

January 2023
Serious Violence in
Blackpool
District Needs Assessment





LANCASHIRE
VIOLENCE REDUCTION
NETWORK



Executive Summary

The following needs assessment is one of 14 produced for each of the 14 districts within the Lancashire area. These needs assessments intend to provide an overview of the area in terms of risk and protective factors for violence to support areas in addressing this need with appropriate action, reflecting the aims and objectives of the [violence reduction network](#).

Aims and Background

This needs assessment seeks to provide an understanding to the Violence Reduction Network (VRN), partners and public about the reality of violence within each district of Lancashire, and the prevalence of the underlying risk factors of violence. This assessment is a reflection of the Pan-Lancashire '[Strategic Needs Assessment](#)' for specifically Blackpool.

A Public Health Approach to Serious Violence

A growing body of evidence tells us that violence is preventable. Since the publication of the World Health Organization's [World report on violence and health](#) in 2002, experience, research and intelligence has generated an understanding of the risk factors that contribute to violence, and the many things that can be done to prevent it. We have a growing body of knowledge regarding the impact of violence and those most at risk of being either a perpetrator and/or victim. This understanding allows us to design and implement a public health approach to violence prevention around evidence-based frameworks.

The preventable nature of violence naturally lends itself to a public health approach. Violence reflects many of the other common facets of important public health issues. There are wide inequalities in the prevalence of violence, with the greatest impacts being felt by the most deprived communities ([Protecting People, Promoting Health, 2021](#)). There is also a cyclic nature of violence. For example, there is sound understanding that exposure to violence in childhood (amongst other adverse childhood experiences), increases the likelihood of an individual becoming involved in violence later in life. Finally, there are masses of data sources from across a range of partners, which support the implementation of life-course prevention strategies at a universal through to a targeted level.

Approach

This needs assessment includes the following areas of information:

- A demographic overview of the district;
- Epidemiology* of risk and protective factors for violence in the district;
- A violent crime problem profile for the district.

**Epidemiology is a quantitative public health discipline which looks at the frequency and patterns of events in a group of people and what the risk and protective factors are.*

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Serious Violence Definition

'Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.'

(World Health Organization)

At the inaugural meeting of the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network leadership board, data was presented to contextualise the local picture and the definition of serious violence was agreed. These crime types and descriptors are:



Using this definition means there are some crimes which will appear in multiple groups as not all crime categories are independent crime classifications. For example, an assault resulting in injury between two domestically related persons using a knife will be considered in three categories: knife crime, assault with injury and domestic abuse and violence.

Data Sources

Data included in this needs assessment has been taken from several sources:

- [Public Health England \(PHE\) fingertips](#)
- [Lancashire Insight](#)
- [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#)
- [GOV.uk: Home Office statistics](#)

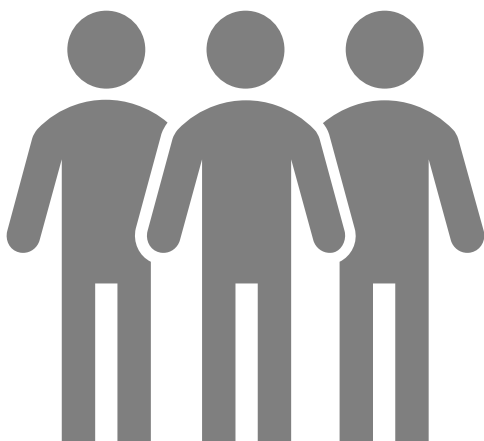
Note – whilst there is more data available than that included in this needs assessment, only those updated since 2020/21 have been included to ensure relevancy (several from an earlier period are included, where relevant). A previous version was produced in 2021 and should be referred to for additional data prior to 2021 (please contact the VRN for this previous version).

All of the data used and discussed within this needs assessment is public-access, population level data. For this reason, this needs assessment can be distributed and shared with those necessary with reference to the original data sources as outlined prior. Any data caveats or data quality issues are listed within the original data sources and should be reviewed before any interpretations are made of the findings.

Demographic of Blackpool

Blackpool is a unitary authority in West Lancashire (policed by West division of Lancashire Constabulary) that covers 35 square kilometres, making it the smallest Lancashire authority. Blackpool is made up of 21 wards (at the time of the 2011 Census).

