



Westmorland & Furness
Community Safety
Partnership

Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024-2027



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Foreword

We are really pleased to be able to present the Westmorland and Furness Community Safety Partnership Plan which sets out the priorities for the next three years and what all partners will be doing to deliver against them working with communities.

The Westmorland and Furness Community Safety Partnership was set up at the beginning of April 2023 and the commitment from all partners to creating safe and resilient communities has been inspiring and we would like to thank all of them for their commitment to developing the plan and delivering against it.

Our area is a really safe place to live, work and visit and we want to keep it that way and make sure that it feels and is like that for everyone that lives, works and visits here. We also are very clear that whatever we do needs to recognise the needs of different communities and what works in Barrow in Furness might not work in Kirkby Stephen or Alston. So we are committed to finding the right solutions with communities.

Please take some time to read this Plan and share it as widely as you can, we will be using this to measure how well we do, so please let us know at csp@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk if you have any comments and ideas.



Steph Cordon
Chair of Westmorland and
Furness Community Safety
Partnership



Councillor Judith Derbyshire
Portfolio Holder for Westmorland
& Furness Community Safety
Partnership

Mission statement of Westmorland and Furness CSP

Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership will work together to create safe and resilient communities where everyone can live, work and thrive.

Introduction

The Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership has been established to meet the requirements of Section 5 & 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and any amendments made to it in subsequent legislation. The Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership also fulfils the requirements of the Prevent Duty (which is part of the Counter Terrorism Act 2015).

Working with key partners, the Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership aims to promote collective responsibility and evidence a strategic approach towards reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime within the geographical area of the Westmorland and Furness.

Trusting and positive relationships are they key to successful partnership working and positive outcomes for communities. We have already developed strong links and are working closely with the Office of the Police & Fire Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) via the Safer Cumbria Board to ensure our priorities complement each other and there is no duplication e.g. the OPFCC is taking the lead on serious violent crime in Cumbria and the priorities of the Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership mirror some of the concerns highlighted in the Serious Violence Duty Response Strategy 2024-2025 such as substance misuse, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and focusing on children and young people.

Creating a safe place live is clearly one of the wider determinants of health that impact physical and emotional wellbeing that are being tackled via the Joint Strategic Needs Strategy for Westmorland and Furness. The focus on prevention and healthy places links directly with this plan and our mission to create safe and resilient communities where everyone can live, work and thrive.

The Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership has a very sound base to build from as Westmorland & Furness is relatively a very safe place to live. Due to the hard work and dedication of all partners over many years the statistics clearly demonstrate that the indicators for the area are consistently below the local (Cumbria), regional (North West) and national (England & Wales) averages.

Profile of Westmorland & Furness

Westmorland & Furness is largely rural and made up of sparsely populated areas with some built up areas. The Local Authority boundary covers the areas of Eden, South Lakeland, Barrow in Furness.

We cover 3,754 Km², with 1,900 Km² within National Parks. We are England's most sparsely populated local authority area with 60 people per square kilometre across the whole area. This ranges from 25 in Eden to 864 in Barrow, which presents challenges in sustaining and delivering services.

Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Eden and South Lakeland rose while the population in Barrow fell, leading to an overall rise from 225,400 to 226,600 (1.47% increase).

Compared to the national average, Westmorland & Furness and all three former districts had older age profiles at the Office for National Statistics annual estimates of the resident population (Mid-2022); with lower proportions of younger residents and higher proportions of older residents.

However, there was some variation between the former districts. Barrow-in-Furness had a greater proportion of younger residents than Eden and South Lakeland.

Inversely, Eden and South Lakeland had greater proportions of older residents than Barrow-in-Furness.

Of all Local Authority Districts (LADs) nationally, South Lakeland had the fifth lowest proportion of 0–15-year-olds.

The 2019 Indices of Deprivation published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) classified 12 of Westmorland and Furness' 144 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) as being within the 10% most deprived areas in England. All of these communities are located within the former Barrow-in-Furness district area.

In Contrast, Westmorland & Furness had seven LSOAs classified as in the 10% least deprived of LSOAs nationally. The majority of these LSOAs are located within the South Lakeland area (six LSOAs in South Lakeland, one in Barrow-in-Furness).

A detailed analysis of Westmorland and Furness wide statistics can be found at: [Cumbria Intelligence Observatory](#)



Governance



Safer Cumbria

The Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership consists of a Strategic Group (with senior representation from each partner) underneath which sit five Thematic Groups and Chairs/ performance group and a Communications Group.

