



**NHS**  
*Blackpool*



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**Core Document**

**Chapter 4**

Social and Community Environment in Blackpool  
October 2012



**Blackpool Council**

BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY FOR ALL



## Social and Community Environment

### Poverty in Blackpool

Although 29.3% (2008) of Blackpool's children live in households where parents are claiming working age benefits (equivalent to approximately 9,000 children) many families in Blackpool fall below the 60% median income poverty line, despite one or more parents being in work.

The percentage of children in Blackpool living in households claiming workless benefits in 2007 was almost 8% higher than the national figure, and was the highest figure in the North West Region. Since 2008 the Blackpool figure has decreased by 1.0%, roughly half of the national decrease.

Many Blackpool schools experience high mobility rates. Within the 2009/10 academic year, Blackpool Schools showed a 14.8% mobility rate (the proportion of the school cohort that either left or joined during the school year, excluding those that join schools at the start of primary and secondary education). In addition, many families do not have extended family members within the locality.

Based on Department for Work & Pensions Figures for February 2011, Blackpool has a significant proportion of benefit claimants that are lone parents (2.4%) compared to national averages (1.6%). Blackpool also has a high proportion of parents with mental health issues, parents with substance misuse issues and children acting as young carers.

Many Blackpool parents have little or no personal experience of further or higher education (37.8% of 16-74 year olds resident in Blackpool have no formal qualification).

Key Points on Child Poverty in Blackpool:

- Over 9,000 children live in poverty in Blackpool, 29.3% of all children.
- Bloomfield, Clarendon, Park, Brunswick, Talbot and Clifton wards each have at least 40% of all children living in poverty, which is equivalent to at least 500 children in each ward.
- Every LSOA (Lower Super Output Area) in Blackpool has children living in child poverty; the lowest child poverty level in any LSOA is just 3.5% but this is still a higher "background level" of poverty than the best performing LSOA's in all other North West authorities.
- LSOA analysis shows that the extent of child poverty varies substantially within wards.
- Child poverty increased in Blackpool between 2006 and 2007, but has remained at broadly the same level between 2007 and 2008.
- Areas with high levels of child poverty are broadly the same areas highlighted as deprived by the Index of Deprivation.
- Two thirds of children in poverty live in lone parent families.
- Blackpool has lower wages, higher levels of teen pregnancy, lower levels of qualifications and fewer pupils entering higher education than other areas with similar levels of child poverty.
- Blackpool has had better take up of childcare, a higher rate of employment, and more people on benefits living in energy efficient homes than other areas with similar levels of child poverty.
- There is a significant number of children acting as carers, many of which are not in contact with support services (see later section).
- Blackpool's schools close the gap between expected and actual performance by pupils on Free School Meals (a proxy for child poverty) by the time they reach Key Stage 4.
- Most poverty is "out of work" poverty, but a significant minority results from parents in work earning low wages.
- Child poverty levels generally appear to be higher than average in coastal areas.

In addition to the above, 2003 estimates suggest that 6.8% of households in Blackpool are in 'fuel poverty', having to spend more than 10.0% of their income to heat the house to an acceptable level (Figure 53). Fuel poverty is more common in deprived areas, with some of the most deprived Lower Super Output Areas in Blackpool having more than 9.0% of households in fuel poverty, and the rate for the town being higher than less deprived areas. With rising electricity and gas prices, this percentage will have risen further since this time.

The 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that Blackpool is the 74th most deprived local authority in England in terms of the resident population considered to be 'income deprived'. This ranking equates to approximately 32,600 residents, an estimated increase of 200 on 2007 figures.

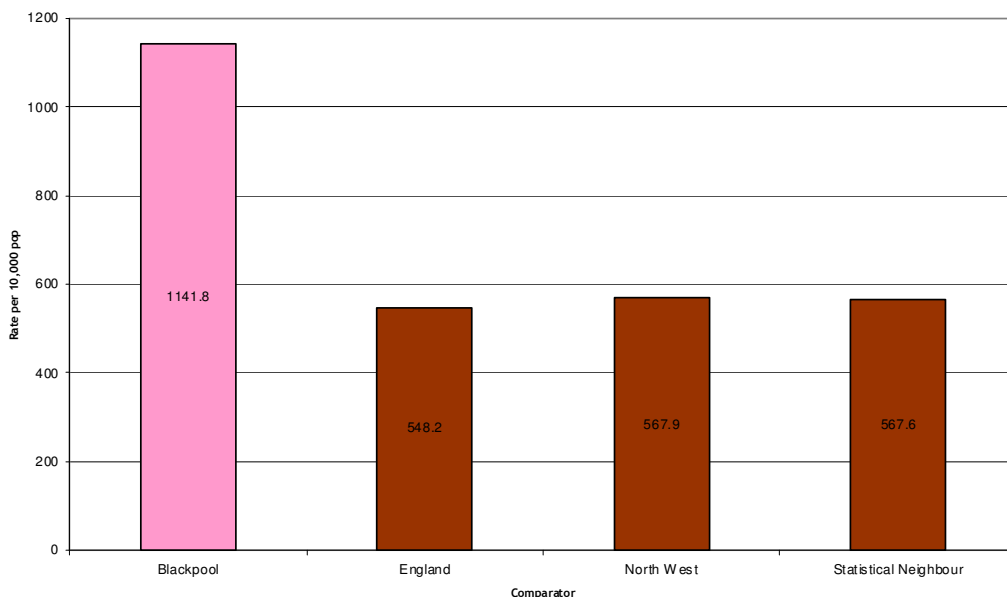
In addition, figures indicate that Blackpool is the 63rd most deprived local authority in England in terms of the resident population considered 'Employment Deprived'. This ranking equates to approximately 14,700 people in Blackpool, an increase of 300 on 2007 figures.

