

Consultation Findings

The draft priorities for community safety in Renfrewshire were developed taking into account the following consultation results:

(1) Strategic Assessment online survey

(a) The top three issues of highest importance were:

- Reduce crimes of violence (public place) (578)*
- Reducing drug related crime and disorder (523)
- Reducing alcohol related crime and disorder (509)

(* The numbers in brackets show the number of responses)

(b) The top three additional measures to make neighbourhoods feel safer were:

- Increased police patrols (519)
- Tackle problems associated with the misuse of alcohol (493)
- Tackle problems associated with the misuse of drugs (477)

(2) Public Services Panel 2007 survey results

The Winter 2007 panel had 2,000 members - 1,000 members live within datazone areas and a further 1,000 live outwith these areas. Overall, approximately 57% of all panel members returned a questionnaire.

(a) A safe place to live

- 28% of respondents agreed that Renfrewshire is a safe place to live¹
- 36% responded neither/nor
- 36% disagreed
- 36% of respondents in 2006 thought that community safety had improved over the last 12 months

(b) What makes people feel unsafe?

- groups of young people in the street (60%)
- antisocial behaviour (43%)
- fear of crime and criminal activity (40%)
- vandalism (36%)
- roads and traffic (31%)

(c) The five most commonly feared crimes:

- house breaking (53%)
 - violence in the street (44%)
 - personal theft/mugging (41%)
 - people drinking in public places (39%)
 - under age drinking (39%)
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(d) Other findings

- Of those respondents that reported an issue, 69% reported the problem to Strathclyde Police and 37% reported the problem to Renfrewshire Council.
- 20% of all Panel respondents indicated that either they or a member of their household had been a victim of crime in the past 12 months.
- When considering road safety, the biggest problems that people think their area suffered from was traffic travelling too fast (59%)
- 91% of respondents stated that their home was secure
- 6% of respondents say that they have at one time had a fire in their house.
- The two main issues which people regard as being the biggest environmental problems in their area were rubbish/litter (55%) and dog fouling/stray dogs (51%).
- 20% of respondents stated that over the past 12 months, either they or a member of their household had experienced an accident that required medical attention e.g. visit to GP, Accident and Emergency or Hospitalisation.

(3) Strathclyde Police 'Have Your Say' Events

Ten events were held during October and November 2007 with a total of 155 members of the public in attendance.

The main issues raised were:

- Youth disorder (mainly alcohol related)
- Supply of alcohol to young people
- Vandalism (mainly graffiti)
- Police visibility
- Police call handling

(4) Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Conferences

The conferences took place in September 2007 in Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone. A total of 271 members of the public attended these events.

(a) The measures put forward to make neighbourhoods safer were:

- Better street lighting (Paisley, Renfrew, Johnstone)
- Clearer role for neighbourhood wardens (Paisley, Renfrew, Johnstone)
- More police patrols (Paisley, Renfrew)
- Better communication between agencies and public (Renfrew, Johnstone)
- Improve police response times (Renfrew)
- More engagement with young people on the streets (Paisley)
- More youth diversion (Paisley)
- Vandalism and graffiti removal (Renfrew)
- More enforcement of illegal parking (Renfrew)
- Improvement of home security awareness (Renfrew)
- Tackling gang culture (Renfrew)
- Address underage drinking and booze culture (Renfrew)
- CCTV (Renfrew)
- Tackling drug misuse (Renfrew)
- Provision of a Renfrewshire-wide neighbourhood warden's service (Johnstone)
- Better use of community facilities (Johnstone)
- Major housing developments to pay more attention to crime prevention (Johnstone)

(b) The main concerns about safety raised were:

- Gangs and violent culture (Johnstone, Renfrew, Paisley)
- Drugs (Renfrew, Paisley)
- Safety on public transport - vandalism and drug dealing (Johnstone, Paisley)
- Youth crime / antisocial behaviour (Renfrew, Johnstone)
- Knife carrying (Johnstone)
- Vandalism (Renfrew)
- Bogus callers (Renfrew)
- Media's contribution to fear of crime (Johnstone)
- Lack of community spirit (Johnstone)
- Respect between generations (Johnstone)
- Car crime (Renfrew)
- Underage drinking (Paisley)
- Residents afraid to report drug dealing (Paisley)
- Perceptions of young people by older people e.g. hoodies (Paisley)

(5) Elected Member Consultation

Eleven elected members attended the consultations held in February 2008.

(a) Key priorities were:

- Antisocial behaviour
- The impact of alcohol consumption on antisocial behaviour and crime
- Alcohol misuse
- Underage drinking
- Prevention of substance misuse

(b) Key issues:

- Antisocial behaviour
- Alcohol related crime
- Employment / homelessness issues
- Increase number of police officers
- Improve police response times in rural areas
- More powers for Licensing Boards

(c) Key areas for development:

- More councillor involvement
- More community involvement

Full reports on each consultation exercise are available on request.