



CRIME

Blackburn with Darwen lies within the Lancashire Constabulary Eastern Division. Reduction and detection of crime is the foremost priority for the division and detailed performance information is available for an aggregated total of all crimes as well as individual crime categories such as criminal damage.

Crime in the borough has reduced consistently in recent years and the size of the reduction together with the number of detected crimes puts the town in a very strong position when comparisons are made with crime performance in other areas both within Lancashire and nationally.

The last report to the council forum highlighted strong performance in Quarter 4 and reported the main achievements for the whole year 2010 -11 as:

- All Crime reduced by 4.7%. This equates to 567 less victims of crime.
- Violent Crime reduced by 5.4%. This equates to 147 less victims of crime.
- Criminal Damage reduced by 22.8%. This equates to 665 less victims of crime.

This performance positioned Blackburn with Darwen favourably entering the new reporting year and the highlights for the most recent period of April to May are shown below:

Crime Type	Apr-May 2010	Apr-May 2011	Change
All Crime	2183	2112	-3.3%
SAC	331	204	-11.5%
Burglary in Dwelling	90	70	-22.2%
Violent Crime	508	472	-7.1%
Damage	454	475	+4.6%

Table 1: Summary of BwD Crime Performance – April to May 2011

NB: SAC stands for Serious Acquisitive Crime which is Burglary, Robbery, and Vehicle Crime

The continued reductions in Serious Acquisitive crime are a notable achievement because this type of crime normally tends to increase during time of economic challenge. Criminal damage has increased slightly when compared to the same period 12 months ago – when exceptionally low levels were achieved.

The strong reductions in crime across the borough are not the product of a 'boom-bust' cycle, but sustained reductions year on year as the charts below show:

All Crime in BwD: 2004 - 2011

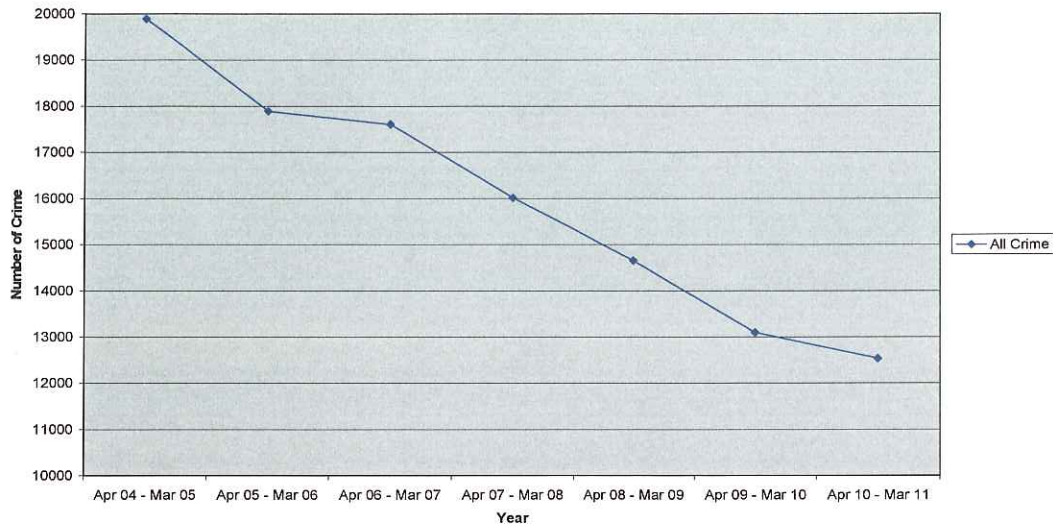


Table 2: All Crime in BwD: 2004 - 2011

Burglary in BwD: 2004 - 2011



Table 3: Burglary in BwD: 2004 - 2011

Criminal Damage in BwD: 2004 - 2011

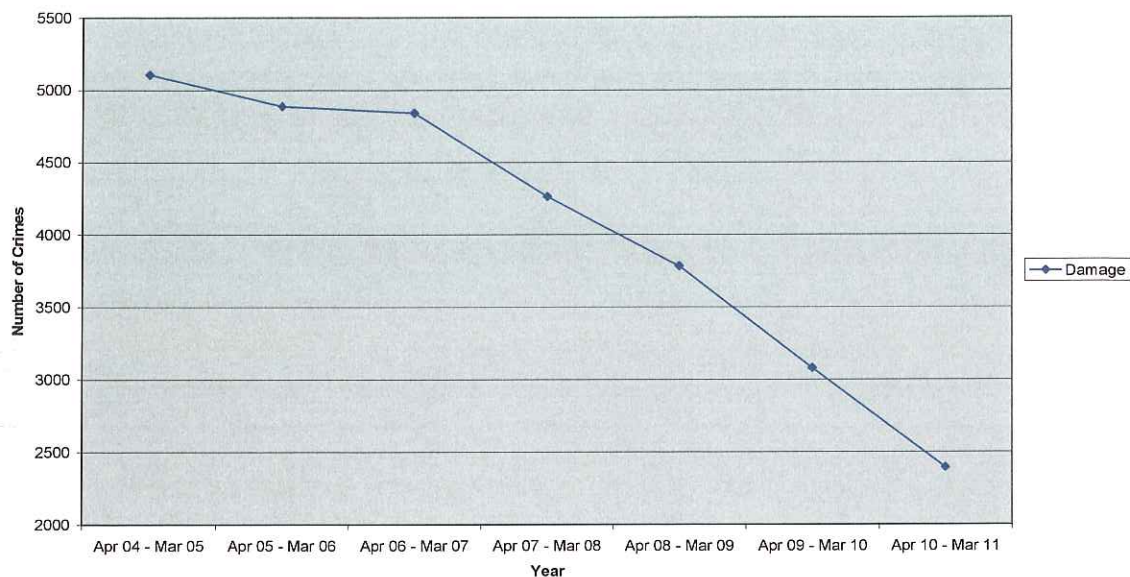
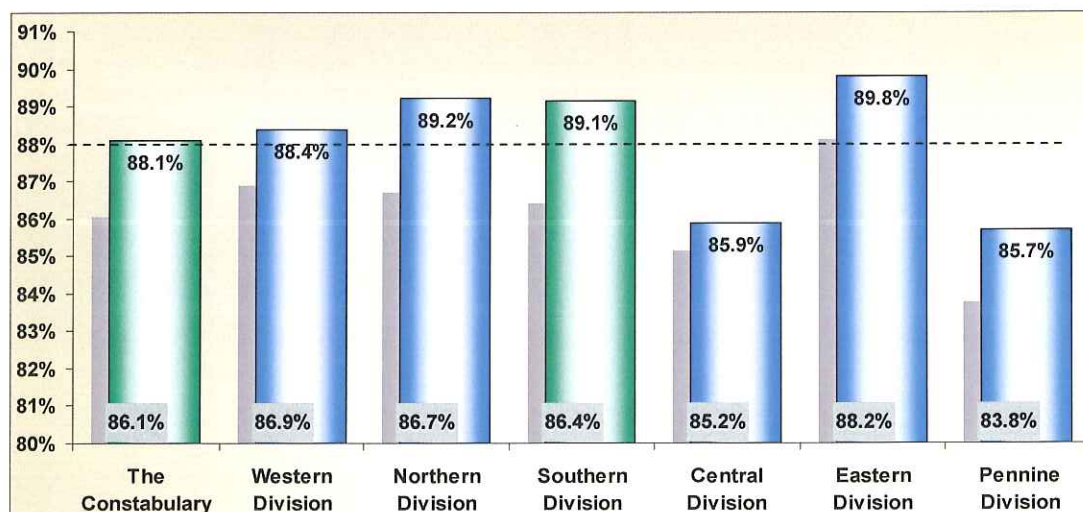


Table 4: Criminal Damage in BwD: 2004 - 2011

In addition a key measure of how effective the police are in tackling crime is how many offences are detected – in other words what proportion of crimes result in an offender being brought to justice. In Blackburn with Darwen the detection rate for all crime in April and May was 32.7%

