

Annual Report
2009/10



Executive Summary



This report outlines the performance of the Chorley Partnership over 2009/10. Compared to this time last year, the picture is starting to look much more optimistic in a variety of areas as we emerge from the recession. We do however have a serious challenge ahead of us to ensure that the economy remains strong, people have jobs, health outcomes across the borough improve and the environment is protected.

This report updates on the progress against the targets outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy (which will be refreshed this year) and an update on Chorley's progress against the second year of the Local Area Agreement.

Headlines from this year's report are:

- Unemployment has reduced since last year
- The number of people in temporary accommodation is at an all time low and there has been a major decrease over the last year
- House prices in Chorley have risen over the last year
- Crime is down overall by 2.1% compared to last year
- All types of crime in Chorley have decreased apart from burglary dwelling and serious violent crime
- Teenage pregnancy has fallen by 2.2% (the three year average for 2006-8 compared to the three year average for 2005-7)
- Chorley is in the bottom 10% nationally for alcohol related hospital admissions
- The number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS) has reduced since last year
- There have been 74 new business start ups in since last year
- Delivery of affordable homes has increased by 174% since last year
- There has been a small increase in Chorley's recycling rate since last year
- CO2 emissions have remained fairly static since last year
- 81.9% of people feel that Chorley is a place where people get on well together
- The level of street cleanliness has remained fairly similar to last year, although levels of flyposting have decreased
- The number of primary fires has reduced since last year

The State of Chorley 2009/10

Each year we provide an overall view on the picture of Chorley. The economic picture this year is more optimistic than last year as the UK economy has now started to emerge from recession. However, over the last 18 months, the credit crunch and resulting recession have taken their toll on the local economy, although not to the extent of some other areas.

Unemployment

Over the last 18 months, the recession has had an impact in Chorley just like the rest of the UK. Over the last year, the unemployment benefit claimant count has started to decrease; but it is still significantly higher than when the recession first started. In March 2010 it was at 2.9% of the working age population, compared to 3.3% in March 2009. In numerical terms, it amounts to 1889 claimants, a decrease of 281 claimants on last year's figure of 2170 claimants.

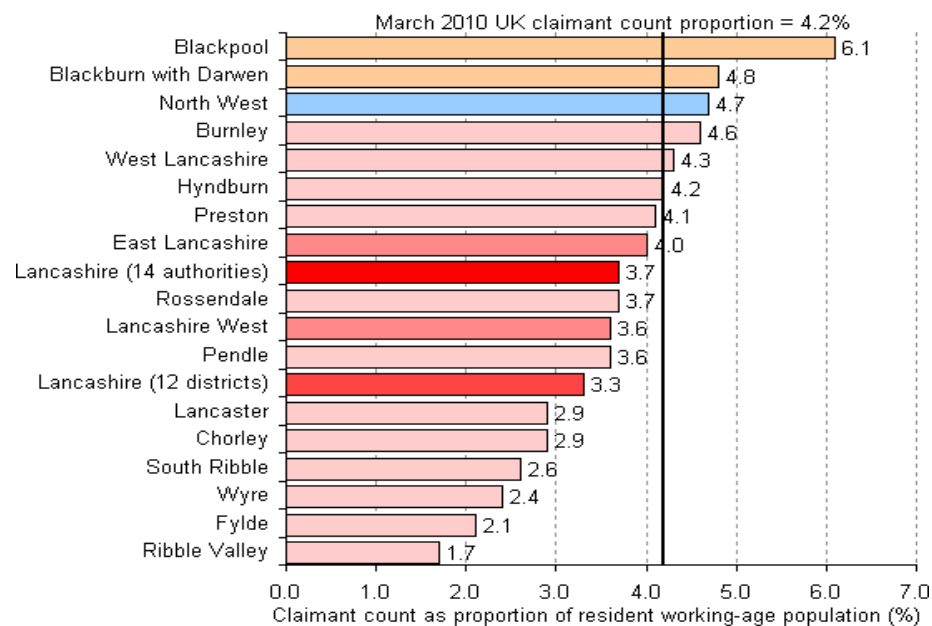


Figure 1: Total JSA claimants, March 2010 (Source: ONS claimant count with rates and proportions)

House Prices

At the end of 2009/10, the average house price in Chorley was £170,145, which was an increase of 2.8% on 2008. This illustrates that house prices in Chorley are starting to recover from the effects of the recession, which took its toll during 2008.

