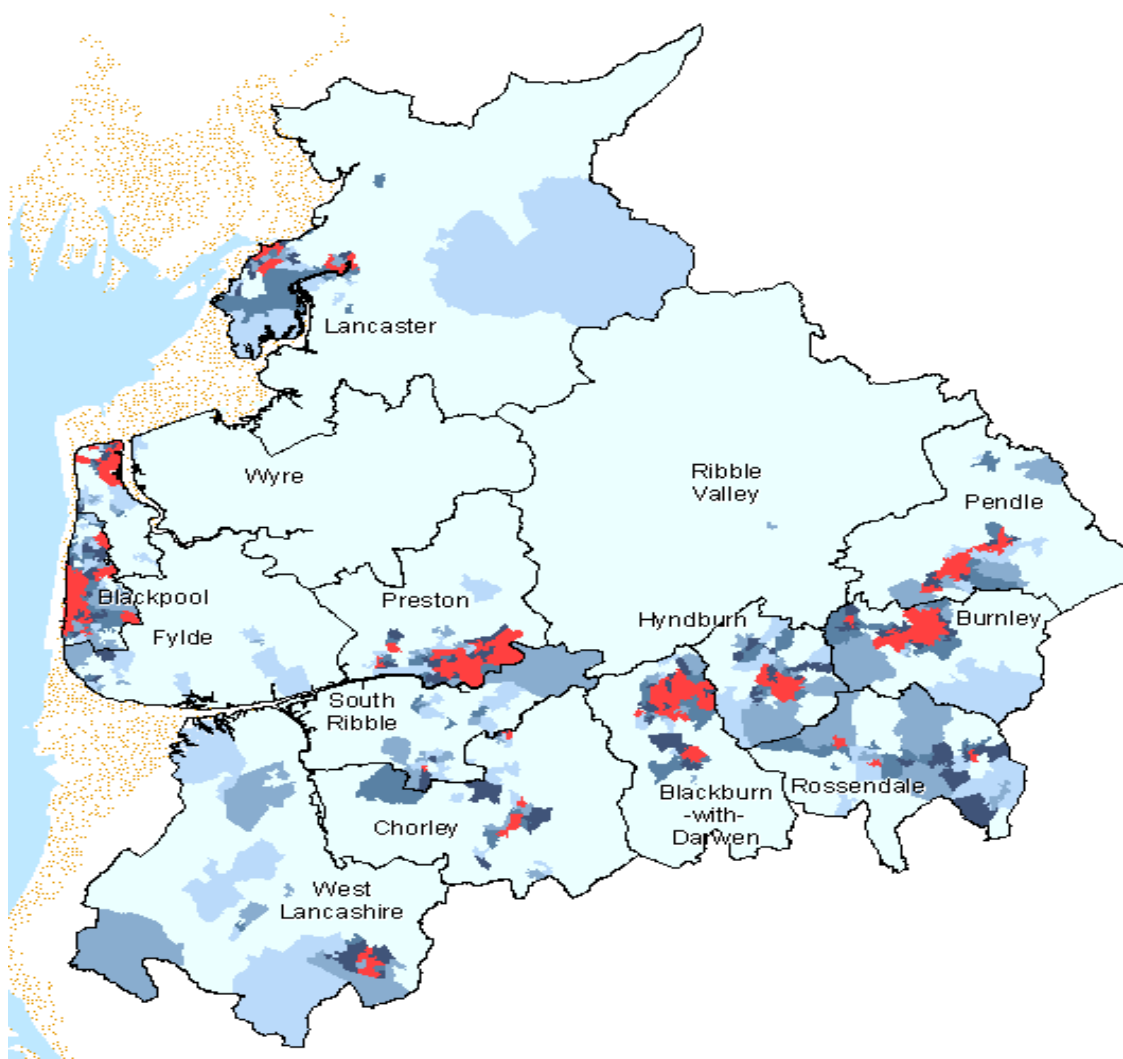


Lancashire is a large and diverse Shire County with one County Council and 12 District Councils. Within the old county footprint there are two unitary authorities, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen who have separate administrations and separate Local Safeguarding Children Boards who provide their own Children Safeguarding Board Annual Report. The total population in Lancashire is approximately 1.9 million. Within Lancashire, there are pockets of severe social and economic deprivation. Four Lancashire Districts (Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle and Preston) are in the "top 50" most deprived in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010. There are also large areas of economic prosperity such as Ribble Valley and Fylde Borough. The map below shows the 'indices of multiple deprivation' across the county with dark and red areas identifying the most deprived places.

