriate help to live safely, independently, and with dignity. Their duties include assessing needs, providing or commissioning services, safeguarding vulnerable adults, supporting carers, promoting wellbeing, preventing future needs, and integrating with health partners.

The Council also have a key role in promoting Public Health by commissioning services, monitoring health trends, and working with partners to improve wellbeing.

## Current delivery process and structure (how it works now)

Adult social care is delivered by three upper-tier authorities: Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council. In 2025, the Care Quality Commission's new local authority assessments reported "Requires Improvement" (with a score of 50) for LCC, "Good" (67) for Blackburn with Darwen, and "Inadequate" for Blackpool (34) (although the Council have requested a review). All 3 Councils work with partners in the South Cumbria and Lancashire Integrated Care Board who commission health services across the region including Westmorland & Furness.

## Cost (current costs)

- Lancashire: £860m
  - Blackburn with Darwen: £117m
  - Blackpool: £118m
- Taken together, gross annual spend exceeds **£1bn**

## National/regional context and known challenges (what is happening outside of Lancashire)

- Adult social care continues to face pressure nationally, shaped by growing demand, an ageing population, rising complexity of need, and persistent workforce and funding challenges. Local authorities are spending more than ever on adult social care, budgeted at over £26 billion in 2025/26, but much of this increase is absorbed by rising costs, including a 6.7% increase in the National Living Wage and higher employer National Insurance contributions.
- The care workforce continues to face serious challenges, vacancy rates are high, while significant staff turnover, low pay, insufficient career progression and tighter immigration rules that weakened international recruitment increase challenges.
- NHS services are under significant pressures too with plans underway to reduce ICBs' footprint from 42 systems to approximately 26, aligning them more closely with strategic regional authorities to enhance governance and accountability alongside achieving budget reductions of up to 50%. This context is making successful partnership working particularly challenging.
- The NHS 10 year plan has recently been launched with a focus on moving services from hospital to community, shifting the focus from analogue to digital services and moving towards a prevention model.

# Population growth most concentrated in older groups

Population is projected to rise in Lancashire driven by an increasingly ageing cohort. Ribble Valley, Fylde, Preston and Chorley are projected to see the fastest rises in population, explained by projected rises in the number of people aged 65 and over by 1.5% a year. This demographic shift is likely to increase demand for adult social care and health services, particularly around long-term conditions and community-based support, over the period to 2047.

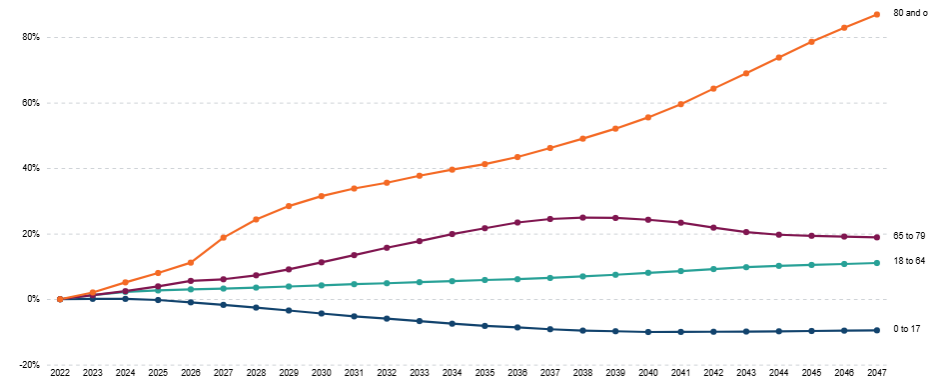
Population (2024)

Area	Aged 0-17	Aged 18-64	Aged 65+	Total
Blackburn with Darwen	41,804	97,561	23,175	162,540
Blackpool	28,923	85,283	29,985	144,191
Burnley	23,040	58,321	17,872	99,233
Chorley	24,021	71,541	25,277	120,839
Fylde	14,189	46,441	24,817	85,447
Hyndburn	19,443	51,127	15,488	86,058
Lancaster	26,480	88,085	30,441	145,006
Pendle	23,996	57,472	18,309	99,777
Preston	36,229	103,413	23,222	162,864
Ribble Valley	12,287	37,013	16,494	65,794
Rossendale	15,561	43,273	14,211	73,045
South Ribble	22,710	67,831	25,572	116,113
West Lancashire	22,619	71,930	27,446	121,995
Wyre	20,817	64,235	33,691	118,743

Population (2047)

Area	Aged 0-17	Aged 18-64	Aged 65+	Total
Blackburn with Darwen	33,090	98,779	28,984	160,854
Blackpool	24,054	86,137	36,723	146,912
Burnley	19,187	62,899	22,434	104,519
Chorley	22,072	80,804	34,648	137,527
Fylde	12,466	52,064	36,459	100,993
Hyndburn	16,349	52,873	19,017	88,236
Lancaster	24,715	95,771	39,792	160,280
Pendle	18,875	60,283	22,689	101,849
Preston	35,500	119,713	32,715	187,925
Ribble Valley	12,540	42,700	24,049	79,293
Rossendale	13,490	45,887	17,145	76,524
South Ribble	19,907	71,427	32,673	124,006
West Lancashire	20,195	73,930	35,126	129,255
Wyre	18,912	71,733	48,663	139,311

Change in the proportion of the population by age group (2022-2047)



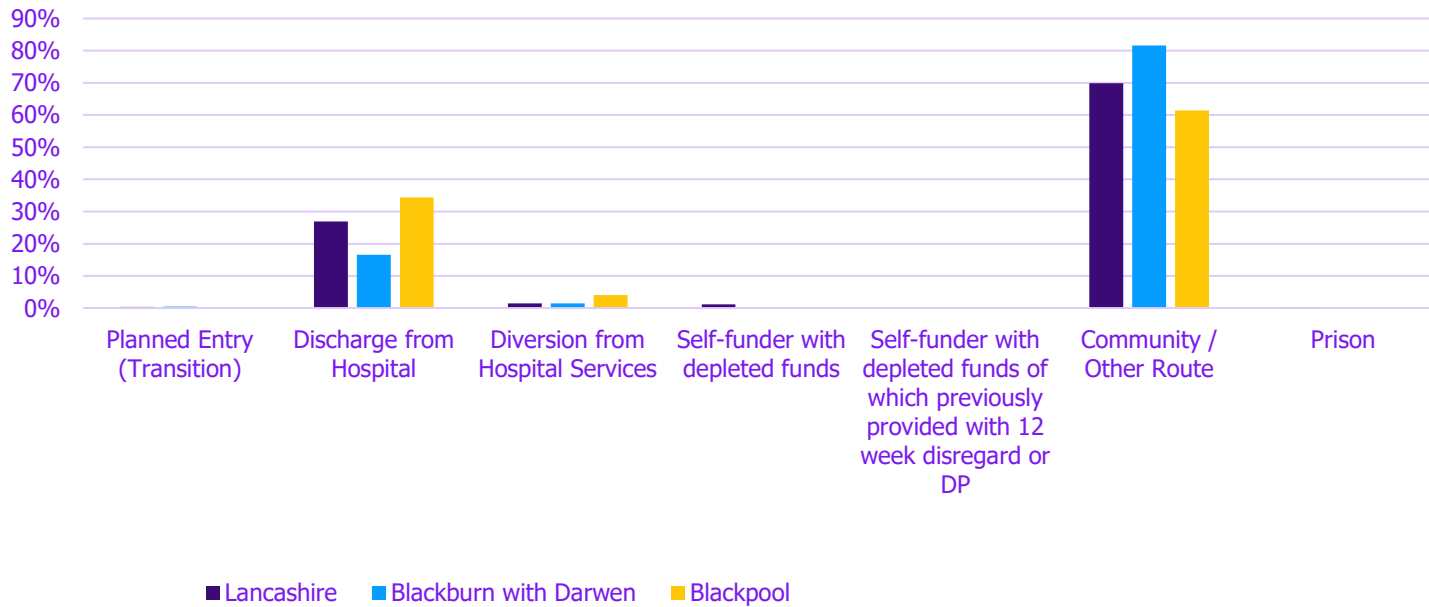
Source: Population Estimates, ONS, 2025; LG Inform Plus via Lancashire LGR Data Working Group

Demographic data indicates that there will be continued pressure on Adult Social Care Services.

# Demand: Number of referrals - Adult

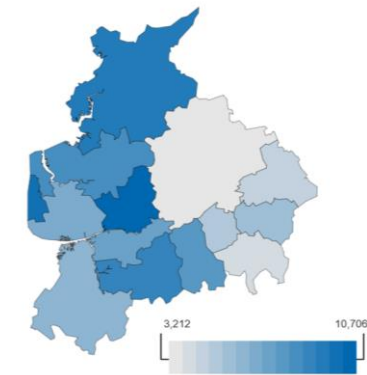
Metric	BwD	BPL	Bur	Cho	Fyl	Hyn	Lan	Pen	Pre	RVa	Ros	SRI	WLa	Wyr
Number of referrals – Adult	8,436	10,087	6,055	8,815	6,605	5,099	9,416	5,043	10,706	3,212	3,743	7,522	6,427	8,722
2024 MYE population (18+)	120,736	115,268	76,193	96,818	71,258	66,615	118,526	75,781	126,635	53,507	57,484	93,403	99,376	97,926
Referral rate per 100,000 (18+)	6,987	8,751	7,947	9,105	9,269	7,654	7,944	6,655	8,454	6,003	6,511	8,053	6,467	8,907
2047 projected population (18+)	127,766	122,861	85,334	115,451	88,525	71,889	135,564	82,971	152,429	66,748	63,033	104,098	109,057	120,398

## Referral Routes 2023-24



Across England (79%) and the North-West (80%) the majority of ASC referrals come through the community. This picture is quite different in a lot of Lancashire with a significant proportion of referrals coming from hospitals.

## Total number of referrals heatmap



# Projected future social care demand

Metric	BwD	BPL	Bur	Cho	Fyl	Hyn	Lan	Pen	Pre	RVa	Ros	SRi	WLa	Wyr	Lan-15
<b>Number of referrals – Adult</b>	8,436	10,087	6,055	8,815	6,605	5,099	9,416	5,043	10,706	3,212	3,743	7,522	6,427	8,722	99,888
<b>2024 MYE population (18+)</b>	120,736	115,268	76,193	96,818	71,258	66,615	118,526	75,781	126,635	53,507	57,484	93,403	99,376	97,926	1,269,526
<b>2047 projected population (18+)</b>	127,766	122,861	85,334	115,451	88,525	71,889	135,564	82,971	152,429	66,748	63,033	104,098	109,057	120,398	127,766
<b>Current rates per 100,000 residents (18+)</b>	6,987	8,751	7,947	9,105	9,269	7,654	7,944	6,655	8,454	6,003	6,511	8,053	6,467	8,907	7,868
<b>Future demand scenarios</b>															
<b>Flat rate <sup>1</sup></b>	8,927	10,751	6,781	10,511	8,206	5,503	10,770	5,521	12,887	4,007	4,104	8,383	7,053	10,724	114,128
<b>1% demand increase</b>	9,016	10,859	6,849	10,617	8,288	5,558	10,877	5,577	13,016	4,047	4,145	8,467	7,124	10,831	115,271
<b>2% demand increase</b>	9,106	10,966	6,917	10,722	8,370	5,613	10,985	5,632	13,144	4,087	4,186	8,551	7,194	10,938	116,411
<b>3% demand increase</b>	9,195	11,074	6,985	10,827	8,452	5,668	11,093	5,687	13,273	4,127	4,227	8,635	7,265	11,045	117,553

- Just short of 100,000 referrals were received over 2023/24. Looking ahead to 2047:
  - If demand levels remain constant, this will translate into approx. 114k referrals
  - If demand rises by 3%, this will translate into over 117k referrals
  - If demand rose by 10%, the number of referrals would equate to around 124k

The Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) is a national system for measuring how well adult social care services in England improve people’s lives. It focuses on four domains: enhancing quality of life, delaying and reducing care needs, ensuring positive experiences of care, and safeguarding adults. Councils use ASCOF data to benchmark performance, inform planning, and improve outcomes for people who use care and support services. Data for the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) is gathered from several main sources:

- Adult Social Care Survey (ASCS): Annual survey of people receiving long-term social care.
- Survey of Adult Carers in England (SACE): Biennial survey of unpaid carers.
- NHS Digital data collections: Including Short and Long Term (SALT) returns from councils.
- NHS outcomes data: Such as delayed transfers of care and health-related quality of life.
- Local authority records: Information on safeguarding, reablement, and service provision.



