Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Overview 2023

Setting the Scene

Updated March 2023





Introduction

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is the way we try to understand the health needs and assets of Blackburn with Darwen and its residents. Overall it's about how the population of the borough is made up, what we know about how healthy it is, and the assets people and communities have to help them to stay healthy.

This section of the overview document focuses on 'setting the scene'. Within this we look at the characteristics and demographics of our residents, to help understand the make-up of the borough. It also covers themes such as employment, housing and other wider determinants of health. These wider determinants are a range of social, economic and environmental factors that impact people's health. Social inequalities and disparities within these wider determinants are strongly linked to different health outcomes.

As this document is updated periodically, the links in the reference section will provide sources of current data.

Impact of COVID-19 on Data

Data providers such as the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have noted that the COVID-19 pandemic impacted affect the quality and coverage of some statistics collected from March 2020 to June 2021, particularly social survey data collection. ONS has highlighted several potential issues with data collection during this time, including;

- Response rates;
- Change in mode of interviewing affecting responses;
- Change of people's behaviours and attitudes;
- Sample compositions.

Additionally, the possibly of an increase in non-submissions for some datasets and different patterns in the submitted data.

During this time, fewer patients were being referred and seen within community services. Therefore, data should be interpreted with care when it covers the COVID-19 period.

A key example of this is data taken from the 2021 Census, conducted on 21st March 2021 – at this time, some legal limits on social contact were still in place nationally and ONS has recognised the impact of collection during this time may have had an impact on certain results such as how people perceived and rated their health, therefore potentially affecting how people may have chosen to respond.²

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Setting the Scene

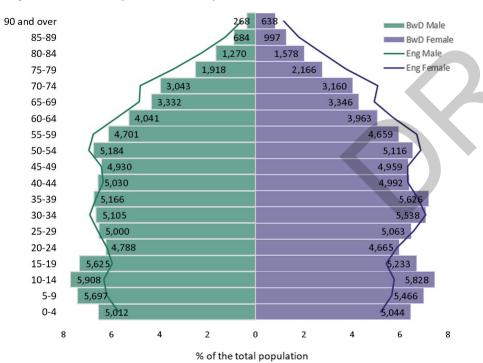
Population

Population Estimates and Projections

2021 Census

The results of the 2021 Census³ estimate that Blackburn with Darwen had a total resident population of 154,739 as of March 2021, an increase of 7,250 since 2011 meaning the population grew by 4.9%. Smaller than both regional (5.2%) and national change (6.6%). In Figure 1 below, the England and Wales age structure is superimposed for comparison. This illustrates that Blackburn with Darwen has a much younger age profile than average. 28.3% of its population is aged under 20, which is the 6th highest proportion in England.

Figure 1 – 2021 Census population estimate for Blackburn with Darwen (with England and Wales profile for comparison)



Amongst some key age band groupings, Blackburn with Darwen's population differs significantly in some ways from the national profile. The proportion of 0-15 year olds as a proportion of the total population is 4.2 percentage points greater than across England and the largest in the North West. The proportion of the population that is working age is roughly in-line with the national figure. As a result, the proportion of those aged 65+ is lower than seen nationally (by 3.9 percentage points). Table 1 details the latest population estimates for key age bands across public health.

Table 1 – Key population bands, Census 2021, Blackburn with Darwen

*Age category	Female	%	Male	%	Persons	**% of total population
All Ages	78,037	50.4%	76,702	49.6%	154,739	-
0-15	17,449	49.5%	17,786	50.5%	35,235	22.8%
16-64	48,703	50.2%	48,401	49.8%	97,104	62.8%
65+	11,885	53.1%	10,515	46.9%	22,400	14.5%
Under 18	19,639	49.3%	20,158	50.7%	39,797	25.7%
18+	58,398	50.8%	56,544	49.2%	114,942	74.3%
0-4	5,044	50.2%	5,012	49.8%	10,056	6.5%
5-10	6,603	48.9%	6,902	51.1%	13,505	8.7%
11-16	6,905	49.5%	7,042	50.5%	13,947	9.0%
16-24	8,787	48.7%	9,244	51.3%	18,031	11.7%
0-19	21,571	49.2%	22,242	50.8%	43,813	28.3%

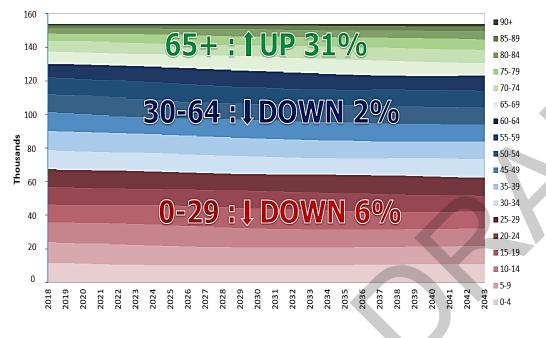
^{*}ONS make changes to the census data to protect individual confidentiality. Due to these changes, there may be slight differences in the same variable or number when it is extracted from different tables.

^{**}Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Population projections

The latest population projections from the Office for National Statistics (ONS)⁴ are still based on the population estimates for mid-2018, and look ahead to 2043. For Blackburn with Darwen overall, they predict a slow, almost imperceptible rise in population (Figure 2). However, the 65+ age group (shown in green) is expected to rise by approximately 6,600 over the period – i.e. by over 30%. The 85+ group in particular is projected to rise by over 60%, from approximately 2,300 to 3,800.