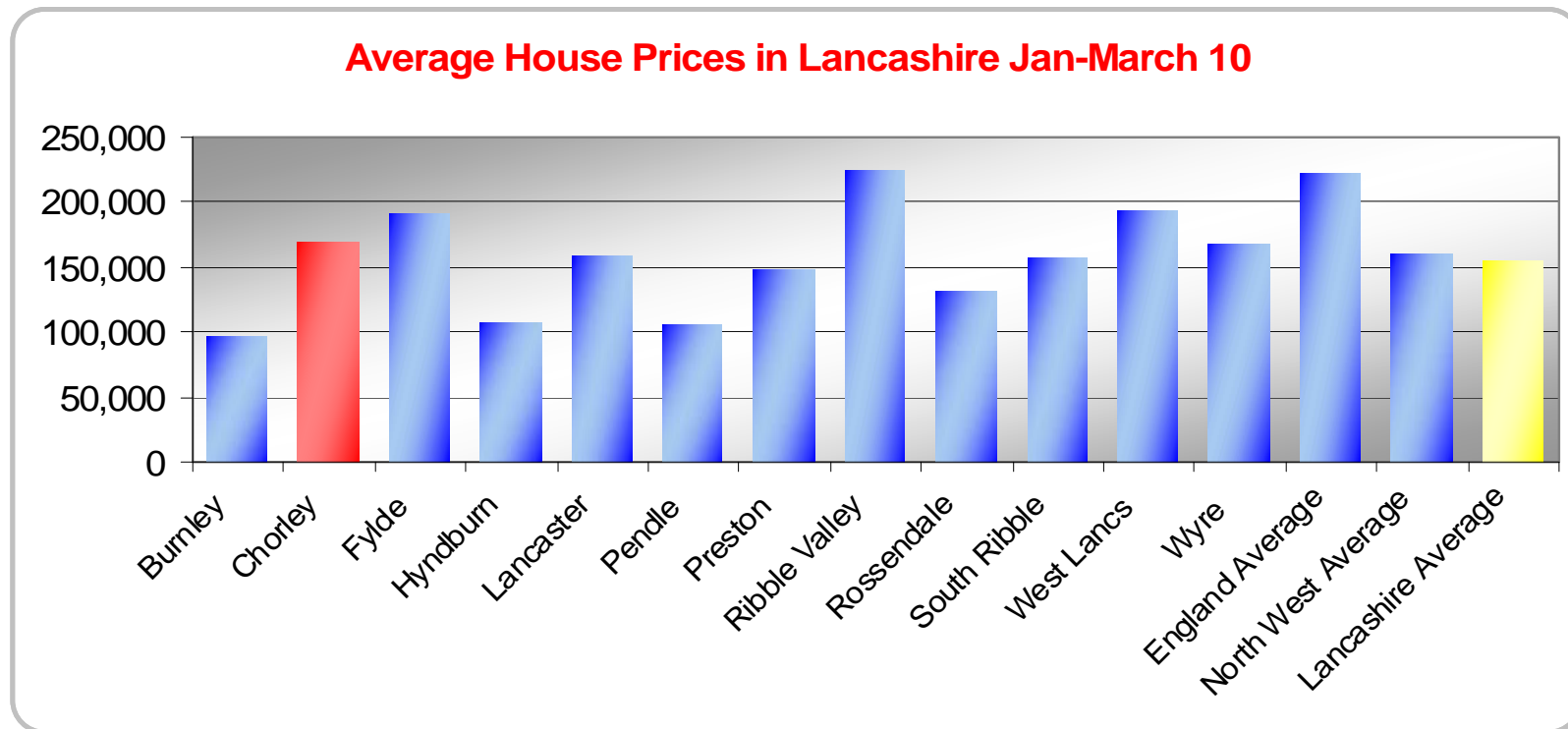


Figure 2: Average House Prices in Lancashire Jan-March 10 (Source: Land Registry Figures DCLG)