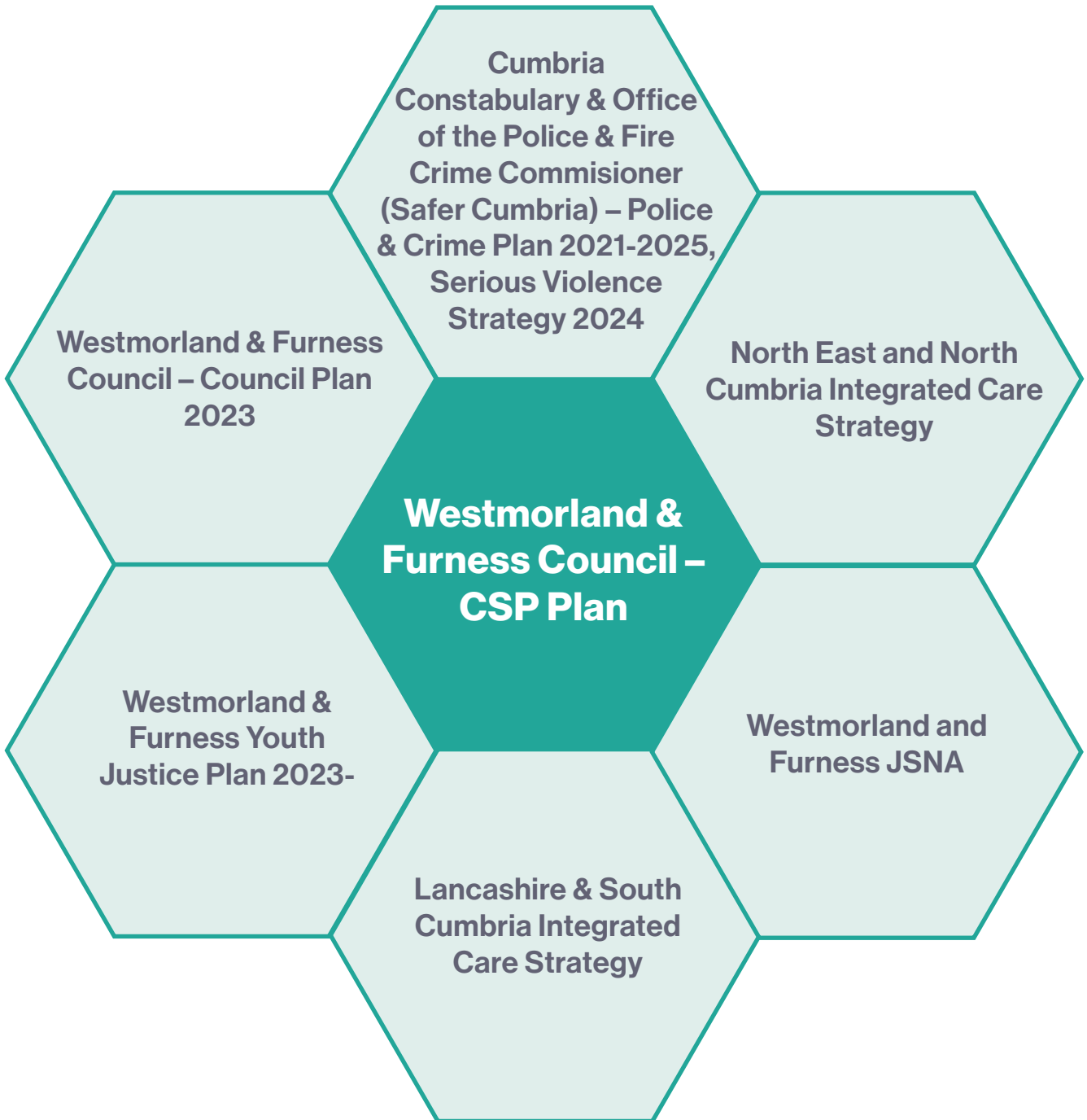
There are already a wide range of formalised groups structures that meet on a Westmorland & Furness and a wider Cumbria footprint. Each group has a chair and the group will either utilise existing structures or set up new groups to take each agenda forward.

Progress reports are submitted by the Chairs prior to the Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership meetings and a performance framework is being established to report on chosen key indicators in order to monitor progress.

The Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership has close links with the Safer Cumbria Partnership run by the OPFCC (who are members of the Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership) and operates on Cumbria wide footprint. These close ties with the OPFCC are important in order to try and maximise impact and avoid duplication.

In order to ensure political oversight the Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership will report annually to the Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel.

Key Partner Strategies



Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership priorities and Supporting Principles

Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership Priorities

Further to analysis of the evidence (via the Strategic Assessment) the Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership has identified the following priorities which can have a great adverse impact on our communities:



Supporting principles

Each of these priorities will be examined through the lens of **Anti-social Behaviour ASB), Substance Misuse and Children & Young people** with solutions proposed and developed with these factors in mind e.g. Seeking to reduce Killed & Serious Injury road incidents could look at how to raise awareness (preventing) of driving & substance misuse amongst young people by working with communities/schools with the recently acquired Artificial Intelligent headsets.

Our approach will be **Evidence based** with a focus on **Prevention** and reporting back on the **Lived experience** to demonstrate improvements in the quality of life of our communities.



Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse is defined under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 as any incident or pattern of incidents of physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse, psychological, emotional or other abuse between those aged 16 and over and personally connected to each other.