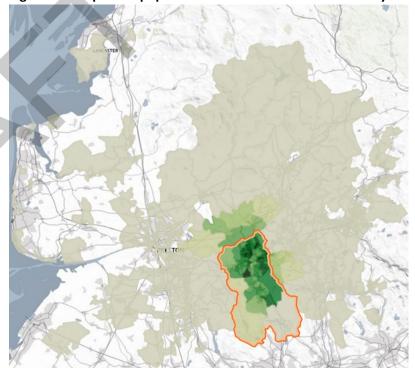
Figure 2 - 2018-based ONS population projections, Blackburn with Darwen



GP Patient Population

Blackburn with Darwen's GP-registered patient population is significantly different to the resident population. As of July 2022⁵, more than 180,000 patients were registered with GP practices registered in Blackburn with Darwen, with over 11% of patients registered coming from outside of the borough. It should be noted that patient population figures do not distinguish between individual surgeries amongst practices with multiple surgeries, as they are only registered to one geographic location. ¹ Figure 3 details the number of patients registered with a Blackburn with Darwen registered practice by lower super output area (LSOA), an LSOA is a geographic area of around 1,500 to 2,000 people

Figure 3 – GP patient population of Blackburn with Darwen by LSOA, July 2022



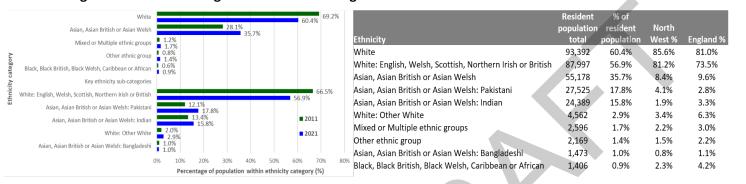
¹¹ The impact of COVID-19 has affected the work of General Practices and subsequently the data within this publication. NHS Digital urges caution in drawing any conclusions from GP Population data without considering wider national circumstances

Demographic Characteristics

Ethnicity

The 2021 Census is the most recent source of official statistics on the ethnic breakdown of the borough's population, and the relationship between ethnic groups and other social characteristics. The proportion of Blackburn with Darwen residents who described themselves as Indian (15.8%), was the largest amongst authorities in the North West and the proportion of residents who described themselves as Pakistani (17.8%), was the 5th highest amongst authorities in England. The change in the number and proportion of residents by ethnicity from 2011 to 2021 can be seen in Figure 4 along with a table comparing the proportion of key ethnic categories in Blackburn against the regional and national average.⁶

Figure 4 – Change in key ethnic groups in Blackburn with Darwen from 2011 to 2021, with a comparison against North West and England in 2021. Showing counts for the borough



The Census also showed that the main ethnic groups prevalent in the borough; White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British, White: Other White, Asian, Asian British: Pakistani and Indian, are distributed differently across the borough (Figure 6) and have markedly different age profiles from each other (Figure 5). At a smaller area level, Figure 6 details the proportion of residents by ethnicity across lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) in the borough, geographic areas of around 1,500 to 2,000 people.

Figure 6 – Proportion of key ethnicity categories in Blackburn with Darwen by LSOA, 2021

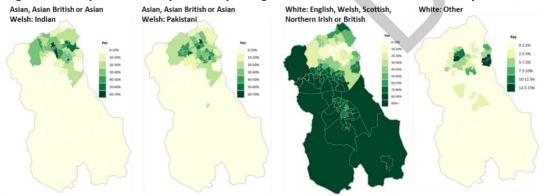
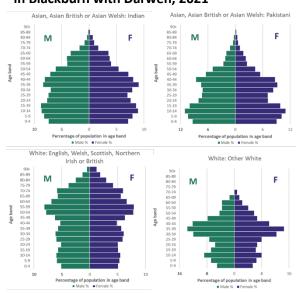


Figure 5 – Age profile of key ethnic groups in Blackburn with Darwen, 2021



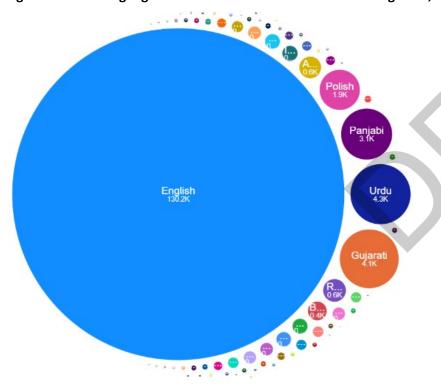
Religion

At the 2021 Census, 58,793 people in Blackburn with Darwen (38%) of people identified as Christians. This is down from 2011, when 52.6% identified themselves as Christian. 54,146 (35%) identified as Muslim, up from 27% in 2011. 21.1% had no religion, up from 13.8%. 5% did not answer the question. Religion and ethnicity are closely interlinked, with the vast majority of Christians in the borough being White, and almost all Muslims being Indian, Pakistani or members of other minority ethnic groups (Figure 7).

Language

Since 2011, the Census has asked about the 'main language' of everybody aged three and over. In 2021, 87.5% of residents had English as their main language up from 86% in 2011. There is a multitude of other languages also represented, with around 8.5% of residents' main language spoken being of South Asian origin (Punjabi, Gujarati or Urdu the most prominent of these). Around 100 residents stated they use sign language to communicate, with the majority stating they communicate using British Sign Language (BSL).

Figure 8 - Main language of Blackburn with Darwen residents aged 3+, 2021

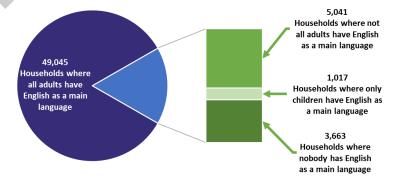


. In 2021, out of 58 766

In 2021, out of 58,766 households in Blackburn with

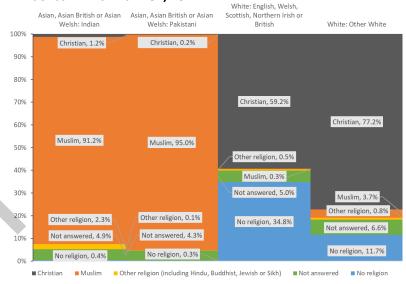
Darwen, there were 3,663 (6.2%) where nobody had English as their main language and 1,017 (1.7%) where only children did⁹. Figure 9 details the breakdown of English spoken as the main language within households in the borough. It is important to appreciate that many of those with a main language other than English nevertheless speak English 'well' or 'very well'. Only