In the case of both indicators, Blackpool's ranking in 2007 suggested slightly worst deprivation levels against other authorities. However, as figures above show number of income and employment deprived in Blackpool has increased, the slight drop in ranking simply indicates more pronounced increases in other authorities

**Vulnerable Children:**

Referrals into Social Care:

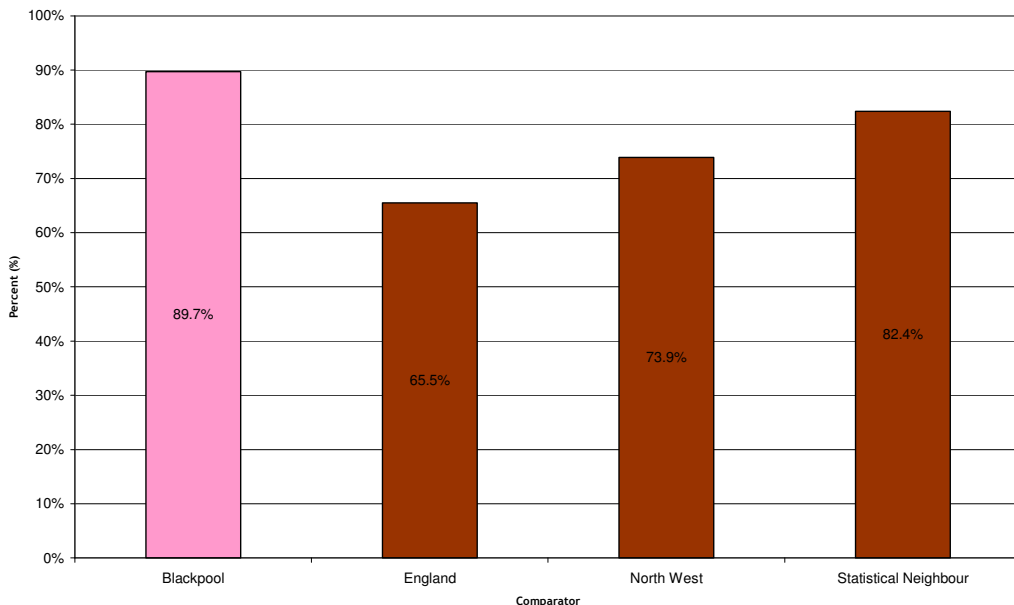
**Figure 68 - Number of Referrals into Social care per 10,000 0-18 year-old Population**



Blackpool had twice the rate of referrals than any of the comparator groups, with 1,142 per 10,000 population, based on figures taken from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, indicating the significant and sustained level of need in Blackpool compared to other local authorities. The 2011 figure is an increase from the previous year (990.6 on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010). Further figures show that the number of children referred into social care services more than once is also high at 16.7% for the 2010/11 financial year. This is again above both national and statistical neighbour averages at 13.8% and 15.0% respectively, although Blackpool figures have reduced from 21.5% within the 2009/10 financial year.

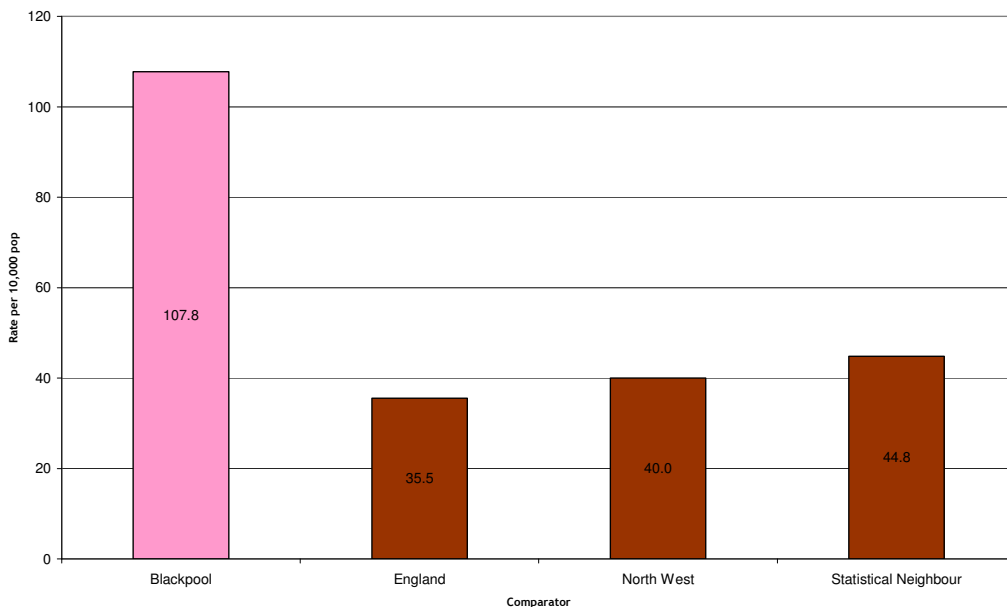
In addition to the high instances of referrals outlined above, the percentage of these referrals that go onto initial assessments (used as an indicator that intervention may be necessary) is also high compared to national and statistical neighbour comparators. This would again indicate a sustained level of complex need in Blackpool.

**Figure 69 - % of Completed Initial Assessments as a % of all Referrals in Social Care**



Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan:

**Figure 70 - Children subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 0-18 year-old population**



At the end of 2010/11 financial year, Blackpool had 313 children subject to a Child Protection Plan. This showed a significant increase of 63.0% from the end of 2009/10. As with referrals and initial assessments, Blackpool had a significantly higher rate of children subject to a child protection plan compared to the other comparators. The rate was three times as much as the England average in 2009/10, and significantly higher than displayed by statistical neighbours and the North West region.

### Looked after Children:

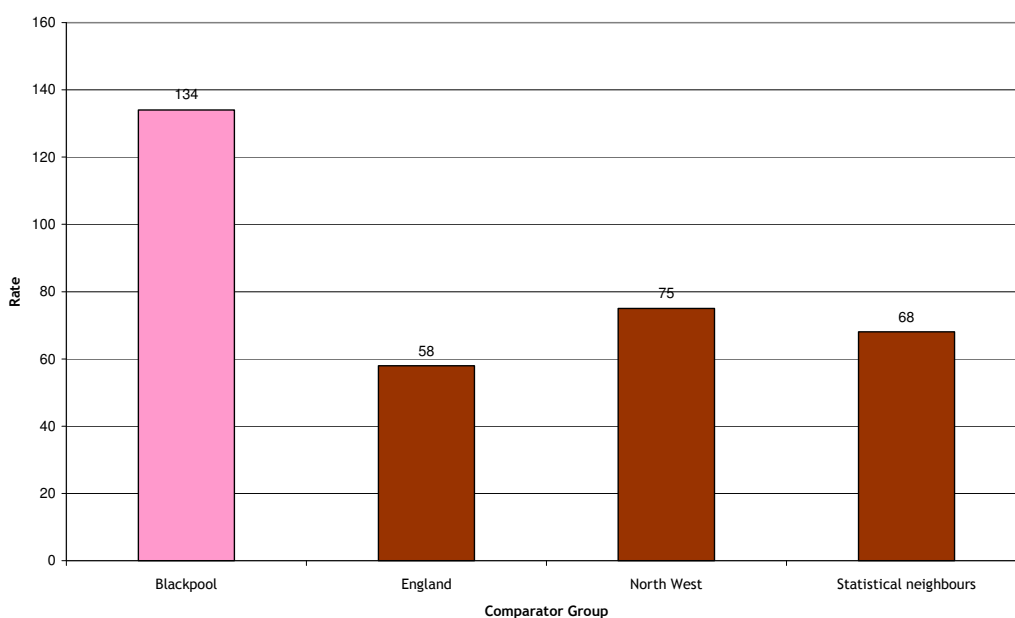
There were 396 Looked after Children (LAC) living in Blackpool as at 31 March 2011. The proportion of LAC in Blackpool compared to all children and young people is extremely high, and has continued to rise since year end.