Blackpool rank highest of the 3 upper tier authorities regarding quality of life of people who use services (19.1 of a possible score of 24) and satisfaction with care and support (70.9% of respondents “satisfied” or “extremely satisfied.” Overall satisfaction of carers with Social Services is highest in Blackburn (45.5%).



A higher proportion of Adults with Learning Disabilities live in their own home or with their family than the regional and national average in all three areas.



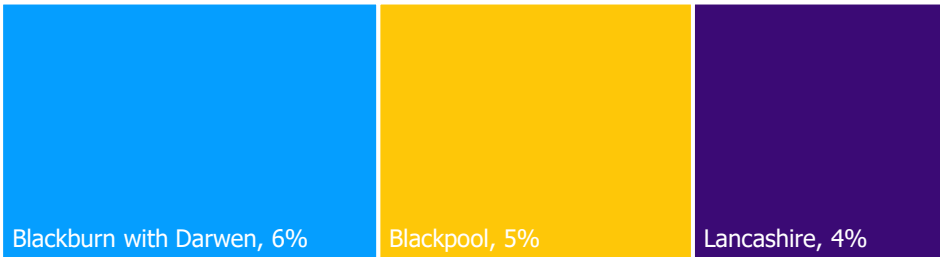
Service users are likely to report that they have control over their daily life in Blackpool (82.8% giving the two highest responses) and Lancashire CC (79.6%) and however Blackburn with Darwen (73.5%) are below the regional (78.6%) and national values (77.6%).



The proportion of service users receiving direct payments varies across the region with Blackpool (17.7%) benchmarking below the regional (24.2%) and national (25.5%) average whilst Blackburn with Darwen (27.6%) and Lancashire (30.8%) are both above.

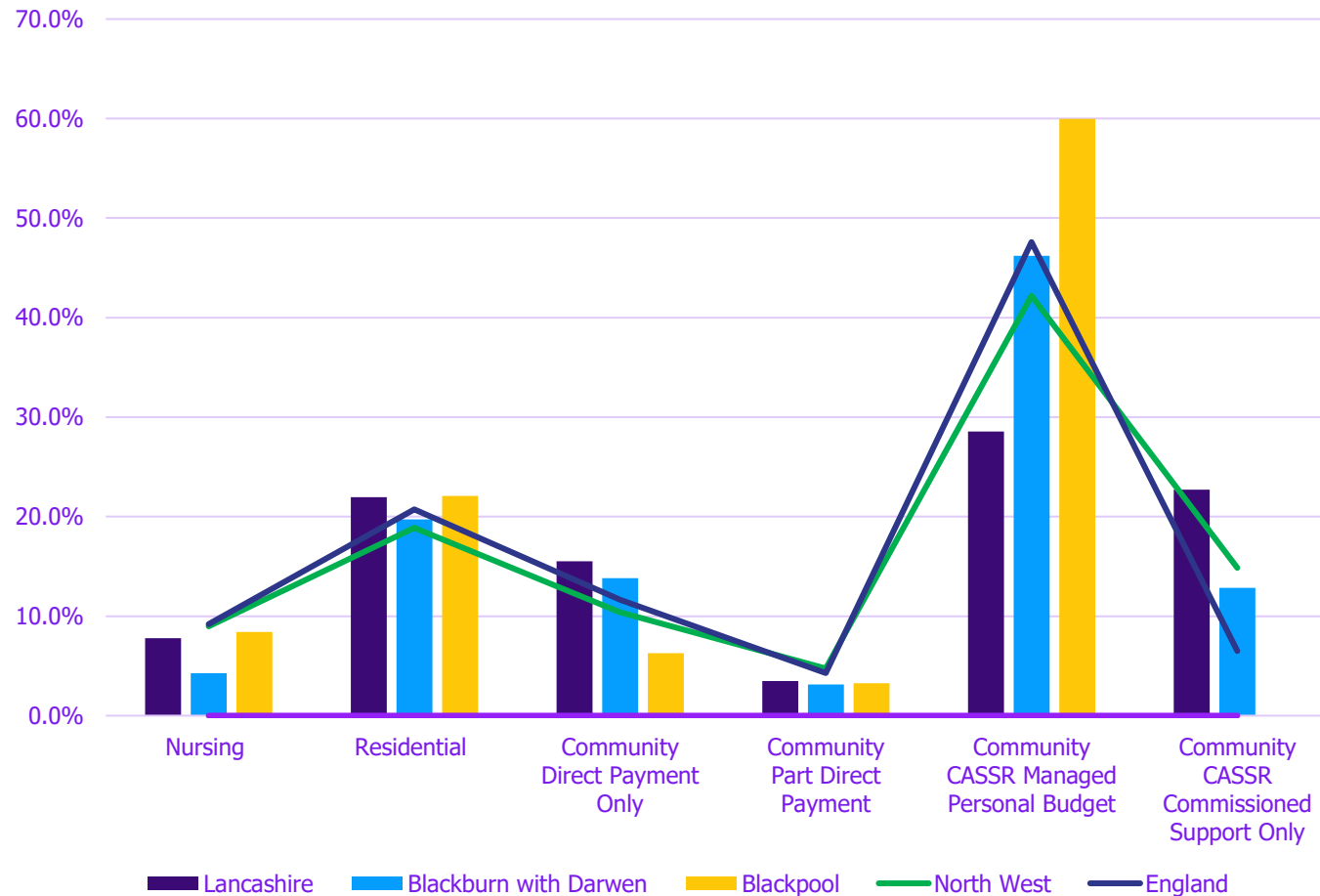
# ASC metrics – Short- and Long-Term Support

## Proportional spend on Short Term Care

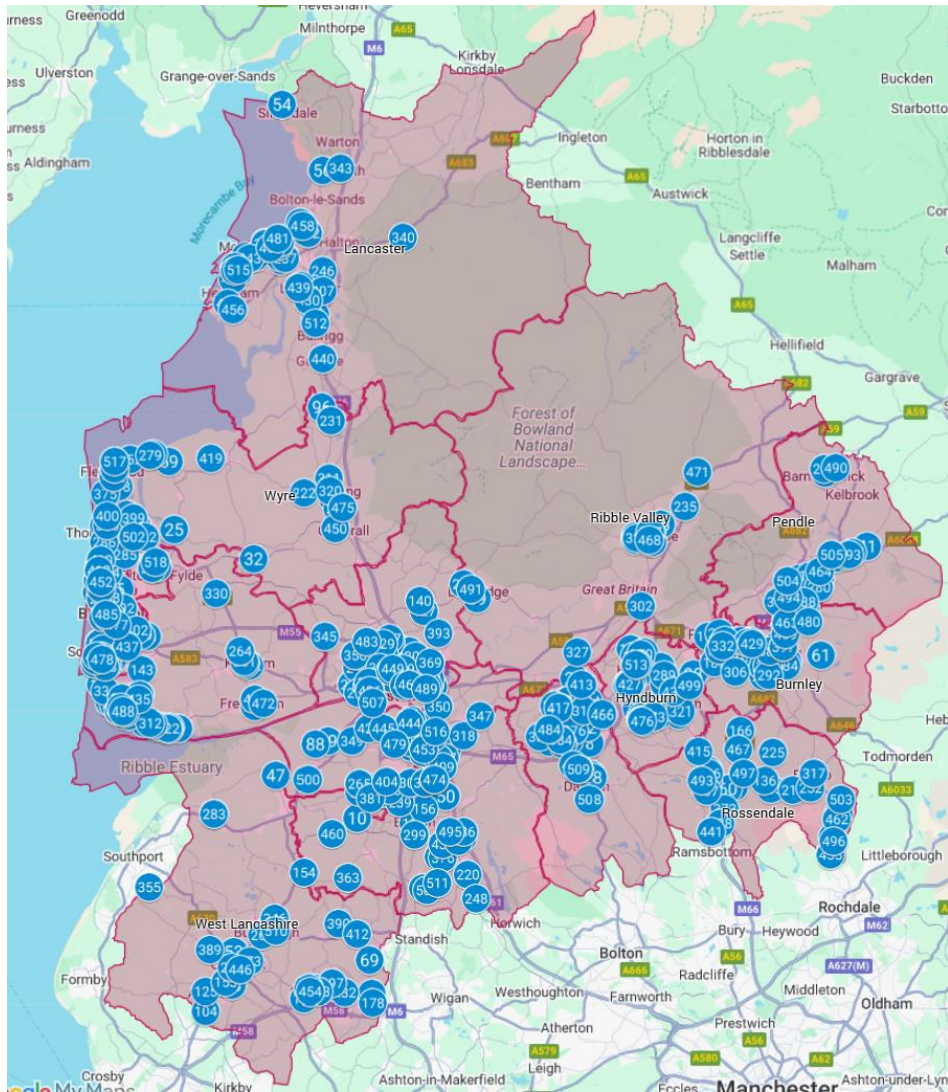


- Blackburn spend the largest proportion of their Gross Current Expenditure (GCE) on Short Term Care, but all 3 areas are in line with or above the Regional and National Average of 4%. Lancashire however have an extremely high proportion of service users who do not go on to require further support.
- The 3 upper tier authorities spend 83% of their Gross Current Expenditure (GCE) on Long Term Support compared to a national average of 79% and a regional average of 81%. This does vary across the 3 areas with Blackburn spending less than 73% and Blackpool and Lancashire spending over 80%.
- Blackburn are significant outliers in terms of their use of nursing care with a much lower proportion of service users in the expensive provision type than regional and national averages.
- Lancashire have higher proportions of service users in Nursing and Residential care.
- Blackpool have a significant reliance on managed personal budgets to meet long term needs.

## Proportion of clients receiving long term support by support setting



# CQC-registered care homes across Lancashire-14



## CQC-registered care homes across Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire (CQC registry, 3 Sep 2025)

- Data from the Care Quality Commission records over 530 registered residential and nursing care homes across the wider Lancashire area. Provision is unevenly distributed: there are dense clusters in major towns and cities, with Blackpool, Blackburn, Burnley and Preston emerging as particular hotspots. Secondary concentrations are visible in Accrington, Chorley, Clitheroe, Nelson and Ormskirk, supporting more localised demand.
- By contrast, the north-east of the county is far more sparsely served. The northern wards of Ribble Valley and the eastern fringes of Lancaster show no registered provision, while gaps are also evident in parts of West Lancashire and Wyre. These absences mean that residents in some rural communities face significant travel times to access residential care.
- On quality, provision is generally strong - 376 providers (73%) are rated as Good, with a further 18 rated Outstanding. However, 87 require improvement and six are inadequate, indicating that while the majority of provision is safe and effective, there remains a meaningful minority of homes where standards fall below expectations.
- Together, this suggests a dual challenge - rural districts with ageing populations may struggle with access, while urban centres, despite better availability, face rising demand. With an ageing demographic trajectory, these disparities will likely deepen without proactive commissioning and framework redesign, locally tailored investment, and strategic workforce planning.