Domestic Abuse is a complex and cross-cutting issue which overlaps with other agenda's such as Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG), ASB, substance misuse, sexual exploitation, stalking and harassment etc.

Domestic abuse is an incident or pattern of incidents on the part of the abuser (perpetrator), which is controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent, including sexual violence.

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone, regardless of age, background, gender, religion, sexuality, or ethnicity. Statistics illustrate most reported domestic abuse is carried out by men and experienced by women.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 aims to ensure that victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences, safe in the knowledge that agencies will do everything possible to support them and their children and deal with the perpetrator. The Act sets out a broad range of behaviours which may constitute domestic abuse and it identifies children impacted upon by domestic abuse as victims in their own right. The Act defines the following behaviours as "abusive" if it consists of:

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Violent or threatening behaviour
- Controlling or coercive behaviour (including when a relationship has ended)
- Economic abuse
- Psychological, emotional or other abuse.

Domestic abuse can be perpetrated by a partner, an ex-partner, or a family member (when two people are "personally connected" to each other). It is categorised as domestic abuse when both parties are 16 and over.

By 2027 we aim to:

- Reduce the number of Domestic Abuse related incidents, VAWG offences and Stalking & Harassment Offences
- Reduce the number of Domestic Abuse safeguarding records
- Increase awareness and confidence to enable people suffering domestic abuse/VAWG/ Stalking harassment to report incidents.
- Monitor and review the support pathways available for both victims and perpetrators to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and effective supporting both parties.
- Enable 3rd sector partners to continue supporting people suffering domestic abuse.
- Ensure that 'lived experience' forms part of any progress reporting to the Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership.



Road Safety

Making the roads of Westmorland & Furness safer and reducing road related accidents is a priority for the Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership as the figures (especially for South Lakes and Eden which are largely rural) are above regional and national averages (In 2022 there were 150 in total, 79 in South Lakes and 50 in Eden). We are aware that the impact of Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) accidents can be devastating and life changing for all those involved.

The Cumbria Road Safety Partnership (CRSP) has a primary aim to reduce serious injury and deaths on the county's roads by targeting the accident hotspots across the county and has formally adopted Vision Zero 2040. The CRSP is informed by the NPCC National Roads Policing Strategy for 2022-2025, 'Policing Our Roads Together' which is built around four key pillars of activity:

- Preventing harm and saving lives
- Tackling crime
- Driving technology and innovation
- Changing minds.

Hotspot roads and locations have been identified by examining the location and number of KSI's over the previous five years. Each area is analysed to understand the cause of accidents, and this is followed by appropriate and feasible actions to create a safer road. The hotspots are continuously reviewed and change depending on seriousness of the KSI figures and how quickly issues with the roads are resolved.

The Westmorland & Furness Community Safety Partnership seeks to 'add value' to the approach of the CRSP by focussing more on prevention and working upstream to raise awareness to promote safe driving with target audiences such as young people and local communities and address issues relating to driving such as substance misuse and Anti-Social Behaviour.

By 2027 we aim to:

- Reduce the number of Road Traffic Accidents
- Reduce the number of Road Traffic Accidents resulting in death or serious injury
- Adopt a preventative approach to promote safe driving and by focusing on substance misuse and Anti-Social Behaviour, especially amongst Children and Young People.



Reduce Re-offending

Reoffending behaviour cuts across most crime types and it can have a devastating impact on individuals, their families and the wider community. Reoffending is a complex issue but can be affected by substance misuse with severe outcomes in terms of ASB, domestic abuse etc.

Although rates have been declining nationally and locally the proportion of offenders who reoffend in Westmorland & Furness is just above the national average (24.5% & 24.3% respectively). In the Barrow area rates are significantly higher at 28.7%.

Similarly, juvenile offenders who reoffend has seen an overall reduction but remain close to the national average (28.8% and 30.5% respectively).

Finally, conviction ratios (stats for 2020 at Cumbria level only) highlight high rates compared to the national average, especially in drug related offences.

The Offender Rehabilitation Act contains a number of measures about the release (and supervision after release) of offenders, the period for extended sentence prisoners, and community orders.

If the cycle of reoffending can be broken People who leave prison with strong foundations in place to make a success of their lives are less likely to reoffend. These foundations include a stable home, a stronger connection to family and local community, a steady job, and good health free from substance misuse. For women, this means a gender-informed approach to deliver better assessments and interventions.

The activities set out how we will improve rehabilitation, resettlement and supervision of prison leavers in the community, ensuring there are consequences for those who fail to comply.

By 2027 we aim to:

- Reduce the percentage of adults who re-offend
- Reduce the percentage of juveniles who re-offend
- Reduce the average number of reoffences per offender

Glossary of Terms

ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CRSP	Cumbria Road Safety Partnership
KSI	Killed and Seriously Injured
LSOA	Lower Super Output Areas
OPFCC	Office of the Police and Fire Crime Commissioner
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

Translation Services

If you require this document in another format (e.g. CD, Braille or large type) or in another language, please contact CSP@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk