



Lancaster District

Local Assessment 2012

Contents	Page
1. The Demographic Picture	3
2. The Economic Picture	6
3. The Community Picture	10
4. Trends and Opportunities	12
a. Support for Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations	12
b. Volunteering and Community Involvement	12
b. Technology and IT	13
5. Conclusions	14
6. A Summary in Numbers	15
7. References and Resources	16

The Purpose of this report

This assessment has been produced by the Community Engagement Service to help inform the commissioning process for Lancaster City Council's funding of the local Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) and Arts Sectors, for 2013-14 and beyond. It is focused on providing a snapshot of factual information about the local area, national issues that affect the district, and other matters relevant to those sectors.

As an assessment it is designed to give an overview rather than be a comprehensive study of what is a very wide area of research. It does not seek to replicate needs assessments and sources of data published by other City Council services, by Lancashire County Council and by other organisations – wherever possible these are referenced in the text or under Section 6. Some data have been provided internally and are therefore not referenced, but more information can be provided as appropriate via the Partnerships Team.

1. The Demographic Picture

A general introduction to the district that includes geographical and economic information is produced by Lancashire County Council's Corporate Research and Intelligence Team: [click here to view](#) or see link (1) in the references.

Population

The 2011 Census ⁽ⁱ⁾ estimates Lancaster District's population as 138,400, representing an average growth rate of 3.4% over the last decade and giving it the second largest population in Lancashire after Preston. 18% of residents (24,500 people) are aged between 18 and 24, well above the national average of 13% and reflecting the number of students at the two local universities. Another 18% are over 65, which is again a little higher than the national average. There are high concentrations of retired people in Morecambe and Silverdale.

Spread

Lancaster district covers 576 square kilometres, making it the second largest district in Lancashire. Its population density is the second lowest in Lancashire after Ribble Valley ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾. Centres of population are shown in Diagram 1 below. Around 40,000 people live outside urban areas.

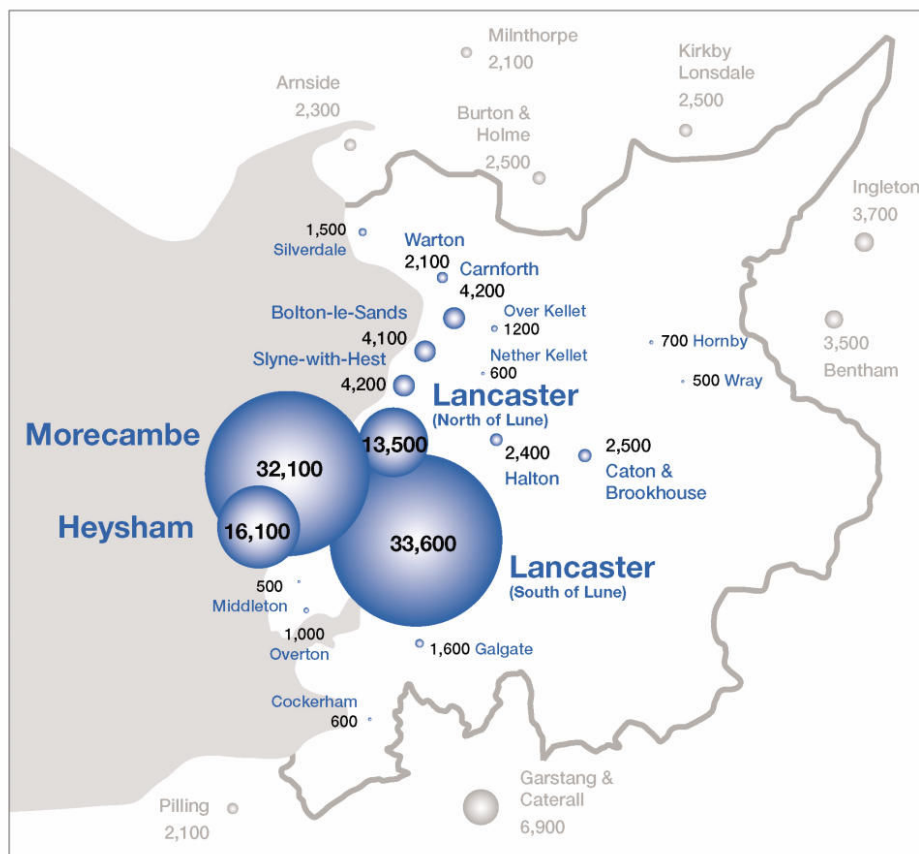


Diagram 1: District Population centres in 2001 (source: Lancaster District Core Strategy (adopted 2008)(iii))

Age

The district's population is projected ^(iv) to increase by 15.8% over the next 25 years (pre-census figures), above the Lancashire figure of 12.8% but below the UK-wide estimate of 18.9%. Around four fifths of that increase will be in people over the age of 65. With Lancaster's above-average population of older people this will equate to an extra 15,000 people over the age of 65 by 2035.

Sexuality

Based on national research the estimated Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) population of Lancaster District is between 5-7% of the population, which roughly equates to around 7,000 to 9,500 people^(v). The estimated Transgender/Transsexual population of the district, again based on national research, is around 1% or 1,400 people^(vi).

Religion

As of the 2001 UK census^{vii}, **(vii)** 76.3% of Lancaster's population reported themselves as Christian (UK average 71.7%), 0.6% Muslim (UK average 3.1%), 0.3% Buddhist, 0.1% Hindu, 0.1% Jewish, and 0.1% Sikh. 13.6% had no religion. The city is covered by the Roman Catholic [Diocese of Lancaster](#) and the Church of England [Diocese of Blackburn](#).