Population



The population of Blackpool ('mid-year estimate', Census 2021) was 141,100. This was the 4th highest recorded of the 14 districts in Lancashire.




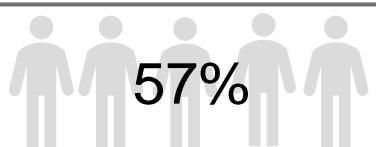


The population of Blackpool is estimated to increase by just 1.6% between 2018 and 2043. This is the 2nd lowest rate for all 14 districts.

Blackpool had an estimated population density (number of people per km²) of 4,046. This was by far the highest rate across the 14 districts, by nearly 3,000 people.

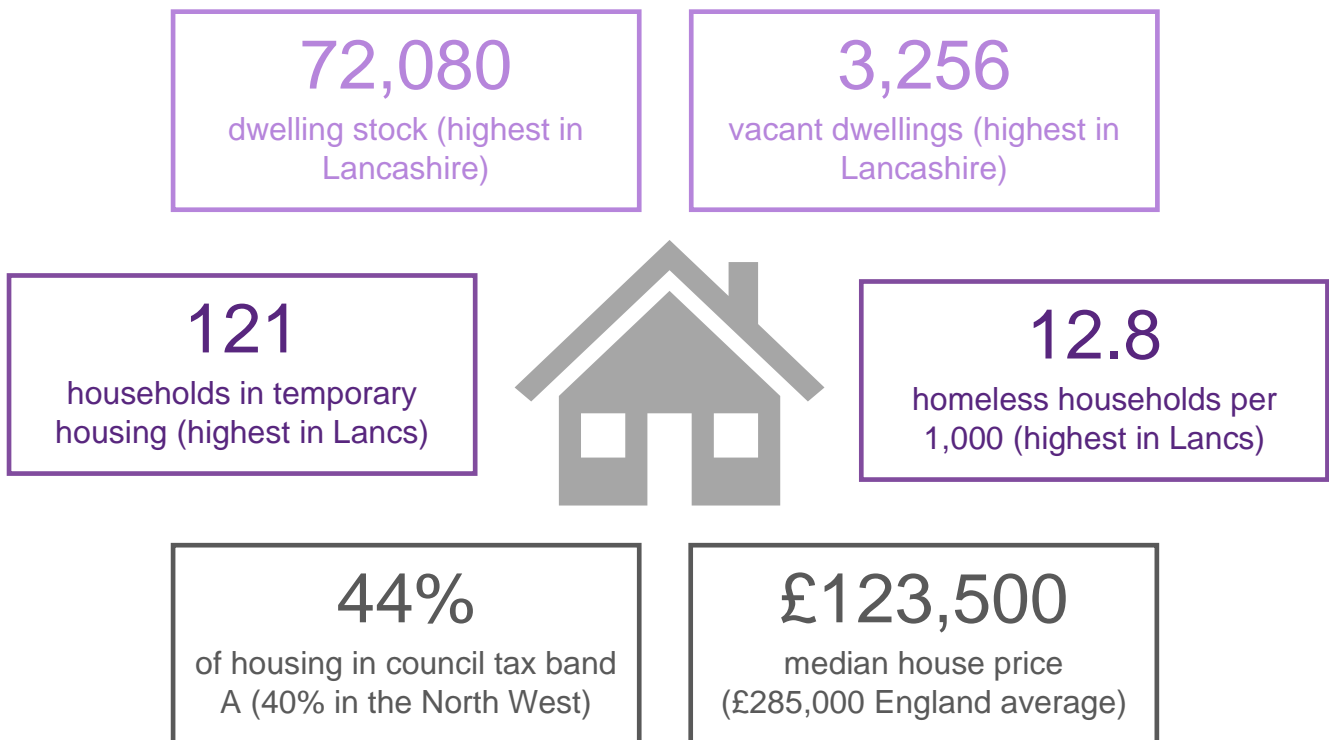
Blackpool has a more than double the national average rate of deliveries to teenage mothers (12–17-year-olds) at 1.7% compared to 0.7% (2020/21), similarly with more babies (7.5%) born at a lower birth weight compared to 6.8% nationally (2020).

