



Crime and Disorder Audit

Executive summary 2005



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یہ دستاویز اردو میں دستیاب ہے۔ مکمل تفصیلات کے لیے برائے مہربانی ٹاؤن ہال میں کمیونٹی سٹیٹنگ ٹیم سے رابطہ قائم کریں۔

આ દસ્તાવેજ ગુજરાતી ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ છે. વધુ વિગતો માટે મહેરબાની કરીને ટાઉનહાલમાં સ્થિત કોમ્યુનિટી સેફ્ટી ટીમનો સંપર્ક સાધો.

A copy of this document is available in Braille and large print.

Please contact the community safety team at the above address for further details.

Foreword

Foreword

I am pleased to present the executive summary of Blackburn with Darwen's 2004 Crime and Disorder Audit. The audit provides Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership with an opportunity to look at levels of crime, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour across the borough, and assesses what progress has been made over the last three years (2002-2005).

Information has been gathered from a wide range of partners and other relevant organisations to provide as much local information as possible. The audit is, however, not just a technical document, but provides information on the views of local communities, who have expressed what their concerns are and which problems they want to see addressed.

Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership will use the results from the audit to inform its Community Safety Strategy for 2005-2008. This strategy will set out the key crime and community safety priorities for the Partnership and the organisations that it works with.

Much good work has come out of previous crime and disorder audits (1998 and 2001), and I look forward to the information contained in this document being a catalyst to making Blackburn with Darwen a safer place for everyone who lives, works and visits the borough.



Councillor Andy Kay

Chair of Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership

Executive summary

Executive summary

■ Introduction

Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership is made up of representatives from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Lancashire Constabulary and other public, voluntary and private sector organisations. This partnership response to preventing crime and improving community safety ensures a joint and co-ordinated approach is taken across the borough.

Every three years, the Partnership is required to conduct an audit of crime and community safety to identify changing levels and patterns of crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse.

■ Key findings from the 2004 Crime and Disorder Audit and local consultation

Findings gathered from the crime and disorder audit, research and local consultation, identified that the following priorities will form the focus of the Partnership's work over the next three years (2005-2008):

1	Reducing key crimes Violent crime Domestic abuse Domestic burglary Vehicle crime Crimes against local businesses
2	Increasing confidence and safety in neighbourhoods through reassurance Preventing anti-social behaviour by addressing: Abandoned vehicles Deliberate fire setting Nuisance behaviour Graffiti, litter and fly tipping Race and hate crime and harassment Road safety Increasing support for victims and witnesses
3	Targeting prolific and other priority offenders Prevent and deter Catch and convict Rehabilitate and resettle
4	Reducing the impact of drug and alcohol misuse Reducing the availability of illegal drugs Increasing access to drug services for adults and young people Reducing the impact of alcohol misuse
5	Strengthening the Community Safety Partnership Increasing voluntary and community engagement with the Partnership Improving information and communication and raising awareness

■ Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership: Vision

The Community Safety Partnership is committed to responding to the priorities identified through the 2004 Crime and Disorder Audit.

Over the coming three years, the Partnership will:

- Deliver the 2005-2008 Community Safety Strategy
- Achieve the Partnership's wider vision of:

**Improving the quality of life for all those who live,
work and socialise in the borough.**



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Partnership members | Key achievements

Membership of Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership

- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
- Eastern Division, Lancashire Constabulary
- Blackburn with Darwen Primary Health Care Trust
- National Probation Service, Lancashire
- Victim Support
- Connexions
- Groundwork
- East Lancashire Health Authority
- Racial Equality Council
- Youth Offending Team
- Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service
- Blackburn with Darwen Federation of Tenants Association
- Lancashire Care Trust
- NCH Families Project
- Blackburn with Darwen community associations
- Women's Aid
- Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley NHS Trust
- Council for Voluntary Services
- Arrest Referral Scheme
- Blackburn with Darwen Magistrates Court
- School governors
- Lancashire Road Safety Partnership
- Capita
- Lifeline, East Lancashire
- Ethnic Minority Development Association
- Registered Social Landlords' Forum
- Night Safe
- Thomas
- Inward House
- Crown Prosecution Service

What has Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership delivered since 2001?

Listed below are some of the key achievements for each of the priorities outlined in the Partnership's last Community Safety Strategy (2002-2005).

Since 2001, Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership has:

Domestic burglary

- Reduced domestic burglary by 36%
- Provided security upgrades to 2517 homes in the borough (Twin Valley Homes properties)
- Provided support to 98% of all burglary victims through Victim Support.

Vehicle crime

- Reduced car crime by 19%
- Provided support, through Victim Support, to 363 victims of vehicle crime, none of whom have been re-victimised
- Delivered security upgrades to the three main town centre car parks in line with Secured Car Park standards.

Violent crime

- Achieved quicker responses to violent crime in the town centre through the pub link radio scheme
- Installed the first all digital CCTV monitoring suite in Lancashire. 44 cameras are now in place throughout Blackburn and Darwen town centres
- Delivered the BarU scheme. 40 licensees and staff have received training to promote safety in and around licensed premises.

Road safety

- Reduced the number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents by 48%
- Reduced the number of people of all ages killed or seriously injured in road accidents by 29%
- Delivered three driving skills awareness days and six road safety awareness campaigns.

Anti-social behaviour

- Delivered the Home Office's Together Action Area programme. This has enabled the borough to build on its ongoing commitment to tackling anti-social behaviour
- Removed 546 abandoned vehicles through the Bin the banger scheme
- Supported the Council's Thrash the trash campaign, which has improved environmental quality by prosecuting those found to be responsible for fly tipping and graffiti.

Key achievements | Contact details

Domestic abuse

- Launched a domestic abuse strategy for the borough
- Promoted awareness of domestic abuse. Following the radio campaign on Rock FM (Christmas 2004), there was a 73% increase in the number of individuals making contact with Women's Aid when compared with the same time in the previous year
- Delivered domestic abuse training sessions to 80 frontline staff and managers.

Deliberate fire setting

- Removed 66 bonfires assessed to be dangerous in the lead up to bonfire night (2004) through the bonfire removal initiative
- Delivered a new initiative called FLARE (fire, life skills and rescue education) in partnership with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service. FLARE courses aim to raise young people's awareness of the impact that deliberate fire setting and other related criminal and anti-social behaviour can have on neighbourhoods in the borough
- Delivered initiatives in areas with the highest numbers of deliberate fires through Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service's community fire safety support officers.

Substance misuse

- 247 Class A drug dealers were prosecuted between April 2002 and March 2004
- Ensured that 100% of primary and secondary schools in the borough provide drug prevention education and have implemented drug-related incident management policies
- Supported the delivery of the Tower project which works with 20 clients, at any one time, whose criminality is drug-related.

Racial incidents

- Conducted 10 training sessions and trained 20 agencies to encourage self-reporting and good practice recording procedures
- Supported the Local Strategic Partnership's Belonging campaign, which emphasises what communities have in common, rather than their differences
- 43 third-party reporting centres established throughout the borough.

Contact details

For more information on the Community Safety Partnership, please contact the:

Community safety team

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Further copies of this document and the Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Strategy for 2005-2008 are also available at the above address or online at www.blackburn.gov.uk

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Introduction

Part 1: Introduction

■ **What is the Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership?**

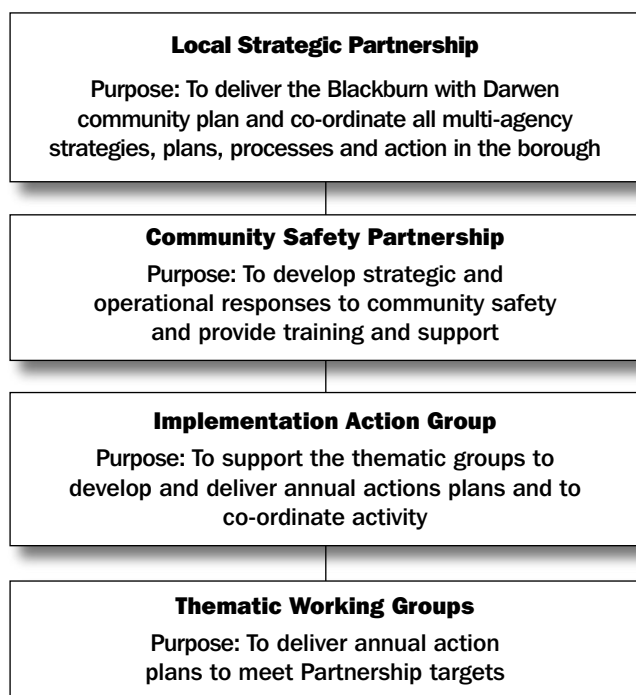
The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act (later amended by the Police Reform Act 2002) placed a legal duty on the police, local authority, police authority, fire authority and health agencies to work in partnership, with other organisations, to form partnerships to prevent crime and improve community safety.

In 2004, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in Blackburn with Darwen 'merged' with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team to become a Community Safety Partnership. Since becoming a Community Safety Partnership, the Partnership has broadened the scope of its work beyond crime and disorder and has focused its efforts on responding to a wide range of community safety concerns that local people have identified to be important to them.

Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership is committed to reducing crime and the fear of crime and improving community safety in the borough.

The following diagram shows how the Community Safety Partnership in Blackburn with Darwen is structured and illustrates how the Community Safety Strategy for 2005 - 2008 will be delivered.

■ **Structure of Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership**



■ **What is a crime and disorder audit?**

The Crime and Disorder Act requires that the Partnership produces and delivers a community safety strategy for the borough every three years. These strategies outline how the Partnership will:

- Prevent crime, disorder, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour, and
- Improve reassurance by addressing the fear of crime, which is often disproportionate to actual levels of crime.

Before Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership can develop its 2005-2008 strategy, it is required to review levels and patterns of crime, disorder, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour.

These analyses or 'audits' of crime are designed to highlight community safety issues that are of local concern by identifying what the key problems are, where they are happening, who the victims are and which individuals are most at risk of becoming involved in crime.

By identifying these factors and taking into account the knowledge and experiences of local people, specific activities based on problem-solving approaches can be developed to reduce crime and improve community safety. These priorities and activities will form the basis of the Community Safety Strategy for Blackburn with Darwen for 2005-2008.

This document presents a summary of the key findings emerging from the 2004 Crime and Disorder Audit.

Profile of the borough

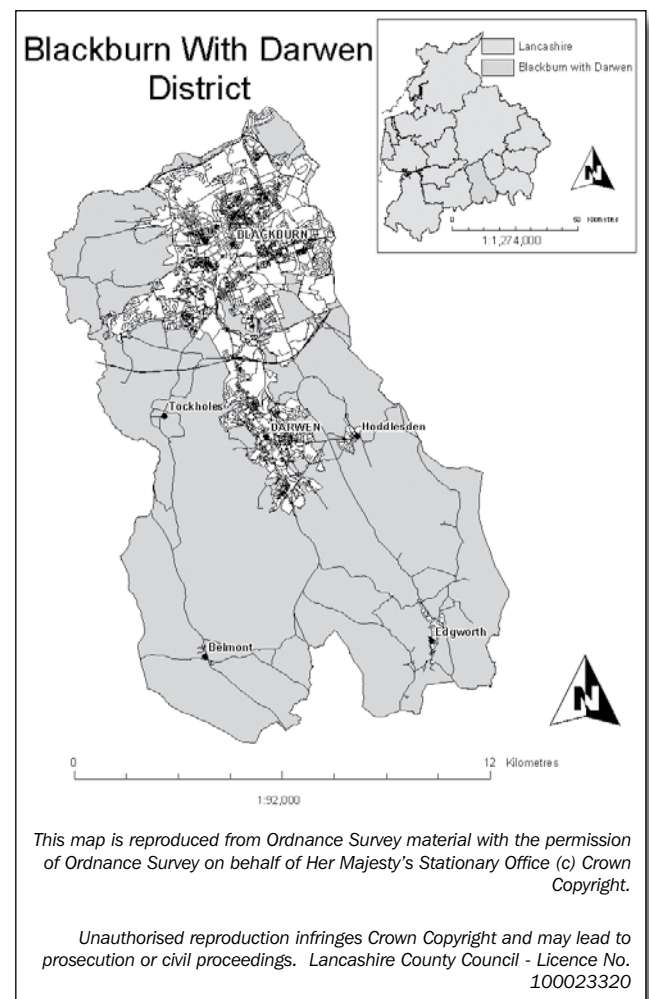
Part 2: Community safety in Blackburn with Darwen: Profile of the borough

Blackburn with Darwen is situated in the heart of East Lancashire. The borough consists of the two urban town centres of Blackburn and Darwen and is surrounded by many outlying rural villages. The landscape of the borough has been shaped by its industrial heritage. Following the decline of manufacturing industries, such as cotton, the borough has sought to regenerate itself to become a modern, successful and multi-cultural community.

The 2001 Census showed that there were 137,470 people living in Blackburn with Darwen in 53,407 households. Blackburn with Darwen has a relatively young population and young people under the age of 16 years formed 25% of the borough's total population. The borough also has a thriving ethnic minority population and, in 2001, approximately 22% of the total population of the borough was from black and minority ethnic groups.

Concentrations of multiple deprivation in Blackburn with Darwen meant that in 2004 the borough was ranked the 45th most deprived district in England and Wales (out of a total of 354 local authority districts).