Households

The number of households in England is projected to grow to 27.5 million in 2033, an increase of 18% over the 2008 estimate. Over the same period, growth rates in this district are projected to be 26.7%, the highest in Lancashire^{viii}. **(viii)** To meet this need, it is estimated that over 900 new market and affordable homes are required annually over the next 10 years.

In terms of [social housing](#), Lancaster City Council manages 3800 properties, as of October 2012 there are 1878 people on the housing register – down from 2565 in October 2011.

Children, Young People and Education

The following information comes from a general overview of Children and Young People's issues is produced for each district by Lancashire Children's Trust. [Click here to view](#) or see link (2) in the references.

There are around 32,700 children and young people aged 0-19 in the district. Approximately 1,500 children born in the district every year, and around 4,400 children and young people live in poverty (19.4% of the total, versus 21.9% nationally).

As of June 2012, 116 children are looked after, and 59 are in foster care.

The district has high levels of educational qualification with 66.2% of pupils obtaining five GCSE at grades A-C (58.4% nationally). Of the 63 schools in the district, as of August 2011 19 were rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, none were in special measures and only one required special improvements.

There are also high numbers of people with degrees in Silverdale and Central Lancaster. Conversely Morecambe, Heysham and North Lancaster perform more poorly.

In 2011 there were 13,352 school children educated by Lancashire County Council (9.33% of the total) whose first language wasn't English.

Safety

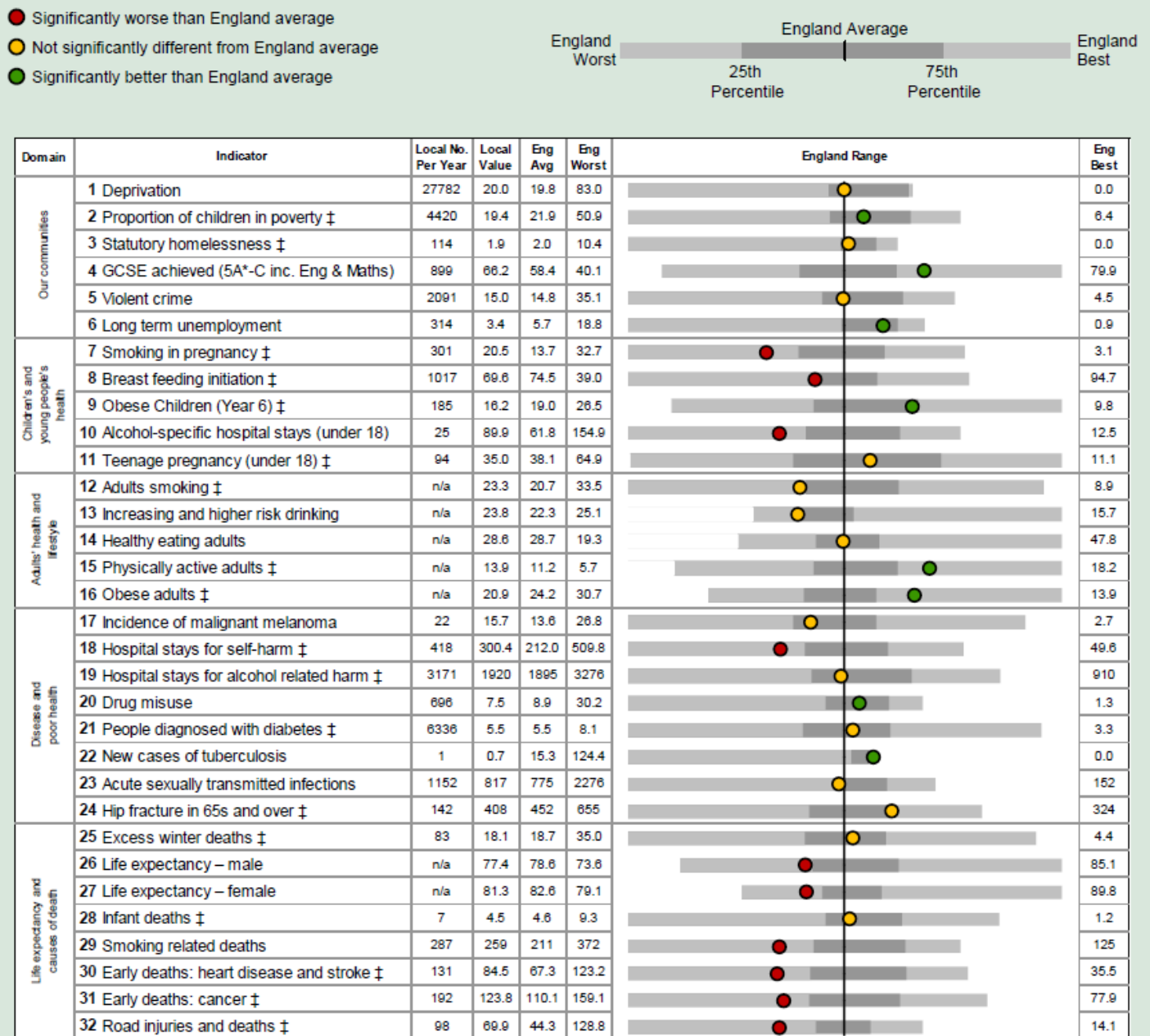
Lancaster has slightly below average crime compared to the rest of Lancashire. Between October 2010 and September 2011, the district had a rate of 64 crimes per thousand population, a reduction from 70 in the previous twelve month period.**(ix)**^{ix}

Health

A health profile for Lancaster District is produced by the North West Public Health Observatory. [Click here](#) to view or see link (3) in the references Diagram 2 below is reproduced from that profile.

The health of local people is mixed. Although life expectancy is improving it is lower on average than the rest of England – for local men it’s 77 and for women it’s 81, compared to the national average of 78 and 82. The difference is more pronounced between rich and poor areas in the district, with a difference of 6 years for women and 11 years for men.