Age and Sex Structure

Blackpool has a near equal split of sex within the district, with a 50.1% female population, and a 49.9% male population. For both females and males, the highest recorded age band was 55- to 59-year-olds.

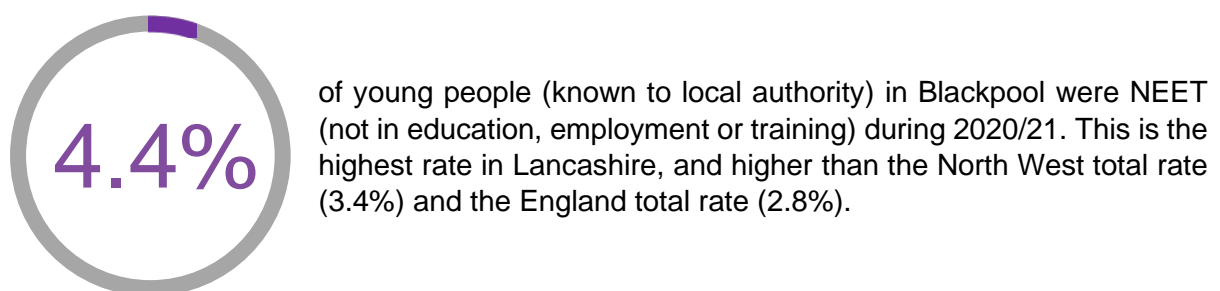
	Female	Male
0-19	 22%	 24%
20-64	 56%	 57%
65+	 22%	 19%

Housing



Risk and Protective Factors for Serious Violence

Education

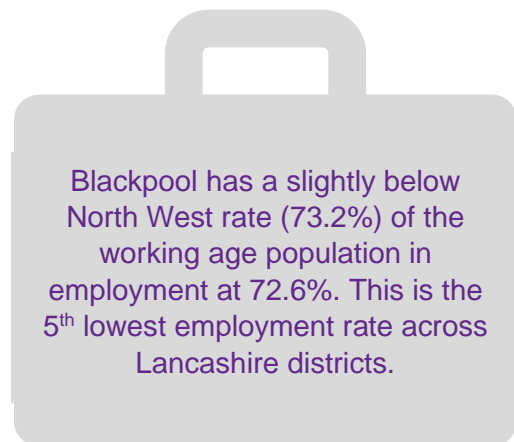
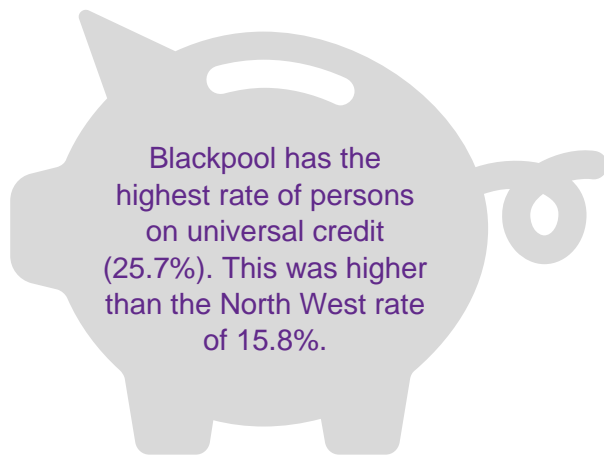


The average attainment 8 score (measure across 8 core qualifications scored at the end of key stage 4 for state-funded school pupils) in Blackpool is 42.9, this is lower than the North West average score of 49.6 (2020/21).



In the year 2020/21, Blackpool made 15 permanent exclusions – this equates to a rate of 0.08 (equal 5th highest in Lancashire). There were also 1,262 suspensions – this was a rate of 6.5 (2nd highest in Lancashire).

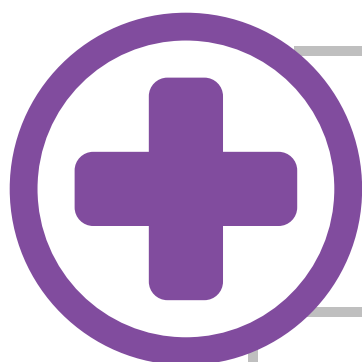
Employment and Income



Blackpool has 24% of under 16's living in 'relative' low-income families (5th highest in Lancashire), this is higher than the North West rate of 21.2%. Similarly, Blackpool has 18.4% of under 16's living in 'absolute' low-income families (5th highest in Lancashire), which is higher than the North West rate of 16.6% (2020/21)

Health and Wellbeing

The life expectancy of males born in Blackpool is 73.9 – this is below the North West life expectancy of 77 and 78.7 in England. Similarly, the life expectancy of females born in Blackpool is 78 – this is also below the North West life expectancy of 81 and 82.6 in England (2020).



Above North West rate (500) for admission episodes for alcohol-related conditions at 722 per 100,000 (2020/21)

Below the North West rate (64.5%) for physically active adults at 55.9% (2020/21)

Nearly double the North West rate (11.0%) for smoking status at time of delivery at 21.4% (2020/21)

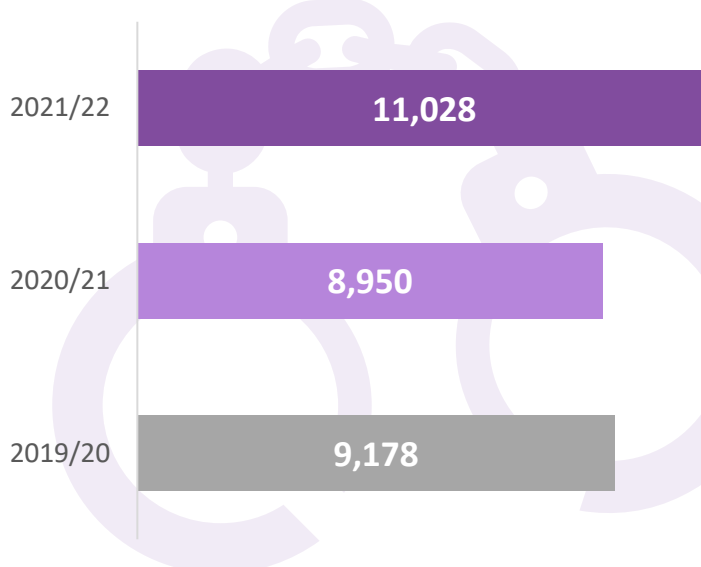
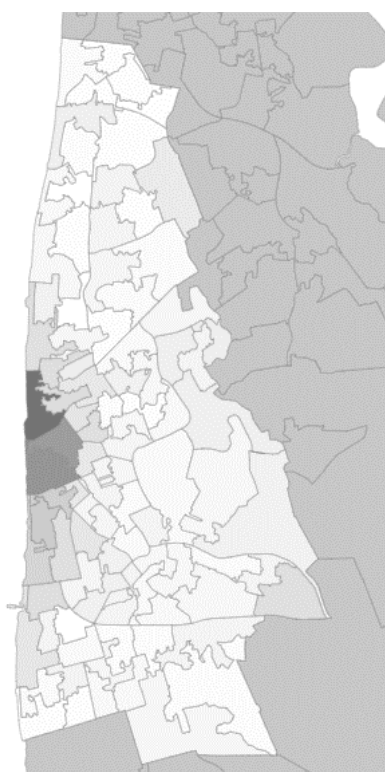
Above than North West rate (10.7) of suicide at 17.4 per 100,000 (2020)

Violent Crime Profile

Serious Violence

Whilst the focus of the LVRN is on the underlying drivers of serious violence as depicted prior, it is also important to understand where serious violence is taking place within a locality. When referring to serious violence here, this is reflective of the Home Office Crime types – violence against the person, and sexual offences as opposed to the [LVRN serious violence definition](#).

As you can see in the right-hand side graph, the annual volume of serious violence has increased in Blackpool, to over 11,000 recorded crimes in 2021/22. In addition, the left-hand side image shows Blackpool separated by lower super output areas ([LSOAs](#)). From this heat map, you can see three LSOAs that have the highest volume of serious violence, these are 006A (North Shore), 010D (Central Blackpool), 010E (Central Blackpool).



In 2021/22 Blackpool had the highest volume of serious violence in Lancashire, with a rate of 62.4 violent offences per 1,000 population compared to 29.5 nationally, and 34.5 regionally (2020/21)

Between 2021/22 Talbot Ward had the highest number of domestic abuse incidents in Blackpool at 60.3 per 100,000, followed by Claremont Ward (58.2), and Bloomfield Ward (47.7). These were the three highest wards in Lancashire

Blackpool had the 2nd highest rate (43.9 per 1,000) for hate crime (2021/22).

The most common motivation for hate crime being race/ ethnicity/ nationality

Perpetrators and Offending



Blackpool had above Lancashire average rate (per 1,000) of the 10-17 population receiving custodial sentences (2020/21).



Blackpool had the 2nd highest volume of adult reoffenders (2019/20). These were most commonly White males, aged 30 to 34.

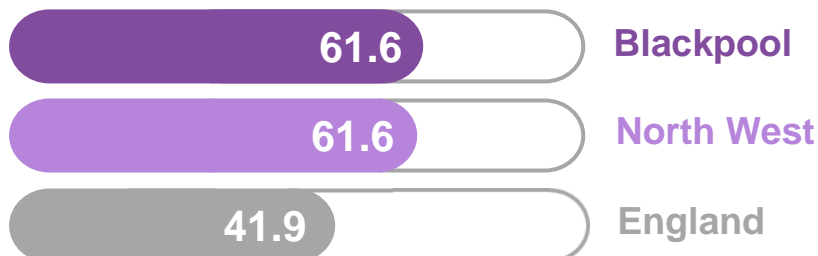


Blackpool had a higher rate of first-time offenders in 2021 with 259 per 100,000 compared to 169 regionally, and 155 nationally.

See '[Lancashire Strategic Assessment](#)' (Partnership Intelligence, 2022-2025) for further detail on the long-term issues and threats from crime and antisocial behaviour across Lancashire (by district area).

Health Demand of Violence

The below outlines the standardised rate (per 100,000) of hospital admissions for violence (including sexual violence) during the years 2020/21. As you can see, the rate for Blackpool was the same as the North West rate, but above the England rate.



Blackpool also has an above average rate of emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm. During 2020/21, the rate per 100,000 population was 273.3, compared to 225 in the North West, and 181 in England.

