

Cumbria Community Safety Strategic Assessment

Barrow-in-Furness District Summary

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BACKGROUND

This Summary Report provides a narrative overview of community safety within Barrow-in-Furness. It forms part of a collection of documents which make up the Community Safety Strategic Assessment (CSSA) for Cumbria.

The Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 place a statutory duty on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to prepare a Joint Strategic Assessment of crime and disorder in their local areas. The aim of the CSSA is to provide partners with an understanding of the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse in the county and local areas, through statistical analysis, information about crime, changes and patterns over time, and, where possible, explanations as to why these changes have occurred.

The CSSA will highlight the County's priorities for the Safer and Stronger Thematic Partnership, the CSPs and other responsible authorities that are working together to tackle crime, disorder and substance misuse. The CSSA will provide the evidence base for the development of Cumbria's Community Safety Agreement by helping to identify and prioritise the resources and interventions required to combat crime and disorder. It will draw on issues raised by those working or living in local communities including areas that they feel should be addressed.

This report is one of six district Summaries which sit alongside an overall Cumbria Summary and the Cumbria Community Safety Technical Report to make up the CSSA. The narrative within this report draws on the data and analysis contained in the comprehensive Cumbria Community Safety Strategic Assessment Technical Report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Barrow is becoming a safer place to live, with levels of crime continuing to fall.

In the past year levels of overall crime have declined by 12.7%, the greatest decline for any district in the county. Barrow-in-Furness continued to have the lowest number of drug crimes in Cumbria as well as the lowest number of people killed and seriously injured on its roads.

Despite declining levels of crime overall, Barrow-in-Furness has the second highest rate of crime overall in Cumbria. The district has the highest rate of anti-social behaviour and anti-social behaviour involving young people, burglary in a dwelling, alcohol related offences against a person and domestic violence in the County.

Alcohol misuse is an issue in the district with rates of recorded crime and violent crimes attributable to alcohol increasing as well as alcohol specific mortality in males. Rates of alcohol related hospital admissions are above national and regional levels, and while the rate of under 18s admitted to hospital with alcohol specific conditions are falling they remain significantly higher than the national average.

The typical offender in Barrow-in-Furness is most likely to be male and aged 18-30 years. There is a clear correlation between levels of crime and levels of overall deprivation in the county. Central ward in Barrow, incorporating the town centre, had the greatest number of crime incidents in the district followed by Hindpool ward. Central is the most deprived ward in the county, Hindpool the third most deprived.

Future changes to welfare reform may have an impact on levels of crime. As we see levels of household income reduce through benefit cuts, adding further to financial pressures in the home, we may see an increase in alcohol and substance misuse, crime (potentially acquisitive crime) as well as domestic violence. Some of these welfare reforms have already taken place but further changes will take place from October 2013. Services may see an increase in demand as changes to personal and financial circumstances take place.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Barrow-in-Furness is in the South West corner of the county. The district is dominated by the town of Barrow the second largest settlement in Cumbria. Geographically isolated, with relatively poor transport links, the district is an historic centre of the ship building industry. Barrow-in-Furness also includes the small market town of Dalton in Furness.

At 78 km², the urban district of Barrow-in-Furness has by far the smallest geographical area of any district in Cumbria. It is also the most densely populated district in the county with a current population of 69,100.

Barrow-in-Furness is the only district in Cumbria where population is in decline. Since 2001 the population has fallen by 4%, compared to a 2.5% rise for the county as a whole. The population of Barrow-in-Furness is also ageing. Since 2001 there has been a 7.4% rise in the number of residents aged over 65 years compared to an 18.0% decline in the population aged 0-14 years, the greatest fall in the county for this age range. The district has the second lowest proportion of its population from black and minority ethnic groups (4.1%), behind Copeland and below the county average. Barrow-in-Furness residents have a life expectancy of 79.1 years and the lowest healthy life expectancy in Cumbria at just 66.8 years.

Barrow-in-Furness' economy is historically based on manufacturing, especially ship building. While this has declined, it remains the cornerstone of the district's economy and BAE Systems' shipyard is one of the largest remaining shipyards in the UK and the largest employer in Barrow. In Barrow-in-Furness the largest areas of employment are manufacturing (24.6%), health (17.4%), retail (12.0%), and education (7.4%).