This is in part caused by the relatively high levels of smoking, with 287 smoking-related deaths per year compared to the UK average of 211. On the positive side, physical activity and levels of obesity for both adults and children are better than the rest of Britain. The table below, reproduced from the Health Profile 2012 for Lancaster District, gives further comparison between Lancaster District and other areas of England.



‡ Substantially similar to indicator proposed in the Public Health Outcomes Framework published January 2012

Diagram 2: Health Profile for Lancaster District (Source: NHS Observatory Health Profile)

If reading in black and white, the green dots are 2, 4, 6, 9, 15, 16, 20 and 22.

The red dots are 7, 8, 10, 18, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31 and 32

The district has high levels of disability or limiting long-term illness, particularly in Morecambe and Heysham. It is estimated that 23.6% of households in the area contain somebody with a disability, slightly higher than the UK average of 20%.^{x(x)}

Ethnicity and Country of origin

Over 90% of the population are estimated to be White British, with around 8500 people from a black and minority ethnic background (6.1%) and 4500 (3.2%) from an ‘other white’ background (including Irish and Eastern European).^{xi(xi)} Around 3000 long-term residents (here for longer than a year) are estimated to be non-UK nationals. These minority populations are concentrated, with locally significant numbers of people of Indian and Pakistani origin in Central Lancaster, and from a Chinese and Eastern Europe background in Morecambe.

In 2010 National Insurance Numbers were issued to Lancaster-resident non-UK nationals from 23 countries including Poland, India, Bulgaria, China (and Pakistan, and foreign students from over 100 different countries attending the two Universities.^{xii(xii)}

Around 3,310 short-term migrants (staying for less than 12 months) arrived in Lancaster in 2007, of which 360 were workers. There were estimated to be 2,650 overseas students studying in Lancaster in 2009/10 from over 100 different countries, of which 1,365 were undergraduates, and 1,285 were postgraduates.^{xiii(xiii)}

Gypsies and travellers have a long-established presence in Lancaster District, and many families live on privately owned sites in Heaton-with-Oxcliffe and South Heysham. The Council also manages a social site at Mellishaw Lane on behalf of Lancashire County Council.

Migration

Lancaster has experienced low net migration in recent years but figures are rising. The current estimated net inflow of long-term (i.e. staying longer than one year) international migrants of 648, which is due to around increase to around 800 in 2015/16, and remain stable after that (see Diagram 3 below).^(xii)

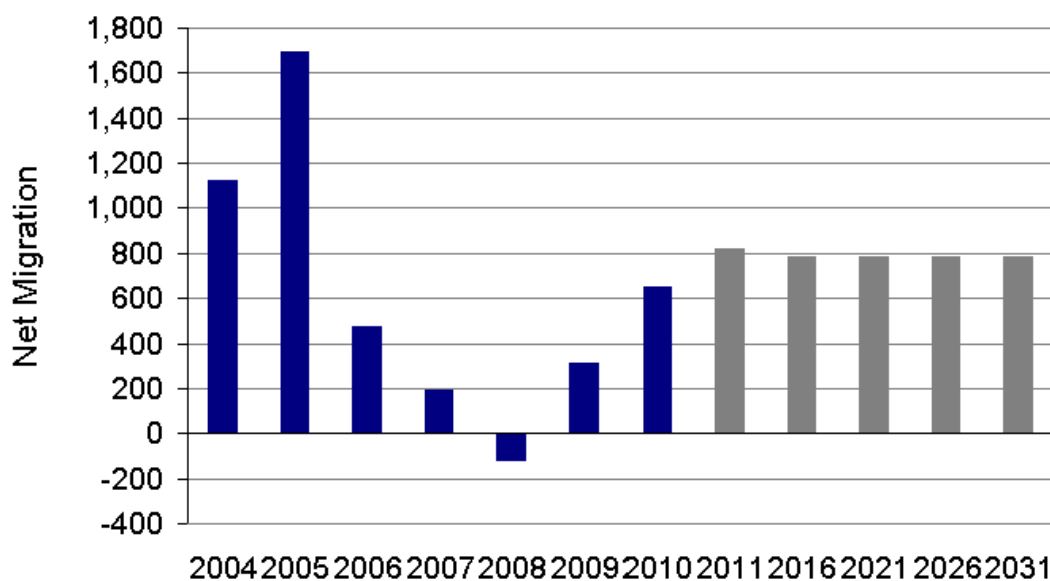


Diagram 3: Net long-term migration in Lancaster District

2. The Economic Picture

Recession

The UK is currently in recession, with GDP shrinking by 0.7% in the second quarter of 2012, the third successive quarter with negative growth^{xiv} (xiv) (see Diagram 4 below courtesy of www.economicshelp.org). The construction sector was hardest hit, with a 5.2% drop from quarter one. Manufacturing fell by 1.3% and service sector output by 0.1%. The Office for Budget Responsibility predicts that overall growth for 2012/13 will be 0.9%, but other economic forecasts are not so positive. For example, the IMF recently downgraded expected UK growth for 2012 to 0.2%.^{xv} (xv)