CONFIDENCE & SATISFACTION

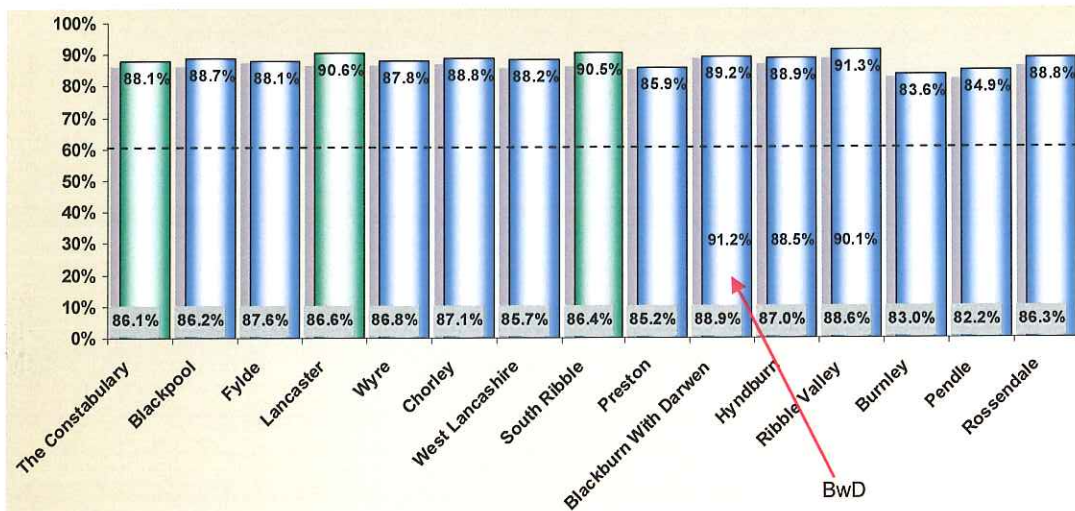
Levels of public confidence in the police and the satisfaction of people who interact with police are important measures of the quality of policing service Lancashire Constabulary provides. Eastern Division has a particularly proud record and public confidence in policing in the division has recently moved from being among the best, to the very best in the county. Table 5 below uses the latest data available to show how confident people are in Lancashire Constabulary as a whole. Blackburn with Darwen is covered by Eastern Division:



(Confidence File - Confidence Measures - Period Comparisons – BCUs Mar 11)

Table 5: Public Confidence in Lancashire Constabulary as a whole

The next table (table 6) below shows how confident people are in different boroughs across the county area:



(Confidence File - Confidence Measures - Period Comparisons – CDRPs Mar 11)

Table 6: Public Confidence in Lancashire – breakdown by boroughs

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The borough continues to show strong performance in tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). Eastern Division recognises the damaging impact ASB can have on neighbourhoods and police have been at the forefront of implanting minimum standards for dealing with reports of ASB. The previous report included a chart showing a reduction in ASB in every month of last year (Apr 10 – Mar 11). The strong performance has continued with more reductions in April and May:

Table 7 below shows ASB performance for April and May 2011:

MONTH	Blackburn CSP			
	This Year	Last Year	Diff	% Change
April	1,414	1,604	- 190	-11.8%
May	1,065	1,666	- 601	-36.1%
YTD	2,479	3,270	- 791	-24.1%

Table 7: Anti Social Behaviour – Monthly breakdown for BwD April & May 2011

OTHER POLICING ISSUES

In addition to the issues above, Blackburn with Darwen also continues to deal with other significant issues including Premiership football matches and other large events. Work has continued to build on the strong links between the police, the council, and other partners following the nationally support English Defence League assembly on 2 April. The final fixtures of the football season in Blackburn passed without incident including a large policing operation at Ewood Park on 14 May when the visiting team, Manchester United won the Premier League.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

In common with previous reports, the main challenges to come for policing in Blackburn with Darwen relate to maintaining outstanding performance while dealing with contracting resources and potential reductions in staff.

Eastern Division is using the experience of its staff to manage the implementation of a number of force reviews that will result in changes being made to the way some aspects of police work are delivered. Difficult choices will have to be made about what areas of work to prioritise, but staff throughout the division are committed to delivering a citizen focused police service of the highest standard.

Cllr Malcolm T Doherty
Chairman
Lancashire Police Authority