Barrow-in-Furness is the most deprived district in Cumbria and one of the 10% most deprived districts in the country. The district is the thirty second most deprived in England overall, the fifth most deprived for housing quality and the third most deprived nationally for health. The median household income in Barrow-in-Furness is £22,505. The median house price is £94,383, almost £50,000 less than the county average. Levels of unemployment in Barrow are high with 4.1% of residents claiming job seekers allowance, the only district in Cumbria where this figure is above the national average. 8,950 people living in Barrow-in-Furness are claiming some type of benefit and 16.5% are claiming out of work benefits, rates well above national levels. 20% of households have an income of less than £10,000 per year, while 21.7% of children live in poverty (above national levels).

Levels of deprivation are significant in and around the town centre of Barrow, in particular the Central ward. Central is the most deprived ward in the county with high levels of unemployment, the highest rate of benefit claimants and out of work benefit claimants in the county. Household incomes are low and the median house price at £63,069 is the lowest in the county. Almost half of children living in Central ward are living in poverty. At 49.4% it is the highest proportion in the county.

COMMUNITY SAFETY INFORMATION

This section will present the narrative of community safety within Barrow-in-Furness.

Two different measures of incidents have been used:

- **Number:** the exact number of incidents / offences within Barrow-in-Furness.
- **Rate:** the number of incidents in relation to Barrow-in-Furness' population.

Substance misuse and alcohol

The impact of alcohol on the health of Barrow-in-Furness' population is significant, a reflection of the situation in Cumbria as a whole. The district performs poorly in a number of indicators when compared to the rest of the county and England. Alcohol abuse remains a significant contributing factor in crime and disorder in the district, as well as being detrimental to peoples' overall health and wellbeing.

Rates of alcohol related hospital admissions are above national and regional levels, and while the rate of under 18s admitted to hospital with alcohol specific conditions are falling they remain significantly higher than the national average. Rates of alcohol specific mortality in males are rising, and alcohol related recorded crime and violent crimes are also on the increase.

There is a continuing link between overall levels of crime, domestic violence and alcohol abuse. Central ward has the highest number of alcohol related offences against the person and the second highest number of overall crime in the county.

559 people came into contact with Cumbria Drug & Alcohol Services. 72.3% of service users accessed the service because of drugs misuse, 27.7% accessed the service because of alcohol misuse. A significant proportion (61.2%) of drug users in Barrow-in-Furness use heroin as their primary drug. The greatest proportion of service users are aged between 36-45 years.

Reoffending

The south of the county currently has a significantly lower number of offenders than the north and west. Offenders are typically male and aged between 20-29 years reflecting the situation in Cumbria as a whole. Over the last 3 years actual rates of reoffending in Cumbria have remained below predicted rates. Over the same period, reoffending rates have fallen. In Barrow, violence accounts for 30.5% of offending, followed by public order (13.1%) and theft (12.4%). 44.8% of offenders in Barrow have shown evidence of committing domestic abuse (the highest in the county); and 42.1% have parental responsibility (the highest in the county). Reducing the level of reoffending in Cumbria remains a priority for the partnership and through systems such as Prevent and Deter for young people, and the Integrated Offender Management system for adults this should be achieved in the future.

Domestic Violence

Numbers of domestic violence incidents in Barrow-in-Furness have fallen by 11% in the last year. Despite this, the district continues to have the highest rate of domestic violence in the county. However, the repeat victim rate has fallen, detection rates have increased and arrest rates have increased. Central ward in Barrow has the highest number of domestic violence incidents in the county, whilst Hindpool and Ormsgill wards also have high numbers of incidents. Within the

district there is a strong correlation between domestic violence and levels of deprivation. In areas where there are high levels of domestic violence there are high levels of unemployment and high numbers of workless households. These areas have high proportions of children living in poverty and high levels of overall crime. The wards of Hindpool and Ormsgill also had a high level of domestic violence. Although incidences typically take place in deprived wards it is understood that domestic violence occurs in more affluent areas but is often hidden and not reported.

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

Numbers of ASB incidents have fallen by 21.9% in the past year, despite this Barrow-in-Furness has the highest rate of ASB in Cumbria. There is a good deal of partnership working which is coordinated through the Anti Social Behaviour Intervention Panel and the Prevent & Deter Panel. This is fed by the "It's Your Choice" process which identifies young people (10-17 years) on the periphery of offending behaviour. South Cumbria's Prevent and Triage worker, based in Barrow works closely with families and individuals to address ASB and other offending behaviour. Restorative Justice has also played a part in this reduction. Targeted work by Barrow's Police Licensing Officer and Operation Regulate staff who have been utilising Section 27 dispersal notices with follow up home visits to offenders, reminding them of behaviour and how Barwatch may respond, has also had a positive impact in reducing ASB in the night time economy. ASB is most prevalent in deprived areas with high levels of unemployment, benefit claimants, crime and low levels of household incomes and in particular in the wards of Central and Hindpool. Central ward had the second highest number of ASB incidents in the county. Ormsgill and Risedale wards also have relatively high levels of ASB.

Crime

Barrow-in-Furness is becoming a safer place to live, with levels of crime continuing to decline. Overall crime has fallen by 12.7%, the greatest decline over the last 12 months in the county.

Despite the declining levels of crime overall the district still has the second highest rate of crime in the county, after Carlisle. Barrow-in-Furness experienced the greatest fall in levels of **burglary at a dwelling** (-17.3%) and **criminal damage** (-26.7%) than any other district. The most significant decreases were for **theft from a motor vehicle** (-48.6%) and **theft of a motor vehicle** (-48.6%). There were decreases in other types of crimes including **business crime** (-15.0%), **hate crime** (-6.0%) and **domestic violence** (-11.0%). However, falls in both hate crime and domestic violence does not necessarily reflect an improvement, it may reflect non-reporting. Levels of **drug crimes** have remained the same and the district continues to have the lowest rate compared to the rest of the county, however, the aim of Cumbria Constabulary is to increase the number of drug convictions and therefore reduce the number of drugs in circulation.

The typical offender in Barrow-in-Furness is most likely to be male and aged 18-30 years. There is a clear correlation between levels of crime and levels of deprivation in Barrow-in-Furness. Crime is concentrated in deprived areas of Barrow characterised by low levels of household income, high unemployment and high levels of child poverty. Central ward, the most deprived in the district, had the highest levels of crime followed by the second most deprived ward of Hindpool. Ormsgill and Risedale also had high levels of crime overall.

Central ward had the greatest number of incidents of burglary at dwellings, alcohol related offences against a person, and domestic violence. The ward had the second highest number of criminal damage incidents in Cumbria.

Killed and seriously injured

Barrow-in-Furness continues to have the lowest number of people killed or seriously injured on its roads. In the past year 13 people were killed or seriously injured on the districts roads, a fall of 23.5% from the previous year (the greatest decline in the county). Numbers of collisions and casualties are low however the areas with the greatest numbers were Central and Dalton South. Despite the declining number of incidents, speeding vehicles were reported as the greatest concern for the residents of Barrow-in-Furness in the most recent annual Public Consultation Survey (as well as rubbish/litter).

Deliberate fires

Numbers of deliberate fire incidents in Barrow-in-Furness continue to fall and have fallen by 32.8% in the past year, and by 42.6% over a three year period. Central ward had the greatest number of all fire incidents (both accidental and deliberate) in the district, and the third highest number of incidents across the rest of the county. There isn't always a correlation between areas of high levels of crime and deprivation as we see with Central ward, as there were relatively high numbers of fires in more affluent areas such as Roosecote and Walney South.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY - BARROW

Indicator	Number	Rate	Trend (change from 2010/11 – 2011/12)
Total Crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	4,074	57.6	down
Anti-Social Behaviour (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	5,158	73.0	down
Anti-Social Behaviour involving young people (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	1,526	21.6	down
Burglary Dwelling (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	124	1.8	down
Burglary Other (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	180	2.5	no change
Criminal Damage (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	959	13.6	down
Drug crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	188	2.7	no change
Offences Against the Person (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	1,227	17.4	up
Alcohol Related Offences Against the Person (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	373	5.3	down
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	97	1.4	down
Theft of a Motor Vehicle (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	38	0.5	down
Business crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	644	9.1	down
Hate crime (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	47	0.7	down
Domestic Violence (rate per 1,000 population) 2011/12	1,224	17.3	down
Alcohol specific mortality: Males (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2008-10	32	27.0	up
Alcohol specific mortality: Females (all ages, DSR per 100,000) 2008-10	9	8.1	down
Under 18s admitted to hospital with alcohol specific conditions (all ages, per 100,000) 2008/09-2010/11	47	103.9	down
Admission episodes for alcohol-attributable conditions (all ages, per 100,000) 2010/11	2,137	2464.4	down
Recorded crime attributable to alcohol (Persons, all ages, per 1,000) 2011/12	502	7.1	up
Violent crimes attributable to alcohol (Persons, all ages, per 1,000) 2011/12	454	6.4	up
Killed or Seriously Injured (Rate per 1,000) (2011)	13	0.2	down
Deliberate Fire Incidents (Rate per 1,000) (2011/12)	156	2.2	down

(DSR: Directly Standardised Rate)