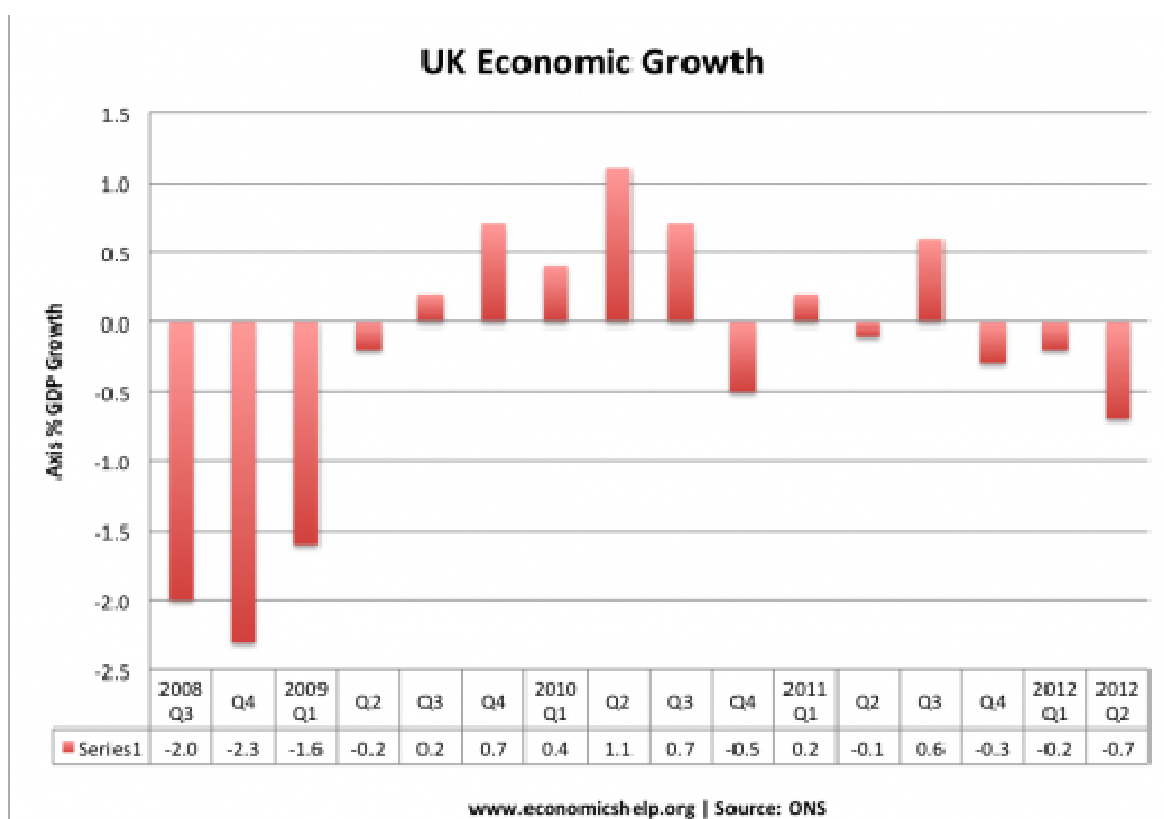


Diagram 4: UK quarterly GDP growth, 2008 to present.

Household Spending

Even if UK households have retained their employment they are still squeezed financially, with their 'real' spending power at its lowest since 2005 due to inflation rising faster than wages. (xiv)

House Prices

House prices are a key indicator of economic activity. Based on sales and valuations over the last three months the average house price in the District is £159,500, compared to a regional average of £169,800.

Sales in the District have decreased by 35.2% between 2007 and 2010.^{xvi} (xvi)

Employment

The most common socio-economic classification in the district is 'lower managerial and professional occupations', and those in this bracket represent around 16% of households. Gross weekly pay in stands at £512 per week, up from £422 in 2004, according to the latest data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. This compares to a regional average of £473 per week. **(xvii)** ^{xvii}

The District's key economic assets are Lancaster University, Port of Heysham and Heysham Nuclear Power Station. There is also an aspiration to deliver the Lancaster University Science Park, which will generate significant growth in knowledge based jobs in the District.

Jobs are clustered at Lancaster University, in Central Lancaster, at the White Lund industrial estate and Heysham's port and power stations. The district is relatively self-contained with 16% of working age residents commuting out whilst around 13% of employees commute in. **(iii)**

Further development has been granted planning approval which will generate further job growth - for instance Carnforth Business Park at Junction 35 of the M6; and the delivery of the Heysham - M6 link road will significantly improve accessibility to the Heysham Peninsula and Morecambe, which will increase the attractiveness of employment sites to both local and inward investment.

78% of the District's population is classed as economically active, and 74% are employed. Of around 54,000 employee jobs, 85% are in service industries and only 7% in manufacturing.

The low vacancy rates in the District's existing employment areas (White Lund, Caton Road, White Cross) signals that the local economy remains strong. Over the last 3 years 8% of in-migration was for employment purposes.

Unemployment

A key consequence of recession is unemployment. Although Lancaster District's unemployment rate of 8.1% is identical to the national average and below the Lancashire average of 9.5%, the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance has risen by 200 (7.9%) over the last year and now stands at 2768. Whilst far below the count in the early 90s, when over 11% of the population were claiming unemployment benefit, this figure is likely to rise as the effect of public sector job cuts is felt.

With a larger number of skilled applicants seeking available jobs, the difficulties for those who are long-term unemployed are increased. The city council's worklessness pilot project, which targeted this group to help them back into work is no longer running. However, schemes such as the [Work Programme](#) and the [Youth Contract](#) aim to address these needs.

3% of the population are claiming jobseekers allowance, again close to the national average of 3.1% and below the Lancashire average of 3.6%. However, parts of both Morecambe and Lancaster suffer particularly high levels, including the wards of Harbour (6.6%), Heysham North (6.6%) and Poulton (6.4%). ^{xviii} **(xviii)**

Cuts to the Public Sector and Welfare State

Public Spending and government cuts

Public sector net debt was £1,038 billion at the end of June 2012, equivalent to 66.1% of GDP. This is relatively low in comparison to historical levels. However, public sector net borrowing (PSNB – annual deficit) was £126 billion for 2011/12, or around 11% of GDP, which is very high. The equivalent Office of Budget Responsibility forecast for 2012/13 is £92 billion.(xvii)

In 2010 the government initiated a five-year programme of cuts to public services in order to reduce this deficit. This has recently been extended to 7 years, and both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor has suggested it may be extended again to 2018 or beyond, due to a slower than expected financial recovery.