# Adult social care – fees paid to providers

## Homecare (hourly rate)

Local Authority	Average fee rate per contact hour for external providers of home care in 2023-24 (final)	Average fee rate per contact hour for external providers of home care in 2024-25 (provisional)	Estimated uplift
<b>Blackburn with Darwen</b>	£19.46	£21.44	10.2%
<b>Blackpool</b>	£19.04	£20.70	8.7%
<b>Lancashire</b>	£21.02	£22.53	7.2%

## Supported Living (hourly rate)

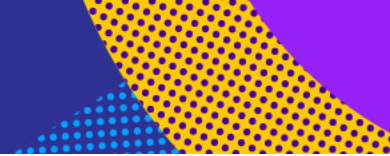
Local Authority	Average fee rate per blended hour for external providers of supported living in 2023-24 (final)	Average fee rate per blended hour for external providers of supported living in 2024-25 (provisional)	Estimated uplift
<b>Blackburn with Darwen</b>	£19.46	£21.44	10.2%
<b>Blackpool</b>	£19.19	£20.85	8.7%
<b>Lancashire</b>	£19.31	£21.50	11.3%

# Adult social care – fees paid to providers

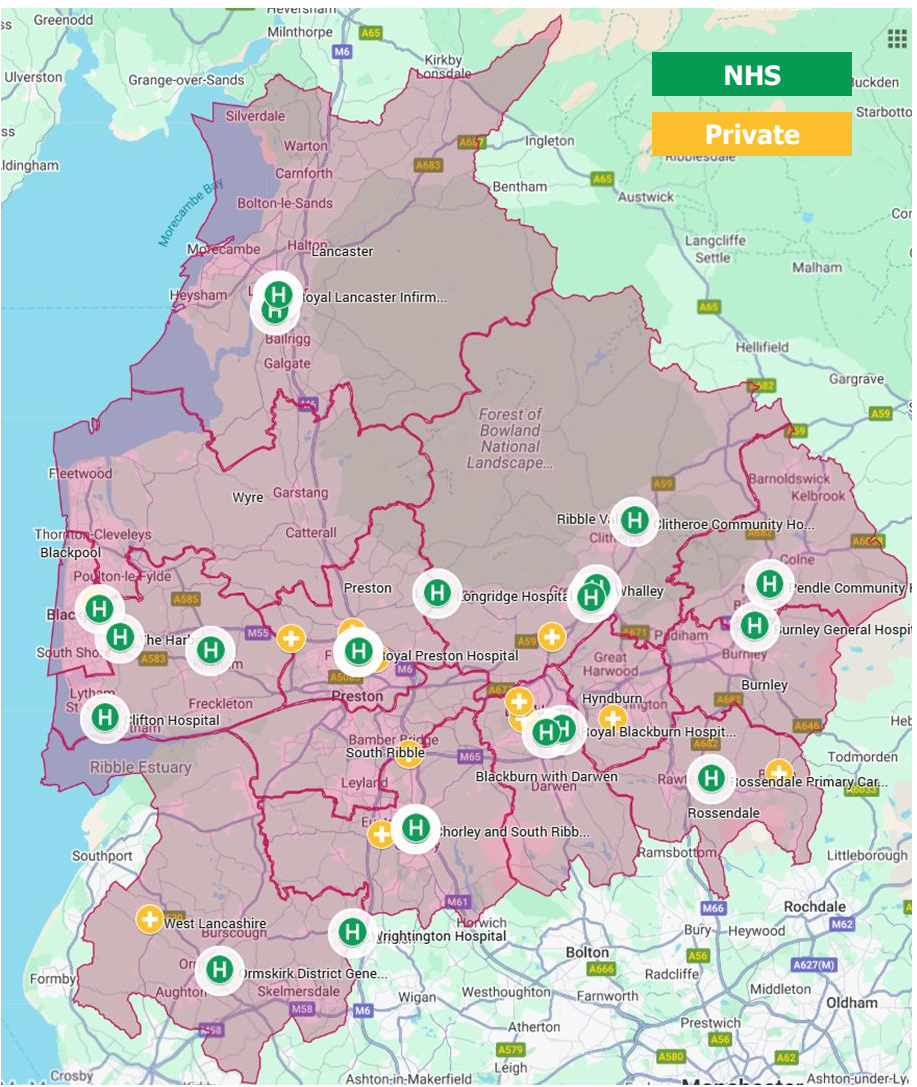
## Residential and nursing care (weekly)

18-64 (working age cohort)	Local Authority	Care homes without nursing			Care homes with nursing		
		Average fee rate per week in 2023-24 (final)	Average fee rate per week in 2024-25 (provisional)	Estimated uplift	Average fee rate per week in 2023-24 (final)	Average fee rate per week in 2024-25 (provisional)	Estimated uplift
		<b>Blackburn with Darwen</b>	£1,098	£1,185	7.9%	£1,266	£1,276
<b>Blackpool</b>	£721	£766	6.3%	£808	£859	6.4%	
<b>Lancashire</b>	£796	£868	9.0%	£935	£1,019	9.0%	

65+ (older people cohort)	Local Authority	Care homes without nursing			Care homes with nursing		
		Average fee rate per week in 2023-24 (final)	Average fee rate per week in 2024-25 (provisional)	Estimated uplift	Average fee rate per week in 2023-24 (final)	Average fee rate per week in 2024-25 (provisional)	Estimated uplift
		<b>Blackburn with Darwen</b>	£715	£749	4.7%	£799	£877
<b>Blackpool</b>	£660	£702	6.5%	£715	£755	5.6%	
<b>Lancashire</b>	£707	£771	9.0%	£783	£854	9.0%	



## NHS and private hospitals across Lancashire (NHS and CQC data, 2025)



- Data from the NHS and CQC shows 22 NHS hospital sites across Lancashire, alongside 15 private hospitals and independent treatment centres. Provision is highly clustered around Preston, Blackburn, Burnley, Blackpool and Lancaster, where the major acute trusts operate their principal sites. This leaves large swathes of rural Lancashire without local hospital facilities, with residents of Ribble Valley, Wyre and parts of northern Lancaster dependent on travel into neighbouring districts for acute care.
- Preston, Blackpool and East Lancashire have major hospitals within close reach of most communities, but demand is high, and sites are running at or above capacity. In rural districts, accessibility is more limited. Smaller community or mental health hospitals exist (e.g., in Longridge, Ormskirk and Whalley) but residents often face significant travel to access acute hospital care. This is particularly challenge for older people and households without access to private transport.
- Private provision is material but concentrated. Ramsay, Priory and Spire sites around Preston, Chorley and Southport provide elective surgery, diagnostics and mental health capacity, while smaller facilities cater to niche specialisms. Their contribution relieves some pressure on elective waiting lists, but they are not configured to provide large-scale emergency or complex acute services and are not accessible to large parts of the Lancashire population.
- Most NHS hospitals are rated Good or Outstanding by the CQC, though specific departments (particularly urgent and emergency care) have been earmarked as requiring improvement, reflecting national workforce and demand pressures.
- Rising demand from an ageing population and the prevalence of long-term conditions will intensify pressure on both NHS and independent sectors across Lancashire. Estates constraints at older sites such as Royal Preston and Royal Lancaster Infirmary limit the scope for change.
- The health sector's challenges are well-documented. Though the levers are not direct ones, local government reform alongside devolved regional government at least presents an opportunity to examine opportunities for investment in acute and community facilities, along with expanded prevention and out-of-hospital care, and plan collectively to reduce health inequalities across Lancashire.

# Prisons across Lancashire-14



Name	Category	Type	Address	Town/City	Postcode	Authority (location)
HMP Preston	B	Men's prison	2 Ribbleton Lane	Preston	PR1 5AB	Preston
HMP Lancaster Farms	C	Men's prison	Stone Row Head	Lancaster	LA1 3QZ	Lancaster
HMP Kirkham	D (Open)	Men's prison	Freckleton Road	Kirkham	PR4 2RN	Fylde
HMP Garth	B	Men's prison	Ulnes Walton	Leyland	PR26 8NE	Chorley
HMP Wymott	C	Men's prison	Ulnes Walton Lane	Leyland	PR26 8LW	Chorley

- Lancashire’s five prisons, clustered around Preston, Chorley, Lancaster and Fylde, shape local demand at point of release, with neighbouring councils often absorbing housing and support pressures.
- Discharge planning frequently leads to demand for temporary housing, supported accommodation and homelessness services, particularly where resettlement pathways are weak.
- An ageing and complex prison population increases ASC involvement, with higher needs for mental health, substance misuse and long-term care both in custody and post-release.

# Public Health – Budgeted Spend 25-26

Spend category (all spend figures in £000s)	Blackburn with Darwen	Blackpool	Lancashire	Combined total	Total %
Sexual health services - STI testing and treatment (prescribed functions)	£427	£1,241	£4,516	£6,184	4.4%
Sexual health services - Contraception (prescribed functions)	£524	£1,144	£4,745	£6,413	4.6%
Sexual health services - Promotion, prevention and advice (non-prescribed functions)	£427	£533	£425	£1,385	1.0%
NHS health check programme (prescribed functions)	£217	£182	£2,775	£3,174	2.3%
Health protection - Local authority role in health protection (prescribed functions)	£330	£1,472	£1,414	£3,216	2.3%
National child measurement programme (prescribed functions)	£84	£441	£338	£863	0.6%
Public health advice to NHS commissioners (prescribed functions)	£546	£7	£671	£1,224	0.9%
Obesity - adults	£121	£20	£844	£985	0.7%
Obesity - children	£13	£1,327	£429	£1,769	1.3%
Physical activity - adults	£1,164	£35	£560	£1,759	1.3%
Physical activity - children	£129	£252	£284	£665	0.5%
Substance misuse - Treatment for drug misuse in adults	£2,230	£1,215	£15,635	£19,080	13.6%
Substance misuse - Treatment for alcohol misuse in adults	£1,153	£837	£11,003	£12,993	9.3%
Substance misuse - Preventing and reducing harm from drug misuse in adults	£361	£1,252	£289	£1,902	1.4%
Substance misuse - Preventing and reducing harm from alcohol misuse in adults	£1,325	£865	£194	£2,384	1.7%
Substance misuse - Specialist drug and alcohol misuse services for children and young people	£1,021	£119	£1,580	£2,720	1.9%
Smoking and tobacco - Stop smoking services and interventions	£439	£625	£4,573	£5,637	4.0%
Smoking and tobacco - Wider tobacco control	£49	£23	£0	£72	0.1%
Children 5–19 public health programmes	£1,742	£500	£7,948	£10,190	7.3%
Mandated 0-5 children's services (prescribed functions)	£3,474	£1,771	£9,366	£14,611	10.4%
All Other 0-5 children's services (non-prescribed functions)	£781	£1,771	£9,421	£11,973	8.5%
Health at work	£0	£34	£74	£108	0.1%
Public mental health	£317	£693	£1,144	£2,154	1.5%
Miscellaneous public health services - other	£3,146	£5,120	£20,457	£28,723	20.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£20,020</b>	<b>£21,479</b>	<b>£98,685</b>	<b>£140,184</b>	



# Housing, homelessness and temporary accommodation

# Housing and homelessness across Lancashire

Only three authorities – Blackpool, Lancaster and West Lancashire – continue to own or directly manage council stock (together around 14,500 homes), with other councils’ stock transferred to housing associations over the past 30 years. Registered Providers (RPs) play the dominant role in delivering and managing affordable housing across most of Lancashire. 12.7% of homes are in the social sector, broadly comparable with national averages, but demand pressures are far higher. Over 27,500 households are on the waiting list across Lancashire-12 - the highest of any county area in England - though numbers of homeless households are relatively low. The number of households in social housing varies significantly by district: Blackburn with Darwen, Chorley, West Lancashire and Preston have the largest volumes; Ribble Valley and Fylde have much smaller bases. Delivery has been relatively strong - Lancashire ranks among the top three county areas for affordable housing completions – but may not be sufficient against mounting demand and a growing, ageing population, and Lancashire will face continued pressure to use homelessness prevention, private sector leasing and temporary accommodation at significant cost.

In the private rental market, affordability is a growing challenge. Across all 14 authorities, average monthly rents exceed Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates, with shortfalls ranging from around £65 in Blackpool to more than £250 in Ribble Valley. This mismatch is particularly severe in rural and high-demand areas (Ribble Valley, West Lancashire, Fylde), making it harder for low-income households to access or sustain private tenancies. Owner-occupation remains the largest tenure, but affordability has worsened. The average median house price-to-earnings ratio across Lancashire is 5.22, with hotspots of stress in West Lancashire and Ribble Valley. These are well above traditional affordability thresholds and create barriers for younger households seeking to buy. At the other end of the spectrum, Burnley, Hyndburn and Blackpool remain relatively more affordable, though these markets are often characterised by older, lower-quality stock and weaker demand dynamics.