Based on the 396 looked after children identified on the 31/03/2011, Blackpool had a rate of 134 LAC per 10,000 0-18 year-old population. This figure showed an increase of 5.9% since 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. The figure is also more than double that of the national comparator (58 LAC per 10,000 0-18 year-olds), and well above North West and Statistical neighbour averages (rates of 75 and 68 respectively).

Local research based around children who started to be looked after between November 2008 and February 2010 shows that 20% had moved into Blackpool within the last 5 years and were therefore not Blackpool residents at birth

The stability of looked after children adopted following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption (measured by the percentage of adopted children that move more than 3 times in a year) has, in the past, tended to be higher than average in Blackpool. However, figures for the 2010/11 financial year show a figure for Blackpool of 10.2%, which is in-line with national and statistical neighbour averages. It must also be noted that a movement of a LAC to a different placement is always initiated for a positive outcome.

**Figure 71 - Number of LAC per 10,000 0-18 year-old Population, Blackpool & Comparators**



Long-term stability (children in the same placement for at least two years) for Looked after Children is influenced by complex issues. Blackpool has seen a reduction in LAC who had been in the same placement for 2 years or more. The percentage fell from 69.5% in 2009/10 to 62.6% at the end of 2010/11. Blackpool figures are now below that for national and statistical neighbour comparator groups (based on 2009/10 data).

It should be noted that the figures above are based on relatively small numbers of children and young people, and therefore can appear to change greatly due to the small number of children.

### Care Leavers

Blackpool has a good record in recruiting adoptive families and the successful placement of children. Over the past three complete reporting years (2008/09 to 2010/11) the percentages of care leavers in suitable accommodation have been 100.0%, higher than all comparator groups.

In terms of outcomes between 2008/09 and 2009/10, Blackpool saw a significant decrease in the percentage of former care leavers (aged 19) who were in education, employment or training. Although this continued to decrease by the end of 2010/11, the amount was minimal. Again it should be noted the actual number of individuals included in these cohorts is very small, so changes are magnified significantly.

## Vulnerable Adults:

### Supported Adults

The table below shows the number of clients supported by adult social care services in Blackpool within 2009/10 and 2010/11. Of the 5,554 clients that were supported during the 2010/11 financial year the overwhelming majority (71.6%) are aged 65 or over.

Figures have increased by 103 (for all clients) between 2009/10 and 2010/11. This increase has been exclusively within the over 65 year-old age group, with the number of supported 18-64 year-olds falling slightly over the 2 years.

**Table 11 - Clients aged 18-64 Supported by Blackpool Council Adult Social Care Services**

Client Group	Total Number of Clients			Percentage in (2010/11):		
	2010/11	2009/10	Diff.	Community Based Services	Residential Care	Nursing Care
Physical disability, Sensory Impairment and Frailty	546	502	44	94.5%	4.8%	2.2%
Physical disability, frailty and temporary illness	523	480	43	94.3%	5.0%	2.3%
Hearing impairment	3	2	1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Visual impairment	20	20	0	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Dual sensory loss	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Mental Health	429	466	-37	86.7%	12.4%	2.8%
Dementia	18	14	4	66.7%	33.3%	16.7%
Learning disability	435	421	14	88.7%	12.4%	0.5%
Substance misuse	49	67	-18	93.9%	4.1%	2.0%
Vulnerable people	118	178	-50	98.3%	1.7%	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1577</b>	<b>1634</b>	<b>-57</b>	<b>91.1%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

In terms of Blackpool residents supported by social care services aged 18-64 years-old, figures have shown a slight decrease in numbers between 2009/10 and 2010/11. As would generally be expected, the highest proportions of adults aged 18-64 that are supported include those with a physical disability, sensory impairment and frailty. The number of clients within this category has increased slightly between 2009/10 and 2010/11. There is also a significant number of clients with mental health issues and with learning disabilities. Over 90.0% of clients are supported through community based services.

Again, with clients aged over 65, the majority of adults supported fall within the Physical disability, sensory impairment and frailty client group. However, as expected the proportions of this group with a hearing or visual impairment or dual sensory loss are higher than within 18-64 year-olds. The number of clients within this grouping has increased by 142 between 2009/10 and 2010/11; where as numbers in other groups have remained static, or even shown a slight decrease.

The proportion of over 65 year-olds who received community based services is significantly high (approximately 80.0%), but below that delivered to 18-64 year-olds. As a result, the percentage of residential and nursing care provided to clients is higher for over 65 year-olds than for 18-64 year-olds.

**Table 12 - Clients aged 65 and over Supported by Blackpool Council Adult Social Care Services**

Client Group	Total Number of Clients			Percentage in (2010/11):		
	2010/11	2009/10	Diff.	Community Based Services	Residential Care	Nursing Care
Physical disability, Sensory Impairment and Frailty	3008	2866	142	84.5%	16.4%	4.5%
Physical disability, frailty and temporary illness	2846	2717	129	84.6%	16.1%	4.6%
Hearing impairment	66	53	13	81.8%	21.2%	4.5%
Visual impairment	85	85	0	83.5%	23.5%	1.2%
Dual sensory loss	11	11	0	100.0%	9.1%	0.0%
Mental Health	746	750	-4	62.9%	42.2%	7.9%
Dementia	460	466	-6	63.7%	42.4%	9.6%
Learning disability	45	44	1	77.8%	26.7%	4.4%
Substance misuse	7	4	3	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Vulnerable people	171	153	18	91.8%	7.0%	4.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3977</b>	<b>3817</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>80.7%</b>	<b>20.9%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>

Note that percentages will not add correctly as a client can access more than one service in a year.

#### Assessments

The total number of assessments completed in 2010/11 (an indication of new clients into the service) was 1,869, an increase of 284 on 2009/10. This increase has been seen across clients of all ages. As with the number of clients supported above, the majority of assessments completed (approximately two thirds) are with clients within the Physical disability, sensory impairment and frailty group. This percentage increases to 76.5% if we consider clients over 65 years-old only.

Although only 26.2% of completed assessments in 2010/11 were for clients with mental health issues across all ages, they accounted for 47.4% of assessments for 18-64 year-olds.

#### Carers:

There are an estimated 15,396 carers in Blackpool. This equates to 11.1% of the population.

**Table 13 - Carers in Blackpool**

	Cares for 1 to 19 Hours		Cares for 20 to 49 Hours		Cares for 50 + Hours	
	Number	% of Total Population	Number	% of Total Population	Number	% of Total Population
<b>Blackpool</b>	9,098	6.5%	1,99	1.4%	4,339	3.1%

Source: NOMIS, 2001 Census Table S25, applied to 2010 mid year population estimates

41.2% of all carers provide more than 20 hours per week of informal care and 68.9% of these carers provide 50 or more hours of care per week. In terms of the age profile of carers, 2.9% are aged 0-17, 76.8% are aged 18-64 and 20.2% are aged 65 or over.

An estimated 1.6% of people in the age group 0-17 (463 people) are carers. 79.2% of carers in this age group provide up to 19 hours per week of informal care, while fewer than 10.0% (43) are estimated to provide more than 50 hours care in a week.

#### Young Carers:

As of September 2011, 375 young carers (aged 0-22 years-old) are known to Blackpool Council. This means that based on estimates from the 2001 Census, 20.0% of all young carers have not engaged or are receiving any service or support from



the Council. The majority (over 70.0%) are aged between 14-18 years-old. By far the largest proportions of young carers are either looking after a parent with mental health issues (37.0%) or a parent with a physical disability (31.0%). A further 2.1% of young carers look after parents with learning disabilities.

Further analysis shows that, perhaps unsurprisingly, for those young carers of school age, attendance is significantly lower than Blackpool and national averages. Attainment figures for 2010 also show that the young carer cohort achieves significantly lower standards at the end of Primary (Key Stage 2) and Secondary (Key Stage 4) than their peers within Blackpool schools.

**Older Carers:**

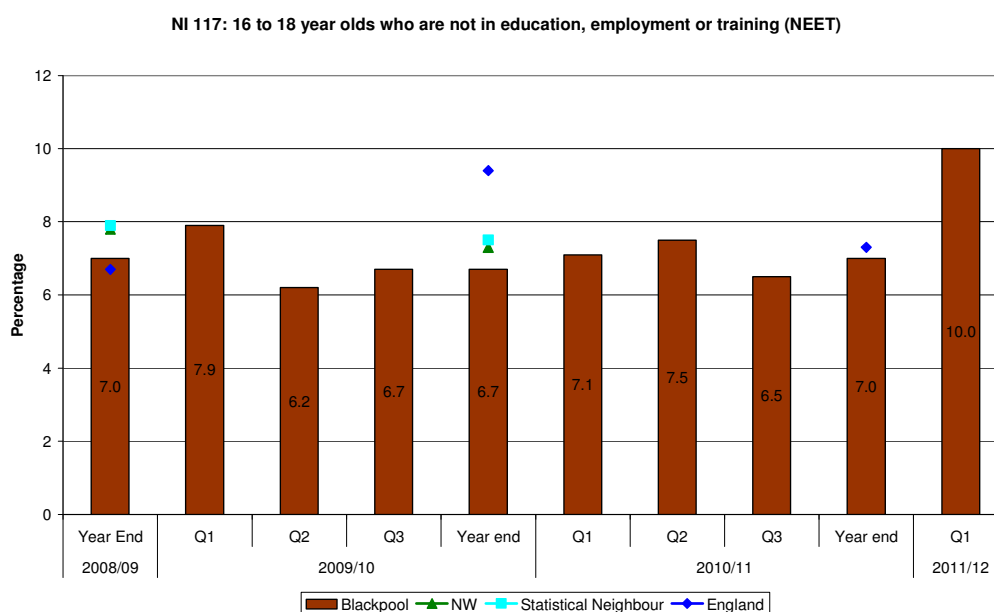
Carers aged 65 and over are more likely than other age groups to provide more than 50 hours care in a week; 42.4% of carers in this age group provide this extremely intensive level of support compared to 25.4% in the 18-64 age group. In addition, carers aged 65 and over are more likely to be in poor health. Just over a quarter of carers in this age group (25.3%) are estimated not to be in good health and nearly half (45.5%) are only in fairly good health.

Of the estimated 14,032 carers who are aged between 16 and 74, just over 50% (7,016) are likely to be in employment (full time, part time or self employed). However, only 28.4% of carers who provide 50 or more hours of care per week are similarly employed.

The number of adult carers known to Social Services in the financial year 2010/11 was 1,500. Of this number, 267 (17.8%) cared for an adult with a learning disability. If you need age breakdown, 262 of these adults were aged between 18 and 64 (17.5%) and 5 were aged 65 or above (0.3%).

**Making & Positive Contribution:**

**Figure 72 - 16-18 not in education, employment or training**



The percentage of 16-18 year-olds Not in Education, Employment and Training has been used for a number of years as a measure of the positive contribution young people make after leaving statutory education. Annual figures are based on a three month snapshot at the end of November, December and January each year, due to significant seasonal variations in the figure.

The 2010/11 annual figure of 7.0% contributes towards a consistent level of NEET in Blackpool over the past 3 reporting years. Blackpool continues to perform below national and statistical neighbour comparators, which is encouraging when the context of the authority is taken into account.

A multi agency task group is focussing on re-designing support for young people within the NEET group

**Crime & Disorder:**

Blackpool remains a safe place to live. It does however have a higher crime rate compared to Lancashire, the North West, and England. Some types of crime, especially those exacerbated by substance misuse pose a greater threat than others. The Blackpool Community Safety Partnership (BSafe) has set priorities to focus on these areas.

Visitors to Blackpool swell the local population significantly during summer months, and although they make a huge contribution to the local economy, including a substantial ‘night time economy’, they also contribute to the local crime statistics as victims or offenders. This ‘tourism effect’ does have a negative impact on crime and disorder statistics.

Crime and disorder is associated with many of the same socio-demographic issues as health and well-being. It is clear from the English Indices of Deprivation that Blackpool has areas that are amongst the most deprived in the Country. There is a statistical link between deprivation and crime and disorder but no definitive explanation as to exactly why this link exists. This statistical link is apparent when Blackpool’s crime and disorder profile is examined. Talbot, Brunswick, Claremont, Bloomfield, Brunswick, and Park ward all have one or more areas ranked within the top 100 most deprived areas in the country and all feature as crime hotspots for one or more crime categories.

It should be borne in mind that crime is not just about the numbers. The causes of crime are complex and the reasons for offences occurring in a particular place vary, not just nationally and within the region but within Blackpool itself.

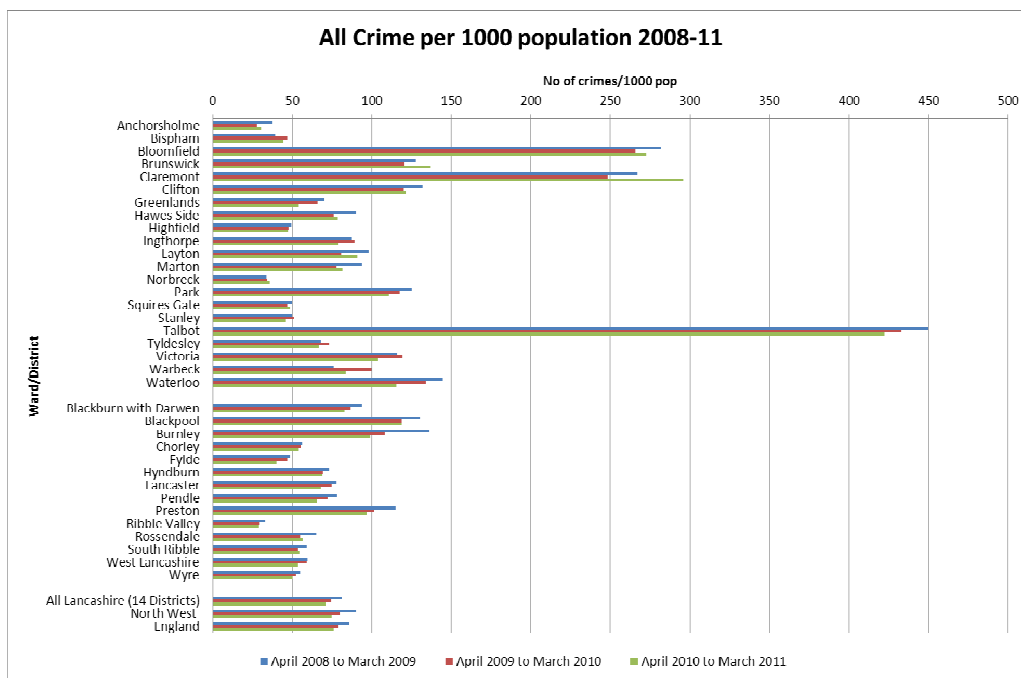
Blackpool has more crime per 1000 population than the rest of the Lancashire Districts, the North West Region and England. The table below shows this and also the year on year reductions across the board apart from Blackpool which after a good reduction in 2009/10 from 2008/9 has remained constant with just under 17,000 crimes in 2011.

**Table 14 - All Crime**

<b>All Crime</b>		
<b>England</b>	<b>Crimes</b>	<b>Crimes per 1000 pop.</b>
2008/09	4466,084	86
2009/10	4116,981	79
2010/11	3947,123	76
<b>North West</b>	<b>Crimes</b>	<b>Crimes per 1000 pop.</b>
2008/09	624,629	90
2009/10	556,498	80
2010/11	521,231	75
<b>Lancashire</b>	<b>Crimes</b>	<b>Crimes per 1000 pop.</b>
2008/09	117,575	81
2009/10	107,361	74
2010/11	102,503	71
<b>Blackpool</b>	<b>Crimes</b>	<b>Crimes per 1000 pop.</b>
2008/09	18,250	130
2009/10	16,649	119
2010/11	16,643	119

The chart below shows Blackpool and its individual wards in comparison with the North West region and England over the last three years. Bloomfield, Claremont and Talbot Wards have three times the number of crimes per 1000 population than the Lancashire average and double the Blackpool average. It is not unusual for ‘town centre’ wards to have more crime than other areas and the ‘Tourism Effect’.

**Figure 73 - All crime**



There have been 99 different types of crime reported in Blackpool in 2011. With competing crime and disorder demands there is a need to prioritise particular areas of business particularly in the current challenging economic climate where resources have already been reduced and may be reduced further.

The current strategic priorities for Blackpool Community Safety Partnership are the areas of business identified as the greatest threat to local people and where successful interventions will improve the quality of life in Blackpool. The fact that a particular problem is not highlighted as a top five priority does not mean that it is being overlooked. The following are the five identified priorities for Blackpool

**Domestic Abuse:**

Domestic abuse includes a wide spectrum of harm from verbal abuse to physical harm and impacts many issues including, violent crime, substance misuse, health, employment and housing. In Blackpool it invokes a multi-agency response from the local authority, probation, NHS, police, probation and third sector organisations. Victims are predominantly female; however, in Blackpool reported rates amongst same sex couples is higher than the national average.

Blackpool has a higher incidence of crime recorded as domestic violence than any other district in Lancashire. Bloomfield, Brunswick, Clarendon, Talbot and Waterloo wards all have higher rates than Blackpool as a whole. Blackpool accounts for 20.0% of all domestic abuse incidents and 20.0% of all domestic abuse related violence in Lancashire.

On average there are approximately fourteen domestic abuse incidents reported per day in Blackpool. The number of domestic abuse reports in Blackpool is 2.7 times the Lancashire average (MADE 2010/11). In 2011 45.0% of domestic violence marked offences were alcohol related.

Domestic Abuse is a problem that is Blackpool wide. Domestic violence related crime accounts for 9.0% of all crime. Both abuse incidents and Domestic Violence marked crimes are concentrated in the Bloomfield, Clarendon, Talbot, and Brunswick Wards who between then account for 42.0% of Domestic Violence Crime. Approximately 8 out of 10 (81.0%) of Domestic Violence offences are Violent Crimes. (Source: SLEUTH Crime Recording 2011)

Figure 74 - Domestic Violence

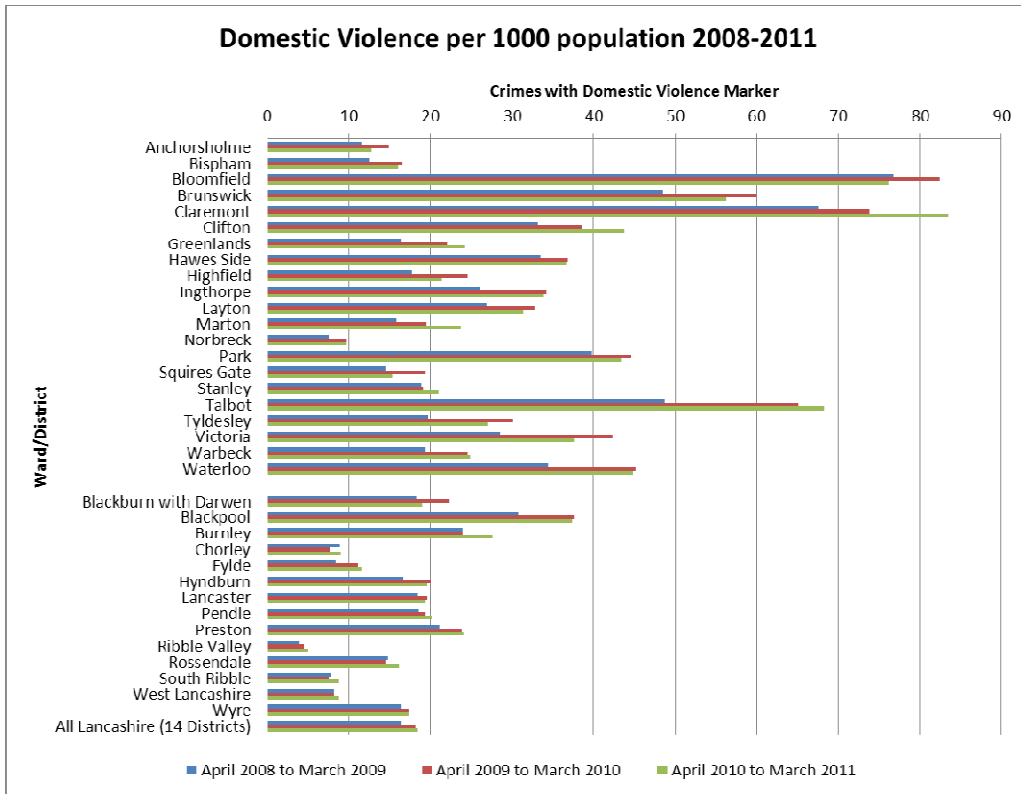
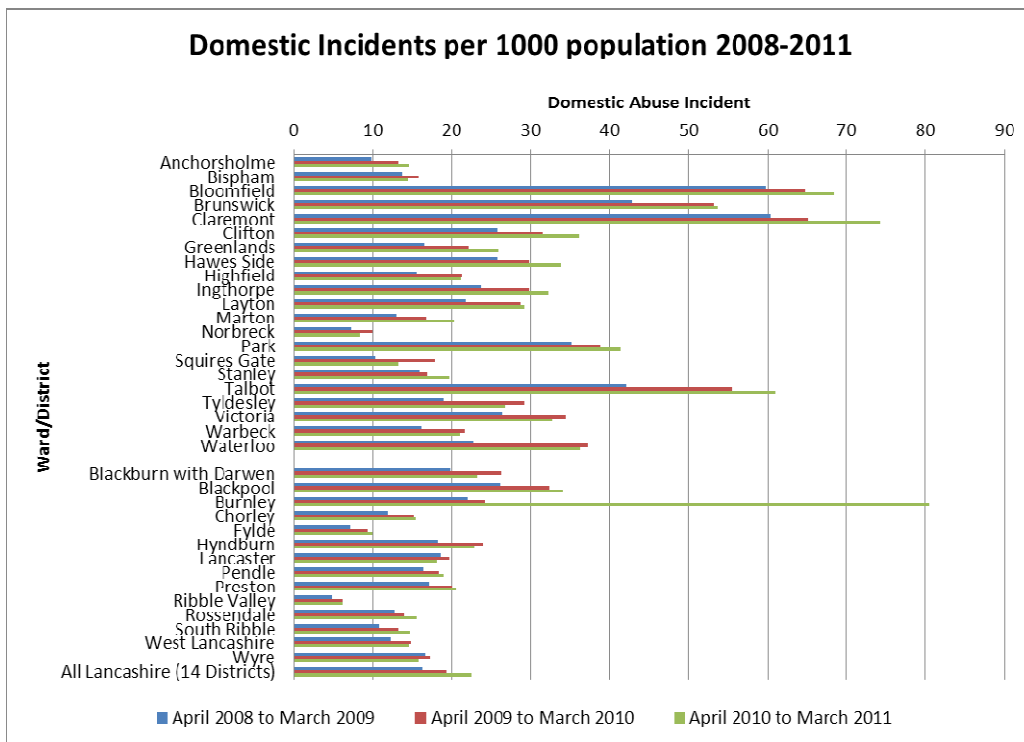


Figure 75 - Domestic Incidents

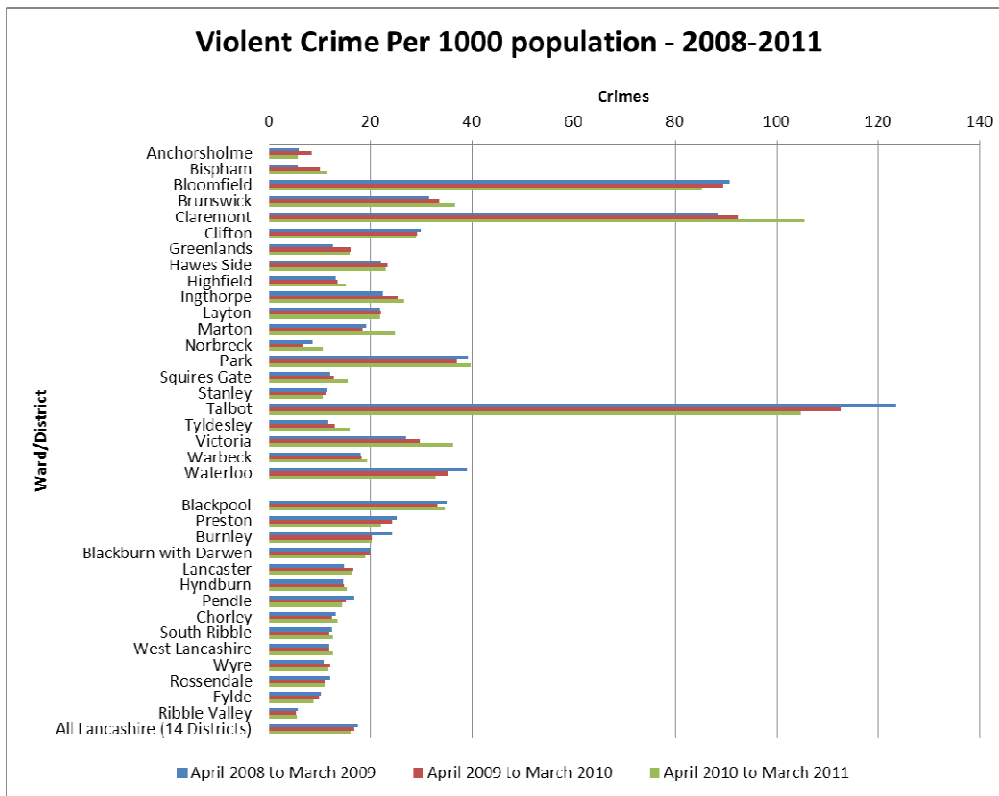


**Violent Crime:**

Violent Crime covers everything from murder to relatively minor public order offences and includes sexual offences. Whilst violent crime contains some very serious offences on it the majority of offences result in relatively low or in some cases no physical harm to the public.