Benefits

36.1% of households were in receipt of some form of financial support during 2011/12, the highest being Council Tax Benefit with around 18% of households in the district benefitting from it. (xvi)

The Welfare Reform Act (2012) will make a significant change to the welfare and benefits system, replacing a raft of current support (including housing benefit, income support and tax credits) with a single 'Universal Credit' payment to each household. The system is scheduled to be rolled out from October 2013 with expected completion by 2017. There will also be a move towards managing more and more claims online.

There will be a cap on benefits set at the average net earnings for a working household, currently projected to be £500 per week (£26,000 per annum) for lone parents and couples with or without children, and £350 per week for single people without children.

The Act also puts in place more stringent conditions for receipt of the benefit (including around the search for work and staying in jobs) and more sanctions should the 'claimant commitment' be broken.

Other changes include replacing central government support for council tax benefit with a localised support mechanism in 2013 – this will include a 10% cut in the current council tax benefit bill.

A number of organisations have highlighted the expected consequences of these changes:

- Citizens Advice have noted an increase in requests for advice on benefits and tax credits, making it the issue most frequently asked about and accounting for one third of all requests made^{xix}. Issues around debt are very close behind (31%), with employment (8%), housing (7%) and relationships (5%) the next main concerns.
- The Red Cross have produced a report on the adverse effect of cuts to home-based care for elderly people: <http://www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/News/2012/June/Dangerous-cuts-are-putting-vulnerable-people-at-risk>
- Local authorities and other organisations have expressed concerns that the change in council tax benefit will result in a severe cut in council tax benefit for some vulnerable people. Whilst a 10% cut in the overall budget is expected, some groups such as pensioners will have their benefits protected, meaning that the cut for other vulnerable but non-protected groups will be much higher.

Poverty

Recession, unemployment and cuts all have an impact on poverty and there is a question as to whether in these difficult times people's basic needs are being met.

In simple terms a household in poverty is defined by the UK government as in receipt of less than 60% of the median (average) UK household income after tax and housing costs. This equates to around £124 a week for a single person, or £300 for a couple with two children under 14. This is a relative indicator as opposed to a 'fixed' assessment, but over time the cost of living and what is accepted as a minimum standard of living has also changed, making a fixed line difficult.

The latest review of poverty and social exclusion in the UK by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the New Policy Institute^{xx} (xx) shows that nationally 22% of the population were in poverty, a figure unchanged for four years. 29% of children live in poverty, and around 16% of pensioners. One in five households were in arrears for at least one bill.

Indices of Deprivation

In the government's indices of deprivation (2010) Lancaster district is placed 8th worst out of the 14 areas in Lancashire (12 districts plus 2 unitaries) in terms of the average of the seven deprivation categories. Nationally it is ranked 133rd out of 326 areas. This is virtually unchanged from the 2007 survey. The average score masks both areas of low deprivation and high deprivation – a handful of wards in Morecambe and Lancaster, particularly Skerton, Poulton and Heysham North, have areas amongst the most deprived in the country.^{xxi} (xxi)

Homelessness

Lancaster City Council accepted 114 households as homeless with priority need in 2010/11, by far the largest number across Lancashire districts and ranking the district 106 out of 329 across the country where 1 has the highest level of homelessness. This figure is only priority households and so the true figure, which would include non-priority cases, will be much higher. The figure of 114 is, however, a decrease of 66% of 2004/05 levels (the year a strong downward trend in homelessness began).^{xxii}

Food

Feedback from local groups suggests that some local families are unable to feed themselves and are now reliant on charity food provision. The Trussell Trust, which runs a UK's network of food banks, fed almost 129,000 people in 2011. There is one local bank run by a religious group, and efforts are being made by other groups to encourage local food growing and better food sufficiency within the local area.

Other Effects of Recession

A report by the Young Foundation^{xxiii} (xxiii) argues that the greatest unmet needs during this recession are psychological - for self-esteem, autonomy, significant relationships and competence – which have a pivotal role to play in wellbeing. Current systems in place to meet need are better at identifying and satisfying material needs (e.g. housing, transport), whereas psychological needs are harder to identify and satisfy.

3. The Community Picture

What local people have said to us

The last large scale survey on perceived need across the district was the 2008 Place Survey (Link 4 in the references). Every local authority in the country asked their citizens a series of questions about their perceptions of their area and of local public services. Around 80% of Lancaster District respondents were satisfied with their area as a place to live, close to the national average, although this varied between 88% in rural areas and 70% in Morecambe.

Respondents noted the most important issues in making somewhere a good place to live were the level of crime, clean streets and health services. However, in terms of what they felt needed addressing locally they chose:

- road maintenance (50% chose it as one of their top 3 priorities)
- traffic congestion (47%)
- activities for teenagers (46%)

More recently the 'Living in Lancashire' survey run by the county council has sought to understand residents' views. This is sent to a panel of several thousand residents across the county, several hundred of whom are in Lancaster District.

In December 2011 the panel was asked similar questions to the place survey on local priorities. Again, levels of crime, clean streets and health services were voted the most important things in making somewhere a good place to live. ^{xxiv} Road repairs and activities for teenagers were still part of the top three issues to be addressed, but 'job prospects' replaced traffic congestion with 41% rating it a priority (**xxiv**)

As part of the ongoing work by the council to prepare for a new Commissioning Framework, a number of engagement events have been held with voluntary sector organisations to get their feedback on their priorities and what they see the key issues facing the district are.

Support for those with a disability – both physical and mental

In the recent Housing Needs Survey (**x**) 53% of respondents indicated a need for care or support, with 18% reporting outstanding support needs – extrapolated across the district that is around 1,550 households.