Use of temporary accommodation is low in Lancashire compared to national averages, a result of there being more affordable housing supply than in other parts of the country. However, there are still challenges in accessing larger family properties, and over 10,000 households were assessed as homeless or at risk in 2023/24, concentrated in Blackpool, Preston, Lancaster and Blackburn with Darwen. Loss of private tenancies, family breakdown and domestic abuse are the main drivers, with asylum support cessations adding recent pressure. Demand is often absorbed through supported housing, housing association lettings (given the major role played by RPs) and private rented placements rather than formal TA, meaning the true scale and cost of homelessness locally may be greater than statistics suggest.

## Social housing



**75,255**  
RP-managed

**14,580**  
Council-managed

## Affordability



**3.67**  
Burnley

**6.43**  
Ribble Valley

*Ratio of median house price to median gross annual residence-based earnings*

## Rental market



**-£65.63**  
Blackpool

**-£254.76**  
Ribble Valley

*LHA shortfall vs average 2-bedroom rent*

# Housing rental market in Lancashire

Authority	Average monthly rent (all property sizes)	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed+	Assigned BRMA (2-bed LHA)*	LHA /week	LHA /month†	Shortfall (2-bed)
Blackburn with Darwen	£680	£508	£629	£743	£1,071	East Lancashire	£109.21	£473.24	-£155.76
Blackpool	£668	£466	£605	£736	£979	Fylde Coast	£124.47	£539.37	<b>-£65.63</b>
Burnley	£613	£452	£570	£675	£930	East Lancashire	£109.21	£473.24	-£96.76
Chorley	£740	£553	£707	£838	£1,245	Central Lancashire	£131.98	£571.91	-£135.09
Fylde	£821	£575	£742	£889	£1,334	Fylde Coast	£124.47	£539.37	-£202.63
Hyndburn	£621	£465	£594	£697	£910	East Lancashire	£109.21	£473.24	-£120.76
Lancaster	£769	£561	£703	£863	£1,151	Lancaster	£137.32	£595.05	-£107.95
Pendle	£627	£464	£590	£690	£1,033	East Lancashire	£109.21	£473.24	-£116.76
Preston	£742	£544	£687	£804	£1,183	Central Lancashire	£131.98	£571.91	-£115.09
Ribble Valley	£774	£574	£728	£885	£1,334	East Lancashire	£109.21	£473.24	<b>-£254.76</b>
Rossendale	£770	£560	£716	£862	£1,175	East Lancashire	£109.21	£473.24	-£242.76
South Ribble	£760	£529	£696	£839	£1,207	Central Lancashire	£131.98	£571.91	-£124.09
West Lancashire	£754	£551	£685	£789	£1,163	Southport**	£138.08	£598.35	-£86.65
Wyre	£691	£490	£667	£795	£1,167	Fylde Coast	£124.47	£539.37	-£127.63

\* Areas can be covered by more than one BRMA – largest coverage selected

\*\* Whilst Southport is not in the district, the Southport BRMA has the greatest extent of coverage across West Lancashire

† Monthly rate → 'Weekly rate \* 52 / 12'

NB these prices and rents are a snapshot in time and will change month-on-month

# Housing ownership and purchase affordability in Lancashire

Authority	Median house price, Q3, 12 months ending 2024	Ratio of median house price to median gross annual residence-based earnings (ONS, 2024)
Blackburn with Darwen	£143,500	4.92
Blackpool	£133,000	4.24
Burnley	£116,500 [lowest]	<b>3.67</b>
Chorley	£215,000	5.53
Fylde	£230,000	6.03
Hyndburn	£130,000	4.07
Lancaster	£195,000	5.81
Pendle	£135,000	4.66
Preston	£178,000	4.87
Ribble Valley	£260,000 [highest]	<b>6.43</b>
Rosendale	£175,000	5.42
South Ribble	£200,000	5.28
West Lancashire	£230,000	6.24
Wyre	£186,000	4.99
<i>Lancashire (average)</i>	<i>£180,500</i>	<i>5.22</i>

# Housing stock in Lancashire by tenure

Area	Total housing stock	Owner occupied and privately rented		Registered social landlords		Local authority		Other public sector	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Burnley</b>	42,788	36,260	84.7	6,492	15.2	36	0.1	0	0
<b>Chorley</b>	53,198	45,868	86.2	7,150	13.4	159	0.3	21	0
<b>Fylde</b>	41,892	38,316	91.5	3,324	7.9	0	0	252	0.6
<b>Hyndburn</b>	37,862	32,826	86.7	5,035	13.3	1	0	0	0
<b>Lancaster</b>	66,260	59,612	90	3,019	4.6	3,629	5.5	0	0
<b>Pendle</b>	41,713	36,896	88.5	4,816	11.5	1	0	0	0
<b>Preston</b>	67,655	54,910	81.2	12,605	18.6	0	0	140	0.2
<b>Ribble Valley</b>	30,270	27,910	92.2	2,335	7.7	10	0	15	0
<b>Rossendale</b>	32,838	28,057	85.4	4,749	14.5	20	0.1	12	0
<b>South Ribble</b>	52,386	46,887	89.5	5,476	10.5	23	0	0	0
<b>West Lancashire</b>	52,720	45,128	85.6	1,752	3.3	5,840	11.1	0	0
<b>Wyre</b>	56,208	51,817	92.2	4,391	7.8	0	0	0	0
<b>Blackburn with Darwen</b>	63,772	52,102	81.7	11,658	18.3	0	0	12	0
<b>Blackpool</b>	73,328	66,014	90	2,453	3.3	4,861	6.6	0	0
<b>Lancashire-12</b>	575,790	504,487	87.6	61,144	10.6	9,719	1.7	440	0.1
<b>Lancashire-14</b>	712,890	622,603	87.3	75,255	10.6	14,580	2	452	0.1
<b>England</b>	25,617,413	21,342,624	83.3	2,671,675	10.4	1,574,098	6.1	29,016	0.1

## Housing allocations

Models are broadly within four categories, with choice-based lettings a common approach:

- MyHomeChoice Fylde Coast (Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre)
- Select Move (Chorley, Preston, South Ribble)
- B-with-us (Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Rossendale);
- Council-led schemes (Lancaster Ideal Choice Homes; West Lancashire Homefinder; Ribble Valley register).

Homelessness is delivered in-house by each district/Blackpool/BwD through Housing Options (prevention/relief, TA, duty to refer), with out-of-hours cover, PRS pathways and local partnerships; a countywide Care Leavers' Housing Protocol links LCC and districts.

As the figures to the right outline, only Blackpool (via an ALMO), Lancaster and West Lancashire retain significant numbers of council housing stock.

## Three authorities have retained stock and have a Housing Revenue Account (HRA):

- Blackpool - council stock managed by Blackpool Coastal Housing (ALMO), 4,861 homes
- Lancaster - directly managed, 3,629 homes
- West Lancashire - directly managed, 5,840 homes

## No HRA (stock transferred):

- Blackburn with Darwen → Twin Valley Homes (now Together) (2001).
- Burnley → Calico Homes (2000).
- Chorley → Chorley Community Housing (2006/07; now Jigsaw).
- Fylde → Progress Housing Group (2000).
- Hyndburn → Hyndburn Homes (now Onward) (2006).
- Pendle → Housing Pendle (Together) (2006).
- Preston → Community Gateway Association (2005).
- Ribble Valley → Ribble Valley Homes (Onward) (2008)
- Rossendale → Green Vale Homes (Together) (2006).
- South Ribble → New Progress HA (1994; now Progress Group).
- Wyre → Wyre Housing (1996; now part of Regenda).

*NB: the dates above reference the core year of stock transfer decisions in each case; properties may have been transferred in other years in the run up to/after these dates.*

# Housing delivery in Lancashire

Area	Local Housing Need new method	Average net additions (2021/22 – 2023/24)	Delivery (2023/24)
Blackburn with Darwen	506	513	547
Blackpool	585	225	175
Burnley	340	278	248
Chorley	564	277	291
Fylde	410	461	348
Hyndburn	301	218	253
Lancaster	619	286	214
Pendle	333	231	122
Preston	590	1,366	1,630
Ribble Valley	310	578	544
Rossendale	321	172	201
South Ribble	489	598	579
West Lancashire	562	446	476
Wyre	582	690	641
Lancashire	6,512	6,339	6,269

*Note: those in green are 5% above target levels, those in yellow within 5% of targets, and those in red over 5% below target levels*

# Households on housing waiting list across Lancashire

Authority	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	5-year rate of change
<b>Blackburn with Darwen</b>	3,723	3,939	3,407	5,416	4,689	+26%
<b>Blackpool</b>	7,740	5,502	6,439	7,635	8,893	+15%
<b>Burnley</b>	1,404	1,819	1,669	2,604	2,657	+89%
<b>Chorley</b>	850	1,609	1,257	1,516	2,079	+145%
<b>Fylde</b>	1,239	663	598	699	854	-31%
<b>Hyndburn</b>	1,611	1,611	1,218	1,967	1,975	+23%
<b>Lancaster</b>	1,517	1,736	2,063	2,369	3,028	+100%
<b>Pendle</b>	1,576	1,590	1,420	2,418	2,095	+33%
<b>Preston</b>	2,857	2,910	3,233	3,727	3,875	+36%
<b>Ribble Valley</b>	863	964	905	795	847	-2%
<b>Rossendale</b>	1,559	1,692	1,318	2,127	1,784	+14%
<b>South Ribble</b>	1,135	1,324	1,567	1,714	2,197	+94%
<b>West Lancashire</b>	816	941	1,007	1,010	1,297	+59%
<b>Wyre</b>	2,574	3,368	4,097	4,762	4,821	+87%
<b>Total: Lancashire-12</b>	18,001	20,227	20,352	25,708	27,509	+53%
<b>Total: Lancashire-15</b>	29,464	29,668	30,198	38,759	41,091	+39%

- The number of households on the housing waiting list has risen significantly over the past 5 years – this is set against relatively modest numbers of homeless households.
- Several housing markets, with a wide range of RPs, choice-based lettings schemes, allocations policies and low social stock turnover are all factors.
- So too are the wide range of likely needs, from transfer applicants through to overcrowding or medical cases and people in PRS tenancies seeking more secure tenures.
- Within Lancashire, there is considerable variation in waiting list rises. Chorley has seen its total increase almost 2.5 times, and Lancaster, South Ribble, Burnley and Wyre have also witnessed numbers almost double.
- However, there has been a marked fall in Fylde and a slight decrease in Ribble Valley.
- Though numbers have risen in Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool, the rate of change has not been as rapid as across other parts of Lancashire.

# Lancashire's housing waiting list compared with other counties

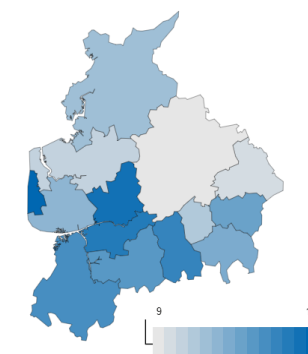
Upper-tier county	23/24 households on waiting list	Total households (2021 Census)	Households on waiting list per 1,000 households
Cambridgeshire	9,133	277,634	32.9
Derbyshire	14,250	354,213	40.2
Devon	18,282	352,620	51.8
East Sussex	5,922	240,119	24.7
Essex	20,136	626,472	32.1
Gloucestershire	15,551	279,429	55.7
Hampshire	21,527	587,693	36.6
Hertfordshire	18,485	482,893	38.3
Kent	Missing	648,393	Data not reported
<b>Lancashire (Lancashire-12 only)</b>	<b>27,509</b>	<b>525,247</b>	<b>52.4</b>
Leicestershire	6,592	296,407	22.2
Lincolnshire	11,230	333,552	33.7
Norfolk	11,817	404,341	29.2
Nottinghamshire	18,759	357,122	52.5
Oxfordshire	12,028	288,108	41.7
Staffordshire	13,394	375,220	35.7
Suffolk	11,720	333,543	35.1
Surrey	15,285	481,818	31.7
Warwickshire	12,123	253,262	47.9
West Sussex	11,971	375,216	31.9
Worcestershire	14,495	259,933	55.8

Lancashire-12 has the highest absolute total, and one of the highest per 1,000 household rates, of households on the waiting list at an aggregated county level. Its polycentricity is potentially a factor in this, with several housing markets across the county, as well as the large number of RPs that operate. Note that the figures above do not include standalone unitaries (e.g., Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool) & that 2021 Census household figures had to be used as the most recent county-wide comparable dataset.

# Temporary accommodation across Lancashire

Authority	Total households	TA households	Families in TA	% families of TA	TA per 1,000 households	Share of Lancs-14 total	Rank by rate
Blackpool	64,789	100	42	42.00%	1.54	22.30%	1
South Ribble	48,586	44	25	56.80%	0.91	9.80%	2
Preston	59,607	53	20	37.70%	0.89	11.80%	3
Rossendale	30,561	26	17	65.40%	0.85	5.80%	4
West Lancashire	48,533	35	12	34.30%	0.72	7.80%	5
Burnley	39,872	27	13	48.10%	0.68	6.00%	6
Fylde	37,606	23	7	30.40%	0.61	5.10%	7
Blackburn with Darwen	58,767	36	26	72.20%	0.61	8.00%	8
Chorley	50,132	28	20	71.40%	0.56	6.30%	9
Hyndburn	34,790	18	17	94.40%	0.52	4.00%	10
Lancaster	59,978	21	15	71.40%	0.35	4.70%	11
Ribble Valley	26,747	9	3	33.30%	0.34	2.00%	12
Wyre	50,767	17	3	17.60%	0.33	3.80%	13
Pendle	38,066	11	3	27.30%	0.29	2.50%	14
<b>Lancs-14 total</b>	<b>648,801</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>49.80%</b>	<b>0.69</b>		
<b>England</b>	<b>28,600,000</b>	<b>131,140</b>	<b>83,150</b>	<b>63.40%</b>	<b>4.59</b>		

**Total number of households in temporary accommodation heatmap**



- Lancashire records around 450 households in temporary accommodation, roughly 0.69 per 1,000 households, far below the national average and the figures for high-cost housing markets in London, larger cities and counties in the south-east.
- The pattern in Lancashire is uneven. Blackpool accounts for over a fifth of all cases locally, with Preston, South Ribble and Blackburn with Darwen also recording higher numbers. By contrast, Pendle, Ribble Valley and Wyre report low usage.
- It is important to note that these are households housed in council-owned and managed TA placements only and the figures do not include supported or assisted housing. Given the density of RP provision in Lancashire, there could be many more homeless households within those settings.
- Half of TA cases across Lancashire involve families (albeit still below the national figure of over 60%), but several districts are much more family-weighted (e.g., Hyndburn, Blackburn with Darwen, Chorley and Lancaster) – this is likely an indicator of the paucity of larger, family properties.

# Lancashire local authorities – finance and operations

# Summary of financial position – Lancashire-15

## Summary of financial position for all Lancashire councils (FY 25/26)

	BwD	BPL	Bur	Cho	Fyl	Hyn	Lan	Pen	Pre	RVa	Ros	SRi	WLa	Wyr	LCC
<b>Type of authority</b>	Unitary	Unitary	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	County
<b>Population, 2024 MYE</b>	162,540	144,191	99,233	120,839	85,447	86,058	145,006	99,777	162,864	65,794	73,045	116,113	121,995	118,743	1,294,914
<b>HRA authority</b>	No HRA	Yes	No HRA	No HRA	No HRA	No HRA	Yes	No HRA	No HRA	No HRA	No HRA	No HRA	Yes	No HRA	N/A
<b>Core spending power</b>	£193.60m	£215.45m	£17.07m	£14.00m	£11.63m	£13.73m	£20.36m	£15.42m	£26.60m	£7.81m	£10.18m	£13.37m	£14.93m	£15.43m	£1,233.79m
<b>Band D Council Tax</b>	£1,964.93	£2,025.08	£344.58	£215.99	£232.17	£276.46	£264.30	£307.52	£364.45	£170.69	£317.66	£236.78	£238.58	£233.08	£1,735.79
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	£290.55m	£829.76m	£81.17m	£111.70m	£2.61m	£9.05m	£97.85m	£22.57m	£50.71m	£3.47m	£19.05m	£19.72m	£121.72m	£10.79m	£1,157.40m
<b>Usable reserves levels</b>	£81.79m	£34.72m	£26.69m	£11.64m	£15.76m	£18.15m	£28.74m	£13.47m	£42.77m	£20.73m	£12.74m	£19.89m	£9.58m	£40.30m	£368.50m

**Core spending per head of population**

**£1,494**

Blackpool

**£115**

South Ribble

**CFR per head**

**£5,755**

Blackpool

**£31**

Fylde

**Usable reserves per head**

**£503**

Blackburn with Darwen

**£79**

West Lancashire

(rounded; based on 2024 MYE)

# Disaggregated gross spend per head

## Overview of gross spend by key service areas (disaggregated to district where applicable) including per head of population (2024 ONS MYE)

Service	Total	BwD		Bpl		Bur		Cho		Fyl		Hyn		Lan		Pen		Pre		RVa		Ros		SRi		WLa		Wyr	
	£m	Total (£m)	Per person	Total (£m)	Per person	Total (£m)	Per person	Total (£m)	Per person	Total (£m)	Per person	Total (£m)	Per person	Total (£m)	Per person	Total (£m)	Per person	Total (£m)	Per person	Total (£m)	Per person	Total (£m)	Per person	Total (£m)	Per person	Total (£m)	Per person	Total (£m)	Per person
Adult Social Care*	<b>£1,095.39</b>	£116.89	£719.15	£117.80	£816.97	£66.88	£673.97	£82.64	£683.89	£62.51	£731.56	£65.44	£760.42	£103.08	£710.87	£66.56	£667.09	£104.58	£642.13	£31.10	£472.69	£40.99	£561.16	£73.33	£631.54	£77.81	£637.81	£85.78	£722.40
Children's Social Care*	<b>£434.35</b>	£56.67	£348.65	£77.89	£540.19	£37.39	£376.79	£26.31	£217.73	£14.44	£168.99	£25.24	£293.29	£32.59	£224.75	£22.77	£228.21	£45.98	£282.32	£9.02	£137.09	£15.71	£215.07	£26.90	£231.67	£22.27	£182.55	£21.18	£178.37
Cultural and Related Services	<b>£128.95</b>	£14.20	£87.36	£23.69	£164.30	£8.37	£84.35	£9.78	£80.93	£5.08	£59.45	£5.47	£63.56	£14.03	£96.75	£6.06	£60.74	£10.27	£63.06	£6.60	£100.31	£3.46	£47.37	£10.24	£88.19	£5.95	£48.77	£5.74	£48.34
Education Services*	<b>£443.25</b>	£159.02	£978.34	£78.28	£542.89	£16.21	£163.35	£17.71	£146.56	£11.33	£132.60	£24.38	£283.30	£21.24	£146.48	£16.76	£167.97	£24.48	£150.31	£10.84	£164.76	£11.83	£161.95	£16.83	£144.95	£17.67	£144.84	£16.66	£140.30
Environmental and Regulatory Services (excluding Waste)	<b>£74.82</b>	£9.45	£58.14	£22.33	£154.86	£4.93	£49.68	£2.76	£22.84	£4.11	£48.10	£4.65	£54.03	£4.82	£33.24	£3.07	£30.77	£5.77	£35.43	£2.12	£32.22	£0.82	£11.23	£3.40	£29.28	£3.19	£26.15	£3.40	£28.63
Waste Management (Disposal and Collection)	<b>£212.24</b>	£12.08	£74.32	£27.60	£191.41	£11.99	£120.83	£15.06	£124.63	£12.92	£151.20	£11.56	£134.33	£20.66	£142.48	£13.09	£131.19	£19.05	£116.97	£10.42	£158.37	£9.19	£125.81	£16.26	£140.04	£17.99	£147.47	£14.37	£121.02
Highways and Transport	<b>£155.60</b>	£14.81	£91.12	£4.37	£30.31	£10.55	£106.32	£10.49	£86.81	£8.26	£96.67	£8.14	£94.59	£18.39	£126.82	£9.56	£95.81	£18.41	£113.04	£9.75	£148.19	£6.87	£94.05	£10.08	£86.81	£13.04	£106.89	£12.87	£108.39
Housing	<b>£34.67</b>	£5.98	£36.79	£3.64	£25.24	£2.06	£20.76	£3.31	£27.39	£1.34	£15.68	£1.48	£17.20	£3.59	£24.76	£0.95	£9.52	£5.54	£34.02	£0.90	£13.68	£1.63	£22.32	£2.13	£18.34	£1.33	£10.90	£0.80	£6.74
Planning & Development	<b>£84.14</b>	£12.90	£79.37	£2.94	£20.39	£7.12	£71.75	£9.64	£79.78	£4.76	£55.71	£3.91	£45.43	£7.56	£52.14	£3.12	£31.27	£8.50	£52.19	£3.00	£45.60	£3.19	£43.67	£7.14	£61.49	£5.86	£48.03	£4.50	£37.90
Public Health#	<b>£129.95</b>	£20.19	£124.22	£22.23	£154.17	£8.43	£84.95	£7.01	£58.01	£4.97	£58.16	£7.07	£82.15	£9.72	£67.03	£7.58	£75.97	£12.75	£78.29	£3.60	£54.72	£5.15	£70.50	£6.46	£55.64	£7.32	£60.00	£7.46	£62.82
Housing Benefits^	<b>£295.67</b>	£31.12	£191.46	£41.49	£287.74	£21.41	£215.75	£19.40	£160.54	£12.68	£148.40	£23.53	£273.42	£21.84	£150.61	£15.96	£159.96	£32.00	£196.48	£5.19	£78.88	£18.00	£246.42	£12.75	£109.81	£22.70	£186.07	£17.60	£148.22
Corporate and Central Services	<b>£600.24</b>	£64.18	£394.86	£76.89	£533.25	£37.72	£380.12	£39.71	£328.62	£25.26	£295.62	£32.66	£379.51	£52.25	£360.33	£37.34	£374.23	£58.33	£358.15	£22.62	£343.80	£23.84	£326.37	£36.52	£314.52	£44.56	£365.26	£48.35	£407.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,689.27</b>	£517.49	£3,183.77	£499.15	£3,461.73	£233.06	£2,348.61	£243.82	£2,017.73	£167.66	£1,962.15	£213.53	£2,481.23	£309.77	£2,136.26	£202.82	£2,032.73	£345.66	£2,122.38	£115.16	£1,750.31	£140.68	£1,925.94	£222.04	£1,912.28	£239.69	£1,964.75	£238.71	£2,010.31

\*Disaggregated from Lancashire CC (excluding Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool)

#Fully grant-funded

^Fully subsidised

## Overview of gross spend by key service areas (disaggregated to district where applicable)

- **Adult Social Care** (upper-tier; LCC disaggregated to localities): **£1,095.4m** combined. Gross per head highest in **Blackpool (£817/person)** and lowest in **Ribble Valley (£473/person)**.
- **Children’s Social Care** (upper-tier; LCC disaggregated): **£434.4m** combined. Gross per head highest in **Blackpool (£540/person)** and lowest in **Ribble Valley (£137/person)**.
- **Corporate & Central Services** (aggregate of central blocks): **£600.2m** combined. Gross per head highest in **Blackpool (£533/person)** and lowest in **Fylde (£296/person)**.
  - *Note: income/credits offset c.31%; net c.£413.4m.*
- **Cultural & Related Services**: **£129.0m** combined. Gross per head highest in **Blackpool (£164/person)** and lowest in **Rosendale (£47/person)**.
  - *Note: income offsets c.50%; net c.£64.6m.*
- **Education Services** (upper-tier; LCC disaggregated): **£443.3m** combined. Gross per head highest in **Blackburn with Darwen (£978/person)** and lowest in **Fylde (£133/person)**.
  - *Note: income/DfE grants offset c.82% of gross; net c.£80.4m.*
- **Environmental & Regulatory (excl. Waste)**: **£74.8m** combined. Gross per head highest in **Blackpool (£155/person)** and lowest in **Rosendale (£11/person)**.
  - *Note: income offsets c.53%; net c.£35.4m.*
- **Highways and Transport**: **£155.6m** combined. Gross per head highest in **Ribble Valley (£148/person)** and lowest in **Blackpool (£30/person)**.
  - *Note: income (parking, grants) offsets c.68% of gross; net c.£49.9m.*
- **Housing (non-HRA services)**: **£34.7m** combined. Gross per head highest in **Preston (£34/person)** and lowest in **Wyre (£7/person)**.
  - *Note: income offsets c.71%; net c.£10.2m.*
- **Housing Benefits** (subsidised): **£295.7m** gross. Gross per head highest in **Hyndburn (£289/person)** and lowest in **Ribble Valley (£79/person)**.
  - *Note: subsidy offsets c.99% of gross; net c.£1.0m.*
- **Planning & Development**: **£84.1m** combined. Gross per head highest in **Chorley (£80/person)** and lowest in **Blackpool (£20/person)**.
  - *Note: income offsets c.85%; net c.£13.1m.*
- **Public Health** (upper-tier; LCC disaggregated): **£130.0m** combined. Gross per head highest in **Blackpool (£154/person)** and lowest in **Ribble Valley (£55/person)**.
  - *Note: grants offset in excess of gross; net c.£-5.2m (ring-fenced).*
- **Waste Management (Disposal & Collection)**: **£212.2m** combined. Gross per head highest in **Blackpool (£191/person)** and lowest in **Blackburn with Darwen (£74/person)**.

**TOTAL: £3.689bn**

Blackpool (highest per head): £3,461

Ribble Valley (lowest per head): £1,750

## Overview of local authority traded services, joint ventures, special purpose vehicles, arm's length management organisations and other significant companies

### Blackburn with Darwen

- Blackburn with Darwen Development Ltd (JV; stake per SoA – % not disclosed)
- Blackburn with Darwen & Bolton BSF Co Ltd – Phase 1 & 2 (PFI/BSF SPVs; minority)

### Blackpool

- Blackpool Transport Services Ltd (LATCO; 100%)
- Blackpool Waste Services Ltd – Envenco (LATCO; 100%)
- Blackpool Housing Company Ltd – My Blackpool Home (LATCO; 100%)
- Blackpool Airport Ltd / Airport Operations (100%)
- Blackpool Coastal Housing Ltd (ALMO; sole member – no share capital)

### Chorley

- Chorley Leisure Ltd (LATCO; 100%)
- Chorley BC Property Ltd (Property SPV; 100%)

### Lancashire County Council

- Lancashire County Developments Ltd (LATCO; 100%)
- Lancashire County Developments (Property) Ltd (100%)
- Lancashire UDF Ltd (SPV; 100%)
- Lancashire UDF SPV2 Ltd (SPV; 100%)
- Active Lancashire Ltd (council-owned charity; 100%)
- Local Pensions Partnership Ltd (JV with LPFA; 50%)

### Lancashire-wide / multiple parties

- Growth Lancashire Ltd (multi-authority JV\*; member-governed)
- Marketing Lancashire Ltd (DMO; liquidated)
- Lancashire 2025 Ltd (cultural company; in development)

### Lancaster

- Morehomes for the Bay (Developments) Ltd (LATCO; 100%)
- Morehomes for the Bay (Investments) Ltd (LATCO; 100%)

### South Ribble

- South Ribble Leisure Ltd (LATCO; 100%)

### West Lancashire

- Tawd Valley Developments Ltd (LATCO; 100%)

*LATCO = council-owned trading company; ALMO = arms-length management organisation; JV = joint venture; SPV = special purpose vehicle.*

*\* Members: Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Hyndburn, Lancashire CC, Lancaster, Pendle, Rossendale, West Lancashire*

# Waste, recycling and environment

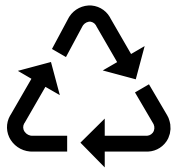
# Environmental factors heavily influenced by location

As waste disposal authorities, Lancashire County Council, Blackpool, and Blackburn with Darwen each operate their own infrastructure and contracts. LCC manages treatment facilities through its majority-owned company Lancashire Renewables Ltd and runs 16 household waste recycling centres. Blackpool delivers services via Enveco NW Environmental Services, its wholly owned company, while Blackburn with Darwen manages two HWRCs directly. Performance outcomes vary – in 2023/24, household recycling rates ranged from 44% in Blackpool to 27.1% in Blackburn with Darwen.

Waste collection models across the 12 districts and 2 unitaries vary, with several districts managing services in-house and others running contracted models. Collections are almost universally fortnightly (the exceptions are Ribble Valley (weekly) and Blackpool (every 3 weeks from 2026)). Most areas record levels of waste per person in and around the England average, with Blackpool (high) and Hyndburn (low) notable outliers at either end of the scale. Net expenditure across all councils on waste disposal and collection totals c.£60m per annum.

Whilst the highest volume of annual fly-tipping incidents is in Preston, the highest rate is in Pendle where there are 46.6 incidents per 1,000 residents. The corresponding figure in South Ribble is more than ten times lower. Seven of the Lancashire-14 record rates of fly-tipping above the national average. The extent of Green Belt land is hugely variable, conforming to expected patterns around rurality and urbanity. There is minimal Green Belt land in Blackpool, but almost 90% of West Lancashire falls under this designation. Emissions and air quality data also align with national patterns – greenhouse gas emissions are higher in rural areas (led by Ribble Valley), whilst air quality generally deteriorates in the busier and more populous coastal and East Lancashire regions.

## Recycling



**44.0%**  
Blackpool

**27.1%**  
Blackburn with Darwen

## Fly-tipping

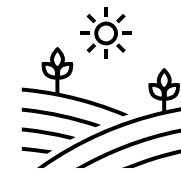


**3.8**  
South Ribble

**46.6**  
Pendle

*Incidents per 1,000 residents*

## Green Belt



**1.8%**  
Blackpool

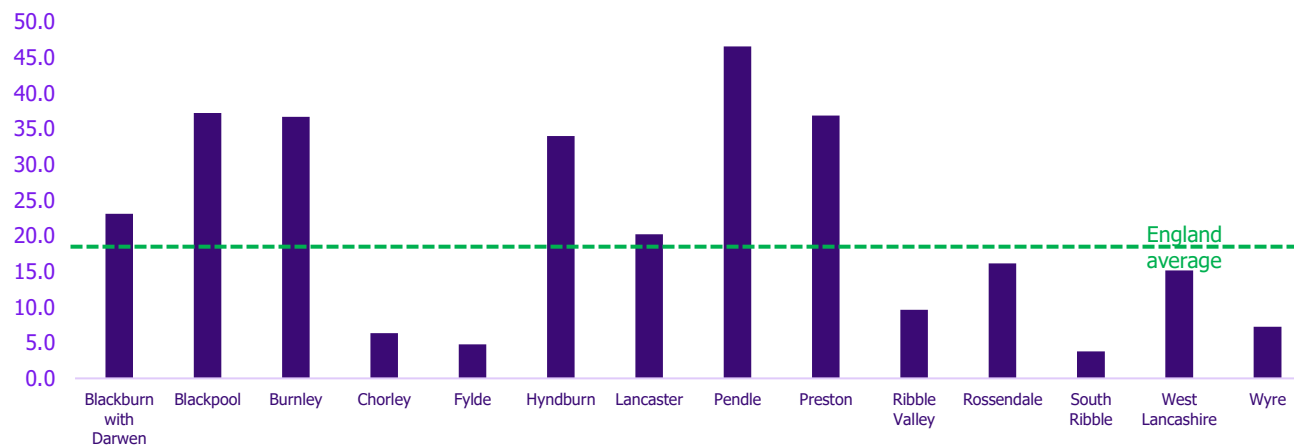
**89.5%**  
West Lancashire

*% of Green Belt land*

## Waste and recycling (2023/24 LA Waste Stats, Defra)

Authority	Recycling Rate (%)	Waste per 1,000 households (annual tonnage)
Blackburn with Darwen	27.1	924
Blackpool	44.0	968
Burnley	31.6	766
Chorley	43.3	875
Fylde	42.2	886
Hyndburn	31.6	695
Lancaster	36.6	828
Pendle	29.6	881
Preston	28.3	873
Ribble Valley	38.6	908
Rossendale	30.5	792
South Ribble	43.5	850
West Lancashire	45	953
Wyre	42.3	837
England	42.3	960

## Fly-tipping – incidents per 1,000 residents (2023/24)



## Waste collection frequency across Lancashire

Authority	Collection Frequency
Blackburn with Darwen	Fortnightly
Blackpool	Fortnightly (every 3 weeks from 2026)
Burnley	Fortnightly
Chorley	Fortnightly
Fylde	Fortnightly
Hyndburn	Fortnightly
Lancaster	Fortnightly
Pendle	Fortnightly
Preston	Fortnightly
Ribble Valley	Weekly
Rossendale	Fortnightly
South Ribble	Fortnightly
West Lancashire	Fortnightly
Wyre	Fortnightly

# HWRCs, depots, treatment and transfer stations



Authority	Site name	Town	Type
Lancashire County Council	Altham (Whinney Hill) HWRC	Accrington	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Barnoldswick HWRC	Barnoldswick	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Burnley HWRC	Burnley	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Burscough HWRC	Burscough	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Carnforth (Keer Bridge) HWRC	Carnforth	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Chorley HWRC	Chorley	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Clitheroe HWRC	Clitheroe	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Farington HWRC	Leyland	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Fleetwood HWRC	Fleetwood	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Garstang HWRC	Garstang	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Haslingden HWRC	Haslingden	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Lancaster HWRC	Lancaster	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Longridge HWRC	Longridge	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Lytham HWRC	Lytham St Annes	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Preston HWRC	Preston	HWRC
Lancashire County Council	Skelmersdale HWRC	Skelmersdale	HWRC
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	Blackburn HWRC	Blackburn	HWRC
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	Darwen HWRC	Darwen	HWRC
Blackpool Council / Envenco	Blackpool HWRC (Bristol Avenue)	Blackpool	HWRC
Lancashire Renewables Ltd (LCC-owned)	Farington Waste Recovery Park (LRL)	Leyland	Treatment facility (MBT/AD)
Lancashire Renewables Ltd (LCC-owned)	Thornton Waste Recovery Park (LRL)	Thornton-Cleveleys	Treatment facility
Lancashire County Council	Preston Waste Transfer Station	Preston	Transfer station
Ribble Valley Borough Council	Salthill Depot	Clitheroe	Transfer station / depot
Pendle Borough Council	Fleet Street Depot	Nelson	Depot
West Lancashire Borough Council	Stanley Depot	Skelmersdale	Depot
Lancaster City Council	White Lund Depot	Morecambe	Depot / transfer
Rossendale Borough Council	Henrietta Street Depot	Bacup	Depot / transfer
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	Davyfield Road Depot	Blackburn	Depot / transfer
Blackpool Council / Envenco	Layton Depot	Blackpool	Depot
Wyre Borough Council	Copse Road Depot	Fleetwood	Depot
Chorley Borough Council	Bengal Street Depot	Chorley	Depot

## Air quality (22/23)

Authority	Air quality – PM2.5 concentration (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Blackburn with Darwen	6.4
Blackpool	6.3
Burnley	6.3
Chorley	6.7
Fylde	5.7
Hyndburn	6.5
Lancaster	5.7
Pendle	6.2
Preston	6.2
Ribble Valley	6.0
Rossendale	6.3
South Ribble	6.1
West Lancashire	6.2
Wyre	5.8
England average	7.0

## Green Belt land (23/24)

Authority	Green Belt (ha)	% of LA land area
Blackburn with Darwen	5,240	38.2%
Blackpool	60	1.8%
Burnley	1,050	9.5%
Chorley	14,550	71.8%
Fylde	1,750	10.6%
Hyndburn	3,990	54.7%
Lancaster	1,540	2.7%
Pendle	2,040	12.1%
Preston	660	4.6%
Ribble Valley	1,720	3.0%
Rossendale	3,060	22.2%
South Ribble	7,620	67.3%
West Lancashire	31,010	89.5%
Wyre	680	2.4%

# Libraries, leisure and culture

# A rich and diverse offer with room to develop access

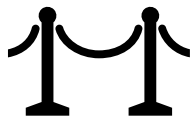
Across Lancashire there are more than eighty operational libraries, but provision is uneven. Larger towns retain central hubs, while many rural areas rely on smaller branches. Libraries now serve wider roles beyond lending, with adult learning and skills courses in Blackpool and BwD, universal children’s activities, and digital access and health programmes in larger sites.