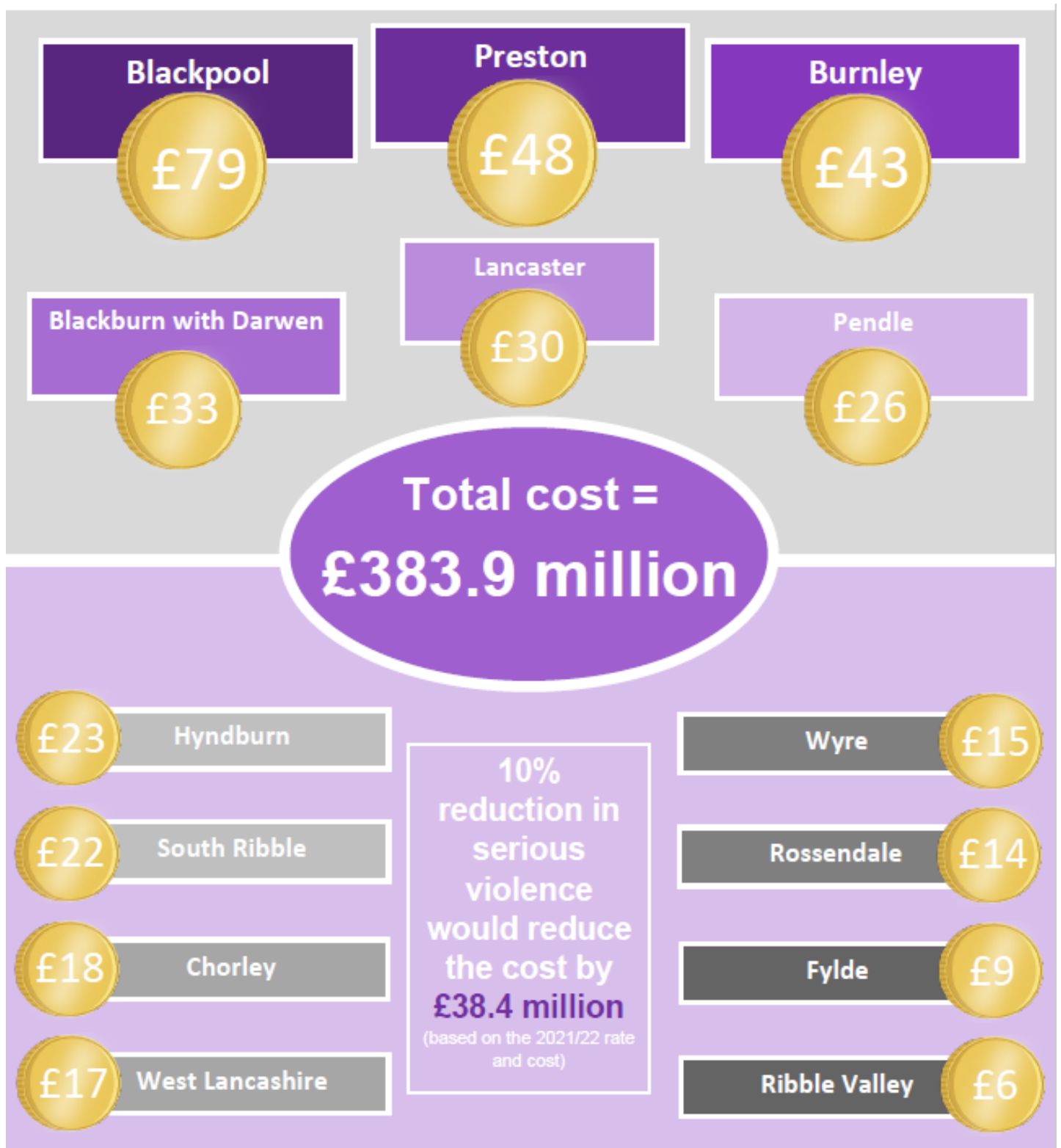
Talbot Ward had the highest number of ambulance call outs at 420.8 per 1,000 population (2nd highest ward in Lancashire), followed by Claremont Ward (387.0), and Bloomfield Ward (296.0).

See '[Demonstrating the Costs of Violence to the Healthcare System: Development of a costing tool](#)' (Liverpool John Moores University, Lisa Jones, 2021) for further detail on the financial demand that violence places on the healthcare system within Lancashire.

Cost of Violence

To calculate the cost of serious violence within Lancashire, the '[Home Office Economic and Social Cost Estimates](#)' were used, multiplying the recorded crime (robbery, homicide, rape and violence with injury) in that district between June 2021 and July 2022, by the estimate unit cost. The below infographic shows these costs per district to the nearest million.

As shown, serious violence in Blackpool was estimated to cost approximately £79 million between 2021 and 2022, making it the highest costing district in Lancashire.