Figure 1

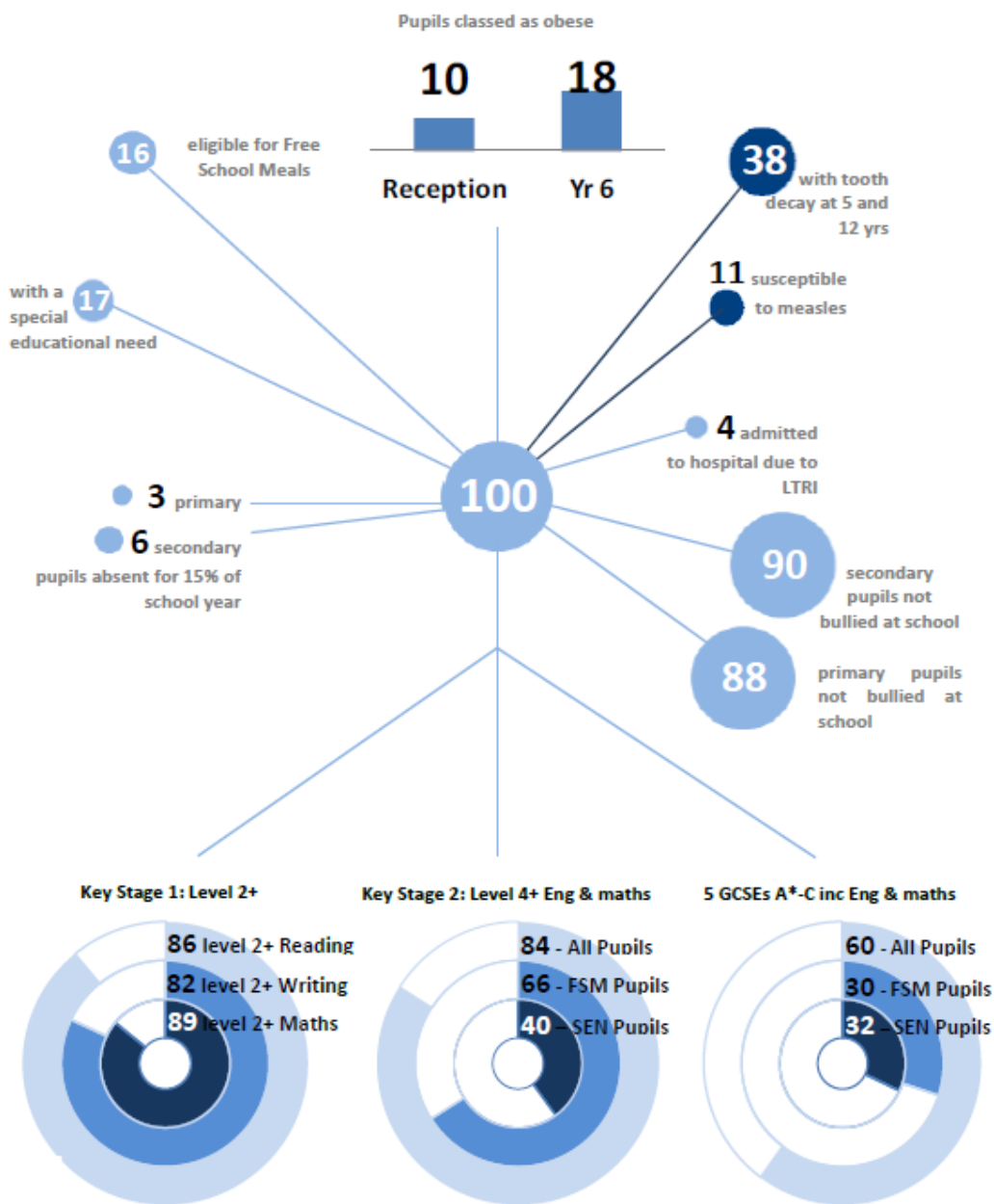


*(Source – LCC JSNA 2013)*

### **What do we know about Children in Lancashire?**

Lancashire has a child population of around a quarter of a million and within this population. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identifies a diverse range of needs and demographic factors and has set these out diagrammatically:

If Lancashire was a Village of 100 children then:



(Source – LCC JSNA 2013) (LTRI – Lower Respiratory Tract Infection)

National comparator data shows that Lancashire is worse than the national average in:

- Tooth Decay rates
- Obesity rates (reception class)
- Teenage conception rates
- Educational Attainment rates (Key Stage 1)

And better in:

- Educational Attainment rates (key stage 2)
- Obesity rates (year 6)
- School Attendance rates
- Number of Pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs including Eng & Maths

## What do we know about vulnerable children?

Safeguarding and related Health and Wellbeing indicators show a pattern of inequalities which closely correlate with indices of deprivation referred to above. Child mortality rates and educational attainment also closely correlate with these indices of deprivation.

The table below summarises key health and economic indices based on the most recent data available (2013/14)

Red = significantly worse, Green = significantly better, Amber = no significant difference

Indicator	Eng Average	Current	Previous	Direction of Travel
Low birth weight of term live births	2.8	3.0	2.7	Worse
Parental Smoking at time of delivery (SATOD)	12.7	18.8	18.8	Same
Infant mortality (Rate per 1,000 live births)	4.0	5.1	4.8	Better
Children aged 4-5 classified as overweight or obese	22.5	23.2	23.5	Better
Children aged 10-11 classified as overweight or obese,	33.5	32.7	32.4	Worse
Children in poverty (all dependent children under 20)	18.6	16.5	17.8	Better
Children in poverty	19.2	17.1	18.2	Better
Directly standardised rate per 100,000 (age 10-24 years) for hospital admissions for self-harm	412.1	524.3	476.3	Worse
Rate of hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (aged 0 to 14 years), per 10,000 resident population	112.2	146.2	138.8	Worse
Under 18s admitted to hospital with alcohol specific conditions: rate per 100,000 population	40.1	62.7	71.9	Better
Accident and Emergency attendances for children aged 0-17 years (2010/11 – most recent data)	525.6	506.7	380.1	Worse

As illustrated in the table above there has generally not been a significant change in these key indicators on a countywide basis from previous period. ( 5 have deteriorated ??? some minor ) However it is encouraging that hospital admissions for alcohol specific conditions has improved significantly, though this is still well above the national average. It is also noteworthy that Lancashire, whilst experiencing a significant increase in A&E attendances (0-17 years) is now lower than the national average which has obviously deteriorated faster than locally.

Challenges still exist around:

1. Maternal smoking during pregnancy
2. Low birth weight and infant mortality (possibly related to 1)
3. Self-Harm (which has increased from previous period)
4. Unintentional and deliberate injuries

## **Vulnerable Children**

The table below provides a summary of the numbers of children / notifications under each category

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Comparator</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Privately Fostered Children	28	Not available	Previous years were 33, 25, 26, 25
LADO Allegations / Investigations	491	Not available	A significant decrease on previous years which were 715 and 779 respectively.
IRO Caseloads	109	Not available	Decrease from previous year (117). 50-70 recommended caseload in national guidance (IRO Handbook)
Children Looked After <sup>1</sup> (CLA) (rate per 10k)	67.2	60 (Eng Avg) 81 (NW Avg)	Increase from previous year which was 65
Number of children identified as Children in Need (rate per 10k)	352	103.8 (Eng Avg) 133.9 (NW Avg)	Previous year's figures: 371 and 238 respectively
Number of occasions on which children have been reported as "Missing From Home"	895	Not available	Slight decrease from previous year of 897
Referrals regarding Honour Based Violence	28	Not available	
Referrals regarding potential Forced Marriage	16	Not available	
Percentage of Children with Special Educational Needs in Lancashire schools is this the correct title still ??	17.2%	19.8% (Eng Avg)	
Young Carers	3,700 (est)	Not available	Youngest reported is 5 years old.
CLA placed in Lancashire from other Local Authorities	981	N/A	Previous year was 959. Lancashire is a net importer of CLA

## **Referrals to Children's Social Care**

Referral rates reduced significantly from previous year in 2014/15. Lancashire County Council changed the definition of what was classified as a referral to a local measure so there is no national comparator data as local authorities now adopt their own definitions which may vary considerably.