Those with an outstanding care or support need were asked what types of support they felt they needed – the top requests were for personal care (23%), help claiming welfare benefit / managing finances (20%) and looking after the home (14%).

Those who currently receive sufficient care and support services were asked who (formal or informal) provided their support. In around 73% of cases support was provided informally by family / neighbour / friend, and in 27% of cases support was provided formally by social services / a voluntary body. 10% of households received both formal & informal support.

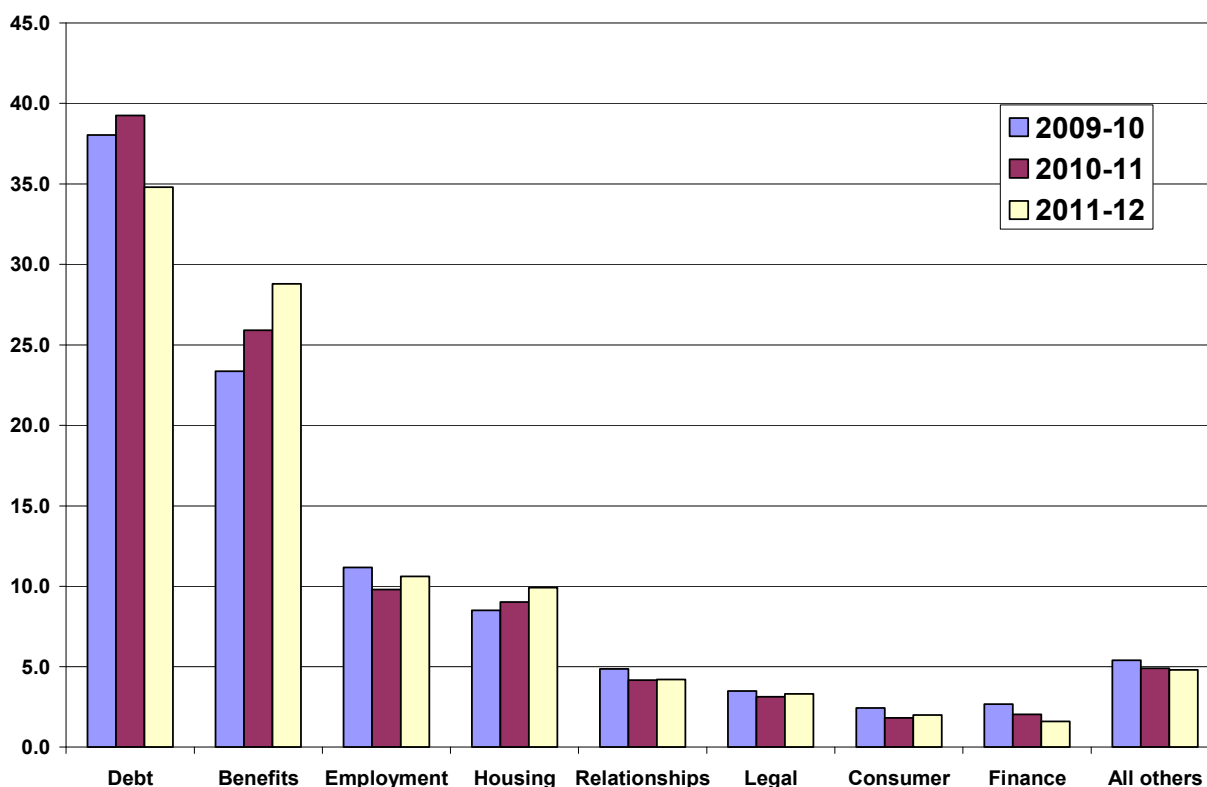
What local people have said to the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector

Lancaster and Morecambe Citizens Advice provides free advice to local people and keeps records of every enquiry received (20,243 in 2011-12) and these are categorised in Chart 1 below. The key issues are debt and then welfare/benefit issues – this is a reversal from the normal trend across the country where benefits come first and then debt, and CAB believe this reflects the relatively low wages in the area coupled with the proliferation of high interest lenders.

There has also been an increase in queries related to welfare and benefits for specific groups, such as disabled people (One Voice and Disability Online) and elderly people (Age UK), who are also very concerned about the changes being made to the welfare system, even if it is not currently affecting them.

As Personal Independence Payments (PIP) are piloted and rolled in through 2013 and Universal Credit is rolled out from October 2013 the demand for advice on social welfare benefits and services is likely to increase, so local people will need access to appropriate advice and information in order to minimise the negative impact on their lives.

Chart 1: Enquires to North Lancashire Citizens Advice by category, 2009-2012^{xxv}
(Vertical axis is average daily enquiries)



4. Trends and Opportunities

This section attempts to cover some of the trends in the district that are particularly relevant to Lancaster City Council and the opportunities to be aware of. This information can then be used to inform decisions on the commissioning of services from the VCF and Arts Sectors.

There are obviously a number of other public sector agencies concerned with improving the life of local people, and collectively their budget dwarfs the funding available to the City Council.

In particular, the ongoing trends of need of local people across Lancashire are continually assessed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), which is undertaken by the top-tier local authorities and NHS partners. Amongst other things the JSNA includes district-level information on:

- Needs and outcomes for children and young people
- Community Safety Priorities
- Public Health and Social Care information
- Needs and outcomes for older people

[Click here](#) to view the dedicated JSNA website or see link **(5)** in the references.

a. Support for the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS)

The voluntary, community and faith sector provides a wide variety of services to local people and helps to meet the need arising from the changing demographics of the district's population and the current economic downturn.

Over 220 VCFS organisations are registered with Lancaster District CVS, although the total number operating within the district is thought to be much higher – especially in terms of small community groups. Around a third of those organisations employ paid staff - between them they have the equivalent of nearly 400 full-time paid posts^{xxvi} **(xxvii)**. The number of voluntary staff is much higher (see below).