Crime

In 2009/10 overall crime fell in Chorley by 2.1% since last year. All types of crime fell apart from burglary dwelling, which refers to theft from the home; and serious violent crime.

Burglary dwelling rose by 16% over the last year mainly due to some large spikes in this type of crime when the recession was at its most intense; however over the last quarter this type of crime has started to decrease. Our Community Safety Partnership is responding to the issue of burglary dwelling by tackling the issue of cross border crime, particularly insecure burglaries.

Serious violent crime rose by 6.3% over the last year, however this actually represents a fairly small increase in incidents. This increase could also be explained by quite specific recording practises, which mean that a crime can sometimes be recorded as a serious violent crime due to unfortunate circumstances rather than intent.

It is important to note that Chorley still remains one of the safest places to live, compared to the national average.

This table shows the number of incidents of crime by type in Chorley and how it compares with last year's figures.

Category	2008/09	2009/10	Year To Date % Change
All Crime	5910	5783	- 2.1%
Serious Acquisitive Crime (NI16)	707	701	- 0.8%
Burglary Dwelling	181	210	+ 16%
Vehicle Crime	502	475	- 5.4%
Robbery	24	16	- 33.3%
All Violent Crime	1379	1293	- 6.2%
Serious Violent Crime	64	68	+ 6.3%
Assault with Less Serious Injury (NI20)	683	615	- 10%
Criminal Damage (inc arson)	1423	1321	- 7.2%
Anti Social Behaviour	8433	7472	- 11.4%

Health

The Health Profile summary published by the North West Public Health Observatory in 2009 shows that the health of people in Chorley is varied. As detailed below, some indicators are significantly worse than the England average; but a similar number are significantly better.

Health Inequalities

There are significant health inequalities within Chorley, by gender and level of deprivation. For example, men in the least deprived areas can expect to live nearly seven years longer than men in the most deprived areas.

Risk taking behaviour is a key area of concern for Chorley. The number of women who smoke during pregnancy is significantly worse than the England average. Also, although teenage pregnancies on average are reducing in numbers, in some wards (particularly deprived wards); teenage pregnancies are still double the national average.

The Chorley Partnership has produced a health inequalities strategy and an associated action plan, which sets out how we will tackle the most pressing health issues for Chorley. The three key areas for action are:

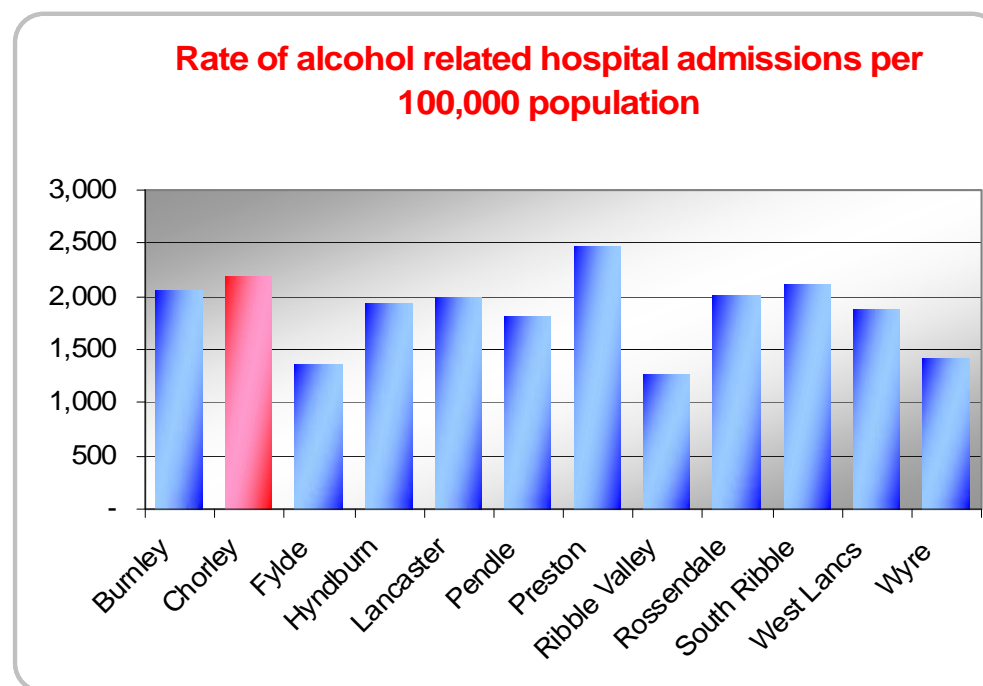
- Reducing alcohol related harm
- Reducing teenage pregnancy
- Tackling the most common causes of early death

Over the next 12 months, work will centre on implementing and evaluating the alcohol interventions. We will particularly focus on improving men's health as premature deaths are more common in men in Chorley. Our work with young people will also be developed further in schools to include awareness raising on the risks of alcohol.

Alcohol Related harm

Alcohol is a key area of concern for the Chorley Partnership. Chorley has one of the highest rates of alcohol related harm in Lancashire and is in the bottom 10% nationally.

- In 2008/9 the rate of alcohol related admissions was 2,192 compared to a Lancashire average of 1,875 admissions. (Data for 2009/10 should be available in December 2010)
- Chorley has the 2nd highest rate of alcohol admissions in Lancashire, behind only Preston. Chorley's figures are also worse than those of Blackburn and Blackpool, two nearby areas of significant deprivation.
- Compared to the North West and National averages, Chorley is significantly worse off, with rates per 100,000 of 2,081 and 1,583 respectively. Chorley's rate of alcohol admissions is 5% higher than the North West average and 28% higher than the National average.
- The three worst areas in Chorley for alcohol related harm are; Chorley South West, Coppull and Clayton-Le-Woods North.



An alcohol intervention programme is currently being developed by the Partnership to address alcohol related harm within Chorley during 2010/11. Key actions include; ad hoc health checks in a variety of locations and brief intervention training for front line staff.

Teenage Pregnancy

Teenage pregnancies across the borough have been reducing in numbers and as a borough our figures are now lower than the Lancashire and North West average. Between 2005-7 and 2006-8 teenage conceptions across the borough have reduced by 2.2%. However, there is still a clear link both nationally and within Chorley between deprivation and higher than average levels of teenage pregnancies.

A variety of actions are currently being undertaken to tackle teenage pregnancy; including recommissioning the young persons sexual health service in Chorley and further roll out of the Girls Allowed and Boys Own projects.

Life Expectancy

There are significant inequalities in life expectancy within Chorley by gender and level of deprivation.

- Life expectancy at birth in Chorley is lower for men. Based on 2006-2008 figures for men it is 77.2 years and for women it is 81.3 years. Since 1991-3, life expectancy for both men and women in Chorley has increased.
- Life expectancy at birth in Chorley is lower for those that live in Chorley's most deprived wards. However, it is also a problem in some of our more rural wards. Chorley East, Brindle and Hoghton, Coppull, Chorley South West and Clayton-le-Woods North are in the bottom 20% nationally for life expectancy.
- However, although people are living longer, the general trend is that people are experiencing more ill health after the age of 65 than other areas.