Figure 9 - Main language by household, 2021



1,116 people (0.8%) in the borough could not speak it at all. 10

Figure 7 - Relationship between ethnicity and religion in Blackburn with Darwen, 2021



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

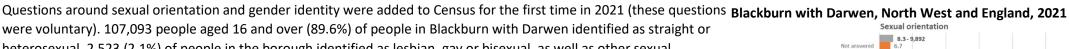
were voluntary). 107,093 people aged 16 and over (89.6%) of people in Blackburn with Darwen identified as straight or heterosexual. 2,523 (2.1%) of people in the borough identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual, as well as other sexual orientations. 9,892 (8.3%) people did not answer the question. In terms of gender identity, 110,050 (92.1%) people aged 16 and over have the same gender identity as the sex registered at birth. 647 people (0.6%) stated that either their gender identity was different from their sex registered at birth (but no specific identity given), trans or non-binary, as well as other gender identities. 8,811 people (7.4%) did not answer the question. A breakdown of sexual orientation and gender identity in Blackburn with Darwen compared nationally and regionally is shown in Figure 10.

Disability

A disability may be physical, cognitive, mental, sensory, emotional, developmental, or any combination of these. Disability is an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. Given the diverse nature of disability, it is very difficult to establish an overall level of need in the population, and how many people are currently accessing services. The 2021 Census found that the age-standardised proportion of residents that have a long-term health condition or illness is 20.7%². This is a significant decrease from the 2011 equivalent figure, where 24.8% of the resident population reported having a long-term condition or illness.

Several registers that hold information on key disabilities. A register of residents within the borough who are severely sight impaired (blind) or sight impaired (partially sighted) is held by the local authority. To join the register a person must have received a Certification of Visual Impairment. In 2019/20, there were 550 registered blind or severely sight-impaired people

in the borough, and 765 partially sighted or sight-impaired people (a total of 1,315). Of these people on the register, 520 have additional disabilities 11. GPs also hold a learning disability register. Patients on the GP register can join the register, this helps staff know what support patients may need and also patients on the list should be invited to an annual health check once they are over the age of 14. In 2021/22, there were 929 people on the learning disabilities registers of GPs located in the borough, with 64.6% of patients receiving a health check that year 12,13. There is no register to identify the proportion of the population who are deaf or experience hearing loss. The 2022 GP Patient Survey showed that 4.6% of patients within the Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) area, aged 16 and over, reported deafness or hearing loss. Disability amongst children and young people is often recorded within an educational context. Across the 2021/22 academic year¹⁴, 3.3% of school pupils in Blackburn with Darwen had an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan to meet the special educational needs of a child/young person. Nationally, this figure is 4%. Furthermore, 14.7% of pupils in the borough were receiving special education needs (SEN) support during this time period. This compares to 12.6% nationally.



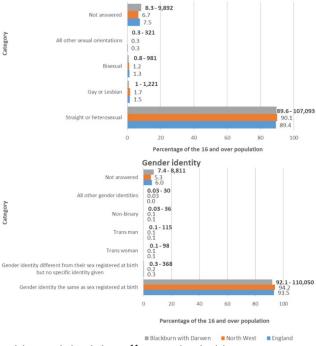


Figure 10 – Sexual orientation and gender identity in

² A long-term health problem or disability that limits a person's day-to-day activities, and has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months. This includes problems that are related to old age. People were asked to assess whether their daily activities were limited a lot or a little by such a health problem, or whether their daily activities were not limited at all. The questions relating to disability differed slightly between 2011 and 2021 to ensure that data were more closely aligned with the definition of disability in the Equality Act (2010)

³ It should be noted that some pupils attending schools will be from out of the borough and conversely, some children/young people from Blackburn with Darwen will attend schools outside of the borough. Similarly, some of those on an EHC Plan or receiving SEN support may not necessarily have a disability. However, there is often a lot of overlap.

Deprivation

The 2019 Indices of Deprivation¹⁵, published in September 2019, are constructed from an array of deprivation indicators covering 'domains' such as poverty, health, education, crime, living environment, housing and access to services. The best-known output is the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), which combines 39 indicators.

Deprivation at the Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level

Figure 10 shows the Index of Multiple Deprivation mapped for Blackburn with Darwen's 91 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). 33 of them (i.e. over a third) are among the most deprived tenth (or 'decile') of LSOAs nationally. Two of these LSOAs, mostly in Blackburn Central ward, (outlined in red) are among the most deprived 1% in England, and a further 12 (outlined in orange) are in the most deprived 5%. Data from the 2021 Census estimates that around 36% of the borough's residents live in an area classified as being in the most deprived decile.

The map is dominated by large, sparsely populated rural LSOAs. However, the inset cartogram demonstrates that when we size the LSOAs according to population, the dominant colour is purple, better highlighting the larger proportion of residents living in the most deprived areas.

Each of the 'domains' also has its own index. In the Health Deprivation and Disability domain, 46 of Blackburn with Darwen's LSOAs (i.e. just over half) are in the most deprived decile, and none at all are in the least deprived three national deciles.

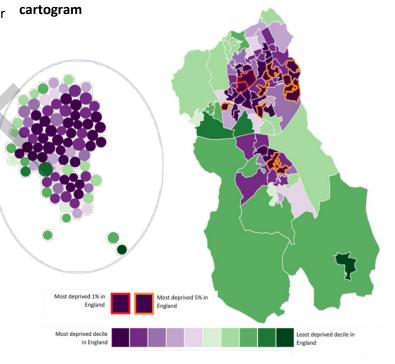
Deprivation at the borough level

There are various ways of summarising deprivation borough-wide. All of the commonly-used methods suggest that the borough is relatively more deprived in 2019 than it was in 2015:

Table 2 - Summary measures at Borough level (from Indices of Deprivation 2019)

		Blackburn with Darwen ranking (out of 317)		
Summary Measure	Meaning	2015	2019	
Average Score	The average IMD score of all the LSOAs in the LA	15 th	9 th	
Average Rank	The average rank (out of 32,844) of all the LSOAs in the LA when ordered by their IMD score	24 th	14 th	
Proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally	The proportion of LSOAs in the LA whose IMD score is among the most deprived 10% in England	12 th	9 th	

Figure 11 - Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 - map with inset



Alternative Measures of Deprivation

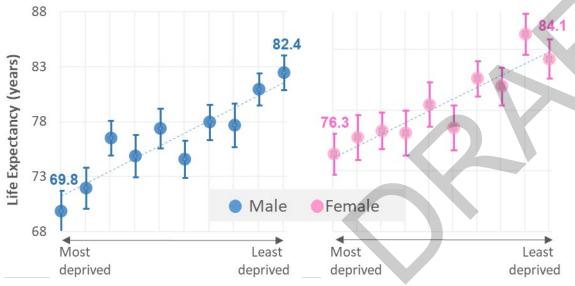
The 2021 Census¹⁶ provides a more basic measure of deprivation, using variables within the four dimensions of education, employment, health and housing.

From this measure, 41.2% of households in the borough are not deprived on any of the four dimensions. However, 6.6% or 3,880 households in Blackburn with Darwen are deprived on three or four dimensions, the fourth highest percentage of the 310 English local authorities as of 2021.

Life expectancy at birth

Life expectancy at birth¹⁷ in Blackburn with Darwen has consistently lagged well below the national average, which itself has fallen recently (Figure 12). In 2018-2020, the borough had the 8th equal lowest life expectancy for males (76.3 years) and the 7th equal lowest for females (80.3 years) nationally amongst lower-tier authorities. Inequalities also exist within Blackburn with Darwen (Figure 11). Public Health England (PHE) has ranked the borough's lower super output areas (LSOAs) by IMD score, divided them into ten equal groups ('deciles') of deprivation, and calculated the life expectancy for each. In 2018-2020, the difference between the most and least deprived tenths of the borough was 12.6 years for males¹⁸ and 7.8 years for females¹⁹ (Figure 13):

Figure 13 - Life expectancy at birth by deprivation decile, Blackburn with Darwen, 2018-2020



Premature mortality

Premature mortality²⁰ is a key measure of overall population health. Premature mortality rates in Blackburn with Darwen consistently exceed the overall national rate. Amongst females, the gap in mortality rates has been closing since 2015-2017. This has generally been the case among males too. Although, in the most recent period (2018-2020), the gap in mortality rates with England widened further.

Figure 12 - Life expectancy at birth in England and Blackburn with Darwen, 2001-2003 to 2018-2020

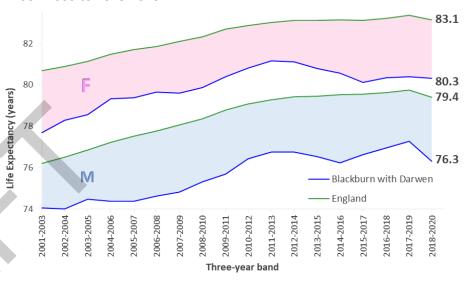
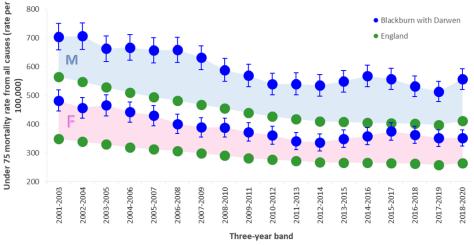


Figure 14 - Premature mortality, under 75 mortality rate from all causes, England and Blackburn with Darwen, 2001-2003 to 2018-2020



Local Economy

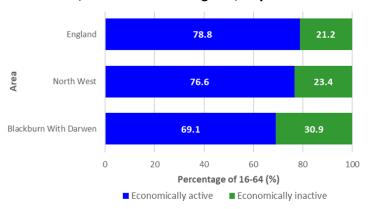
Economic Activity and Inactivity

Economic Inactivity

Economic inactivity statistics tell us more about people who are out of the labour market. This includes people who are retired, those who look after the home and family, students and people who don't work because of long term sickness or disability. It does not include people who are unemployed and looking for work, such people are considered economically active.

Overall, around 30.9% of people of working age (aged 16 to 64) in Blackburn with Darwen are economically inactive, greater than the regional 23.4% and England average of 21.2%²¹. Within the borough, the two main reasons for economic inactivity in the 16 to 64 age range are being long-term sick and looking after home and family, both above regional and national averages. Blackburn with Darwen sees lower than average economically inactive students and retired people of working age. As these figures are estimated from survey data, percentages fluctuate, which is why data has not been provided here.

Figure 3 - Economic activity and inactivity (16-64), Blackburn with Darwen, North West and England, July 2021 - June 2022



Economic Activity

As seen in Figure 15²², from July 2021 to June 2022, an estimated 69.1% of the borough's working age residents are economically active. This includes those in employment and those who are officially unemployed (i.e. actively seeking work and available to start), which is the equal 11th lowest rate across 150 upper tier authorities in England (not including the City of London or Scilly Isles). Looking at the differences by gender, amongst males, the borough's economic activity rate is the 22nd lowest across upper tier authorities in England and amongst females, the 7th lowest across upper tier authorities.

Employment and Unemployment

Employment

Whilst the relationship between employment and health is complex, there is evidence to show that quality employment can be beneficial to physical and mental health and wellbeing, and conversely, worklessness being associated with poorer physical and mental health^{23,24}. From July 2021 to June 2022, the proportion of people aged 16-64 in employment was 65.2%, one of the lowest rates of authorities in the North West.²⁵

There are many inequalities regarding employment in the borough. Across 2021/22, ONS estimates show the proportion of working age people in the borough with any physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more and who are in employment either as an employee, self-employed, in government employment and training programmes or an unpaid family worker is 54.5%. The 14th lowest rate out of 150 upper tier authorities in England. From July 2021 to June 2022, the proportion of working age males in employment was 68.9%, whereas only 61.6% of females were in employment. Although there is a significant gap, it should be noted that the difference in the proportion of males to females in employment is around average for the North West.

Unemployment

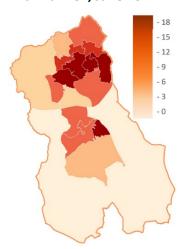
Unemployment can be defined by whether people are actively seeking work and available to start, rather than by any benefits they may be claiming. In the 2021/22 financial year, there were estimated to be around 4,000 unemployed people of working age in Blackburn with Darwen. 26 It is conventional to express this as a percentage of the economically active population, which gives a rate of 5.6%. This is not significantly higher than the England and North West rates. However, these estimates come from an Office for National Statistics (ONS) survey, the Annual Population Survey, so there are larger confidence intervals (Figure 16) at more granular geographies.

Claimants

Claimant count rates

Previously, the 'claimant count' was simply the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance. It was redefined to include those claiming Universal Credit (UC) who were required to seek work. This means that as UC continues to roll out, the claimant count will likely rise as people shift to UC from 'legacy benefits'. The claimant count is therefore less useful for studying long-term trends. However, it can be used to observe differences across the borough at a snapshot in time. Figure 17²⁷ details the claimant count in each middle super output area (MSOA) within the borough as a proportion of the latest working age mid-year population estimate (2020) within each MSOA as of June 2022.

Figure 17 - Claimant count rate as a % of 16-64 residents, MSOAs in Blackburn with Darwen, June 2022



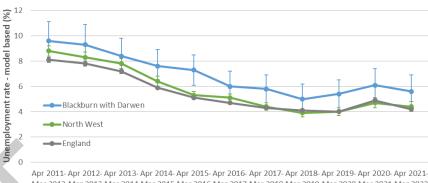
Alternative claimant count

As a way of providing a link with previous claimant count figures, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) introduced an experimental 'Alternative Claimant Count', which imagines that UC is fully rolled out – and always has been. 28

According to the Alternative Claimant Count, the proportion of claimants as a percentage of the working age population has been consistently higher in the borough than in the UK for several years, and now stands at 5.4% compared with 3.7% for the UK (Figure 18).

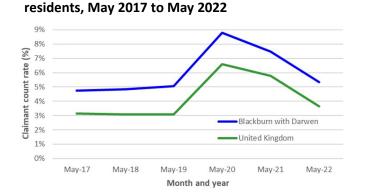
As of May 2022, among local authorities in England, Blackburn with Darwen has the 31st highest alternative claimant count rate, which puts the borough in the highest quintile nationally. Within Lancashire, the borough has the 2nd highest claimant rate. The latest figures state that there are 5,004 claimants in the borough claiming unemployment-related benefits modelled under UC conditionality.

Figure 46 - Unemployment rate (age 16-64), 2011/12 to 2021/22



Mar 2012 Mar 2013 Mar 2014 Mar 2015 Mar 2016 Mar 2017 Mar 2018 Mar 2019 Mar 2020 Mar 2021 Mar 2022

Figure 18 - Alternative claimant count as a % of 16-64



Characteristics of the local economy

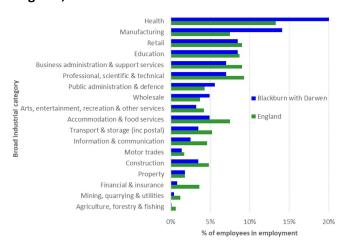
Qualifications

At the time of the 2021 Census, 26.8% of people aged 16 and over in the borough had a level 4 qualification (e.g. degree, higher degree, NVQ level 4 or 5 or equivalent qualifications), compared with the England average of 33.9%. ²⁹ 24.2% of people in the borough stated they had no qualifications, whereas nationally the figure was 18.1%. Figure 19 compares the highest level of qualifications obtained amongst the 16+ population against the North West and national figures in 2021.

Employee jobs and occupations

Both locally and nationally, the sector with the largest number of employees is 'Health' (Figure 20) (employee job figures exclude self-employed people, working business owners and people not paid via PAYE). In 2021 of the 71,000 employee jobs in the borough, 21.1% were human health and social work roles and 14.1% were in the manufacturing sector, which is around twice the England average of 7.6%.³⁰

Figure 20 - Employees by sector (broad industrial category), Blackburn with Darwen compared with England, 2021



In addition to considering the industry that available plackburn with Danwen North West England jobs fall into, data is also available that gives information on the types of jobs undertaken by residents. Around a quarter (25.2%) of the borough's residents in employment are in process or elementary roles, higher than the England average of 15.1%. Conversely, 39.8% of the borough's residents in employment have managerial or professional occupations, compared to 51.8% in England.

Productivity

Productivity describes the ability to produce outputs from a given amount of inputs such as labour. Economic output can only be increased by raising the number of inputs (e.g. employees) or by raising their productivity, so productivity is vital to improving standards of living.

The preferred sub-regional measure of productivity is Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked.³¹ On this basis, in 2020, Blackburn with Darwen had the 12th lowest productivity out of 168 'ITL3' areas in the UK (Figure 21), at 76.1% of the UK average.

Figure 19 - Highest level of qualifications, Blackburn with Darwen, North West and England, 2021

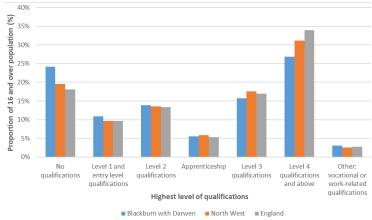
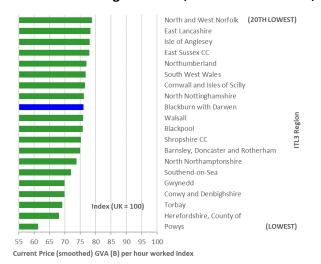


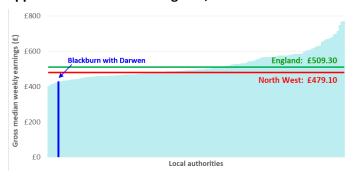
Figure 21 - Productivity (GVA per hour worked [smoothed]), 20 lowest ranking ITL3 areas, relative to UK index, 2020



Earnings and Income

Resident earnings and income levels are of particular focus at the moment with inflation levels amongst the highest in the last 40 years and the cost of living crisis experienced by increasing numbers of residents.

Figure 5 - Median gross weekly earnings of residents - upper tier authorities in England, 2021



Resident earnings

Median gross weekly earnings estimates for Blackburn with Darwen residents (full and part-time workers) in 2021 was £430. This puts Blackburn with Darwen 6th lowest out of 150 upper tier authorities in England (Figure 22).³²

Amongst full-time workers³³, median gross weekly earnings for Blackburn with Darwen residents in 2021 was at £530.30, meaning earnings in the borough were the 17th lowest out of 150 upper tier authorities in England.

Gross Disposable Household Income

Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) is the amount of money that individuals in households have available for spending after taxes and benefits. Provisional estimates for 2020 are now available by local authority.³⁴

The Blackburn with Darwen average of £14,948 per head is the 3rd lowest in the UK (after Nottingham and Leicester), and the lowest in the North West. It compares with the UK average of £21,433. Blackburn with Darwen has consistently been in 2rd or 3rd lowest place for the previous eight years.

Figure 23 - Gross Disposable Household Income per head, lowest and highest local authority per region, 2020 (provisional)



Gender pay differences

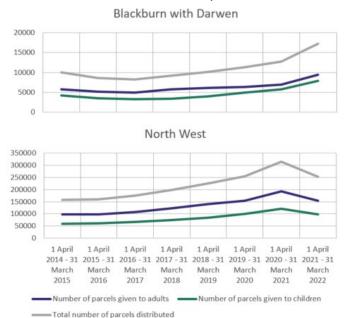
Social inequality can often transfer into health inequality by systematically distributing different resources unevenly across society. Gender pay inequality has been reducing over the past few decades, but remains substantial in many areas across the country. In 2020, the gender pay gap (by workplace location) of those aged 16+ in Blackburn with Darwen is skewed with males earning more, with women working in the borough earning on average 8% less than men, although this is significantly lower than the national average where the gender pay gap is 18.5% in favour of men. Looking at the gender pay equality of those who live in the borough, rather than for workplaces in the borough, the ratio score of gross median hourly earnings between males and females in the borough is 85.5. A score of 100 is an equitable balance of earnings between males and females. The borough's score is slightly higher than the national average of 84, meaning pay is slightly more equitable than seen nationally.

Income estimates for small areas

ONS also issues various modelled estimates of household income at an MSOA level³⁵. Figure 24 shows a map of how net Household Income (before housing costs) varies across the borough in the 2017/18 financial year. The figures have been 'equivalised' to take into account varying household sizes.

Half of Blackburn with Darwen's MSOAs are in the bottom national decile for household income (darkest purple), with estimated average incomes ranging from £19,300 to £24,500. Eight of them form a broad swathe across Blackburn. The lowest of all is in Audley, and this MSOA ranks 36th lowest in England (out of 6,791). Blackburn with Darwen's most well-off MSOA is in the third-highest national decile (mid green), with an estimated average

Figure 25 - Number of parcels distributed in Blackburn with Darwen and the North West, 2014-15 to 2021-22



of £34,600. It is stressed that these are only estimates, with a wide degree of uncertainty around them.

Foodbank usage

As there are several foodbanks or organisations supporting residents in need in Blackburn with Darwen,

gathering a complete picture of foodbank use in the borough is not possible. However, statistics for the Trussell Trust³⁶, of which Blackburn Foodbank is a member, provide a partial picture. The following figures outline the number of food parcels distributed, rather than the numbers of actual people to whom support was provided. The charts to the left outline the number of parcels distributed in each financial year from 2014/15 to 2021/22. Across the whole of the North West the number of parcels distributed by the Trussell Trust network peaked in 2020/21, the period which saw the main COVID-19 restrictions and started to decrease in 2021/22. However, the data for Blackburn with Darwen does not follow this trend, the number of food parcels being distributed has continued to climb, with 17,000 parcels distributed in 2021/22 in Blackburn with Darwen.

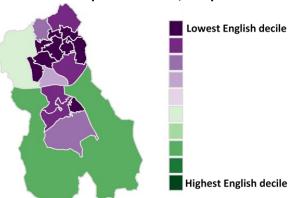
Citizens Advice

Local data from Citizens Advice³⁷ revealed before the COVID-19 pandemic, the most common type of debt issue they supported people in the borough with was to do with council tax arrears. This mirrored the majority of authorities nationally. Since Q3 2020-21, energy debts have become the most common type of debt issue for people who have received support within the borough. This was also the case nationally from 2021-22 onwards.

Before 2021-22, the most common benefits issue that people wanted support for was related to people's initial claim for Universal Credit. Now, the overwhelming majority of people across local authorities ask for help with their Personal Independence Payment (PIP) benefit. For every financial year from 2019-20 onwards, the most common types of benefits issues supported within the borough have been PIP benefits. In 2022-23, the borough was only one of two authorities in England where the issue of actual homelessness was the most common type of housing issue in which Citizens Advice has helped people with. Prior to this, accessing accommodation and threatened homelessness were the most common issues that Citizens Advice supported people with in the borough.

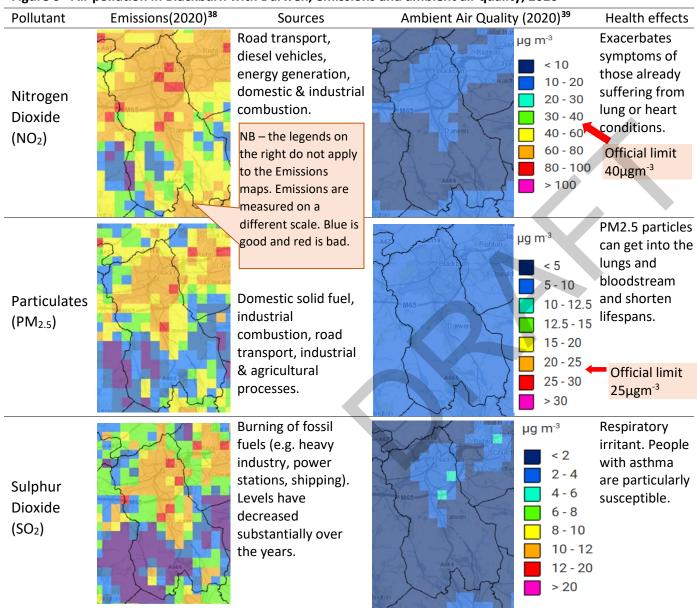
Figure 24 - Estimated household income (BHC) in Blackburn with Darwen MSOAs by decile, April 2017 to March 2018

N.B. - measured per household, not per head



Safe and Healthy Homes and Neighbourhoods

Figure 6 - Air pollution in Blackburn with Darwen, emissions and ambient air quality, 2020



Air Quality

Air quality is seldom out of the news, and is the subject of recent policy documents from HM Government⁴⁰, and from the Directors of Public Health of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Lancashire and Cumbria councils.⁴¹

Pollutants and their effects

The 'Emissions' maps in Figure 26 indicate how much of each of the three main types of pollutant is produced across Blackburn with Darwen. The 'Ambient Air Quality' maps show the annual mean amount in the air we breathe. Most of the borough is well within the statutory limits.

Nitrogen Dioxide

Blackburn with Darwen does have some small NO_2 hotspots, typically at busy urban junctions where emissions from slow-moving vehicles get trapped by high buildings. Several such localities have been declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). However, remedial actions have produced encouraging results. In 2019, three of the borough's AQMAs were revoked, leaving only four.⁴²

Particulates

One of the indicators in the Public Health Outcomes Framework is the 'fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution'. ⁴³ In 2020, it was estimated that 4.3% of adult deaths in the borough were attributable to man-made PM_{2.5} pollution. Although, this is lower than the national and regional proportions (England 5.6%, North West 7.1%).

Housing

Housing type

The most common accommodation type in Blackburn with Darwen is terraced properties (43.4%). The proportion of properties that are terraces is over 20 percentage points greater than seen nationally (23%).⁴⁴ A comparison between the borough and the national profile of accommodation can be seen in Table 3.

Table 3 – Accommodation type, Blackburn with Darwen and England, 2021

Accommodation type	Number of properties	Blackburn with Darwen %	England %
Detached	8,945	15.2%	22.9%
Semi-detached	17,343	29.5%	31.5%
Terraced	25,507	43.4%	23.0%
In a purpose-built block of flats or tenement	5,550	9.4%	17.1%
Part of a converted or shared house, including bedsits	727	1.2%	3.5%
Part of another converted building, for example, former school, church or warehouse	205	0.3%	0.8%
In a commercial building, for example, in an office building, hotel or over a shop	445	0.8%	0.8%
A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	44	0.1%	0.4%

Local Market and housing growth

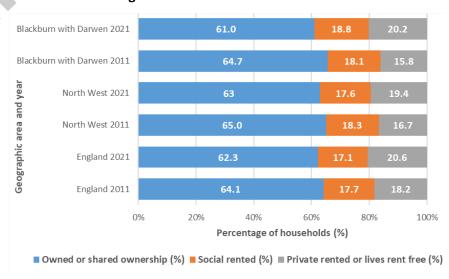
Data from the Valuation Office Agency shows that median private-sector rents in Blackburn with Darwen were the 12^{th} lowest in England in 2020/21. The rental for a non-self-contained room was the joint 2^{nd} lowest in the North West. 46

As of the end of March 2022, council tax records⁴⁷ showed that the majority of properties in the borough fall into Council Tax property band A (57.3%) compared to 24% in England. However, although smaller numbers, the greatest proportional increases were seen in band D and E properties.

Tenure

The 2021 Census indicated that 61% of households in Blackburn with Darwen own or share ownership of their own home. ⁴⁵ This is slightly down from 2011, when 64.7% of households in the borough owned their home or had shared ownership. From 2011, the proportion of households privately renting increased, from 15.8% in 2011 to 20.2% in 2021. This is in line with changes nationally from 2011 to 2021. Changes in tenure comparing 2011 to 2021 are shown in Figure 27.

Figure 7 – Housing tenure in 2011 and 2021, Blackburn with Darwen, North West and England



In terms of housing affordability⁴⁸, in 2022, the house price to residence-based earnings median affordability ratio for the borough was 4.74. Meaning that on average the average house price for dwellings sold is over four times higher than the annual full-time median resident wage. A higher ratio indicates that on average, it is less affordable for a resident to purchase a house in their area and vice versa. Across 307 English lower tier authorities, the borough had the 11th lowest ratio.

Housing conditions

Issues of damp and mould in homes can be a public health risk, increasing the likelihood of a person experiencing respiratory problems such as infections, allergies or asthma. A survey of Blackburn with Darwen residents in 2021, found that 20% reported experiencing both mould and condensation in their homes during the winter months. A higher proportion of those who rent reported this, compared to those who own their homes. The survey also identified that while around 87% of residents could keep their homes warm in winter, 11% stated they could only heat some rooms. A greater proportion of residents who rent could not heat their homes, compared to owners. Of those who could not keep their homes warm, the main reason was the cost. It is important to note that this survey was undertaken before the significant increases in the cost of heating. The results of the survey are therefore likely to be an underestimation of the current picture. 50

Overcrowding - bedrooms

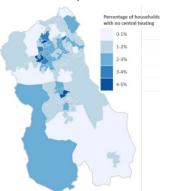
The occupancy rating for bedrooms aims to understand whether homes are overcrowded, ideally occupied or under-occupied. This can be calculated by comparing the number of bedrooms the household requires to the number of available bedrooms. The number of bedrooms a household requires is calculated according to the Bedroom Standard.⁴ In terms of the number of households where overcrowding has been identified, 3,720 households (6.3%) can be identified as having fewer bedrooms than required. This is the third highest proportion in the North West. This is a very slight increase from 2011, when 6.2% of households were overcrowded.

Central heating

The 2021 Census revealed that over 80.8% of households in Blackburn with Darwen rely on mains gas central heating, which is a reduction from 83.4% in 2011. The proportion of households with no central heating has reduced since 2011, with 1.7% of households not having any central heating in 2021 as compared to 3.7% previously.

Figure 28 outlines the variation in the proportion of households across LSOAs that do not have any central heating.

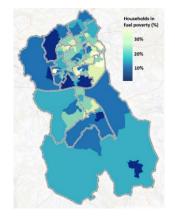
Figure 28 - Percentage of households with no central heating, LSOAs in Blackburn with Darwen, 2021



Cold housing and fuel poverty

As well as being a major contributor to excess winter deaths, cold housing adds to the burden of circulatory and respiratory disease, colds and flu, exacerbates chronic conditions such as rheumatism and arthritis, and has a negative effect upon mental health. An estimated 9,603 households in Blackburn with Darwen (15.6%) were classed as being in fuel poverty in 2020. This compares to 13.2% of households in England and 14.4% in the North West. Figure 29 shows how these estimates vary across the borough. Puel poverty in England is measured using the low income, low energy efficiency (LILEE) indicator. Under this indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if they are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below and when they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the official poverty line. However, there are other methods as to how fuel poverty can be measured, including approaches that are used across the devolved nations.

Figure 8 - Percentage of households in fuel poverty (modelled estimates), LSOAs in Blackburn with Darwen, 2020



⁴ The number of bedrooms a household requires is calculated according to the Bedroom Standard, where those with the following status should get an individual bedroom: 1. Married or cohabiting couple, 2. Single parent, 3. A person aged 16 years and over, 4. Pair of same-sex persons aged 10 to 15 years, 5. A person aged 10 to 15 years paired with a person under 10 years of the same sex, 6. Pair of children aged under 10 years, regardless of their sex, 7. A person aged under 16 years who cannot share a bedroom with someone in 4, 5 or 6

Crime and anti-social behaviour

The COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) linked to government restrictions on social contact. Since the lifting of restrictions in early 2021, nationally, police recorded crime show crime levels returning to or exceeding prepandemic levels.

Crime and anti-social behaviour

Data about the type and whereabouts of every recorded incident of crime or police incident is available from Lancashire County Council's MADE (Multi-Agency Data Exchange) partners' area provided by Lancashire Police⁵⁴. In Figure 30, the darkest orange shading denotes the areas with the greatest number of crimes/incidents in the last financial year (2021/22).

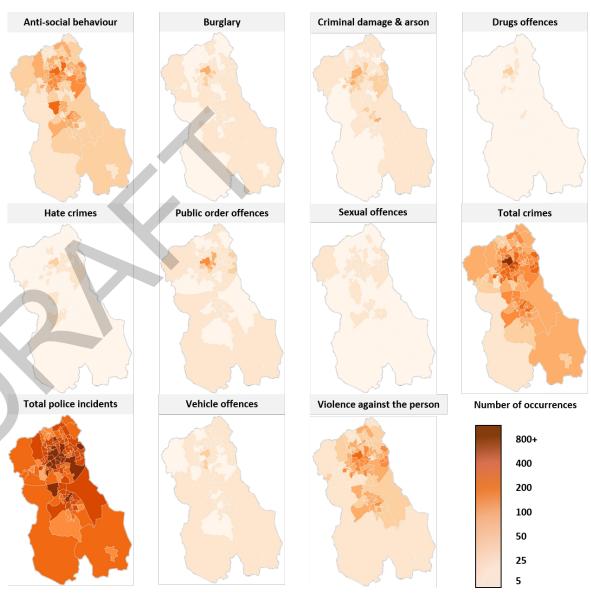
Hate crime

For the 2021/22 period, there were in the region of 380 crimes recorded that were flagged as a hate crime in Blackburn with Darwen. Of these, the majority were related to the victim's race, ethnicity or nationality. Smaller numbers of hate crimes were recorded, in decreasing numbers, related to a victim's sexual orientation, disability, religion or faith and gender identity.

Violent and sexual offences

In 2020/21, violent offences per 1,000 population were higher than the England average in Blackburn with Darwen. Trends show both this and sexual offences have been rising over the last 10 years (as was the case everywhere). The borough currently has the 5th highest rate of hospital admissions for violence from 2018/19 to 2020/21. Violent crime is seen as a public health issue, not only because of its effect on health but because a multi-agency public health approach is increasingly regarded as the best way of tackling and preventing serious violence at a local level.

Figure 30 - Crime/police incidents in Blackburn with Darwen by LSOA, April 2021 to March 2022



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