	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
<b>Lancashire (number)</b>	2954	2491
<b>Lancashire (rate per 10K)</b>	121.5	102.5
<b>England</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## **Repeat Referrals**

The table below shows the percentage of referrals that were repeat referrals (within 12 months of initial referral)

	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
<b>% Re-referrals</b>	19.1	15.1	15.7

<sup>1</sup> A child is looked after by a local authority if a court has granted a care order to place a child in care, or a council's children's services department has cared for the child for more than 24 hours.

Again Lancashire has adopted a local definition for this indicator which has shown a slight increase from previous year.

### **Number of Children subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) per 10k child population**

The rate of CPPs has reduced significantly from 2013/14 and is now below the national average.

AREA	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013/14	2014/25
Lancashire rate	27	27	23	36	44.4	38.9
<b>England rate</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42.1</b>

The distribution of Child Protection Plans across the 12 districts of Lancashire varies significantly. As illustrated below:

District	Number (2015)	Number (2014)
Lancaster	138	141
Fylde & Wyre	66	112
Preston	254	229
Chorley & South Ribble	104	117
West Lancashire	71	99
Burnley	114	156
Pendle	67	82
Rosendale	17	26
Hyndburn & Ribble Valley	120	92

Broadly the number of CPPs is higher in the more economically disadvantaged districts though the number for Preston is significantly higher than other similar districts. This has been investigated in more detail for Preston where it became apparent the rate of CLA is lower (than other districts) which indicates potentially that risk is being managed more under the CP process rather than escalating to CLA.

### **Child Protection Plans Lasting Two Years or More**

This measure provides an indication of whether children or young people and their families are receiving the services necessary to bring about the required changes on a timely basis – a long period on a CPP may reflect drift and lack of targeted support. This figure has risen since previous year and is now above the national average for the first time in several years. Of note the National figure has dropped significantly

Area	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Lancashire	2.9%	3.8%	4.8%	4.4%	2.4%	1.2%	3%
<b>England</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>

### **Children Looked After (CLA)**

Lancashire's rate (per 10k) of CLA is above the national average, but significantly below the regional average as illustrated below. The rate appears to be increasing faster than the national and regional rate in recent years however.

Rate	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
<b>Lancashire</b>	52	53	54	60.9	66.3	67.2
<b>North West Rate</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>England Rate</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>

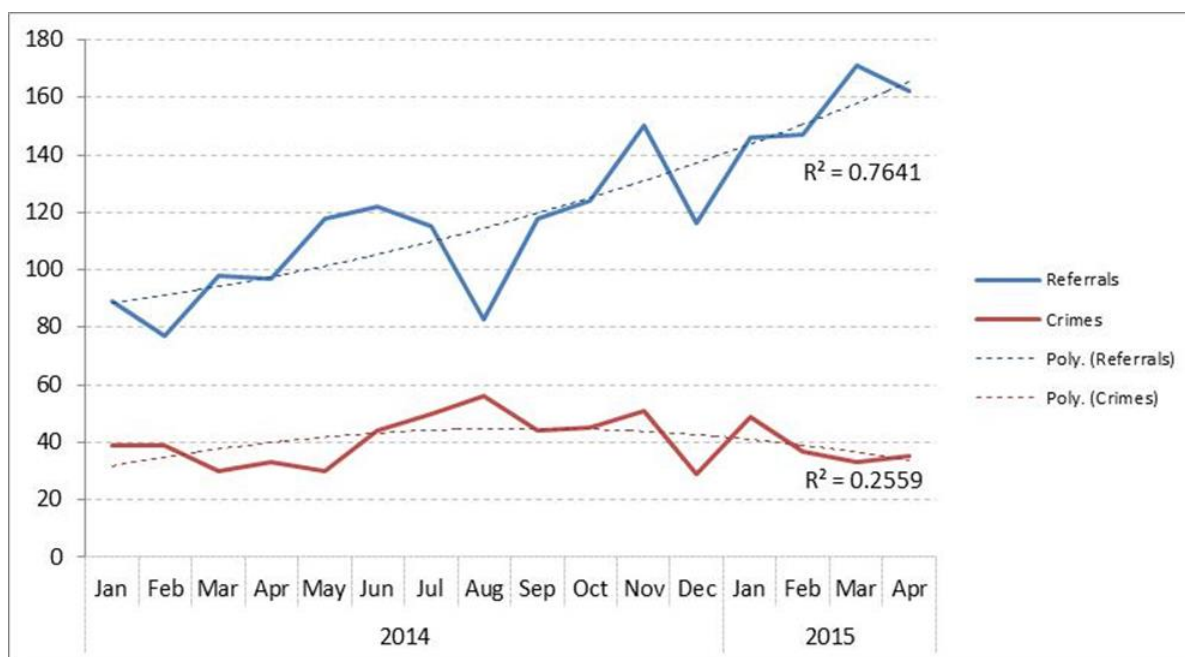
There are significant variations in numbers of CLA across the County as the following table illustrates along with categories of need.