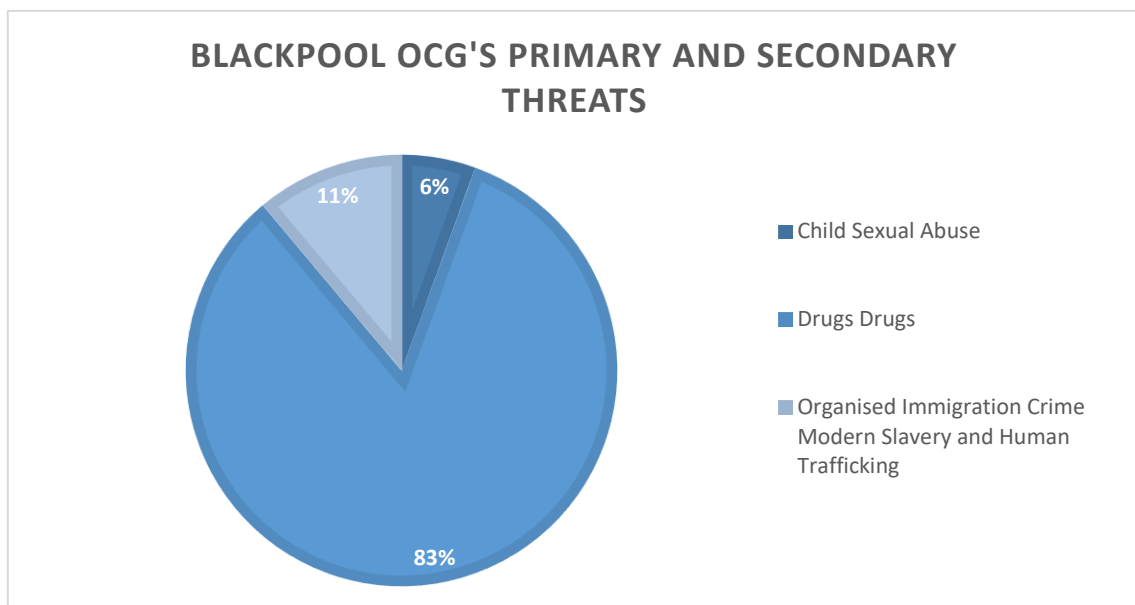


Serious and Organised Crime

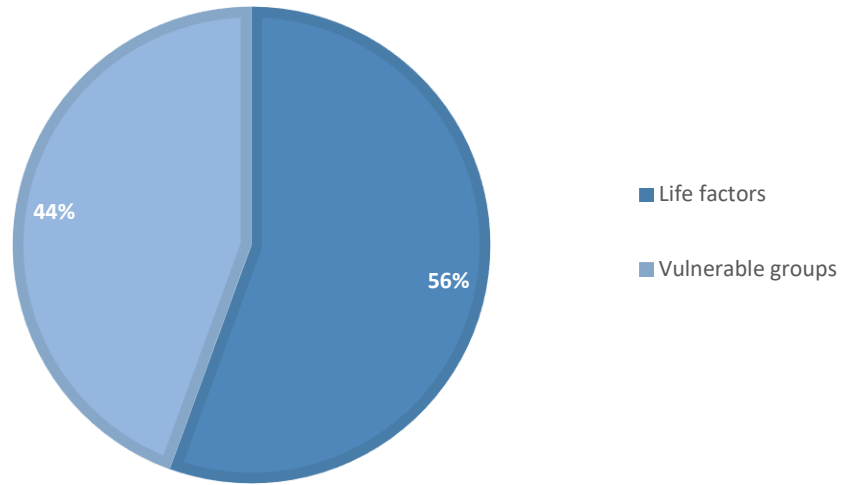


SOC ISSUES
• County lines drug dealing in the area
• Cuckooing linked to county lines groups
• Exploitation of children and vulnerable drug users to deal drugs
• OCG violence including the use of offensive weapons
• Cannabis grows with links to MDS
• Knife crime linked to OCGs
• OAC involved in the theft of motor vehicles
• CSE risk with looked after children placed and managed from out of area
• Local children from chaotic homes in areas of deprivation leading to MFH episodes and risk of CSE (predominantly females 13-16 years with male offenders 18-25 years).