Supporting those organisations are a small number of local and regional 'infrastructure' organisations that offer advice, training, assistance with funding bids, improving professional standards, and so on. This support is of increasing importance as funding for the sector has reduced thanks to public sector budget cuts and a reduction in charitable giving.^{xxvii} **(xviii)**

Some of the income for infrastructure support comes from subscriptions or the sale of services but the nature of the sector being supported means that VCFS infrastructure organisations must rely at least partially on grant funding and commissioned contracts from the public sector and funding bodies. At the current time a national infrastructure-building initiative is underway, which has provided around £650,000 funding to this county to ensure sustainable and effective infrastructure support. Known as [One Lancashire](#), the project is being coordinated by [SELNET](#), but tight timescales and a limited amount of funding mean that achieving all the aims of the project will be difficult.

b. Volunteering and Community Involvement

Earlier in the year, Lancaster District CVS and Help Direct undertook a review of the state of volunteering in the district. It noted that around a quarter of adults in the district participate formally in some form of volunteering activity at least once a month. It's estimated there are over 867,000 person hours formally volunteered per year, which if valued at the national minimum wage equals over £5.2 million. The level of informal volunteering, such as caring for a friend or relative, is impossible to measure but is likely to be substantially higher.^{xxviii} (xxviii).

Government both nationally and locally recognises the contribution that volunteers make to their communities and in various ways have promoted local people and communities taking more responsibility in service design and delivery. In Lancaster District this is embodied in the [Take Pride](#) initiative currently being promoted by public services.

Unfortunately funding for a district volunteer bureau ran out in spring 2012, leaving no single route for someone interested in volunteering to find out about opportunities. Between 2008 and 2012 the bureau place over 1300 volunteers with placements, many of them unemployed or from 'hard to reach' groups, over 85% of which were with the VCFS. Likewise, local organisations have not single straightforward way of advertising volunteer placements to everyone within the district.

c. IT and Technology

Advances in technology, especially broadband access to the internet, make many activities easier and cheaper for local people – for example, better value shopping and less unnecessary travel. They are also making it easier and cheaper for public services and voluntary groups to provide some of their services.

The increase in social media and internet-enabled mobile phones in particular is staggering. Worldwide there are now 340 million 'tweets' per day on Twitter and by 2015 it is expected that 1.5 billion smartphones will be sold worldwide, up from 300 million in 2010 and only 10 million in 2005.

There are a number of Lancashire projects dedicated to ensuring hard to reach groups are able to access these benefits – such as rural broadband through the [B4RN Project](#) and prototype technologies to allow homeless people better access to health services through the [Patchworks project](#) (part of the [CATALYST Programme](#) run by Lancaster University).

The One Lancashire project (see above) is also intending to introduce better online access and support for information on VCFS organisations and events.

5. Conclusions

Demographically Lancaster District mirrors the UK in many respects with the overall picture masking particular pockets and trends. Of particular note are the larger than average, and growing, number of both students and older people. Ethnicity is less varied than across the county or the country, but the number of international migrants and students is expected to increase over the coming years.

An increasingly elderly and disabled population also means more people are isolated and unable to function effectively in local society without support. In the majority of cases this is provided informally by friends, family and neighbours, or by statutory care services, but more formal befriending, timebank and caring schemes are also available to older people.

The recession and public sector cuts are having an impact on almost every household and organisation in the district but a small minority are suffering extreme levels of disruption and poverty. Historically Lancaster has had the highest level of priority homeless need in Lancashire, and voluntary organisations are also reporting increasing need for basic needs such as food.

Changes in legislation and a rise in financial hardship have meant an increase in the demand for impartial advice services. These changes are also having an impact on people's mental wellbeing – this is often a 'hidden' increased stress and pressure can lead to depression and relationship breakdown.

Not all the trends are negative. Technology continues to improve, offering individuals and communities more opportunities to communicate, organise and make decisions without the need to meet face to face. This particularly helps those with transport issues, including those in rural areas, and people who have issues with mobility. Public services and voluntary organisations are also taking advantage of these opportunities to develop new ways for people to access services and information more cheaply and at a time that suits them.

Volunteering and community involvement also seem to be remaining at pre-recession levels, although without a volunteering brokerage service in the district there is no holistic way of increasing the quality or numbers of volunteers or volunteer opportunities for local people.

The voluntary, community and faith sector as a whole continues to provide an enormous variety of services and support for local people. Whilst many local needs are the statutory responsibility of local and national public bodies, many others fall to the VCFS to provide. Whilst local government involvement in supporting the sector is discretionary, it has been vital so far in ensuring the continuation of infrastructure support to these local groups.

An important issue for dealing with these needs and trends will be the level of current and future resource available to address them. Whilst some needs may be greater than others, these may already have a large amount of public funding allocated to deal with them – therefore, what are perceived as lesser needs may actually be the ones where a district local authority can add most value. There is also an issue about perception – as evidenced by the place survey and subsequent Living in Lancashire surveys, what people feel is most important in their area may not be the ones they think most need improving. And what the majority need they may not take into account the urgent but more specialised need that a minority of people may have.

The information available in making an assessment of our district is overwhelming, although not all of it is easily accessible or straightforward to interpret. Other public sector agencies, such as Lancashire County Council and the NHS, have devoted a high level of resource in undertaking needs assessments, but they will inevitably focus on areas that are relevant to the services they wish to provide, and it is hoped that this assessment offers something more focused to Lancaster District and to the issues related to the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sectors.

