

Towards a thriving Lancashire  
*Recovering our health and wellbeing*

# Public Health Annual Report

2021 - 2022





# Towards a thriving Lancashire

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## Acknowledgements and Contributors

This report has been produced with the hard work and dedication of many individuals across Lancashire County Council and partner bodies.

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# Foreword by The Director of Public Health for Lancashire



This year's public health report builds on the previous report entitled 'Investing in the health and wellbeing of Lancashire 2019-2020' published just before the Covid-19 pandemic began. The pandemic has shown how interlinked securing our health is with every other aspect of our lives and indeed the global economy. It has also shown that with the resolve of our communities across Lancashire, we have endured unprecedented restrictions to lives and relied on mutually protective behaviours in keeping Lancashire safe and well.

With the prospect of reducing levels of infections, thanks to the measures like handwashing, face masks, regular testing, and better ventilated spaces, along with increasing immunity achieved

through the vaccination programme, we are beginning to see the signs of how this pandemic will end. Whilst this could mark the beginning of the end of the immediate crisis, it also marks the end of the beginning of what looks like a long and significant road of recovery and reforms in Lancashire.

Whilst remaining hopeful, we must also act with humility that we are still in the middle of a pandemic and be honest in our appraisals of the health inequalities deepened during the last two years. Real world evidence tells us that approximately 20 per cent of a person's health is dependent on the healthcare services they receive. The other 80 per cent is accounted for by what is known as the social determinants of health. The World Health Organisation states that "the social conditions in which people are born, live, and work are the single most important determinant of good health or ill health, of a long and productive life, or a short and poor quality one. Social determinants of health include experience during the early years, education, working conditions, income, housing, communities and environment, and discrimination and exclusion".

Local government has a successful track record of making significant differences to the public's health by working with local communities to ensure that places continue to thrive. Most local government action happens with the close collaboration of other sectors such as the NHS, businesses and the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprises.

With a greater level of collaboration amongst the local government sector ahead in the form of a Greater Lancashire Plan along with the creation of Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS), we can make further and faster progress on social determinants of health in Lancashire and in pursuing a cross sector programme of work in reducing health inequalities.

This report describes the state of our health and wellbeing across Lancashire and how Covid-19 has impacted our lives and livelihoods. It aims to reframe our health as an asset in Lancashire rather than a liability and highlights the importance of our actions to develop a thriving and inclusive economy and addressing climate change as key determinants of our wellbeing. The report also makes high level recommendations to improve our outcomes and reducing inequalities.

Whilst our team continues to respond to the threats to our health posed by the pandemic, we are also determined to recover key public health outcomes and support the reform of wider public services in reducing health inequalities. Our aim is to support Lancashire residents thrive well through better life chances. I look forward to working with you in developing Lancashire as a safer, fairer, and a healthier place for all.

**Dr Sakthi Karunanithi**  
Director of Public Health  
Lancashire County Council

# 1. Population at a Glance

Lancashire population of **1,227,100** has increased by **7,300** in the latest year (2020).

But projected growth is below NW and England

The gender ratio is currently  
**49.4%** men  
**50.6%** women

## Estimated ethnic breakdown of Lancashire's population (2019)

- White: Lancashire - **91% (89% White British)** England - **84% (79% White British)**
- Ethnic minority communities: **9%** compared to **16%** in England.
- Asian (**7%**) is the largest ethnic minority group (compared to **8%** in England)
- Pendle (**23%**) and Preston (**22%**) have the largest ethnic minority communities
- Burnley and Hyndburn have **14%** ethnic minority communities.
- Ribble Valley, West Lancashire and Wyre have a **2%** ethnic minority population. .


Lancashire Early Years  
 There were **281,200**

children aged **0-19** in Lancashire in 2020, an increase of **0.5%** on 2019.


The **%** of children living in low income households was **higher** than for England.

School readiness in Lancashire is **worse** than for England.

## Lancashire Health Inequalities

The latest female life expectancy (LE) at birth in Lancashire (2018-20) was 

**82.0** years. This is **0.3** years **lower** than in 2017-19.

The latest male life expectancy (LE) at birth in Lancashire (2018-20) was 

**78.3** This is **0.3** years **lower** than in 2017-19

## Lancashire Economy

**£32.6 billion** gross domestic product  
**£28.5 billion** gross value added

**44,970** businesses employ less than 50 people  
**98%**

Productivity **£31.60** per hour worked  
**11.5%** below England's figure

## The Covid-19 Pandemic in Lancashire - 31 October 2021

**187k** cases so far in Lancashire, that's around **15.2%** of the total population which is higher than the England %

**3,225** Covid deaths (within 28 days) to date. Most Covid-19 deaths so far occurred during 2020

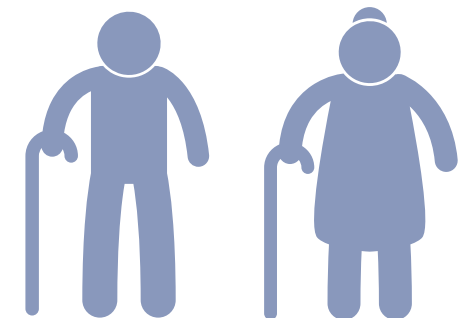
**185** patients in hospital with Covid-19 now. Winter 20/21 saw up to **800** per day

Covid-19 vaccinations has now covered **79.4%** of 16+ population with 1 dose  
**72.9%** of 16+ population with 2 doses

## Ageing Well in Lancashire

The Lancashire population aged **65+** was **255,637** in 2020.

The **65+** population has **increased** by **2,600** people between 2019 and 2020.

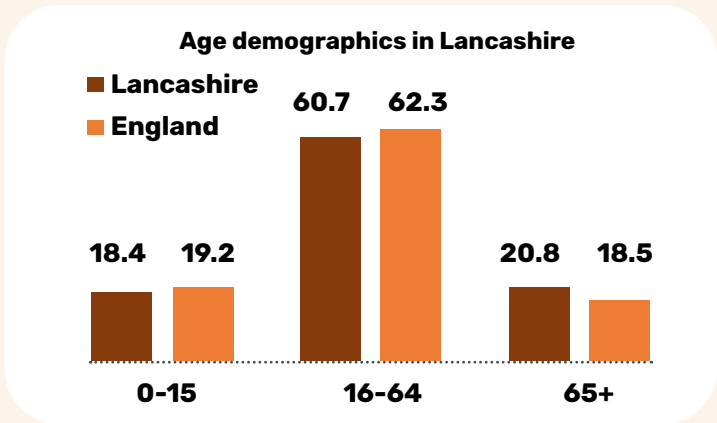


Known as the **old age dependency ratio**, Lancashire has only **2.9** working age people per older person, which is lower than England which has **3.7** working age people to one older person

# Quality of Life

## Healthy Ageing

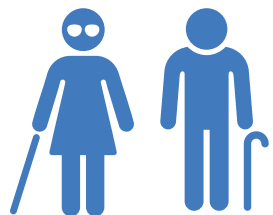
Longer lives are one of society's greatest achievements but with over half of adults expected to be 50 or over by 2035, we must seize the opportunity to enable more people in later life to be **happy, healthy and active**.



Lancashire has a **higher %** of older people than the North West or indeed England.

## Unpaid Carers

Becoming an **unpaid carer** in your 50s increases a person's chances of leaving the labour market for good, is associated with health problems and restricts social and leisure activities.



In 2020 there were an estimated

**38,396**

people in Lancashire over the age of **65** providing unpaid care to a partner, family member or other, by **2035** this number will have risen by an estimated **28%** to

**49,219**

## Factors that contribute towards living a healthy life

### Healthy Weight

Lancashire (**67.4%**) had a higher proportion of **adults classed as overweight or obese** than England. (**62.8%**) (2019/20)

### Activity

In Lancashire (**23.9%**) the proportion of physically inactive adults was similar to the England value (**22.9%**) (2019/20)

### Vaccinations

In 2019/20, **72.6%** of those in Lancashire aged **65+** had their **flu vaccination**. This was slightly higher than the England value (**72.4%**) but lower than the national **75%** target for this age group.



**Healthier Years**

### Smoking

The percentage of adult smokers (**13.8%**) was similar to the North West (**14.5%**) and England value (**13.9%**) (2019)

### Health Checks/Screening

**56.2%** of the eligible population (age 40-74) in Lancashire had their **NHS Health Check** (2016/17-2021), which was better than the England average of **33.4%**.  
**Bowel cancer screening** coverage in Lancashire **increased** to **65.5%** and is higher than the England average of **63.8%**

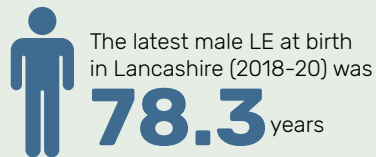
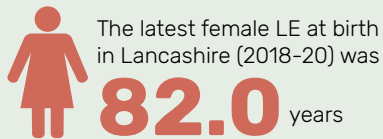
# 2. Health Inequalities in Lancashire

Life expectancy has decreased overall in both the most and least deprived areas. Males living in the least deprived communities live 10.3 years longer than those in the most deprived, and the gap is 7.8 years for females.

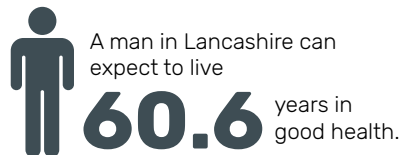
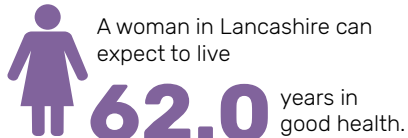
## Life expectancy

### Where are we now?

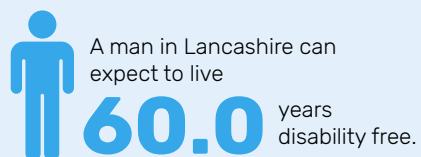
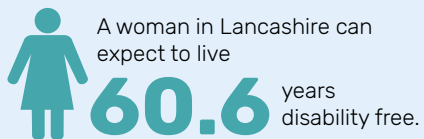
#### Life Expectancy (LE) at Birth



#### Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE)



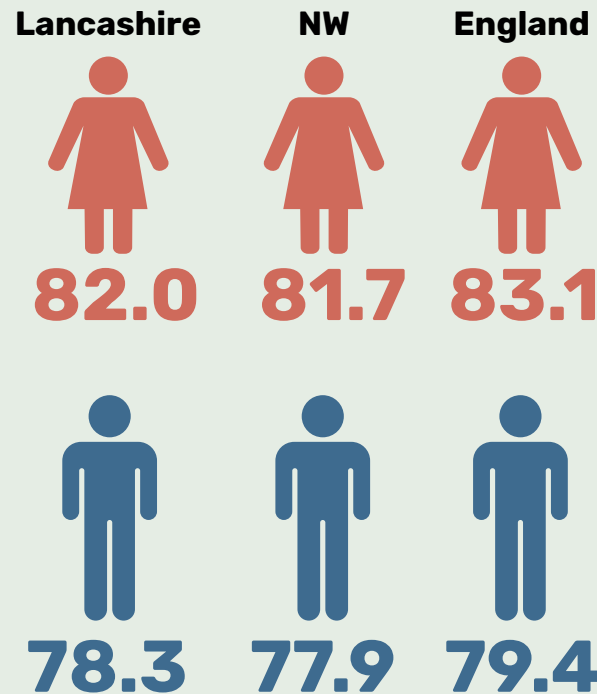
#### Disability Free Life Expectancy (DFLE)



### How do we compare?

#### Life Expectancy (LE) at Birth

For both women and men, LE in Lancashire is just higher than the NW but **lower** than England.



#### Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE)

In Lancashire HLE is **similar to** the **North West**

**61.7 Men 62.2 Women**

and lower than **England** values for men and women

**63.2 Men 63.5 Women**

#### Disability Free Life Expectancy (DFLE)

For women DFLE is statistically similar to the England value of

**61.2**

but for men DFLE is **lower** than the England value of

**62.7**



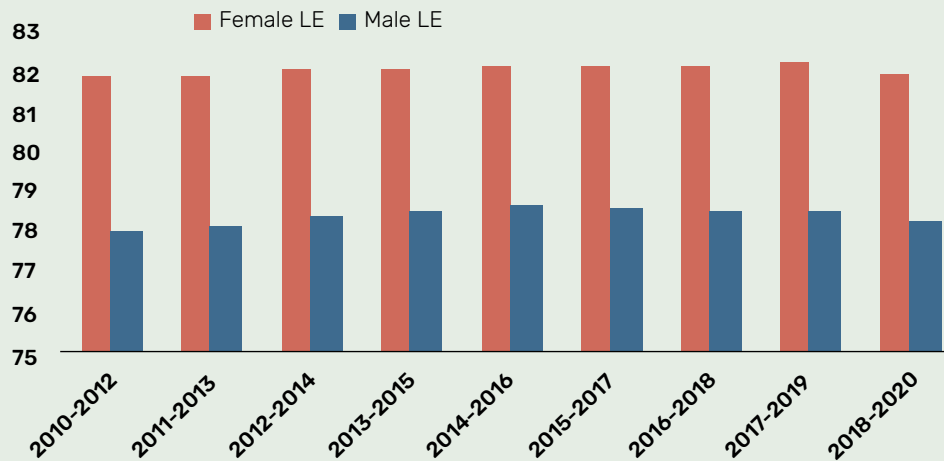
# Lancashire Trends



## Life Expectancy (LE)

LE has been gradually increasing but dropped in 2018-20

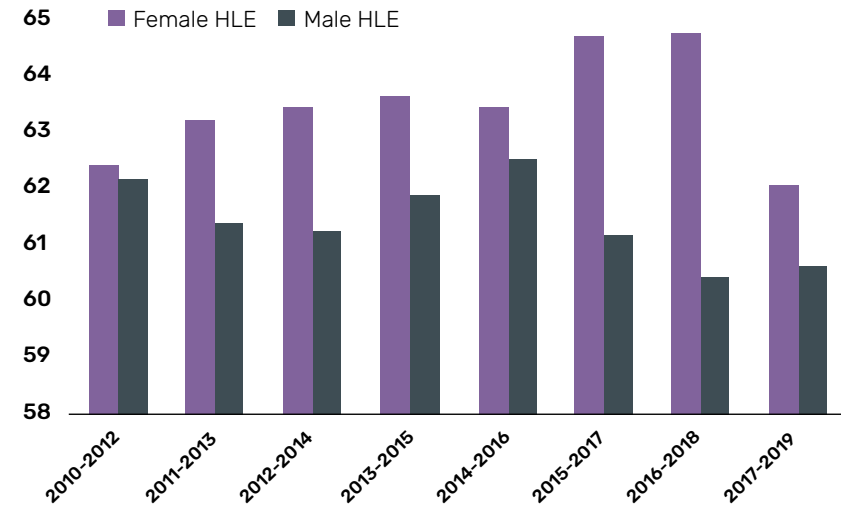
**Life Expectancy (LE) at birth**



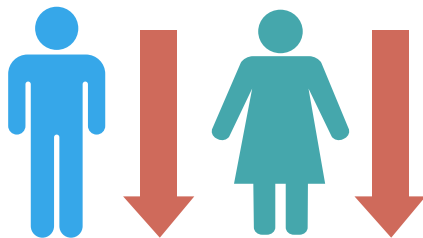
## Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE)

Female HLE has fallen by 2.6 years in the latest period.

**Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE)**



Life expectancy is falling and falling faster in most deprived areas.



Inequality in life expectancy at birth for both **males** and **females** is in the



**second worst quintile in England**

Across Lancashire there is a wide variation in

**male and female**

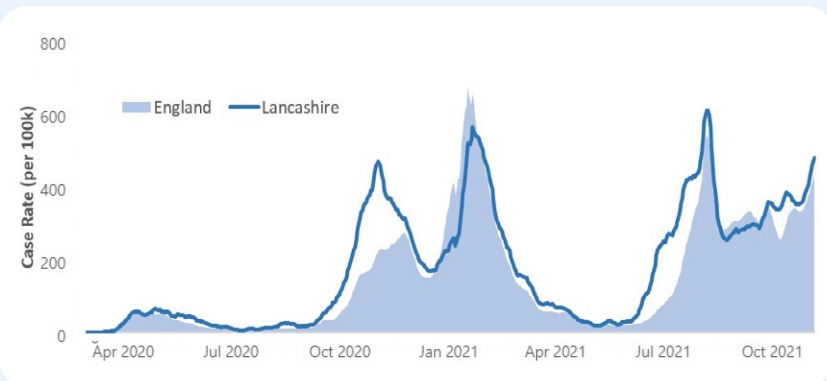
life expectancy. The **lowest** is in Burnley and **highest** is in the Ribble Valley.



# 2.1 Covid-19 Pandemic



## Lancashire Covid-19 Cases over Time >187,000 cases recorded (Oct 2021)

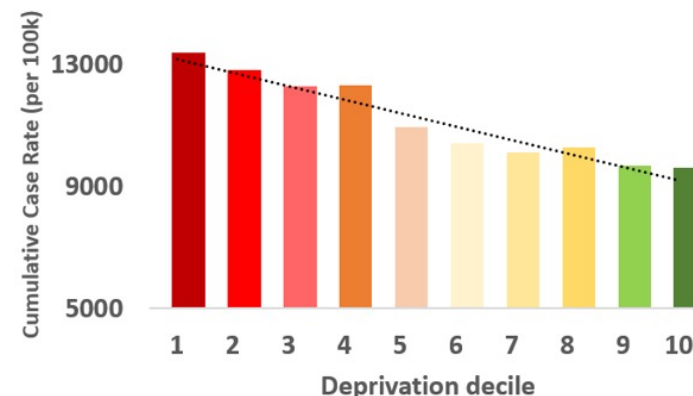


Lancashire cases rates are currently **higher than** England rates.

Lancashire was also often **ahead of the curve** experiencing case rises sooner than England.

Over **187,000** cases have been recorded so far in Lancashire (Data at 20 October 2021) although this is being closely monitored.

## Lancashire Cases and Deprivation



The cumulative case rate (per 100k population) was higher for deprived decile areas and lower for **the least deprived** areas. The graph shows the relationship to August 2021.

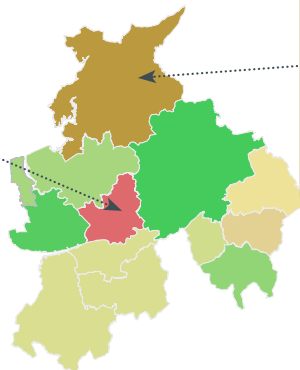
However, during September and October 2021 cases have been more evenly distributed between deprivation deciles. This will be due in part to high child case numbers.

## Lancashire Cases at District Level

Cases were **not distributed** evenly around the districts. Cumulative cases as of 20 October 2021 are mapped below.

Preston had the most cases at:

**24k**



Lancaster had the 2nd highest number of cases at:

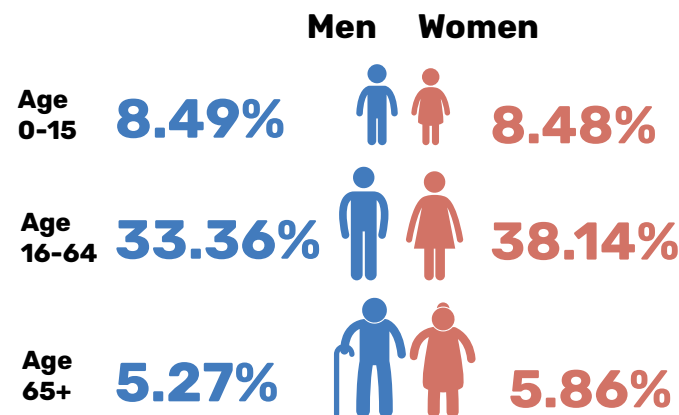
**19k**

## Lancashire Covid-19 Cases and Age/Gender

**71.5%**

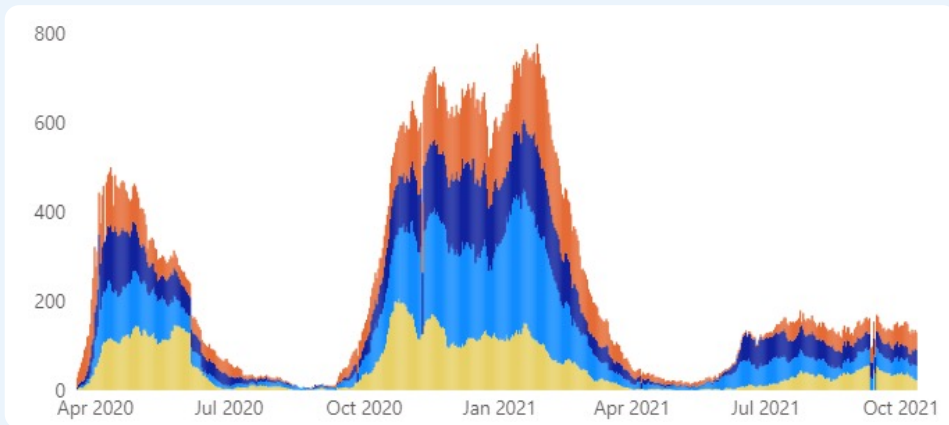
of cases were in the **working age population.**

The higher proportion of cases in women represents this larger population group, especially age 65+. For most, hospitalisation risk and/or death was small if baseline health was good and vaccination received.



# Covid-19 Hospitalisations, Vaccination and Deaths

## Lancashire Covid-19 Hospitalisations over Time

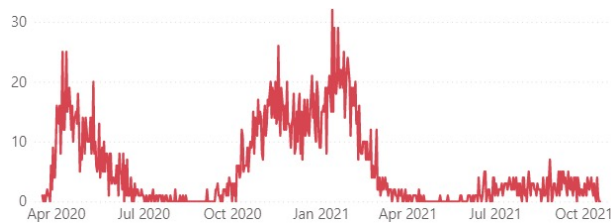


**Winter 2020/21** saw most Covid-19 inpatients – with up to 800 in hospital daily (October 2020–January 2021).

Beyond this time the number of people admitted to hospital was lower. This reduction aligned with the widespread **vaccination roll out programme** and improved treatments for Covid-19.

At the time of collating (Oct 2021) there were around 130 Covid-19 inpatients on any given day and patient numbers were fairly steady.

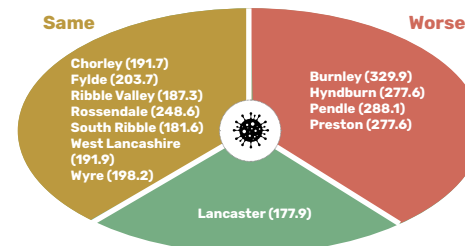
## Lancashire Covid-19 Deaths



Since the beginning of the pandemic to date (Oct 2021) there have been around **3,225 Lancashire deaths** within 28 days of a Covid-19 diagnosis: around 2,000 during the year 2020 and 1,200 so far during 2021.

The **winter period** – Nov 2020 to Feb 2021– accounted for almost half (**45.5%**) of Covid-19 deaths so far.

**Covid-19 mortality rates varied by district, all districts EXCEPT Lancaster had mortality rates the same or worse than England during the period March 2020 – April 2021.**



**Districts with the worst rates = those with highest % of deprived areas.**

**For the two main ethnicities in Lancashire, White British, and Asian/Asian British, at October 2021, cumulative Covid-19 Case rates in Lancashire were:**

Around **14k** per 100k for White British residents

Around **18k** per 100k for Asian/Asian British residents

Definitive quality assured data has not been published, so rates above were computed from case numbers and 2011 Census based population estimates.

## Lancashire Vaccination

Up to **200k**

doses were being administered per month during spring/summer 2021.



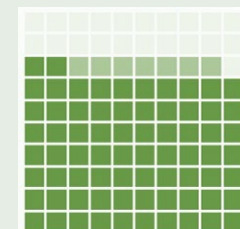
At late Oct 2021,

**79.4%**

of the adult Lancashire population (aged 12+) had been given their first dose vaccine.

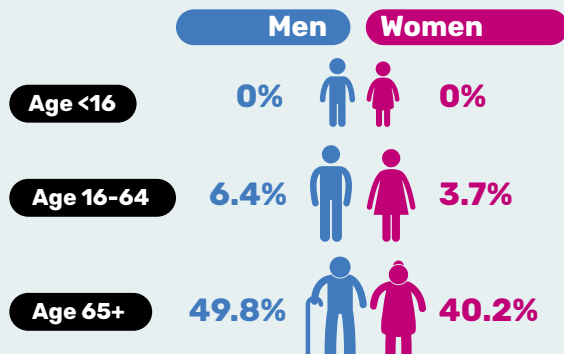
**72.9%**

had also had their second.



The **'booster'** rollout has started, find more [data here](#)

## Distribution of Covid-19 deaths by age and gender



Deaths in the **65+ age group** were highest. **Deaths in men were higher** than in women. Covid-19 mortality rate varied by district (right), and all except Lancaster were worse than England. Note: the districts with higher rates than England are also those highest % of deprived areas (data to Aug 21).

# 3. Early Years, Children and Young People

## Child Inequalities – wider determinants

Analysis shows the number of children

# aged 0 to 15

in Lancashire will peak in **2022** and then begin to decline.



In Lancashire (2020) there were

## 281,290 (22.9%)



children age 0-19. This is less than **23.6%** regionally and England

## Children Looked after

The numbers of Children Looked after is significantly higher than the England average

## 83 per 10,000

in Lancashire compared to

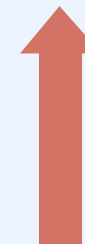
## 67

 in England.

Trend shows the rate is **increasing** and **getting worse**.



Children in absolute low-income families (under 16s) - remains significantly worse than the England average. The trend shows it **increasing** and **getting worse**.



## School readiness



The percentage of children with free school meal status achieving a good level of development at the end of reception for Lancashire is **52.3%** and worse than the **56.5%** England average.



Children killed and seriously injured on roads in Lancashire is **33.8** per 100,000

which is **significantly worse** compared to

## 18.0

 per 100,000 England average.

Children achieving a good level of development at the end of reception is significantly **worse** than the England average. Lancashire is **69.2%** compared to **71.8%** in England in 2018/19,

# Child Health Inequalities

Overall, comparing local indicators with England averages, the health and wellbeing of children in Lancashire is worse than England.

## Infant mortality

**46** infants dying each year before the age of one - this is similar to **England** (2018-20)

**31** deaths each year for those aged 1-17 years which is **worse than England** (2017-19).

**368 (3.27%)**

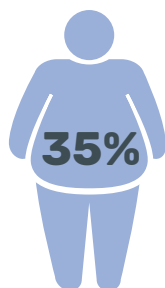
Live births at term with low birth weight are similar to the England rate.



Infant mortality rate is higher in the more deprived areas of the county.



**of reception-aged children** are overweight or **obese**, which is **worse** than England (2019/20)



**of year six children**, are overweight or obese (2019/20). This rate is similar to England but **increasing** and getting **worse**

Obesity levels in children have **increased** during the pandemic which is a major public health issue for children. This is likely to be caused by higher calorie intakes due to change in lifestyles and habits including buying more food and having more takeaways as well as reduced opportunities for sports and physical activity due to lockdown.



The rate of hospital admissions for **mental health conditions** for **under-18s** is

**93.6** per 100,000

**similar to England**. This rate is **decreasing** and getting better (2019/20).



In 10-24 year olds, the rate of **hospital admissions** due to **self harm** is

**482.7** per 100,000

This is worse than England (2019/20)

**12.1%**



of women **smoke while pregnant**. This is worse than England (**9.6%**), but the trend is showing an **improving** picture (2020/21).

## The teenage pregnancy rate (under-18)

**387** girls becoming pregnant in a year (2019).



The trend shows no significant change. This is **worse than the England average**

Lancashire's teenage pregnancy rate was **20.3** per **1,000** females aged 15-17, compared to England's **15.7**

**30.4%**

of five-year-olds having visually obvious **dental decay** (2018/19). This is **worse** than **23.4%** England average



By age two,

**89.4%**



of children have had one dose of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccination (2020/21). This is **worse** than the **90.3%** England average.

# 3.1 Impact of Covid-19 on Children

Providing face-to-face health visiting services has been a challenge during the lockdown. However, health assessments and reviews have still been undertaken with thousands of new mothers and babies being assessed.

Between April 2020 and March 2021

**7,430 (66%)**

mothers received an antenatal contact.

By July 2021 this has increased to **78%**

Between April 2019 and March 2020

**9,496 (79%)**

infants received a 6-8-week check compared to

**7,440 (64%)**

between April 2020 - March 2021  
(This is **worse** than **80%** England average)

This has increased to **89%** by July 2021

Between April 2019 and March 2020

**9,338 (78%)**

mothers received a **birth visit by 14 days** compared to

**10,001 (86%)**

between **April 2020 - March 2021**

(This is **worse** than **88%** England average)

This has increased to **91%** by July 2021



Between April 2019 and March 2020

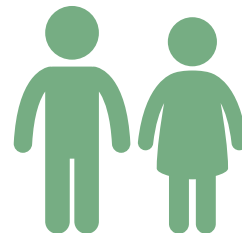
**11,412 (92%)**

infants received a **12-month review by 15 months** compared to

**10,700 (85%)**

between April 2020 - March 2021  
(This is **better** than **76%** England average)

This has increased to **90%** by July 2021



Between April 2020 and March 2021

**10,648 (83%)**

of children received a **2-2.5 year review**. This is **better** than the England average (**71%**). This has increased to **84%** by July 2021.



# What are our school age children telling us about their health needs?

The academic year 2020/21 was faced with many challenges, including a lockdown, school closures and children and young people isolating. This pandemic has had an impact on the mental health and wellbeing of young people as identified in the 2021 health needs assessment survey.

**54%** of year 9s **often or always feel angry**. This is more than the **49%** in 2019.

**13%** of year 9s often feel overwhelmed by daily problems and difficulties and cannot cope. This is higher than the **9%** in 2019.

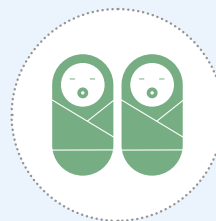
**30%** of year 9s often or always feel lonely. This is higher than the **22%** in 2019.

**21%** of year 9s **hardly ever or never feel hopeful** about their future which is higher than the **16%** in 2019.

**19%** of year 9s have deliberately hurt or harmed themselves. This is higher than the **15%** in 2019.

## Actions

**Population health** – partnership working to deliver actions in the infant mortality action plan – **1001** critical days.



### Breastfeeding advice and support available

Health visiting services, Children and Family Wellbeing Service and breastfeeding peer support were re-accredited with Baby Friendly Gold Standard in May 2021.

### Free healthy start vitamins

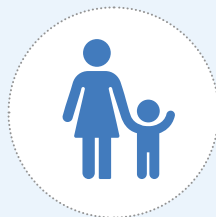
Free healthy start vitamins targeted at babies and families through the health visiting service.



Information and interventions to **reduce child deaths** from cosleeping and sudden infant deaths.

### Universal provision of services

- All families to be offered 5 mandated visits.
- All schools to have access to a named school nurse.



### Vision screening

Every child will be offered a vision screen in reception.



### School readiness

- Implementation of the early years strategy.
- Early language identification measure (ELIM) to be introduced as part of the 2 ½ year assessment.

### Oral health

- Free toothbrushes and toothpaste.
- Supervised toothbrushing.
- Development of an oral health strategy.



### Mental health

- Support for perinatal and postnatal mental health.
- Building resilience in children
- Training and resources for education settings.



### Child obesity

- Using a targeted approach to reduce childhood obesity through interventions supporting families and children to make healthier choices.



# 4. Communities and Place

During the Covid-19 pandemic local communities have demonstrated their collective collaboration and mobilisation of skills and assets through community hubs that have enabled some of the most vulnerable in society to be supported with essential needs and services.

## Tackling Inequalities - Community Hubs and Community Support

District and city councils set up community hubs to provide support to vulnerable people due to their age, health factors or through self-isolation, working alongside their local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector. Existing and new community groups came together, to provide support and work with their communities.

This included help to access a wide range of support such as food, medicine and finance, as well as support required to manage their mental health and find ways to keep connected socially while being isolated at home. During the pandemic communities across Lancashire responded quickly to provide much needed practical and emotional support. Examples are to the right.

### Lancashire Volunteer Partnership

**NHS Vaccination Marshalling**  
Between 01/01/21 and 30/9/21

**2,062** volunteers accepted

### Community Social Befriending

Between 01/04/21 and 30/9/21

**659** volunteers

### NHS Volunteer Responders

Providing vital support to communities including shopping, medication, telephone welfare. Over a 12-month period:

**5,887** referrals were made.

**4,635** people were helped,

**15,177** volunteers signed up.

### Home Start Central Lancashire

Supported over

**230** families and over

**650** children during the lockdown of 2020-21

### District/City Council Hubs

Set up to offer support to

**90,727**

shielding people to ensure they were provided with food, medicine and practical support

### Active Lancashire Challenge through Sport

Chit Chat WhatsApp group supporting those in substance misuse recovery and with poor mental health, ensuring

**80** participants always had someone to talk to and participation in training or activities.

### Age UK Lancashire

Made **22,566**

home visits to deliver essential shopping, cleaning and practical support.

**4,356**

people supported to remain independent following discharge from hospital.

## Volunteering and Community Support

### Disability Equality

**33,000** 'safe and well' calls to up to

**6,500** disabled clients and

**1,335** PPE deliveries

and supported clients with over **300** discrimination claims related to compulsory face covering and 'hidden' disabilities.

### Central Lancashire Age Concern

The charity delivered over

**15,000** parcels containing food and dementia packs.

The team received over **2,000**

calls and made a further **12,127** to those isolating. Over **380** new volunteers signed up and supported delivering meals, which equated to over **9.8** tonnes of food.



## Collaboration

Across the wider VCFSE sector we have seen an increase in the number of people volunteering and there has been recognition of the key role played by this sector in supporting our communities, such as:

### Preston Wellfest

Successful mental health event delivering activities to address the inequality gap. 15 local organisations invited – providing stalls, activities, advice, information and workshops to improve mental health and wellbeing

### Lancaster Food Poverty Alliance

Co-ordinating the distribution of food, including a project making frozen ready meals for those most vulnerable due to physical or mental ill health, or lack of cooking equipment. The project delivered to about 100 people every week over a six-month period. The alliance also launched their five-year action plan

### Lancashire Food Networking Event

The first Lancashire Food Networking Event was held in July 2021. The event brought community food organisations across Lancashire, including statutory authorities and members of the VCFSE to share experiences of food insecurity throughout the pandemic. 26 organisations attended and further collaboration is scheduled.

### Fleetwood Together

A collaboration with St Wulstan and St Edmunds Catholic parish, St Peter's C of E Parish, West View Community Centre, and other organisations successfully delivered food to 600 households, feeding up to 1,300-1,400 people

### Mosques as Vaccine Centres

As part of support delivering the Covid-19 vaccines to targeted groups, two mosques in Burnley became local vaccination centres and delivered over 600 first and second doses. Brierfield community centre aligned with a local mosque to provide a further 200 doses.

### West Preston Methodist Church: @Home Café

Set up to provide holistic support to vulnerable individuals, addressing physical, mental, emotional/social, and spiritual needs. Over 50 people have engaged with one or more activities, and this holistic approach to wellbeing is a fantastic example of what faith groups have to offer by working in partnership.

## Actions – some of the many projects that received funding support

### Lancashire Community Food Grant Scheme

During 2020/21 **grants were awarded** to 45 community food organisations with grants totalling **£42,053** to support projects that provide emergency food and tackle food insecurity to those most in need..



### Community Foundation for Lancashire – Red Rose Responding Fund

A total of **£125,446** has been awarded over 27 **grants for mental health support projects**. The fund continues and will distribute grants again early in 2022-23. As a consequence, Fylde Coast Women's Aid provided free advice and support to individuals experiencing domestic abuse, stalking and child sexual exploitation. Peer support, drop-in sessions, and recovery support for up to 65 women, included emotional, psychological and practical support.



### Wesley's Larder & Café (Community Hub Funding)

A project supplying low-cost wholesome meals and providing PPE. It delivered **70+ Christmas dinners to vulnerable people**, and supported schools links to the New Roots programme to support asylum seekers with language classes, food and accommodation.



### Fylde Coast Women's Aid (Community Hub Funding)

Provided free advice and support to individuals who are experiencing domestic abuse, stalking and child sexual exploitation. Funds went towards an outreach post to providing peer support, drop in sessions, and to map a unique tailored recovery pathway for a group of between **60-65 women**, to include **emotional, psychological and practical support** eg. safety planning, identifying coping mechanisms, parenting and improving financial capability.



# 5. Environment and Climate

Our environment underpins all aspects of our daily lives. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the interconnected nature of our health and the health of the planet. From the origins of disease to greater vulnerability resulting from social inequality, poor air quality and other environmental factors.



## Climate Change

The World Health Organisation has declared climate change the single biggest health threat facing humanity. The UK government has set a commitment to be Net Zero by 2050 to meet global commitments to limit temperature rise. However, past emissions means that significant climate impacts are inevitable.



Average **annual temperatures** in the North West are already around **1.5°C higher in the 21st century** compared with the end of the 19th century.

Lancashire's climate is projected to be **significantly warmer by the 2080s** with a **20-30% increase in winter rainfall** and a **20-40% decrease in summer rainfall**.

There is likely to be a **significant increase in rainfall** intensity and frequency of very heavy rainfall, leading to more frequent river flooding.

The effects are already being felt. There have been a **number of major wildfires on our moorlands** and more frequent weather events such as Storm Dennis in 2020. In 2015 Storm Desmond left around **5,200 homes flooded** and more than **43,000 homes without power** across Lancashire and Cumbria.

**Experiencing loss and damage from extreme weather** can increase the chance of facing **mental health problems by 50%**. Many residents that have been flooded live with the issues caused at least two years after the event.




## Emissions

In 2019 Lancashire's carbon emissions were

**7.4** million tonnes.

The **transport sector** is the largest source making up

**35%** of emissions, 

followed by **industry** and **commercial sectors** combined

**31%** and the **domestic sector** **25%**

- Lancashire's emissions have reduced by **32.7%** between 2005 and 2019. Nationally, total emissions have reduced by **36%**. This has been driven mainly by a large reduction in the amount of coal used for electricity generation.
- The rate of reduction has levelled in recent years. There is a huge challenge to meet **net zero** ambitions which will require changes to the way electricity is generated, how people travel, how land is used and how buildings are heated.

## Inequality



As the pandemic has demonstrated, communities that are already disadvantaged are among the most vulnerable to the effects of systemic shocks and extreme events, and climate change has the potential to widen existing health inequalities.

Older people are at most risk of extremes of heat and cold; lower income groups are disproportionately impacted by extreme weather by virtue of living in poorer quality housing in vulnerable locations and are less likely to be able to modify their homes to adapt to climate change.

Health equity needs to be at the heart of climate action to ensure that costs are not unfairly borne by people on low incomes, who often bear least responsibility for the emissions that cause climate change.

## Impact of Covid-19 on the Environment



The Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions imposed have provided some

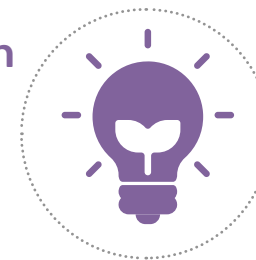
positive impacts on the environment, including lower emissions, improved air and water quality, reduced noise pollution and, in some cases, wildlife restoration. There has been an unprecedented impact on transport patterns, both in terms of the modes of transport we use and how frequently and far we travel.

Nationally, carbon dioxide emissions have estimated to

have **fallen** by **10.7%** in 2020 from 2019, primarily due to the large reduction in the use of road transport during the nationwide lockdowns and the reduction in business activity. However, as activity continues to resume any benefit is likely to be short-lived, and unlikely to have any significant impact on meeting longer-term emission targets.

There are opportunities to build on beneficial changes seen during the pandemic in how we live, work, produce, consume and travel, and the way our communities have mobilised to provide help and support to those in need.

## Co-benefits of Health and Climate Action



Action to mitigate and adapt to climate change can have lasting health improvements. From cleaner air, warmer and more energy-efficient homes, increased physical activity, more access to greenspace, improved mental health and creating well adapted, resilient communities.

There is a close relationship between **carbon emissions and air pollution**. There are 19 air quality management areas in Lancashire, designated due to poor air quality caused by vehicle emissions. Whilst levels of nitrogen oxides and particulates are below national air quality objectives, there is no evidence of a safe level of exposure below which there is no risk of adverse health effects.

The percentage of **adults walking and cycling for travel** at least three days a week is worse than the England average at just **11.9%** and **1.6%** respectively. Most commuter journeys are made by private vehicles (**69%**), just **7%** are by public transport with **13%** walking or cycling. Creating a modal shift away from private car and towards more active forms of travel as well as public transport can reduce emissions and improve physical activity.

### Fuel poverty in Lancashire is higher than the England average.

Much of the county's housing is old with poor insulation linked to high emissions and poor health outcomes. Greening Lancashire's housing stock will have multiple benefits.

### Access to parks, woodlands and greenspaces became increasingly important

during the pandemic. Nature can play a huge role in improving health and wellbeing, as well as providing opportunities for carbon capture, flood management and reducing urban heat.

Community action is often driven by a motivation to **improve places, the local environment and quality of life**. Mobilised communities can play a leading role in both the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

## 6. Economy and Health

Put simply, there is no wealth without health. For Lancashire to thrive and be the best location for economic growth, it needs to invest in the health and wellbeing of its working age population and its future workforce. This will ultimately lead to its enduring economic prosperity.

Recent research has projected that the Lancashire economy could be increased by an estimated **£8.2 billion** if we improve the conditions that make up the wider definition of productivity. This includes our working age population, skills, employment, the digital economy, sickness levels, economic inactivity, commuting, transport, housing, innovation, and research. Poor health accounts for about a sixth of this gap. Improving these would see Lancashire and its workforce flourish.

The place, where we are born and live, matters. This is because everything is connected: the social and economic conditions we are born into, our communities, learning and employment opportunities – all affect health throughout life as well as across generations. Increased inequalities in health are not just a problem for the NHS, they are a problem for everyone. Lancashire's growth needs to be inclusive and fair. Reversing this trend will have a beneficial impact on productivity and economic opportunities for Lancashire.

**Keeping people in work and reducing ill-health-related absences and loss of productivity is a priority.** Being absent from work places significant cost on both employees and employers as well as the economy.

**Mental Health Matters** - In Lancashire,

there are **146,611**

adults (aged 18+ years) with a **confirmed diagnosis of depression**, accounting for **15.0%** of the total 18+ registered population. This is higher than the England prevalence of 12.3%. Work can also be a common cause of stress and mental health problems, with **15.9 million days** in the UK being lost in 2020 to work-related stress and anxiety.

If wider productivity matched the English average, about **£8.2 billion**

would be added to Lancashire's economy. Poor health accounts for approximately a sixth of this amount

**£1.3 billion.** 



**Physical Health Matters** - Disease of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue accounted for

**13.6% (5,084)**

of the total Employment and Support Allowance claims in Lancashire (**England = 12.6%, NW = 12.8%**).

**Inclusion Matters** - Linked to mental wellbeing is **social isolation** where previous evidence in the report, Hidden from View, confirms the **link to unemployment and social exclusion.**

**Education and Lifelong learning** – Improvements in attainment and development of training offers would help individuals, businesses, organisations and the Lancashire economy flourish.

Of the **economically active population** aged **16 to 64** in Lancashire,

**29.2%** have low or no qualifications

(England = **22.5%**), whilst **33.8%** have a degree or equivalent and above (England = **40.1%**).

### **Recognising that where we live influences our health.**

A warm and dry home can improve health outcomes, for example improved respiratory conditions. Where we live can lead to poor physical health, influence mental health and wellbeing as well as educational attainment.

The latest **fuel poverty statistics** from winter 2019 indicated that

**13.7%**

of households (**71,822**) were fuel poor in Lancashire (England = 13.4%). Six Lancashire areas were in the top third of the national fuel poverty rankings.

In England, in 2019

**23%**

of dwellings in the private rented sector failed to meet the Decent Homes Standard. This is higher than the proportion for owner occupied homes (**16%**) and the social rented sector (**12%**).

In 2020, the **house price to earnings ratio** for Lancashire was **5.42**

(North West = **5.72**, England = **7.84**). Within Lancashire, ratios range from **3.75** to **6.66** times earnings. Burnley (**3.75**) had the fourth lowest ratio in England and Wales. Pendle (**4.25**) and Hyndburn (**4.33**) also had low ratios, whilst Ribbles Valley (**6.66**), West Lancashire (**6.20**) and Wyre (**6.04**) had the highest ratios locally.

### **Opportunities for change**

**Work is a critical determinant of good health and a flourishing economy.** Unemployment is associated with an increased risk of illness and reduced life expectancy. There are inequalities in employment rates between those that have good health and those that have a health condition or disability.

In February 2021, the number of people claiming working age '**Out of Work**' benefits in Lancashire totalled

**112,069** people

or **15.0%** of the working age population. (England = **14.3%**). Burnley (**23.4%**), Hyndburn (**21.2%**), Pendle (**18.1%**), Preston (**16.9%**), Rossendale (**15.9%**) and Wyre (**15.3%**) were in the highest third of the England rankings.

In 2021, the **residence-based median gross weekly earnings** for Lancashire was **£465.00**

some **£44.30 (8.7%)** lower than England (**£509.30**). Nine of the twelve Lancashire areas had estimates that were between **7.5%** and **21.7%** below the England figure.

# Impact of Covid-19



The pandemic has had an impact on Lancashire's economy in terms of output, employers, employment, education and people receiving support.

As a result of the initial Covid-19 lockdown Claimant Count numbers almost doubled, rising from

**23,000** people in March 2020 to

**45,690** people in May 2020

Figures have reduced in 2021 and as at October 2021, the numbers were

**12,470 (27.3%)**

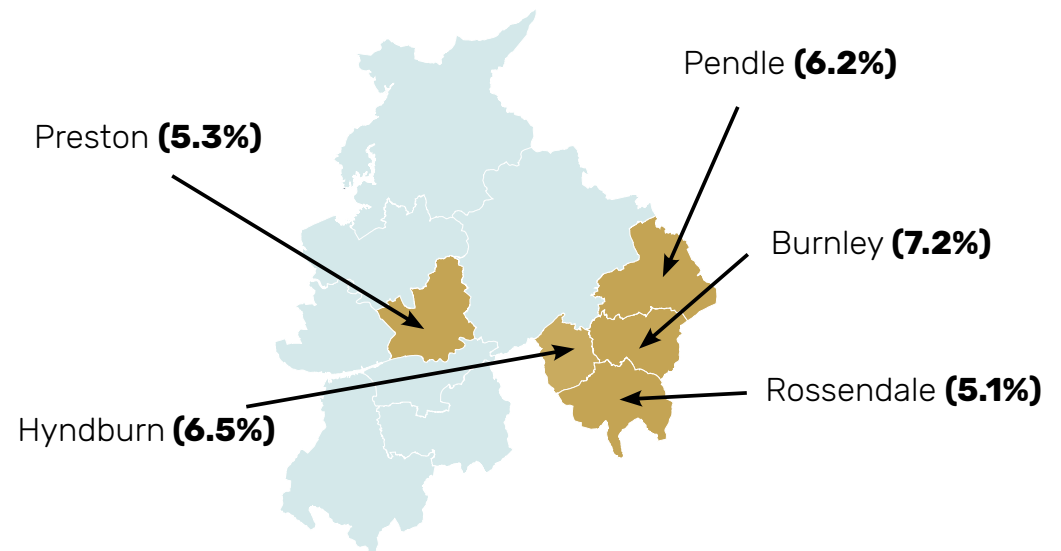
lower than the initial May 2020 peak.

As at September 2021, the number of people on **Universal Credit** in Lancashire was

**106,557** or **75.9%**

higher than March 2020.

## The Lancashire average hides inequalities at the district level



Burnley (7.2), Hyndburn (6.5), Pendle (6.2), Preston (5.3) and Rossendale (5.1) have high Claimant Count proportions (**England = 4.9%**). The majority of these are in the east of the county. Proportions in the rest of the county range from **4.0%** in Wyre to **2.1%** in Ribble Valley.

Between March 2020 and June 2021, employment has fallen from

**559,300** to **542,800**

Between June 2020 and 2021, the number of self-employed people has fallen from

**94,500** to **73,700**



Those people previously **furloughed** are likely to have lost income and some may have lost their job.



Some of the **self-employed** or those in precarious employment **may have lost income or their livelihoods.**

Employers may be managing **economic challenges**, complex business decisions and their workforce.



## Health is an essential asset for Lancashire to thrive

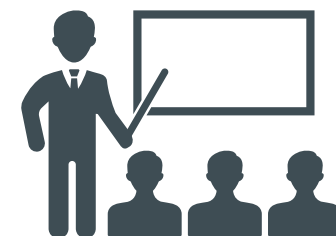
Good quality jobs are of critical importance for reducing health inequalities. The prospect of access to local employment through educational attainment and the opportunity to learn and develop in-work are important. So too is support for flexible working to enable a balance of work and family life.



The prospects for Lancashire are now more exciting than ever. Among the many developments in Lancashire, the establishment of the National Cyber Security Centre at Samlesbury is predicted to create thousands of high-quality jobs in the county by 2030 and bring in £5 billion of investment. The proposed Eden-style project on Morecambe seafront will also provide a huge boost to the local economy, attracting thousands of visitors and employing more than 400 people.



Lancashire's health sector and key anchor institutions are growing. The development of skills and capability to enable local recruitment and retention is supported by our world-class higher educational institutions, which attract innovation and developments of new technology into the heart of our economy. They inspire our youth and working age population to grow and flourish.



Putting health at the centre of policy development and working in partnership, Lancashire will invest in its communities to provide adaptable and affordable new housing, sustainable, connected town centre regeneration programmes and spatial plans that support enduring economic productivity and inclusive prosperity.



# 7. Healthy Ageing

Longer lives are one of society's greatest achievements but with over half of adults nationally expected to be 50 or over by 2035, we must seize the opportunity to enable more people in later life to be happy, healthy and active, and to use their skills, knowledge and experience to benefit the wider community. Currently, too many people spend a significant proportion of their later life in poor health, or managing a disability that could have been prevented, and there are huge inequalities in healthy and disability-free life expectancy across the country. These years spent in ill health are not inevitable, and many of the factors that cause people to age differently can be prevented or the impact mitigated through public health interventions.

## Population Health

Lancashire has a population of

**1,227,076**

of which

**690,149**

are 20-64 (56.2%) and

**255,637**

(20.8%) are aged 65 and over.

The impact of the rising prevalence of dementia, loneliness and the number of those caring for ill family members is substantial. In Lancashire the recorded prevalence of dementia (**4.22%**) in ages **65+** is higher than the England average (**3.97%**)

Estimates suggest that there are

**17,607**

**65+** persons living **with dementia** in Lancashire, of which **63%** are female, and this is projected to increase to

**19,567** by 2025.

By 2040, Lancashire's population aged 65 and over is estimated to increase by **35%** compared to England's **38%** increase.

The rate of growth in population **aged 65** and over varies across the region with areas like the Ribble Valley and Fylde projected to nearly double by 2040.

The number of **over-50s** experiencing **loneliness** is set to reach

**two million**

nationally by 2025/6. Loneliness increases the risk of death by **26%** and is on a par with health risks such as smoking and obesity.

Related to this an estimated **32.1% (82,000 people)** of Lancashire's population aged 65 and over live alone and this is similar to the England value of **32.2%**.

The percentage of 65 and over population living alone in Lancashire is projected to increase to just over **108,000** by 2035.

Becoming an **unpaid carer** in your 50s increases a person's chances of leaving the labour market for good, and is associated with health problems and restricts social and leisure activities.



Many working age adults and older people care for **ill family members** and nationally the possibility of becoming an unpaid carer increases up to **age 64** with people in the **50-64** age range being the most likely to have an elderly parent to care for.

## Inequalities



Public Health England recently published a national productive healthy ageing profile tool which provides data and further information on a wide range of topics relevant to our health as we age. There is a broad range of indicators, not only in terms of life expectancy related figures but also indicators related to quality of life, lifestyle, disease prevalence, CVD risk reduction and cancer screening programmes. There is also a comparison between how we compare to both the North West region and England as a whole.

In 2020 there were an estimated **38,396 (15.0%)**

people in Lancashire **aged 65 and over** providing unpaid care to a partner, family member or other person. This is higher than the England figure of **14.1%**, and by 2035 this number in Lancashire will have risen by an estimated

**28%** to **49,219**

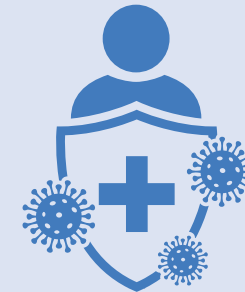




## Impact of Covid-19

The recently published **Wider Impacts of Covid-19 on Health (WICH)** monitoring tool is designed to explore the indirect effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the population's health and wellbeing and has particularly highlighted that:

**Loneliness** has also been exacerbated during the pandemic when lockdown restrictions and shielding requirements led to a decline in not just physical activity but also an adverse impact on both social isolation and mental health and wellbeing. The percentage of people who "often or always" felt lonely during the pandemic in Lancashire was reported to be **6.1%** but for certain districts this figure was as high as **13.5%**.



Older people have been more likely to be in the **shielded** or moderate risk category for Covid-19 and

together with the risk of death from **Covid-19** increasing with age, two thirds of older people are living with multiple long term conditions.



The pandemic has added a wide range of challenges for working age adults such as **childcare, home schooling, care for vulnerable relatives and ensuring adequate food and housing.**



**Older people have greater health and social care needs**, especially during their last years of life. In addition, older people are at significantly higher risk of developing dementia. People with a dementia diagnosis have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19

**27%**

of people who died with Covid-19 from March to June 2020 had **dementia**.

**82%**

reported a deterioration in their symptoms during the pandemic.

It is estimated that the impact on the provision of dementia diagnosis services has been significant which in part also helps explain the total number of patients aged over 65 with a recorded dementia diagnosis having fallen by a little under **10%** on a national basis compared to pre-Covid levels though this is now slowly rising again

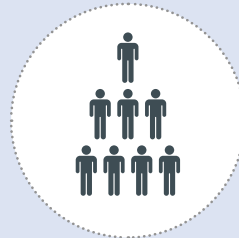
# 8. High-Level Recommendations

This report makes six high-level recommendations for a call to action to work towards a thriving Lancashire.



## Health in all policies approach

Adopt a health in all policies approach to reducing health inequalities across Lancashire.

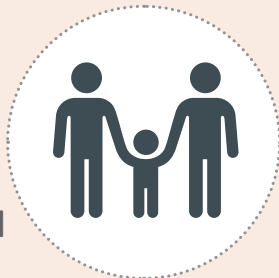


## Communities and place

Work more closely with wider system partners to support and improve how we do things, working alongside the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector as more equal partners.

## Early years, children and young people

Harness the relationships and ways of working which have developed during the pandemic to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people and reduce child health inequalities



## Environment and climate

Align health and climate goals, working with partners and our communities to transition away from carbon and build resilient communities that are well adapted to respond to climate change.



## Healthy Ageing

Ensure all key interfacing strategies in Lancashire have a healthy ageing focus and to demonstrate commitment to healthy ageing by signing up as a co-signatory to the PHE Healthy Ageing Consensus statement.

## Economy and Health

Address low in-work productivity, as the biggest single contributor to Lancashire's productivity gap, through work-based health programmes, supportive workplace practices and closer working relationships with key agencies such as DWP.



# 9. Data Sources

## Population at a Glance

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10. Covid-19 vaccinations. GOV.UK Coronavirus (Covid-19) in the UK. Available at: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

## Ageing well

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## Unpaid carers

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### Covid-19

#### Cases

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#### Hospitalisations

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## Healthy Ageing

### Population health

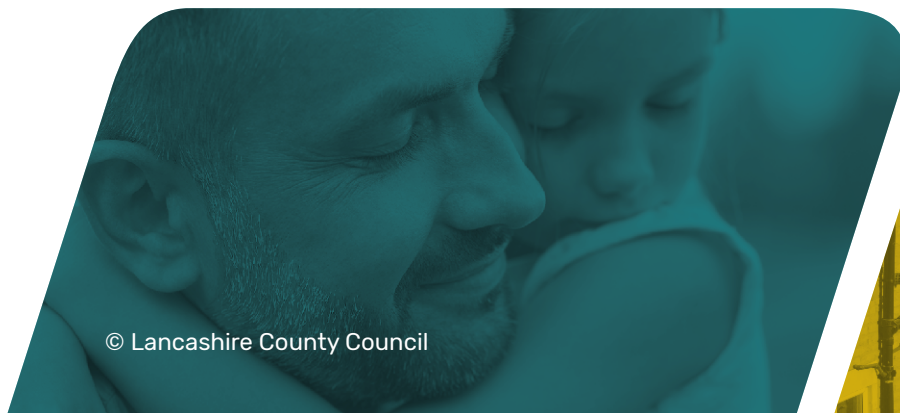
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**More information is available at**  
[www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/public-health](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/public-health)



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