The borough of Blackburn with Darwen



Overview

Part 3: Overview of recorded crime in Blackburn with Darwen between April 2001 and March 2004

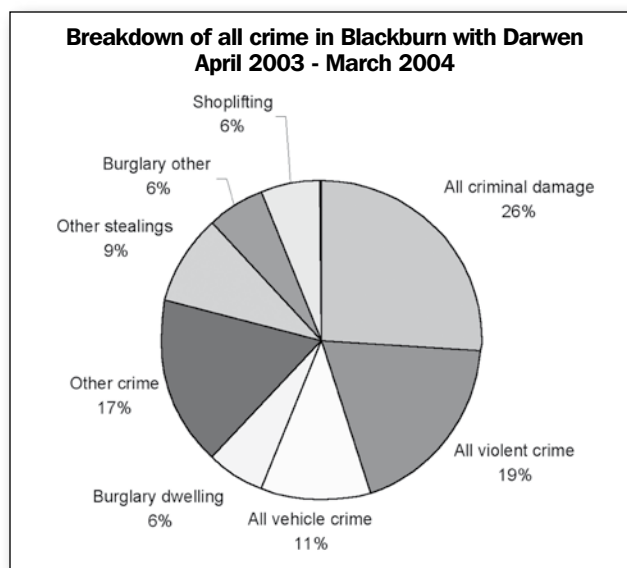
■ All recorded crime in Blackburn with Darwen

Over the last three years, recorded crime in the borough has risen by 7%.

This compared with a 10% increase across Lancashire as a whole. This rise reflects changes to the recording of crime introduced by the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002.

A breakdown of all crime in the borough revealed that between April 1 2003 and March 31 2004, 83% of all crime recorded in Blackburn with Darwen was accounted for by seven crime types. These were criminal damage, violent crime, vehicle crime, burglary dwelling, burglary other than in a dwelling, shoplifting and other stealings.

The largest volume crime in the borough was criminal damage, which accounted for over one quarter of total recorded crime. Violent crime and vehicle crime were the second and third largest categories in terms of volume and totalled 19% and 11% respectively. These proportions were similar to those recorded for Lancashire as a whole.



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

■ Delivery of 2002 - 2005 community safety targets

Community safety target	2001 / 2002	2002 / 2003	2003 / 2004	Performance against target since 2001 / 2002
To reduce domestic burglary by 24% by 2005	1499	1234	964	36% reduction
To reduce vehicle crime by 25% by 2005	2446	2595	1985	19% reduction
To reduce the fear of crime by increasing the proportion of people who feel safe walking outside in the borough alone after dark from 47% to 55% of all residents by 2005	Target set in 2002-2005 Strategy	27%	30%	-
To reverse the upward trend in deliberate fires not to exceed the baseline of 1563 primary and secondary deliberate fires	1621	1562	1875	20% increase
Substance misuse				
To reduce the number of drug-related deaths of drug users released from prison by two each year	8	12	8	No increase on 2001 / 2002 figures
To extend the drugs prevention work delivered by Blackburn with Darwen Education Authority by working in partnership with Lancashire Council of Mosques to increase the number of Islamic schools, Mosques and Madrassas providing drug education	95% of Mosques and Madrassas have drug policies in place and provide drug education Over 1200 young people, aged between 11 and 16 years, benefit from this programme in any 12 month period			
Road safety				
75% reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents to reduce the average yearly incidence from 35.6 to 9.5 by 2010	21	14	11	48% reduction
25% reduction in people of all ages killed or seriously injured in road accidents from 134 in 1994-1998	91	81	65	29% reduction



■ **Characteristics of victims of crime**

Between April 2003 and March 2004, 57% of victims of crime were male and 43% were female.

Males aged between 35 and 39 years were most likely to be a victim of crime, particularly criminal damage to vehicles, theft from vehicles and other woundings.

For females, those aged between 30 and 34 years were most likely to be a victim of crime, in particular the crime types of other woundings, criminal damage to dwellings and criminal damage to vehicles. 11% of criminal damage to dwellings cases were recorded as domestic-related.

■ **Characteristics of known offenders**

In 2003/2004, 3191 individual offenders were convicted of an offence in Blackburn with Darwen. 26% of these had committed more than one offence.

In 2003/2004, common characteristics of known offenders were:

- 86% were male
- 25% were aged between 15 and 19 years and 12% were aged between 30 and 34 years.

■ **Public perceptions of crime and community safety**

The Partnership has consulted with a variety of social and cultural groups living in different geographical areas throughout Blackburn with Darwen. Through this consultation, the Partnership sought to gather residents' experiences, fears and perceptions of crime and community safety. This consultation included an analysis of the discussions from face to face meetings and the survey results from the Shuttle consultation, Citizens' Panel and the Women Influencing Safer Environments survey.

As part of this audit, consultation groups were provided with the crime figures for their neighbourhood. Generally, respondents agreed with the different types and levels of crime recorded by the police because these matched their own perceptions and experiences.

Drug-related crime was, however, the one noticeable exception. Residents' experiences of drug crime were much higher than those represented in the police's recorded crime figures.

In Blackburn with Darwen, local residents were primarily concerned about illegal drugs, drug-related crime and the gathering of young people on the streets. Crime was perceived to be lower in outlying rural areas, though these residents were still concerned about crime and road safety.

■ **Estimating the costs of crime in Blackburn with Darwen in 2003/2004**

Using the Home Office model for calculating the costs of crime, it was estimated that between April 2003 and March 2004, the costs of specific crimes to the borough were as follows:

Offence	Number of recorded offences in 2003 / 2004	Average cost per offence	Estimated cost to Blackburn with Darwen (2003 / 2004)
Criminal damage	4617	£510	£2,354,670
Burglary in a dwelling	964	£2,300	£2,217,200
Theft from a vehicle	1457	£580	£845,060
Theft of a vehicle	528	£4,800	£2,534,400
Robbery	177	£4,700	£831,900

Source: *The Economic and Social Costs of Crime (2000)* by S.Brand and R.Price

Note: Brand and Price's average costs for estimating the costs of crime were based on research undertaken before the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002.

Summary of key audit findings

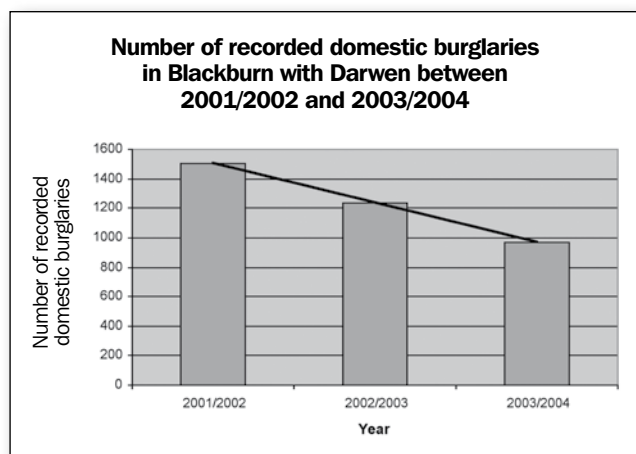
Part 4: Summary of key findings from the 2004 Crime and Disorder Audit in Blackburn with Darwen

4.1 Domestic burglary

Number of domestic burglaries since 2001/2002

Domestic burglary has been a national priority over the last three years. Both Lancashire Constabulary and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council have met individual national targets to reduce it.

Since 2001/2002, there has been a 36% reduction in the number of domestic burglaries recorded in the borough. 535 less burglaries were recorded by the police in 2003/2004 than in 2001/2002.