Councils also manage a substantial estate of parks and leisure facilities, though again distribution and control vary. Every district has at least one significant park, but the scale of investment differs sharply between places. Directly operated leisure centres are now concentrated in seven councils, with many others outsourcing to trusts or contractors. This creates variation in access to affordable leisure, with provision thinnest in parts of East Lancashire.

The cultural and heritage estate includes around twenty directly operated sites, giving most areas at least one focal point. Flagship museums such as the Harris and Towneley Hall sit alongside small theatres and community venues like Darwen Library Theatre, Marine Hall and The ACE Centre. While these sites safeguard local heritage and community culture, coverage is uneven, and several districts depend on single sites of modest scale. Lancashire County Council also runs a handful of specialist museums. Lancashire also contains two designated National Landscapes where councils play a direct role: the Forest of Bowland, where the county council hosts the management unit, and Arnsdale and Silverdale, managed by Lancaster City Council.

Local government reform will reshape how these services are governed, and work to consider the opportunities that this bring is crucial in the context of developing access for a broader group of residents across Lancashire, considering the impacts of libraries, leisure and culture on health and wellbeing and attainment.

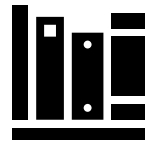
## Culture and heritage



**100%**

All areas have at least one key cultural site

## Libraries



**80+**

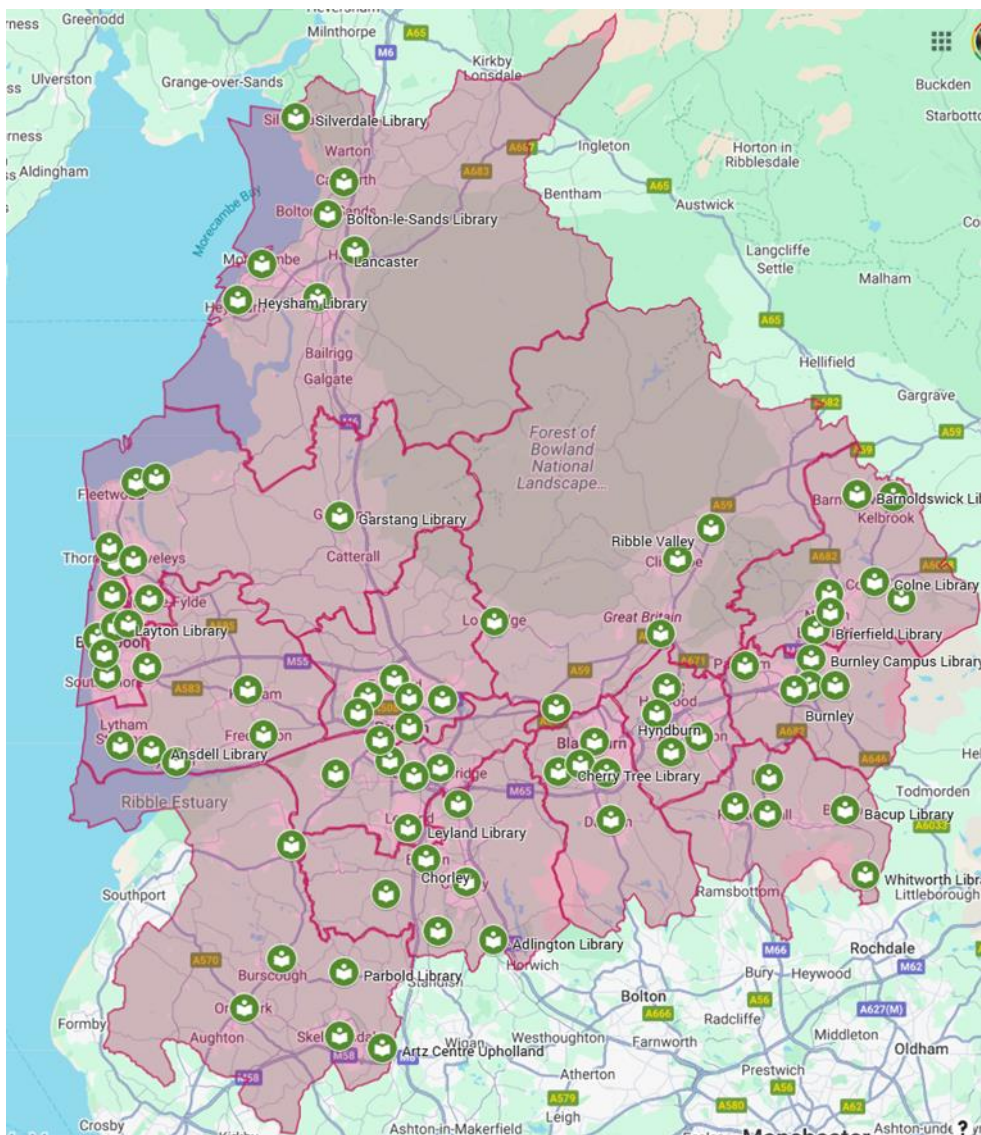
Directly managed libraries

## Open spaces



**2**

AONBs with council management



## Library sites across Lancashire

- There are over eighty operational libraries across the Lancashire-14. These vary significantly in scale - a small number of large central libraries act as service hubs, while the majority are smaller neighbourhood sites. The core function remains book lending and information provision, but every authority has extended the use of space in a range of ways:
  - **Adult learning:** in Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen, libraries are formally used as outreach venues for the councils' adult learning services. Courses typically include digital skills, ESOL, employability and basic literacy. In Lancashire, adult learning is less concentrated in libraries, but some sites host community classes or IT sessions.
  - **Children and families:** all authorities deliver structured activities such as rhyme time, story sessions, homework clubs and coding clubs.
  - **Council service access:** in BwD, several libraries are customer access points for council services, offering advice on housing, welfare and benefits. Blackpool libraries also deliver similar access for digital-by-default services.
  - **Digital access:** public PCs and Wi-Fi are available across all sites. In rural areas of Lancashire, these facilities can be the only free-to-access digital connection point.
  - **Health and wellbeing activity:** most central libraries provide space for groups linked to public health programmes – e.g., dementia support sessions, knit-and-natter or reading groups. This is less systematic in the smaller community branches, where capacity is limited.
- Reorganisation may impact how libraries are planned and managed across Lancashire. Differences in current use mean that any new unitary structure would need to take account of these variations when considering future provision.



## Major parks and open spaces, council-run leisure sites and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty across Lancashire

### Parks and open spaces

- There is a large estate of parks and open spaces across Lancashire, ranging from major historic parks (Stanley Park in Blackpool, Witton Country Park in BwD, Avenham and Miller Parks in Preston) to smaller neighbourhood and memorial parks. These sites serve multiple purposes, providing green space access for local residents and venues for community events. Larger parks often incorporate formal features such as visitor centres (Yarrow Valley, Wyre Estuary, Beacon Fell) while smaller parks primarily function as local amenity space. Provision is relatively evenly distributed, with at least one significant park asset in every district.

### Leisure

- Directly operated leisure facilities are now concentrated in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Chorley, Lancaster, Ribble Valley, South Ribble and West Lancashire, who all run their own leisure centres or pools, typically through in-house teams or council-owned LATCs. Elsewhere (Pendle, Burnley, Preston, Fylde, Rossendale, Wyre, Hyndburn) services are delivered by trusts or providers (these are not mapped here). The council-run portfolio includes a mix of large multi-sport centres (Blackburn Sports and Leisure Centre, Palatine Leisure Centre, Salt Ayre) and smaller pools or fitness sites (Ribblesdale Pool, Penwortham Leisure Centre). Alongside these, councils operate specialist venues such as athletics arenas and tennis centres.

### National Landscapes (AONBs)

Lancashire is covered by two designated National Landscapes (plus a small portion of the Yorkshire Dales National Park) where councils play an important role :

- Forest of Bowland:** the majority lies within Lancashire, spanning Ribble Valley, Wyre, Pendle and Lancaster districts (with an extension into North Yorkshire). Lancashire County Council hosts the core staff team and provides the accountable body role.
- Arnside and Silverdale:** much smaller in Lancashire terms, with only the southern part (Silverdale, Warton and surrounds) inside the county and the majority in Cumbria. The management unit is hosted by Lancaster City Council on behalf of the partnership.



## Owned or managed culture and heritage sites across Lancashire

- There is a diverse cultural and heritage offer across Lancashire, spanning museums, historic houses, galleries, theatres, and community arts venues, and giving each area at least one focal point of cultural provision. Around twenty sites are still directly run and operated by councils.
- Museums and galleries remain central, with Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Burnley's Towneley Hall, Chorley's Astley Hall, and Preston's Harris hosting substantial collections. The county council runs several specialist museums, including Helmshore Mills, Queen Street Mill, Judges' Lodgings, and Clitheroe Castle Museum.
- Alongside these, several councils maintain theatres and performance venues. Examples include Darwen Library Theatre, Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre in Wyre, and The Platform in Morecambe. These offer accessible performance and community space to local audiences. Several heritage sites, such as Turton Tower, The Mount Pavilion in Fleetwood, and Worden Hall in Leyland, highlight the importance of council conservation responsibilities with public access and events use.
- Lancashire councils also run flexible arts and community venues that extend beyond conventional museum or gallery functions. The ACE Centre in Pendle, Ribble Valley's Platform Gallery, and Blackpool's Solaris Centre host exhibitions, community events, learning activity and performances, often providing the only dedicated cultural space within their districts.
- Local government reform will alter the governance arrangements for cultural and heritage sites, with assets currently managed separately by the county and districts brought into new organisational structures.



# Highways, transport and travel

# Transport is a critical factor in access to opportunities

Highways across Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool are extensive and diverse, with over 5,000 miles of managed routes ranging from national corridors and A-roads to local residential streets. Road condition is broadly in line with national averages, with around 6-7% of classified roads requiring maintenance, though the unclassified network is less consistently monitored. Patterns of congestion reflect urban pressures. Short but heavily trafficked links record peak delays of over 100 seconds per vehicle mile, among the highest in the region. Traffic volumes have grown strongly in Lancashire over the past three decades, though has remained broadly stable in the other two unitary areas.

Modes of travel highlight wider challenges. Bus patronage has declined sharply over the past decade, with reductions steeper than the regional average. Car ownership is relatively high in Lancashire (only 20.4% of households without a car) but notably lower in Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool, where higher proportions of households lack access to a car. Rail usage primarily focuses on commuting to Manchester, Liverpool, London or other destinations outside of Lancashire. Active travel rates are also below national averages, particularly for cycling, although walking for travel is more common in Blackpool. A distinctive feature is Blackpool Transport Services Ltd, the municipally owned operator responsible for both the tramway and most local bus services, carrying around 14 million passengers a year. This places Blackpool in a small group of authorities nationally with direct operational responsibility for public transport. Blackpool also wholly owns Blackpool Airport (non-commercial use only since 2015).

As local government reform progresses, the future governance and accountability of such assets will be a critical consideration, raising questions about ownership, integration with wider transport networks, and how best to secure investment and standards across a reorganised authority landscape. Future challenges and opportunities include the increasing cost of road maintenance and addressing the uneven geography of provision, balancing rural accessibility with urban congestion. Improving these factors will directly impact access to services, amenities and opportunities, ranging from social care provision to jobs and skills.

## Cars

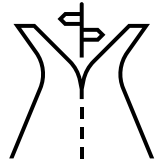


**34%**  
Blackpool

**20.4%**  
Lancashire-12

*Households with no car, 2021*

## Highways



**5,049**  
Total road length (miles)  
across Lancashire-14

## Public transport



**51.1**  
Blackpool

**25.2**  
Blackburn with Darwen

*Bus journeys per head*

# Roads and highways – length and condition

Road length (miles) by type and management responsibility (DfT, 2024)

Authority	Motorways			Urban A roads			Rural A roads			Totals: Major roads			Totals: Minor roads (all locally managed)					Total road length*
	Central	Local	Total	Central	Local	Total	Central	Local	Total	Central	Local	Total	Urban B	Rural B	Urban C & U	Rural C & U	Total	
Blackburn with Darwen	5	-	5	-	24	24	-	10	10	5	35	40	7	4	224	58	293	<b>333</b>
Blackpool	-	-	-	-	24	24	-	2	2	-	26	26	13	-	235	4	252	<b>278</b>
Lancashire	97	7	104	5	141	146	18	287	305	120	435	555	93	196	1,771	1,823	3,883	<b>4,438</b>

\* Exact totals may differ due to rounding

Percentage of roads by surface condition overview as determined by Red, Amber and Green (DfT, 2024)

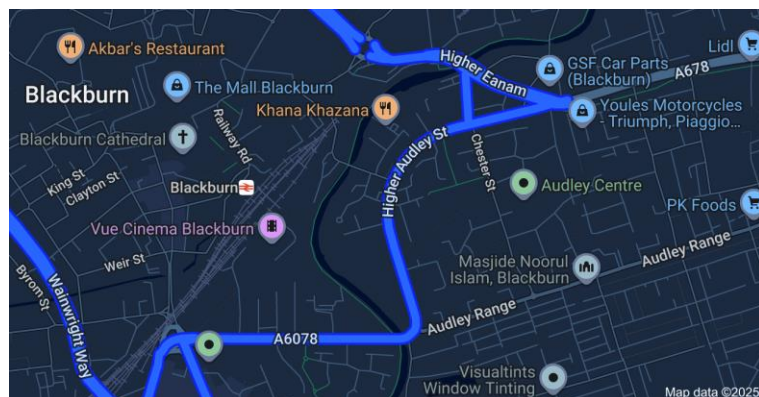
Local Authority	Motorways and A roads			B, C and U roads		
	FYE 2024 Green	FYE 2024 Amber	FYE 2024 Red	FYE 2024 Green	FYE 2024 Amber	FYE 2024 Red
Blackburn with Darwen	36%	58%	5%	17%	73%	10%
Blackpool	32%	64%	4%	35%	60%	5%
Lancashire	80%	18%	2%	70%	26%	5%

\* Exact totals may differ due to rounding

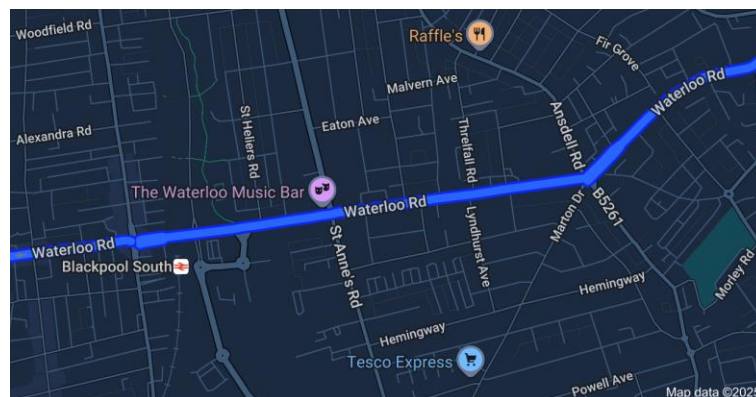
# Roads and highways – travel times

Average delay at link level on the Strategic Road Network (seconds per vehicle per mile)

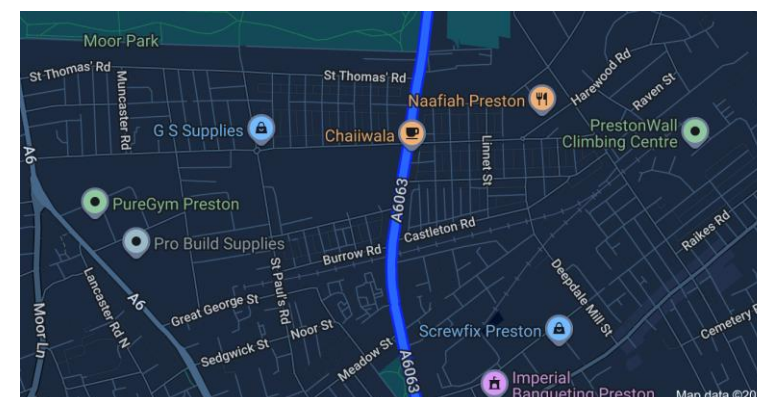
Local Authority	Average delay across all A roads (spvpm)	Road with longest average delay
Blackburn with Darwen	61.1	A6078 (114.8)
Blackpool	67.9	A5073 (119.1)
Lancashire	37.1	A6063 (109.0)



Blackburn inner ring road (A6078)



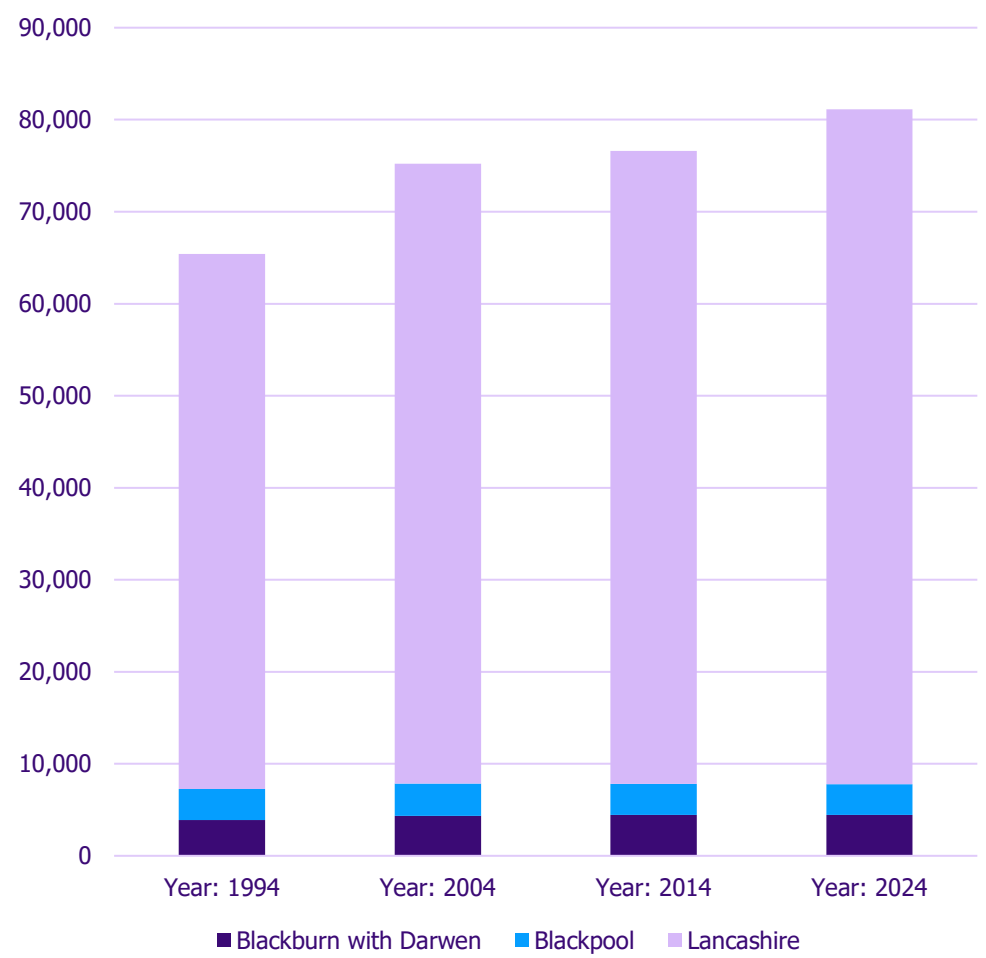
Waterloo Road, Blackpool (A5073)



Deepdale / Sir Tom Finney Way, Preston (A6063)

# Roads and highways – vehicle miles

Total volume of traffic (vehicle miles; all vehicles) over the past 30 years



Authority	1994	2004	2014	2024	30-year change
<b>Blackburn with Darwen</b>	387,800,000	432,400,000	446,000,000	445,800,000	+58,000,000
<b>Blackpool</b>	337,800,000	353,200,000	334,900,000	333,800,000	-4,000,000
<b>Lancashire</b>	5,814,300,000	6,735,300,000	6,878,600,000	7,331,600,000	+1,517,300,000

# Rail travel – volume of journeys

Estimates of station usage, 2023-2024 (Office of Rail and Road)

## Station map



## Top stations

Station Name	Entries and Exits	Main origin or destination station	Number of journeys to or from main origin or destination station
Preston (Lancs)	4,835,240	London Euston	509,706
Blackpool North	1,973,138	Preston (Lancs)	318,732
Lancaster	1,963,884	Preston (Lancs)	272,322
Ormskirk	1,963,658	Liverpool Central	483,880
Blackburn	1,244,512	Manchester Victoria	218,484
Chorley	621,956	Manchester Piccadilly	127,364
Poulton-Le-Fylde	582,988	Preston (Lancs)	127,210
Burnley Manchester Road	520,890	Manchester Victoria	96,082
Accrington	473,720	Blackburn	81,916
Town Green	405,438	Ormskirk	150,830
Leyland	394,084	Manchester Piccadilly	77,228
Kirkham and Wesham	361,362	Preston (Lancs)	70,036
Buckshaw Parkway	341,192	Manchester Piccadilly	79,218
Darwen	301,708	Manchester Victoria	97,776
Clitheroe	268,242	Blackburn	72,980
Carnforth	174,598	Lancaster	65,914
Burscough Bridge	167,468	Southport	35,214
Morecambe	163,926	Lancaster	53,390
Aughton Park	162,460	Liverpool Central	50,210
Adlington (Lancashire)	142,894	Manchester Piccadilly	39,412

# Bus journeys and car ownership rates

## Passenger journeys on local bus services per head (DfT bus data)

Area	2014	2024	+/- 10 years
Blackburn with Darwen	28.1	25.2	-2.9
Blackpool	77.6	51.1	-26.5
Lancashire	43.7	30.3	-13.4
North West	61.0	43.7	-17.3

## Car ownership (DfT Vehicle Licensing Statistics)

Area	Cars	Population (2024, MYE)	Cars per 1,000 people	% households with no car (2021 Census)
Blackburn with Darwen	64,163	162,540	394.8	<b>26.9%</b>
Blackpool	58,014	144,191	402.3	<b>34.0%</b>
Lancashire	614,778	1,294,914	474.8	<b>20.4%</b>
North West	3,628,921	7,737,414	469.0	<b>24.7%</b>
England	28,356,848	58,620,101	483.7	<b>23.5%</b>

## Overview of BTS Ltd, wholly-owned by Blackpool Council

<b>Owner</b>	100% owned by Blackpool Council
<b>Operations</b>	<p><b>Light rail (Blackpool Tramway):</b> runs 11 miles from Starr Gate (South Shore) to Fleetwood</p> <p><b>Bus services:</b> c.15 core routes across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre</p>
<b>Fleet (2024)</b>	<p><b>Trams:</b> 18 Bombardier Flexity 2 low-floor units (2012), plus heritage trams (operated seasonally/tourism)</p> <p><b>Buses:</b> c.100 vehicles, mix of double-deckers and single-deckers</p>
<b>Volumes</b>	<p><b>Tram:</b> c.5m passenger journeys/year (pre-COVID; c.4.6m in 2022/23)</p> <p><b>Bus:</b> c.9-10m journeys/year (DfT BUS01 data)</p>
<b>Employees</b>	c.600
<b>Financials</b>	Turnover c.£28m (2023); modest operating surplus, reinvested
<b>Key projects</b>	<p>Tramway extension to Blackpool North Station (due to open late 2025)</p> <p>Fleet renewal with low-emission buses (Euro VI and electric trials)</p>
<b>Governance</b>	Council-owned company limited by shares. Board includes elected members and independent directors.



Blackpool Council also owns **Blackpool Airport** through Blackpool Airport Operations Ltd. The airport was set up in 2004, sold to Balfour Beatty, and then bought back in 2017. Since 2015, it has been closed to commercial passengers. Current traffic is focused on several major helicopter operations (connected to offshore oil and gas fields) and private usage.