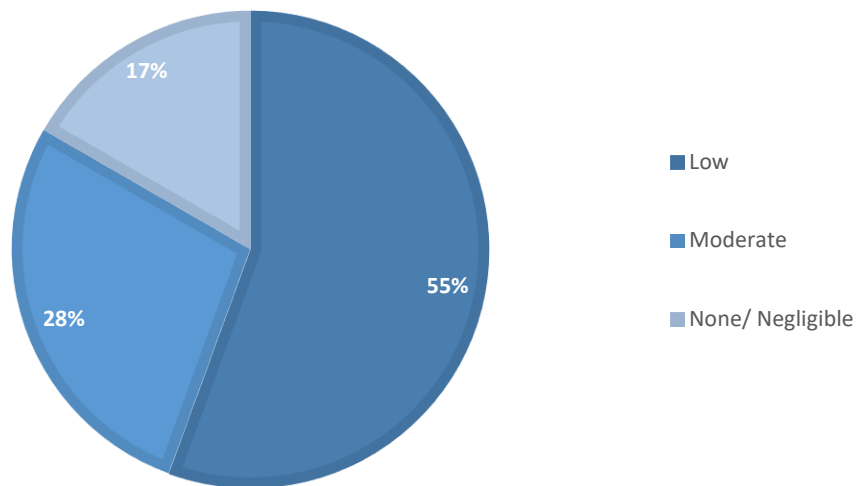
Total Number of SOC Groups in Blackpool	18
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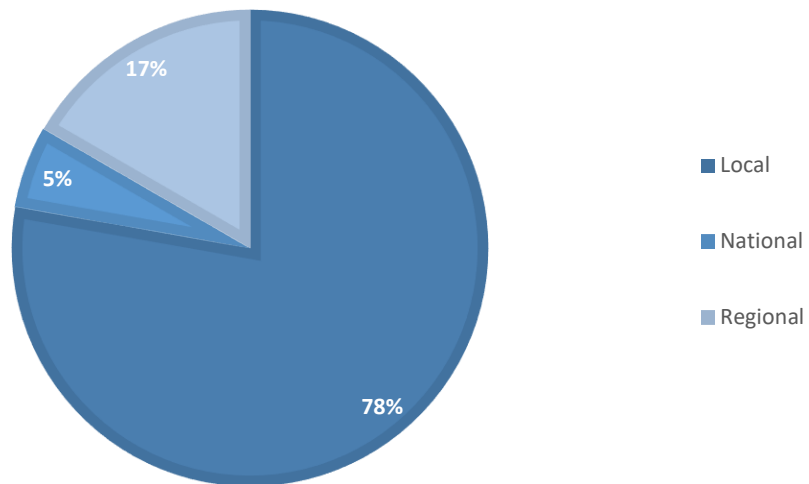
BLACKPOOL OCG'S VICTIM VULNERABILITIES



BLACKPOOL OCG'S COMMUNITY IMPACT



BLACKPOOL OCG'S GEOGRAPHIC IMPACT



4P Recommendations

PURSUE

1. Partners to continue to identify groups, individuals and businesses known to be linked to serious & organised crime.
2. Develop our understanding of the assets favoured by OCGs in order to target partnership tactics on disruption and recovery.
3. Support the creation of bespoke 4P Plans on PAM which support the ideal of 'Relentless Disruption'.
4. Building on the current knowledge, explore opportunities to enhance the use of civil orders.
5. Targeting criminal use of the rail network will limit the capacity of SOC groups. Working with British Transport Police (BTP) will support intelligence collection and appropriate activity, targeting key areas.

PREVENT

1. To develop overarching serious and organised crime preventative programmes to raise awareness of the reality and consequences of being involved in crime. Partnership leaflets, media and literature are still required to improve frontline knowledge.
2. Consideration should be given to target early intervention at Year 6/7 as this is deemed the most vulnerable point for youths entering the Offending Continuum. Home Office education packs are available to support schools in delivering this message.
3. Closer engagement with neighbouring forces would benefit the identification of vulnerable children and adults linked to County Lines criminality and allow for the planning of prevent and protect strategies for these individuals.
4. Closer engagement is required with those that can influence or be good role models (i.e. behavioural teams / young offender organisations / charities / early intervention resources) especially after Pursue tactics have been completed against SOC nominals.
5. Closer engagement with the Violent Reduction Unit (VRU) to ensure interventions and prevent pathways are considered for those at risk of becoming involved in serious & organised crime.

PROTECT

1. Strategies are required for reducing the demand for illegal commodities such as heroin and crack cocaine. This is the cornerstone of eliminating County Lines markets and the linked criminality including exploitation that supports the delivery of these commodities.

PREPARE

1. Working to build strong communities that are better prepared for and more resilient to the threat of serious and organised crime.
2. Intelligence sharing needs to be improved in the areas of sexual and criminal exploitation (adult and child), human trafficking along with all other aspects of modern slavery, so that a true understanding of the threat to communities can be understood.
3. Partners need to collate and share good practice to develop a 'What Works' approach based on the last 12 months performance, this can be done by identifying what partners have available (resources/training materials) and continue with joint training events and self-assessment.
4. Communication / Media Strategy / GENGA Branding needs to increase awareness and understanding with partners and the public.
5. Consider the use of Community Consolidation Plans during Operations.



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