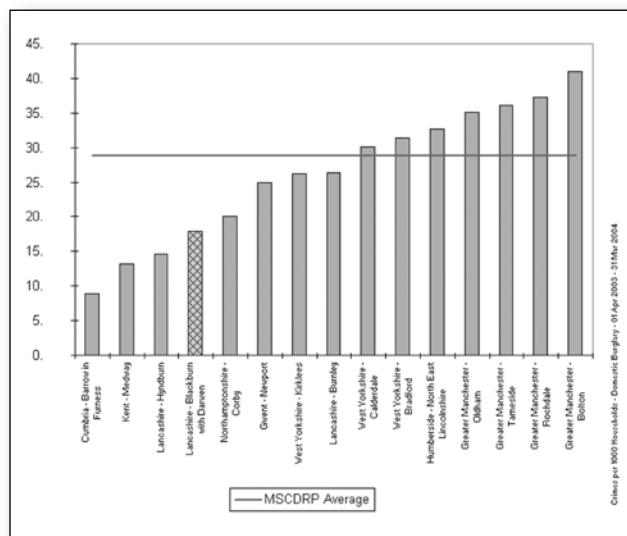


Source: Lancashire Constabulary

Comparisons with Lancashire and other crime and disorder reduction partnerships 'most similar' to Blackburn with Darwen

The 36% reduction in domestic burglary achieved in Blackburn with Darwen exceeded the 24% reduction target set by the Community Safety Partnership in its 2002-2005 Strategy and was greater than the 26% reduction recorded across Lancashire as a whole.

Between April 1 2003 and March 31 2004, Blackburn with Darwen recorded the fourth lowest rate of domestic burglary in its family of 'most similar' crime and disorder reduction partnerships. The number of domestic burglaries per 1000 residents was below the average recorded by other partnerships.



Source: Iqanta

Where and when did domestic burglaries take place

Historically, three wards in the borough have experienced higher than average rates of reported domestic burglary, however since 2001/2002 significant reductions in domestic burglary have been recorded in all wards.

The majority of burglaries were reported on a Tuesday followed by a Friday and a Saturday.

Reports of burglaries were highest between 6am and 8am, at midday and between 4pm and 6pm. These times may, however, indicate the times when victims found that they had been burgled, rather than the actual time that burglaries took place.

The estimated costs of domestic burglary in Blackburn with Darwen

Using the Home Office methodology for counting the cost of crime, it was estimated that over the last 12 months (April 2003-March 2004), the total cost of burglary of dwellings in the borough was £2,217,200. This represents a cost saving of £1,230,500 when compared with the estimated cost of domestic burglary in 2001/2002.

■ **Overview of key characteristics of burglary victims and offenders**

Victims

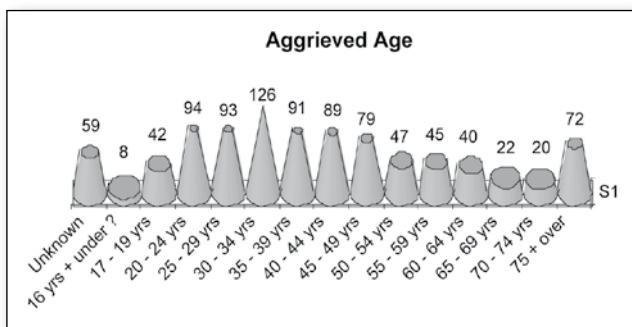
In 2004, terraced housing was the most common type of housing in the borough. Consequently, terraced properties were the most likely type of properties to be victimised.

Jewellery accounted for the largest proportion of identified stolen property.

The majority of property stolen over the last three years was unidentifiable due to the absence of a unique serial number or postcode marking. For property to be returned to its owner it needs to be identifiable.

It is frequently assumed that the elderly are the most likely victims of domestic burglary, however information collected as part of this crime audit showed that those most at risk of becoming a victim of domestic burglary were aged between 20 and 40 years.

Age of victims of domestic burglary in Blackburn with Darwen



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

Offenders

In the 12 months between April 2003 and March 2004:

- 89% of known burglary offenders were male
- 69% of known burglary offenders were under the age of 25 years
- 66% were recorded as being unemployed.

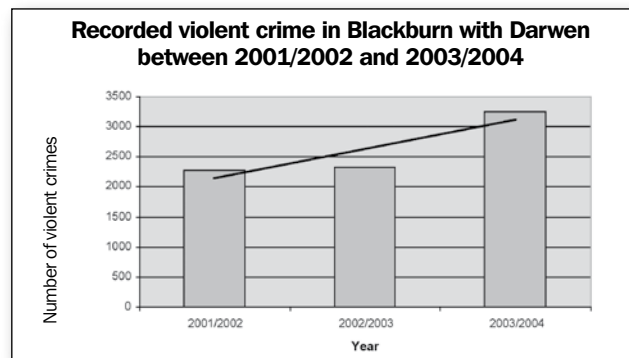
4.2 Violent crime

■ **Trends in violent crime in Blackburn with Darwen since April 2001**

The term violent crime covers many different offences. These vary in terms of the severity of physical assault from minor injury to actual bodily harm.

Violent crime has been one of the offences most affected by changes to the recording of crime introduced by the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002. Traditionally, if a victim did not want to make a complaint, the offence would not be recorded. Therefore, the introduction of the Standard in 2002 has made it difficult to determine true changes in levels of recorded violent crime.

Recorded violent crime has increased by 43% across the borough since 2001/2002 and the number of violent crimes per 1000 residents was higher than that for Lancashire as a whole.



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

The increases in violent crime locally were considerably more than those recorded nationally.

Violent crime reported in Blackburn town centre increased by 18.7% between 2002 and 2004.

■ **Comparisons with Lancashire and other crime and disorder reduction partnerships 'most similar' to Blackburn with Darwen**

In the group of crime and disorder reduction partnerships against which Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership is measured, levels of violent crime in the borough were lower than the average recorded by other 'most similar' partnerships.

■ **Where and when did violent crime take place**

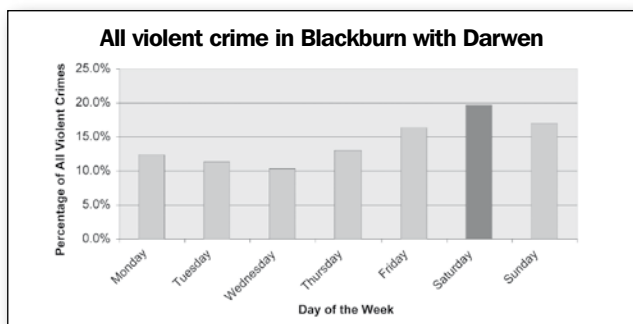
Wards which included parts of Blackburn town centre in their boundaries were the most vulnerable to violent crime.

The most common time for violent offences to take place in Blackburn town centre was between 11pm and 3am.

Summary of key audit findings

Violent crimes generally occurred on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening and, between April 2003 and March 2004, the peak months for violent crime were the summer months of July and August.

Day of the week analysis of all recorded violent crime in the borough, April 2003 to March 2004



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

The number of individuals admitted to accident and emergency departments in the borough for alleged assaults increased by 18.5% between April 2002 and March 2004.

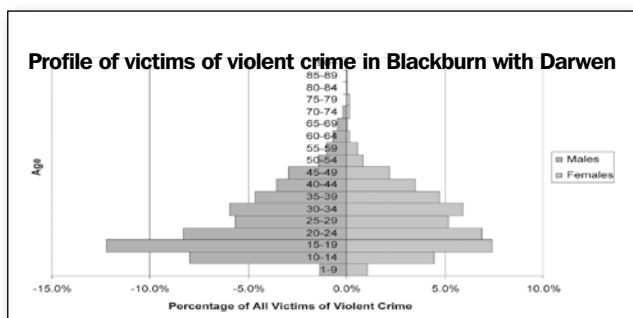
Violent crime (particularly that associated with alcohol) was prioritised through public consultation as an area of local concern.

Overview of characteristics of victims and offenders

Victims

The findings from this audit illustrated that those most likely to become a victim of violent crime were young people, particularly young males, aged between 10 and 24.

Age of victims of violent crime in Blackburn with Darwen



Source: Lancashire Constabulary/MADE

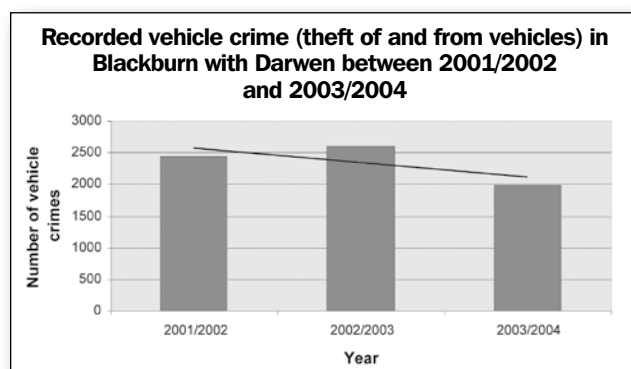
Offenders

The majority of known offenders of violent crime were under the age of 24 years and 84% of all known violent crime offenders were male.

4.3 Vehicle crime

Trends in vehicle crime in Blackburn with Darwen since April 2001

Since 2001/2002, there has been a 19% reduction in vehicle crime in the borough (includes theft of and from vehicles). 461 less vehicle crimes were recorded between April 2003 and March 2004 than in the previous year.



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

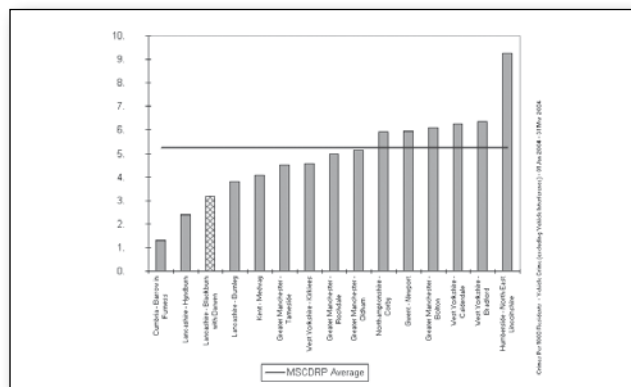
The recorded number of thefts from a vehicle has decreased by 23.5% between April 2001 and March 2004.

The recorded number of thefts of a vehicle has reduced by 2.6% between April 2001 and March 2004.

Comparisons with Lancashire and other crime and disorder reduction partnerships 'most similar' to Blackburn with Darwen

The number of vehicle crimes (theft of and from vehicles) per 1000 residents in Blackburn with Darwen exceeded the rate for Lancashire as a whole.

However, since April 2001, the number of vehicle crimes recorded in the borough has remained significantly below the average recorded by other crime and disorder reduction partnerships 'most similar' to Blackburn with Darwen.



Source: Iqanta



■ **Where and when did vehicle crime take place**

Recorded vehicle crime was highest in the town centre.

Vehicles were most vulnerable when parked on the street and when left unattended for extended periods of time.

The majority of vehicles were broken into by the offender forcing the door lock.

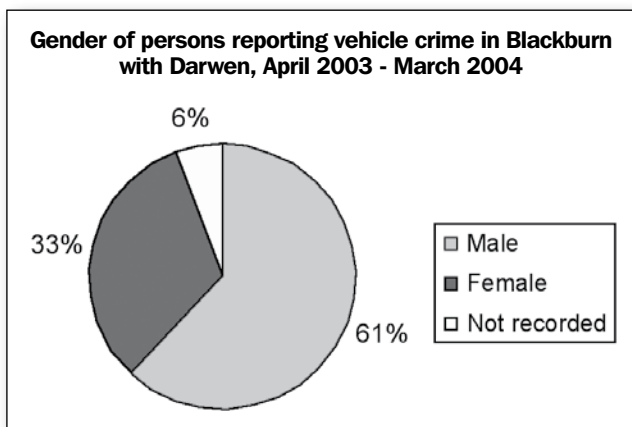
■ **The estimated costs of vehicle crime in Blackburn with Darwen**

The Home Office methodology for counting the costs of crime estimated that in 2003/2004, the total cost of theft of and theft from vehicles in the borough was £3,379,460. This is almost £785,000 less than the cost of vehicle crime in 2001/2002.

■ **Overview of key characteristics of victims and offenders**

Victims

Between April 1 2003 and March 31 2004, the majority of victims of reported vehicle crime were males aged between 21 and 30 years and 31 and 40 years. Victims in these age groups accounted for 24% and 27% respectively of all known victims of vehicle crime in 2003/2004.



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

Audio equipment was the property most likely to be taken.

Offenders

The majority of vehicle crime offenders were males aged between 11 and 24 years.

4.4 Domestic abuse

■ **Key findings**

The Community Safety Partnership has adopted the term domestic abuse to recognise that abuse in relationships is not always physical and can include many other types of abuse such as emotional and financial.

Domestic violence data are recorded by the police. Reported incidents of 'domestic violence' have decreased by 32% (2001-2004) across the borough and the decrease observed in the borough was greater than the 22% decrease experienced in Lancashire. Further information is required to confirm whether these decreases are a true trend.

The Community Safety Partnership and organisations who work with the victims, families and perpetrators of domestic abuse emphasise that domestic abuse continues to be under-reported and have acknowledged that domestic abuse can cut across all boundaries of our society.

Increasing confidence in the support available to victims of domestic abuse is critical to encouraging vulnerable victims to report domestic abuse and to reducing the number of repeat incidents.

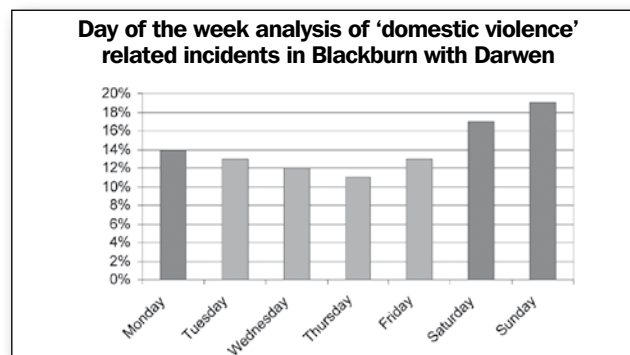
■ **Victims of domestic abuse**

The largest victim group experiencing domestic abuse was female, however the Partnership has acknowledged that domestic abuse is not just a male on female crime.

■ **When and where was domestic abuse most likely to occur**

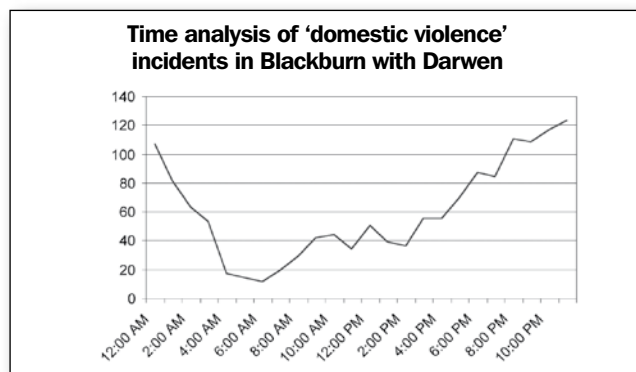
The majority of reported incidents of domestic abuse did not occur in a public place, which suggests that crime and incidents linked to domestic abuse frequently took place within the home.

Reported incidents of 'domestic violence' tended to occur during the evening, rising sharply between 5pm and 6pm and continuing to rise until peaking at 11pm. The number of reported incidents of 'domestic violence' increased on a weekend and peaked around Christmas and holiday periods.



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

Summary of key audit findings



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

4.5 Anti-social behaviour

Key findings

Anti-social behaviour can take on many forms and the effects of each incident on communities and residents can be immediate, real and personal. The definition of anti-social behaviour used by the Community Safety Partnership in Blackburn with Darwen is taken from the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act.

Anti-social behaviour occurs when:

A person has behaved in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as themselves.

Anti-social behaviour is difficult to measure because it is often under-reported and incidents may be reported to a variety of different agencies.

Criminal aspects of anti-social behaviour include offences such as damage to buildings and vehicles, graffiti and other aspects of environmental crime, such as fly tipping. Civil complaints of neighbour disputes and nuisance behaviour are equally as significant because of the impact that they can have on the quality of life of residents.

Consultation with residents and organisations in Blackburn with Darwen illustrated that anti-social behaviour continues to be of concern to local people. The main issues that they identified were:

- nuisance behaviour
- deliberate fire setting
- graffiti
- litter and fly tipping.

The visible presence of graffiti and litter impacted on how local people saw the places where they lived.

Over the last three years, the number of complaints received by the Council's neighbourhood services section for noise nuisance, graffiti and litter has increased

following the introduction of the 'Thrash the trash' scheme. As a result of 'Thrash the trash', improved reporting structures and quicker response times have been introduced.



Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership recognises that in order to prevent anti-social behaviour and improve reassurance in neighbourhoods it needs to work together with local communities.

4.6 Deliberate fire setting

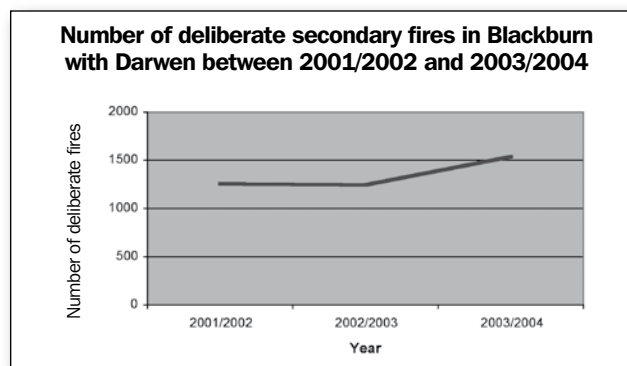
The Partnership uses the term deliberate fire setting instead of arson to cover wider issues of anti-social behaviour, such as setting fire to rubbish on wasteland. This type of behaviour is not covered under the legal definition of arson.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service classify deliberate fires into two types. Primary fires are fires to property such as houses, industrial premises and motor vehicles and secondary fires include skip fires, rubbish fires and those occurring in derelict buildings.

Number of deliberate fires recorded in the borough since 2001/2002

The number of deliberate primary fires recorded by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service has decreased by 10% between 2001/2002 and 2003/2004.

In contrast, the number of deliberate secondary fires (outdoor, refuse and derelict buildings) recorded by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service has increased by 23% across the borough over the same time period.



Source: Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service

Comparisons between Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service report more cases of deliberate fires in Blackburn with Darwen than the average for Lancashire as a whole.

■ **Where and when deliberate fires were most likely to take place**

Items and property most targeted by deliberate fire setters included buildings (commercial and domestic), vehicles and bins (wheelie bins, skips and recycling facilities).

Deliberate fires were most likely to take place in either April/May or October/November.

Reductions in the number of deliberate vehicle fires over the last three years have largely been achieved by the rapid removal of abandoned vehicles through the 'Bin the banger' scheme. Since the scheme began in March 2004, 546 abandoned vehicles have been removed.



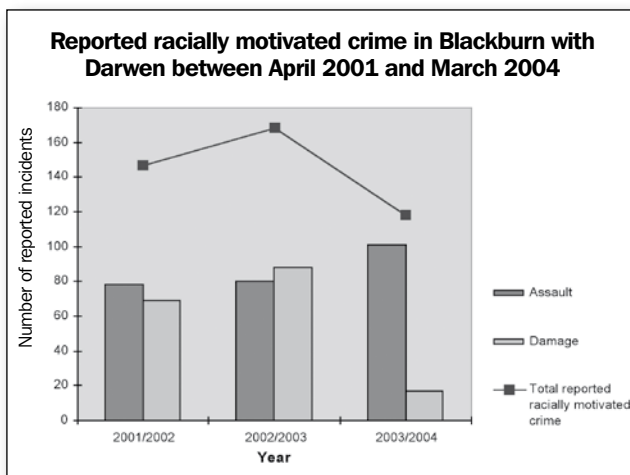
4.7 Reported racial incidents

Improvements in the recording of racial and hate incidents have been implemented by the Partnership across the borough and 43 third-party reporting centres have been established in accessible locations throughout Blackburn with Darwen.

The Community Safety Partnership remains committed to improving reporting processes and standards of satisfaction for those people who are victims of racial and hate crime.

■ **Trends in reported racially motivated crime**

The number of reported incidents of racially motivated crime in the borough has decreased by 20% between 2001/2002 and 2003/2004.



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

■ **Comparisons with Lancashire**

Blackburn with Darwen recorded a higher rate of reported racially motivated crime than that recorded for Lancashire.

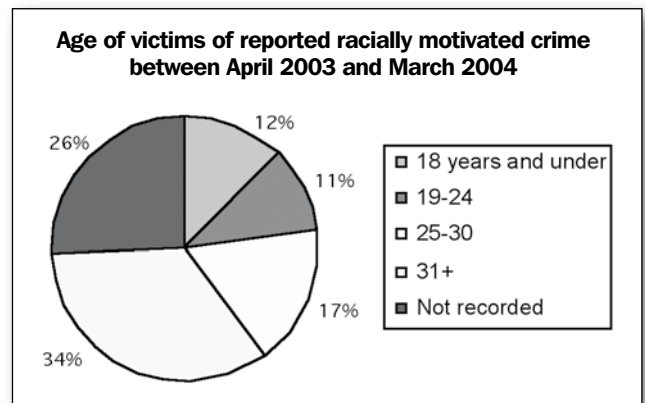
■ **Where reported racially motivated crime was most likely to occur**

Wards with the highest numbers of reported racially motivated crime generally included, or were next to, either Blackburn or Darwen town centres.

■ **Overview of key characteristics of victims and offenders**

Victims

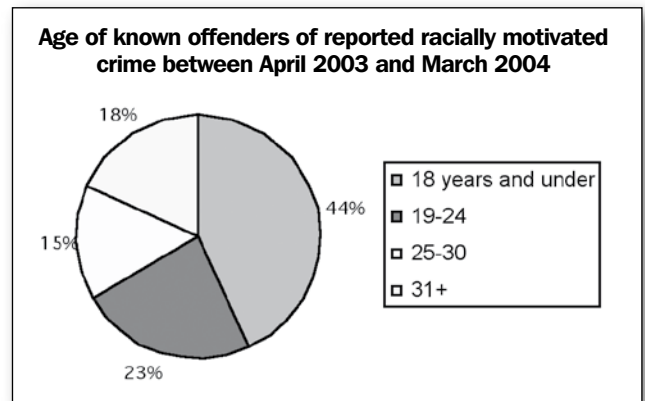
In 2003/2004, those most likely to be a victim of reported racial crime were male, under the age of 25 years and Asian.



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

Offenders

The majority of known offenders of reported racially motivated crime were male, white and aged between 15 and 24 years.



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

Summary of key audit findings

4.8 Road safety

■ Key findings

Improving road safety has been prioritised by the Community Safety Partnership as everyone either uses or is dependent on services delivered by road transport. The road infrastructure exists to ensure people can travel easily and safely. Criminal or irresponsible and dangerous behaviour on roads and car parks does, at the very least affect the quality of people's lives and can, at worst, result in serious injury or the loss of life.

Over the last three years, the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership has identified and responded to community concerns around road safety and has implemented Home Zones and traffic calming.

Since 2001/2002, there has been a 48% reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents in the borough.



Source: Capita Highways

The number of people of all ages killed or seriously injured in road accidents has decreased by 29% since 2001/2002.

■ Victim profile

In terms of the number of all casualties, virtually all classes of road users, such as pedestrians, cyclists, car users and heavy goods vehicle users, have experienced significant decreases. Motorcyclists (including scooters) are, however, finding that they are facing increasing risks of becoming road casualties.

■ Where traffic collisions were most likely to occur

The locations of collisions resulting in injury were characterised by two types of location:

1. Traffic collisions which happened in low speed locations in environments where pedestrians were often side by side by vehicles
2. Collisions which occurred on higher speed roads in rural areas of the borough.

■ Estimated costs of road accidents in Blackburn with Darwen

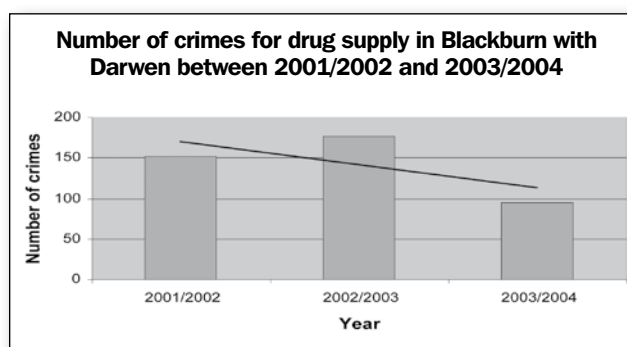
Without taking into account the emotional and physical costs of road casualties, the economic cost of road crash casualties in Blackburn with Darwen was £23.6 million in 2003/2004.

4.9 Substance misuse

■ Key findings

Drug and alcohol misuse were the primary concerns raised by local residents and organisations participating in the consultation for this audit.

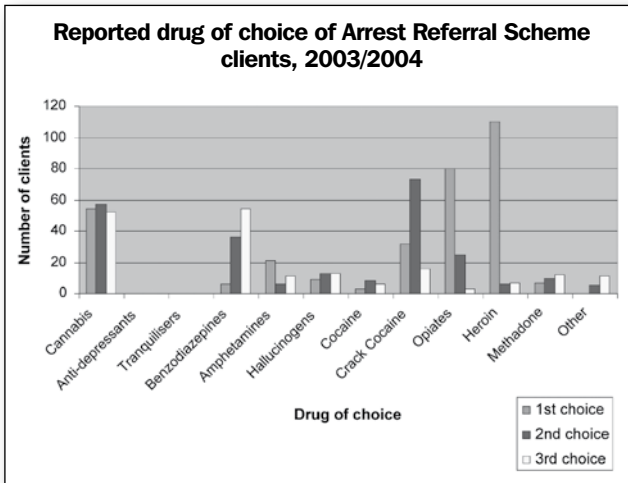
The number of drug offences recorded by Lancashire Constabulary in the borough has decreased by 37.5% between 2001/2002 and 2003/2004 (Note: These figures are a reflection of police activity, rather than actual availability of drugs in the borough)



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

Treatment and assessment returns indicated that heroin was the drug most likely to be used by those accessing drug treatment services in the borough. There were strong links between some drug misuse and crime, especially acquisitive crimes such as burglary and vehicle crime.

Although heroin was the main drug of choice for those accessing treatment in the borough, small increases in the use of crack cocaine year on year have suggested that crack cocaine was developing as the first drug of choice and was being used in conjunction with heroin.



Source: Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Arrest Referral Scheme

Locations recording the highest rates of drug offences were largely clustered around the town centres.

Over the last three years, a range of interventions have been introduced in Blackburn with Darwen to respond to the needs of individuals vulnerable to substance misuse and to prevent substance misuse amongst young people.

■ **Comparisons with Lancashire and other crime and disorder reduction partnerships 'most similar' to Blackburn with Darwen**

The average rate of drug offences recorded by the police was higher in Blackburn with Darwen than in Lancashire as a whole.

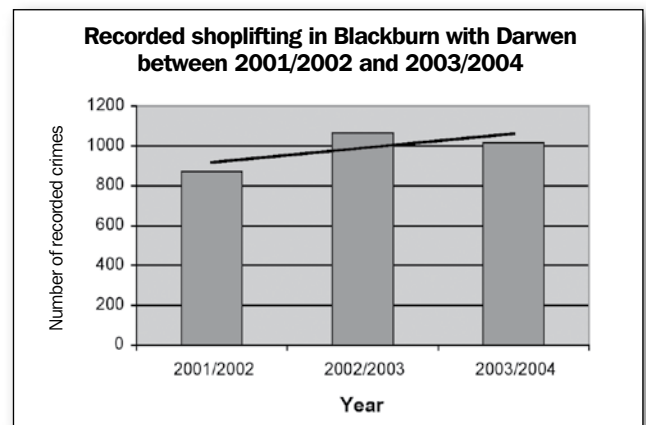
The number of recorded drug offences per 1000 residents in the borough exceeded that recorded by other crime and disorder reduction partnerships 'most similar' to Blackburn with Darwen.

4.10 Crimes against local businesses

■ **Key findings**

Shoplifting

The number of crimes recorded against local businesses in Blackburn with Darwen was relatively low in volume, although shoplifting has increased by 17% over the last three years (since 2001/2002). With the reductions in burglary at an all time low, shoplifting is an offence that may rise as burglary offenders may displace to other forms of acquisitive crime.



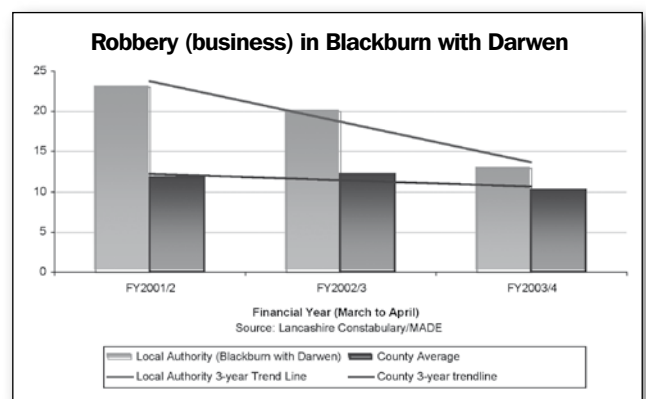
Source: Lancashire Constabulary

The number of shoplifting offences per 1000 population in the borough was above that recorded for Lancashire and other 'most similar' partnerships against which Blackburn with Darwen is measured.

The majority of reported shoplifting offences occurred in Blackburn town centre, where many retail outlets were found.

Robbery of business

Since 2001/2002, the number of crimes recorded for robbery of business has decreased by 43%.



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

Summary of key audit findings

In Blackburn with Darwen, robbery of business has remained below the averages recorded for both Lancashire and other partnerships 'most similar' to Blackburn with Darwen.

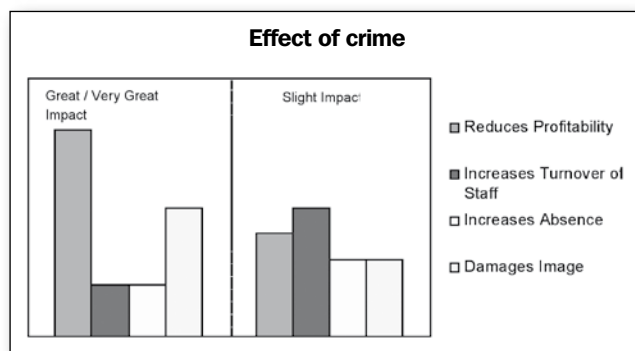
Vulnerable premises continued to be either the industrial estates located outside the town centres or smaller businesses, such as newsagents, small food stores, petrol stations and off licences.

Consultation with local businesses

Consultation undertaken by Lancashire Police Authority (June-October 2004) with local businesses found that:

- All businesses taking part in the consultation in the borough had experienced at least one crime in the previous 12 months. Burglaries, vandalism, theft by customers and theft by employees were the crimes that affected businesses the most
- Anti-social behaviour, especially rowdy behaviour, was identified to have the biggest impact on local businesses and was more likely to affect local businesses than crime
- 49% of the sample thought that Blackburn with Darwen had a 'high' level of crime and suggested that violent crime, vehicle theft and anti-social behaviour were the largest volume offences.

The perceived impact of crime on businesses in Blackburn with Darwen



Lancashire Police Authority and Government Office North-West have identified that the links between community safety partnerships and local businesses need developing further and have made the following recommendations:

- Greater information sharing and improved communication between local businesses and the police
- Enable local businesses to improve crime prevention in respect of partnership work
- Encourage greater involvement of local businesses in community safety partnerships.

From audit to strategy

Part 5: From audit to community safety strategy

In addition to responding to local concerns, the Partnership must also meet national priorities. Current national priorities include:

- Reducing recorded crime, violence (especially that related to alcohol misuse), criminal damage, domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour and acquisitive crime
- The delivery of the Drug Intervention Programme
- Focused work with prolific and other priority offenders
- The development of safer, stronger and more cohesive neighbourhoods.

The detailed analysis of crime and community safety emerging from the 2004 Crime and Disorder Audit combined with consultation with local residents and organisations working in the borough has identified five key community safety priorities. These will form the basis of the Community Safety Partnership's 2005-2008 Community Safety Strategy.

Community safety priorities in Blackburn with Darwen for 2005-2008 will be:

- 1** Reducing recorded crime.
Specific crime types to be focused on will be violent crime, domestic abuse, domestic burglary, vehicle crime and crimes against local businesses
- 2** Increasing confidence through reassurance in neighbourhoods throughout the borough (includes road safety and improving support to victims and witnesses)
- 3** Targeting prolific and other priority offenders
- 4** Reducing the impact of drug and alcohol misuse in the borough
- 5** Strengthening the Community Safety Partnership.

Key contacts

Information, advice and confidential help are available from any of the following:

Reporting all crimes and incidents

In an emergency dial 999
For non-emergencies
Blackburn & Darwen Police (01254) 51212
. or 0845 1253545
If you have any information about a crime,
call Crimestoppers 0800 555 111
Your call is free, you don't have to give your name and you may
receive a reward

Support for victims/witnesses

Blackburn Victim Support (01254) 680442
Witness Service - Advice about
being a witness in court (01254) 265305

Domestic abuse

Women's Aid - Confidential support & advice . (01254) 260265
The WISH Centre. (01254) 55111

Racial harassment

Racial Equality Council
Confidential advice and support (01254) 261924

Drug or alcohol problems

East Lancashire Drug Services
General support and advice (01254) 680520
Lifeline (01254) 677427
Community Alcohol Team
Alcohol related support and advice. (01254) 677773
National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600 (24hrs)
Needle Exchange (01254) 263525
Community Drugs Team. (01254) 22620

Anti-social behaviour

It's your call hotline 0845 605 2222
Noise nuisance (01254) 585475
Bin the banger scheme (01254) 353441
Rubbish dumping/cleansing services. (01254) 585921

Young people

Night Safe
- Young people facing homelessness (01254) 587687
The Information Shop
General information for young people (01254) 661100
Youthworks (01254) 265163
Connexions Service (01254) 685120
Youth Service 0800 511111
Youth Offending Team (01254) 299800

Blackburn North East

Community beat officer (01254) 353575
Neighbourhood coordinator (01254) 585285
Police community support officer (01254) 353575

Blackburn North West

Community beat officer (01254) 353575
Neighbourhood coordinator (01254) 585406
Police community support officer (01254) 353575

Blackburn South East

Community beat officer (01254) 353575
Neighbourhood coordinator (01254) 585429
Police community support officer (01254) 353575

Blackburn South West

Community beat officer (01254) 353575
Neighbourhood coordinator (01254) 585631
Police community support officer (01254) 353575

Darwen and Rural

Community beat officer (01254) 353828
Neighbourhood coordinator (01254) 585270
Police community support officer (01254) 353828