	ABUSE OR NEGLECT	CHILD ILLNESS OR DISABILITY	PARENTAL ILLNESS OR DISABILITY	FAMILY IN ACUTE STRESS	FAMILY DYSFUNCTION	SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR	ABSENT PARENTING	LOW INCOME	NOT STATED	OTHER	Total
CSC Burnley	161		6	11	58	4	3				<b>243</b>
CSC Chorley and South Ribble	107		5	24	17	1	1		1		<b>156</b>
CSC Fylde and Wyre	71	1		10	24		1	1			<b>108</b>
CSC Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	126	2		9	33	1	4			1	<b>176</b>
CSC Lancaster	70	1	3	18	33	1	4				<b>130</b>
CSC Pendle	112		13	9	47	2	1				<b>184</b>
CSC Preston	113		3	20	45		2				<b>183</b>
CSC Rossendale	55	2	2	10	19		1				<b>89</b>
CSC West Lancashire	57	1	6	9	36						<b>109</b>
Adoption	3				2						<b>5</b>
CCPT	128		2	7	55	1	2				<b>195</b>
IDSS	17	23		2	1	1					<b>44</b>
Safeguarding Inspection Audit	1				2						<b>3</b>
YOT	2			3	4	3					<b>12</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1023</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1637</b>

Abuse and neglect are clearly the most common reasons for children being looked after with family dysfunction / stress making up most of the remainder. As would be expected the more economically deprived districts have the highest rates.

## Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The graph below shows the rate of referrals to the Police and recorded crimes with a CSE marker across County for the last 2 years.



It can clearly be seen that referral rates have shown a general increase while recorded crimes have shown a more consistent trend around the same levels. This may be largely attributable to the high levels of awareness raising across agencies in Lancashire over recent years, resulting in more practitioners noticing early warning signs and seeking advice and support for potential victims.

## Children Missing from Home/Care/Education

The table below shows the data for the last 3 years for children reported missing

Setting	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Home	600	495	453
Care	49	66	94
Education	336	335	348
<b>Total</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>895</b>

Children missing from the family home continues to decrease each year but increase each year for Children missing from care. This may be linked to the increase in children from other areas placed in Lancashire who we know are at greater risk of going missing. Children missing education has changed little over the 3 periods.

## Early Help

Lancashire agencies have invested significant resources in early help services and the use of CAF / TAF as an assessment and early help framework for children families in need of help or 'struggling to cope'. During 2014/15 a total of 1527 CAF assessments were completed (i.e - the identified needs met) which is approximately double the previous year where 885 were completed.

## Summary

Ensuring appropriate provision and equity of service access across the complex and diverse area that comprises Lancashire is a key challenge for all agencies providing services. The clear increase in the

demand for Children's Social Care services evident in 2013/14 is still largely evident when compared to national averages though there appears to be a slowing down of this increase on the whole. This has also been mirrored by a substantial increase in CAF and early help interventions, though it remains to be seen whether continued investment in early help results in the number of CLA or subject to a CPP reducing.

Lancashire is largely above national averages on most indicators illustrated above and the Local Authority and its partners are meeting this challenge effectively by largely maintaining performance levels and in some cases improving on previous years and this will continue to prove challenging within the current climate. Child sexual exploitation continues to be a priority for partner agencies in Lancashire and identification of young people at risk continues to be high. Lancashire continues to have challenges around the use of alcohol by young people, self harm and smoking in pregnancy.

Engagement with private children's homes remains a challenge, especially in light of the number of establishments in Lancashire, and future activity will explore how the LSCB can engage with and hold them to account more effectively.