The Sustainable Community Strategy - Performance and Projects

Priority 1: Ensuring that Chorley is the pulse of a thriving Central Lancashire economy

Manage your money better

The **'manage your money better'** project has provided advice on a wide range of financial matters to individuals, groups and communities across Chorley. The project has also built capacity in the public and voluntary sectors through partnership working and the delivery of training to front line staff. It was delivered by the Chorley and South Ribble Citizens Advice Bureau.

Almost 150 residents have attended the financial management workshops over the last year and both clients and residents have hailed these workshops as a huge success.

Residents from New Progress Housing Association commented that;

'I felt it helped me to spot my downfalls in spending money. I feel I can budget better.'

Frontline workers from partner's organisations and the voluntary sector were also very positive about the outcomes of the project, commenting that;

'The training has increased confidence levels when helping clients/service users to budget effectively'



Indicator	2008/9 Outturn	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Outturn	Performance against target	Direction of travel
Number of new businesses established per year	82	53	74	😊	↓
Vacant town centre floor space	10.46%	8% or below	7.75%	😊	↑
Increase median workplace earnings gap between Chorley and Lancashire	- 4.11%	+2%	+0.06	😞	↑

Priority 2: Improving Life Chances for All

Firebreak – youth diversionary activities

The **'Firebreak'** project is a diversionary project for young people identified through 'firewise' who are in danger of permanently falling out of the education system. The aim being; to reduce risk taking behaviour, develop personal skills and self esteem as well as improving their performance in the school environment. It was delivered by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.

The 11 week Firebreak course was delivered to 14 young people and was focused on reducing risk taking behaviour. Attendees have covered a range of skills through activities such as team building activities and fire service drills. During several of the lunchtimes, different agencies attended to deliver educational talks about risk taking behaviour. These included the consequences of fire setting and road safety delivered by Community Fire Safety Practitioner and Fire Fighters from LFRS and the consequences of smoking and alcohol delivered by Young Addaction and the Stop Smoking Service.

Feedback from course attendees has been very positive. Typical feedback included comments such as;
'I learnt about teamwork, learnt about the importance of fire and how to show respect.'

Another young person commented that;

'I met new friends, overcame my fear of heights, learned how to help people, first aid, how to be a leader and to co-operate with everyone and its been loads of fun'



Indicator	2008/9 Outturn	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Outturn	Performance against target	Direction of travel
Reduction in teenage pregnancy rate for under 18 year old girls (NI 112 LAA)	40.4/1000	25.05/1000	39.5/1000	☹️	⬆️
Number of affordable homes delivered (NI 155 LAA)	39 units	50 units	107 units	☺️	⬆️

Messages

The 'messages' project has identified and worked with young people that have been misusing alcohol to create two community art projects, delivered by the Arts Partnership.

In one element of the project, the young people produced a mural for Chorley Bus Interchange. The aim of the project was to overcome some of the barriers for the young people using the interchange and to produce a lasting piece of work. The project is due to complete in July and the young people will be accredited through this work with the Arts Award Silver. Although the group as a whole are still challenging, they are taking responsibility for their actions and realize that they have an alternative to getting into trouble.

Case study; 'J'

A young man 'J' was involved in a small group who were known trouble makers and had very challenging behaviour. 'J' became very disruptive to the rest of the group who were involved in the project and it was requested that he took some time to consider his continued involvement in the project. (We also received information that 'J' had recently been adopted and was having problems settling.) 'J' decided to continue with the project and an action plan was put together to support him. He now works to an acceptable standard and takes part in everything that is asked of him. In addition, there was an incident outside the centre, which 'J' was a part of. He turned up at the project of his own accord with the others that had been involved to apologize and own up to the incident. This was a huge step in our opinion, showing how far they had come in terms of caring for the rest of the group and taking responsibility for their own actions.

In addition, the young people have also produced an animated film, which demonstrates the dangers of alcohol misuse. All aspects of the film; including the animation, sound and music have been produced by young people who were known to misuse alcohol. The film has been posted on a social networking site and feedback has been extremely positive. In addition, there has been interest in the film from Lancashire County Council's Youth Service. In the future, the film will be distributed to local schools to be shown directly to the pupils or to be played on the plasma information display screen.

In terms of outcomes, the project has had a positive impact on the young people that participated in it. Many of the young people involved in the project have since gained employment or become involved in voluntary work, whilst others have enrolled on training courses.

Home Start – Family Support

The '**Home Start – Family Support**' project provides a unique service for families in Chorley. Over the last year it has recruited and trained volunteers to support parents with young children. 90 families from two of Chorley's most deprived wards have attended family support groups and 4 positive parenting courses have taken place.

Key outcomes from the project include;

- Four positive parenting courses have been run in Chorley and the feedback from attendees has been excellent. For instance, parents are asking for these courses to be repeated so that their partners can attend.
- 46 families have been supported in their own homes on a wide variety of issues. In addition, some parents that have been supported have become Home Start volunteers themselves
- Family support groups have been held where families work with other families to develop social and communication skills as well as self esteem.
- There are currently 57 volunteers and the next preparation course will commence in June. Volunteers feel that their confidence has improved when supporting families with various difficulties, for instance drug or alcohol problems



H Factor



The '**H Factor**' project has built on the H Factor health event of 2009 and was delivered by Chorley and South Ribble CVS. The purpose has been to host a one-day event, which enables the community to take advantage of health advice and information, taster sessions, holistic therapies and health assessments in an informal accessible setting.

Over 400 visitors attended the event and feedback was very positive with 96% of attendees saying that they would recommend the event to others and 94% of attendees commented that they found the event informative.

The main outcome from the project was that 68 health assessments were conducted on the day. Many participants expressed the view that they had not recently seen their GP and were pleased to take the opportunity of a health assessment, particularly men, who said that they often put off seeing their GP.

Existing and potential risk factors associated with coronary heart disease and strokes as well as other major health issues such as cancer and diabetes were identified. 23 people were advised to see their GP or health service provider for follow up investigation or treatment.

Overall, it was felt to be a very worthwhile and positive event by both visitors and exhibitors.

Targeted accelerated delivery for tackling teenage pregnancy

The project, managed by Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust, has delivered targeted intervention work to reduce teenage pregnancy. One area of focus has been on identifying gaps in parenting provision and subsequent training needs. To increase parents' ability to talk to their children about sex and relationships, Solihull Parenting packs have been used, as well as the Speakeasy model of training. Parenting courses are being delivered using these tools. This has also been targeted, for example libraries in 'target' wards (Central Chorley, Coppull & Adlington) received copies in November '09 of the good practice children's reading book 'Let's talk about sex and relationships' together with Parentlineplus posters, leaflets and associated marketing materials.

Another area of focus has been the marketing and communication of Young People's centred contraceptive and sexual health services. Work has been ongoing with young people to develop marketing materials for services to ensure that messages around sexual health are getting through to our target group in an effective and informative way.

The final area has been to upscale service the provision of sexual health services from level 1 to level 2. This is to enable increased accessibility for young people to services including contraception, as well as increased capacity for the workforce to engage with young people. A specific nurse has been identified to deliver this increased service, and due to the redirection of other partnership funds available to NHS Central Lancashire for 2010/11, this work will continue. Developments will also be integrated with sexual health service modernisation currently ongoing and anticipated to be live in autumn 2010.



Priority 3: Developing local solutions to global climate change

Warming Homes – Cooling Climate Change



The **‘Warming Homes – Cooling Climate Change’** project delivered by Groundwork Lancashire West and Wigan, has targeted homes across the parish of Hoghton in Chorley that currently emit high levels of carbon emissions.

17 home energy audits have been delivered and positive feedback was received from all of these households. Advice was given to these households on how to reduce carbon emissions from the home. The project has also delivered a number of workshops, which have advised residents on a range of issues such as reading meters and understanding bills. In addition, electronic tools were provided to residents so that they could monitor and measure energy consumption.

As part of the project, there was a bid made to DECC for some funding from the low carbon communities challenge in order to fund the establishment of a renewable energy resource in Hoghton. However, there is still the possibility of securing additional funding as there are several key ambassadors for sustainable lifestyles within the Hoghton community.

Indicator	2008/9 Outturn	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Outturn	Performance against target	Direction of travel
Household waste recycled and composted (NI 192 LAA)	46.88%	49%	47.53%	☹️	↑
A reduction in domestic CO2 emissions (kt per capita)	2.57	2.47	2.49	☹️	↑
A reduction in Chorley’s overall CO2 emissions (kt per capita) (NI 186 LAA)	5.7 tonnes per capita	5.14 tonnes per capita	5.6 tonnes per capita	☹️	↑

Priority 4: Developing the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live, work and play

Street Pastors



The **'Street Pastors'** project is a partnership between the church, Chorley Council and the Police. The Street Pastors work with people in the community, in particular young people who feel excluded and marginalized, and provide support and assistance to them. Over the past year they have delivered a regular weekend presence on the streets of Coppull and Chorley Town Centre. People are now becoming familiar with them and are more open and trusting in sharing their problems and concerns.

There are currently 26 Street Pastors in total; but the project is currently being expanded and the possibility of running training in September for new people is currently being explored. There is currently a trial operating on alternate Saturday nights at later hours. This allows the pastors to have the greatest possible impact on town centre peace and stability through calming down potential problematic situations and ensuring that the welfare of young women is protected. Feedback includes;

'I met you guys outside the Prince of Wales about 2 weeks ago. I like what you do; it's really awesome to see a heart beating in the area. You guys are the best, keep the faith and keep it up'

Indicator	2008/9 Outturn	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Outturn	Performance against target	Direction of travel
Reduce crime in the Borough	5910	Reduce by 1% over three years	5783 – reduction of 2.1%	😊	↑
Improvement in street cleanliness (NI 195 LAA)	Litter – 6%	Litter – 4.6%	Litter – 6.1%	😞	↓
	Detritus – 10%	Detritus – 4.7%	Detritus – 9.7%	😞	↑
	Graffiti – 2%	Graffiti – 1%	Graffiti – 1.6%	😐	↑
	Flyposting – 2%	Flyposting – 1%	Flyposting – 0.8%	😊	↑

Priority 5: Building stronger communities with improved access to services

Chorley Lifestyle Centre – service development project



The '**Chorley lifestyle centre**' project is a partnership between Age Concern Lancashire and Brothers of Charity to improve and extend the range of services offered to older people across the borough from the lifestyle centre.

There have been a number of important achievements from the project. The Centre has been refurbished and re-opened. A wide variety of activities have been provided since the reopening. These include art classes, 1-1 computer tuition, craft classes and digital photography. In addition, volunteers have been recruited to the centre and a gardening club is soon to be established working in partnership with the community food growing initiative.

Since the reopening in January, 70 new users have attended the centre, there have been 1042 contacts with service users and 8 volunteers have worked a total of 248.5 hours.

Indicator	2008/9 Outturn	2009/10 target	2009/10 Outturn	Performance against target	Direction of travel
% of people who feel that their communities are places where people from different backgrounds get on well together (NI 1 LAA)	81.9%	81.9%	81.9%	😊	N/A
% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality (NI 4 LAA)	31.7%	31.4%	31.7%	😊	N/A
% of people who regularly participate in volunteering (NI 6 LAA)	22.8%	25%	22.8%	😞	N/A

The Local Area Agreement

The indicators updated here are where district updates are available at the time of producing this report. For some of the indicators, updated information will be available later in the year and we will produce an updated report at that time.

50% of the measures that have a reward grant attached, have hit or exceeded target at the end of 2009/10.

Performance is.....