6. A Summary in Numbers

Our Demographics

138,400 – our latest population estimate (Census 2011)

1500 – The number of children born every year in this district

8500 - people are from a black and minority ethnic background

8,500 to 11,000 – are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT)

77 & 81 – the life expectancy for local men & women (English average is 78 and 82)

13,283 – the estimated number of households where at least one occupant has a disability

64 – the number of crimes per thousand population (down from 70 last year)

Population Increase and Ageing

15.8% - expected increase in the district's population over the next 25 years – nearly 22,000 people

15,000 – the increase in the number of over 65s in the district by 2035

648 – the net inflow of long-term international migrants per year; likely to rise to **800** by 2015

Recession, Unemployment and Poverty

36.1% of existing households were in receipt of some form of financial support

8.1% - the unemployment rate, identical to the national average

4,400 – the estimated number of children living in poverty

8 – the district's rank in Lancashire in the 2010 indices of deprivation (out of 14)

Cuts to the public sector and welfare state

£1.038 trillion – net public sector debt – it rose **£126 billion** in 2011/12

£34 Billion – estimated reduction in yearly welfare budget from 2016

28% - the average cut in local authority budgets over the lifetime of this parliament

Volunteering and Involvement

One in four - the number of adults volunteering formally at least once a month

867, 301 – the number of volunteer hours given in the district during 2011/12

£5.2 million – the estimated value of those hours at the national minimum wage

7. References and Resources

- i) **Census 2011** (Population data released July 2012) – Office for National Statistics
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html>
- ii) **Area and Population Density:** Lancashire County Council.
<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?siteid=6120&pageid=37235&e=e>
- iii) **Lancaster District Core Strategy:** Part of the Local Development Framework: outlines spatial development http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/ldf-html/section_c256.html
- iv) **Population projections** – Lancashire County Council
<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?siteid=6120&pageid=35464&e=e>
- v) **Estimate of LGBT population (Report 37, 2009)** – Equality & Human Rights Commission
http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/research_37_estimatinglgbpop.pdf
- vi) **Prevalance of Transexual/Transgender population** - Gender Identity Research & Education Soc
<http://www.gires.org.uk/Prevalence2011.pdf>
- vii) **Census 2001 - data on religion** - Office for National Statistics
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/census-2001/data-and-products/index.html>
- viii) **Household Projections** –DCLG
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/2033household1110>
- ix) **Crime Statistics for Lancaster District** – Office for National Statistics
<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk> (enter Lancaster District)
- x) **Lancaster District Housing Needs Survey** – David Couttie Associates
<http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/housing-policy/housing-needs-demand-survey/>
- xi) **2009 Population: Ethnicity Estimates** – ONS
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Population+Estimates+by+Ethnic+Group>
- xii) **Lancaster District Local Migration Profile Winter 12** – NW Regional Strategic Migration Pship
<http://www.northwestsmp.org.uk/index.php/migration-statistics>
- xiii) **International Student Information:** Lancaster University
<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/study/international-students/>
- xiv) **UK Economic Activity** – Office for National Statistics
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Economy>
- xv) **UK Quarter 2 growth estimates** – Economics Help
<http://econ.economicshelp.org/2012/07/uk-growth-downgraded-to-02.html>
- xvi) **Property Analytics** - Hometrack
<http://www.hometrack.co.uk/> (subscription access only)
- xvii) **Public Sector Finances - June 2012** – Office for National Statistics
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/psa/public-sector-finances/june-2012/stb---june-2012.html>
- xviii) **Lancashire Unemployment statistics** – Lancashire County Council
http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/office_of_the_chief_executive/lancashireprofile/unemployment/index.asp
- xix) **To be confirmed**
- xx) **Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion 2011** – Joseph Rowntree Foundation/New Policy Institute
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/monitoring-poverty-2011>
- xxi) **Indices of Deprivation 2010** – Communities and Local Government
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/research/indicesdeprivation/deprivation10/>

- xxii) Lancashire Homeless statistics by LA Area** – Lancashire County Council
http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/office_of_the_chief_executive/lancashireprofile/main/homelessness.asp
- xxiii) The Receding Tide** – The Young Foundation
http://www.youngfoundation.org/files/images/publications/The_Receding_Tide.pdf
- xxiv) Living in Lancashire Surveys** – Lancashire County Council
<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?siteid=6339&pageid=37422&e=e>
- xxv) To be confirmed**
- xxvi) Advice Trends 2011/12** – Citizens Advice
https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/index/advice_trends
- xxvii) The Sector Counts** – Lancaster District CVS
<http://www.lancastercvs.org.uk/theselectorcounts.pdf>
- xxviii) Economic Crisis, need & voluntary organisations in Lancaster** - Lancaster University
(2011-12 report yet to be published online)
- xxix) The State of Volunteering in Lancaster District** – Alan Chapman Consulting
<http://www.lancastercvs.org.uk/publications/volunteering2012.pdf>

Further Useful Information

- 1) Lancaster District Profile** produced by Lancashire County Council:
<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?siteid=6233&pageid=39632&e=e>
- 2) Lancaster CYP Key Facts** – produced by Lancashire Children’s Trust
<http://www.lancashirechildrenstrust.org.uk/web/viewdoc.asp?id=91144>
- 3) Lancaster Health Profile** produced by the North West Public Health Observatory
http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=HP_METADATA&AreaID=50498
- 4) Place Survey 2008.** The last nationwide survey of local people’s attitudes to public services and the place they live. Results at <http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/news/2009/oct/place-survey-results/>
- 5) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.** Produced by top-tier local authority and health service following 2007 legislation. Provides a comprehensive picture of the health of the population including unmet needs and inequalities. www.lancashire.gov.uk/jsna

Community Safety Strategic Assessment produced by Lancaster District CSP
<http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/community-safety/>

NEF interim research into vulnerable communities
http://www.neweconomics.org/sites/neweconomics.org/files/New_Austerity_and_Big_Society_Media_Report_-_WEB.pdf