Within 2011, violent crime has reduced by 8.8% compared to 2010. Serious violent crime and violence against the person also both show reductions within these time frames. (CORA).

**Figure 76 - Violent Crime**



The chart above compares Blackpool to the rest of Lancashire and breaks down violent crime by wards. Violent crime is a Blackpool wide issue; however 47.0% of all violent crime is concentrated in the three wards of Talbot, Claremont and Bloomfield. These wards constitute the town centre and promenade night time economy areas. Unsurprisingly perhaps these three wards have 53.0% of alcohol related violent crime in Blackpool.

Seven percent of all recorded violent crime is classed as serious violent crime, with 56.0% of all serious violent crime is concentrated in the same three wards as all violent crime. (SLEUTH Crime Recording 2011). Ambulance data for assaults confirm the above three wards as hotspots. Blackpool Victoria Hospital admissions Trauma and Injury Intelligence Group (TIIG) data identifies the same areas and in addition Brunswick and Park Wards as a source of assault patients. All five wards are at the top of the top quartile (25%) in Lancashire as the Source of assault victims. (MADE District Profile 2010-11)

Blackpool accounts for 20.0% of all violent crime; 20.0% of all serious violent crime and 20% of all violence against the person recorded in Lancashire. Blackpool shows the highest level of violent crime when compared to all other Lancashire CSPs. Talbot, Claremont and Bloomfield Wards are ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> in Lancashire and have been for the last 3 years. (MADE District Profile 2010-2011)

All sexual offences and Serious Sexual Offences increased between 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. All sexual offences remained constant in 2010-2011 although Serious Sexual Offences again showed an increase. Preliminary Indications are that 2011/2012 both categories will show a reduction. As with other offences, Bloomfield, Claremont, Talbot and Park Wards are the main offending geographic areas.

Approximately one third (29.0%) of sexual offences have an alcohol marker indicating that the victim and/or offender had been consuming alcohol. In the case of 'Serious Sexual Offences' this increases to 40.0% (SLEUTH Crime Recording 2011)

**Drug Related Crime:**

The table below shows the main offences recorded by police that have a drug marker on the record indicating that a controlled drug was involved in the offence in some way. This method of identifying drug related crime is under reported as it relies on the marker being manually included. Apart from the obvious possession of controlled drugs offences, crimes of violence and acquisitive crime feature.

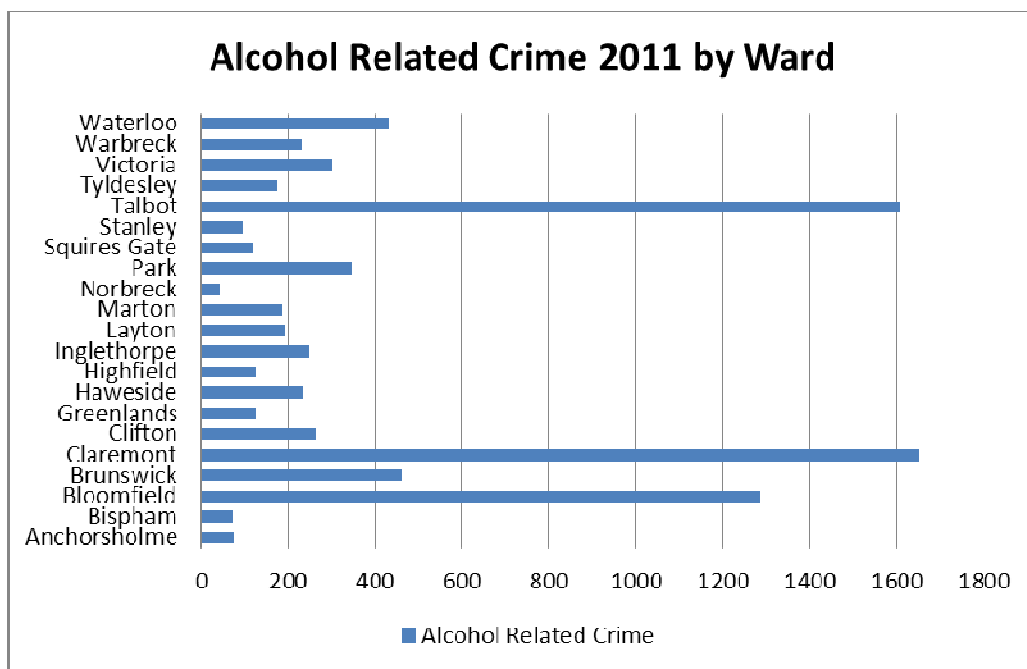
Misuse poses a threat because of the Organised Criminal Groups (OCG's) that feed the problem and from those Persistent Prolific Offenders (PPO's) and wider criminal community who consume the products. Crime especially acquisitive and violent crime is committed either to feed a habit or as the results of the effect of substance misuse. The wards of Talbot, Claremont and Brunswick have been identified as hotspots across Blackpool.

**Table 15 - Top 5 crimes**

Top 5 Crime Types – Drugs Marker	
Home Office Description	Total
Possession of Controlled Drugs excluding Cannabis	206
Actual Bodily Harm and other Injury	186
Possession of Controlled Drugs (Cannabis)	126
Shoplifting	106
Assault without Injury	91

Substance Misuse – Alcohol:

**Figure 77 - Alcohol Related Crime**



Alcohol is too often a pre cursor and catalyst for crime and disorder in Blackpool in addition to creating health and safety issues in the wider community. Blackpool has one of the highest levels of alcohol related mortality in the country. It is a local authority containing some of the most deprived areas in Lancashire and in England. There is a statistical correlation between Blackpool's areas of deprivation and hotspots for violent crime, domestic abuse, and criminal damage, all associated with alcohol abuse to some degree.

Alcohol is a factor in 14.0% of all recorded crime in Blackpool and 36.0% of all violent crime (SLEUTH 2011). Many alcohol related crimes take place in the town centre (Claremont and Talbot Wards) where there is a high concentration of licensed premises associated with both local consumption and alcohol related tourism.

The town has a high concentration of licensed premises compared to other areas nationally; containing over one quarter (27.0%) of all premises licensed for alcohol and entertainment in Lancashire. Alcohol cross cuts across many other themes including Violent Crime; Organised Crime Group's; Domestic Abuse; Acquisitive Crime; Road Safety and PPO's.

**Anti-Social Behaviour:**

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is closely linked to Criminal Damage. These are signal events that affect the general public and may give them an often unwarranted sense of increased criminality that in fact may not exist. It may also indicate underlying problems in an area that may be a pre-cursor to more serious incidents. For example, a lack of a swift multi-agency intervention to address initial concerns regarding neighbour nuisance can quickly escalate to more serious crime and behaviour which may significantly adversely affect the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of victims.

Figures from April to September 2011 show Blackpool as experiencing a 19.0% reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the police when compared to the same period in 2010 (Police Corporate Development ASB File ). There is anecdotal evidence that the success of Neighbourhood Policing initiatives where individuals are encouraged to report directly to their Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) may have had an influence on the decrease in figures, as reports made directly to NPT's may have bypassed the formal recording procedures. Whilst the reduction is welcome the volume of ASB incidents reported to the police in Blackpool is still high.

**Figure 78 - Anti-social behaviour**

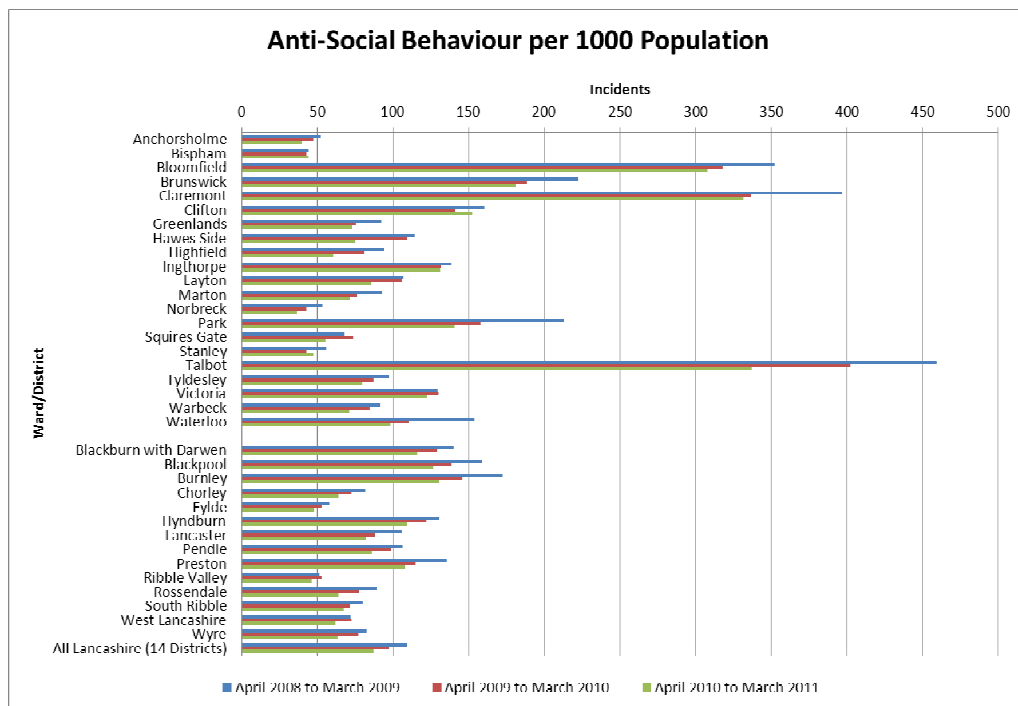
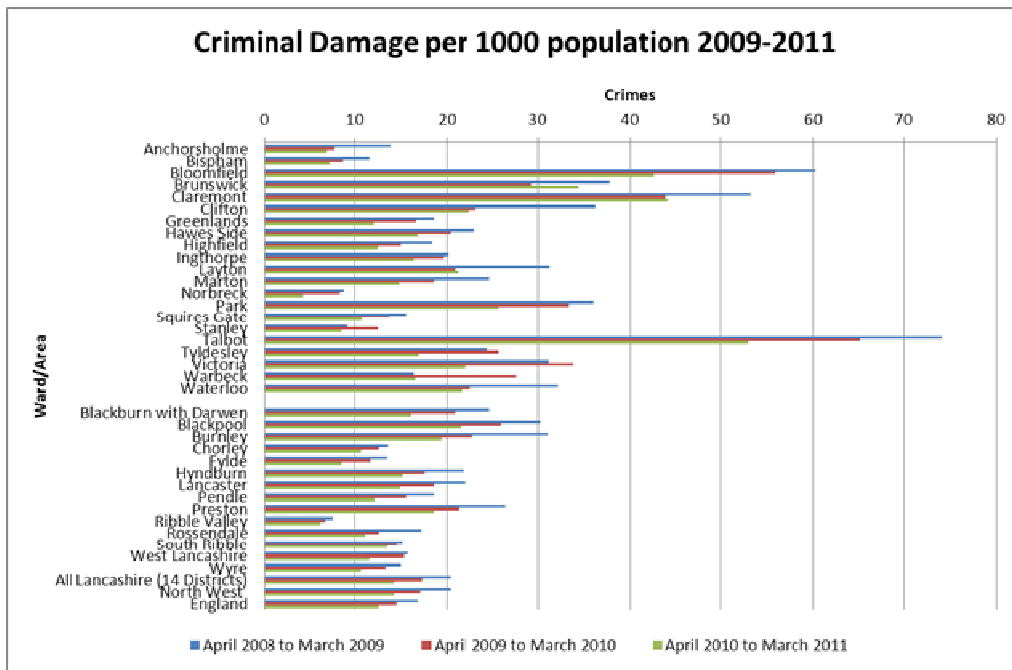


Figure 79 - Criminal Damage



In Blackpool 43.0% of ‘all anti-social behaviour’ (ASB) reported to the police in Blackpool for the period April 2010 to September 2011 is concentrated in the wards of Bloomfield, Claremont and Talbot; which correlate with the problem areas for Criminal Damage.

Between the same dates ‘Personal’ ASB accounted for 34.0% of all police reported ASB with 36.0% concentrated in the wards of Bloomfield, Claremont and Talbot. Nuisance Anti-Social Behaviour accounts for 63.0% of all police reported figures, with 41.0% concentrated in the same three wards. In addition, Environmental ASB accounts for 4.0% of all police reported ASB with 39.0% again concentrated in the same wards.

Environmental issues can be crimes in themselves or signals indicating underlying problems. Graffiti and the results of fly tipping, especially if not moved expediently reflects in a negative way on neighbourhood image and resident well-being. Fly tipping can lead to acts of criminal damage and arson. In Blackpool, 60.0% of incidents of fly tipping for the period April 2010 to September 2011 were concentrated in the four wards of Bloomfield, Brunswick, Claremont and Talbot. Neighbour Noise complaints account for approximately one quarter (26.0%) of all noise nuisance complaints received by Blackpool Council. Neighbour Noise complaints are widespread across the town with 38.0% concentrated in the four wards of Bloomfield, Claremont, Brunswick and Ingthorpe.

**Key points for commissioners**

Sustainable Community Strategy goals:

- Provide high quality housing in sustainable, mixed communities
  - Create a safer Blackpool
  - Create a cleaner, greener Blackpool
  - Create thriving and active communities