Better than target



Worse than target but within threshold













Worse than target, outside threshold

Indicator		Outturn 2008/9	Target 2009/10	Outturn 2009/10	Performance against target
NI 1	People from different backgrounds getting on well together (including neutral responses)	81.9% - 4 th in Lancs	81.9%	81.9% - 4 th in Lancs	
NI 4	People who feel that they can influence decisions in their locality	31.7% - 2 nd in Lancs	31.4%	31.7% - 2 nd in Lancs	
NI 6	Participation in regular volunteering	22.8% - 10 th in Lancs	25%	22.8% - 10 th in Lancs	
NI 16	Serious acquisitive crime rate	6.82/1000	7.95/1000	6.689/1000	
NI 20	Assault with injury crime rate	6.3/1000	5.82/1000	5.219/1000	
NI 49	Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non-fatal casualties, excluding precautionary checks	186.06/100000	160.3/100000	156.48/100000	










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Indicator		Outturn 2008/9	Target 2009/10	Outturn 2009/10	Performance against target
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	40.4/1000 – 6 th in Lancs	25.05/1000 (National Target)	39.5/1000 – 6 th in Lancs	
NI 117	16 - 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	5.2% - 4 th in Lancs	5.4%	5%	
NI 119	Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing	73.5% - 6 th in Lancs	74.2%	73.5% - 6 th in Lancs	
NI 120	All age all cause mortality rate	M734.82/100000 – 6 th in Lancs F524.58/100000 – 6 th in Lancs	M703/100000 F472/100000	Information available December 2010	Information available December 2010
NI 139	People over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently	33.9%	33.9%	33.2%	
NI 153	Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods	26.8%	28.6% (Lancs wide)	26.8%	
NI 155	Number of affordable homes delivered	39 units	50 units	107 units	
NI 163	Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher	N/A	76.2% (Lancs wide)	71.1%	
NI 165	Working age population qualified to at least Level 4 or higher	N/A	28.1% (Lancs wide)	28.4%	
NI 166	Median workplace earnings in the area	£428.20	£465	£460	
NI 171	New business registration rate	N/A	59.5/10,000	63.5/10,000	

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Indicator		Outturn 2008/9	Target 2009/10	Outturn 2009/10	Performance against target
NI 186	Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area (tonnes per capita)	5.7 tonnes per capita	5.14 tonnes per capita	5.6 tonnes per capita	
NI 187a	Tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating	4.26%	4.08%	4.24%	
NI 187b	Tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a high energy efficiency rating	43.47%	44.7%	50.59%	
NI 188	Adapting to climate change	Level 1	Level 2	Level 2	
NI 192	Household Waste recycled and composted	46.88%	49%	47.53%	
NI 195a	Improved street and environmental cleanliness: litter	6% - 5 th in Lancashire	4.6%	6.1% - 8 th in Lancashire	
NI 195b	Improved street and environmental cleanliness: detritus	10% - =5 th in Lancashire	4.7%	9.7% - 6 th in Lancashire	
NI 195c	Improved street and environmental cleanliness: graffiti	2% - =7 th in Lancashire	1%	1.6% - 6 th in Lancashire	
NI 195d	Improved street and environmental cleanliness: flyposting	2% - =11 th in Lancashire	1%	1%	

Other LAA Indicators (no reward grant attached)

Indicator		Outturn 2008/9	Target 2009/10	Outturn 2009/10	Direction of travel
NI 35	Preventing violent extremism	Level 1	Level 4 on a scale of 1-5 (3 year target Lancs wide)	Level 1.9	
LI 004 ¹	Oral Health	29.3% - 7 th in Lancashire	29.3% - 7 th in Lancashire	33.9%	
NI 156	Number of households living in temporary accommodation	24 households	13 households	6 households	
NI 152	Working age people on out of work benefits	10.4%	12.2% (Lancs wide 3 year target)	11.1%	

¹ LI 004 refers to the % of 5 year olds with active tooth decay. The data refers to a survey undertaken in 2007/8 and published in October 2009 so the result for 2008/9 is carried over to 2009/10. It is important to note that this survey was based on a system of positive consent whilst previous surveys were based on negative consent.