



Living in Lancashire Survey

Community safety

www.lancashire.gov.uk



Rebecca Robinson, Mick Edwardson and Jackie Fanner

June 2015

For further information on the work of the Business Intelligence team, please contact us at:

Living in Lancashire
Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston
PR1 0LD

Tel: 0808 1443536
www.lancashire.gov.uk/profile

Contents

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
	1.1. Key findings.....	1
	1.2. Conclusions and recommendations.....	2
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	3
3.	RESEARCH OBJECTIVES	3
4.	METHODOLOGY.....	4
	4.1. Limitations	4
5.	MAIN RESEARCH FINDINGS.....	6
6.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	18
7.	APPENDIX 1: SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUP DEFINITIONS.....	19

1. Executive summary

This wave of Living in Lancashire asked a number of questions about community safety.

The fieldwork began on 11 February and was sent by email or by post to all 3,411 members of the panel. A reminder was sent on 24 March and the fieldwork ended on 10 April 2015. In total, 2,216 questionnaires were returned, giving an overall response rate of 65%.

1.1. Key findings

- Around four-fifths of respondents (82%) are satisfied with the access to green areas in their local area. Around three-fifths of respondents (56%) are dissatisfied with dog fouling in their local area.
- Around nine out of ten respondents (87%) consider their local area to be safe while one in ten (10%) consider their local area to be unsafe.
- For respondents who consider their area to be safe, the most common reason given is a sense of community spirit or that neighbours look out for each other (24%). For respondents who consider their area to be unsafe, the most common reason given is that there is ASB or gangs of young people in the area (25%).
- Around a third of respondents (35%) think that rubbish or litter is at least a fairly big problem in their local area while around a quarter of respondents (26%) think that vehicle anti-social behaviour is at least a fairly big problem.
- The most common response for the biggest community safety problems in respondents' local area is theft from garden, grounds, shed, garage etc (63%) followed by drug dealing (39%), vehicle damage (38%) and burglary in the home (37%).
- Around three-fifths of respondents feel that the level of crime in their area is better than that in other areas of Lancashire (61%) and better than the UK (59%).
- In relation to the root causes of crime, around three-quarters of respondents (74%) think that drugs are at least a fairly big problem. Around two-thirds (68%) think that alcohol is at least a fairly big problem and around three-fifths (61%) think that unemployment is at least a fairly big problem.
- Around three-fifths of respondents (63%) agree that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime in their local area, while a slightly lower proportion (56%) agree that they are dealing with anti-social behaviour.

- Around nine out of ten respondents (89%) would report crime and/or anti-social behaviour to the police and around half (53%) would report it to their local authority.

1.2. Conclusions and recommendations

Dog fouling is felt to be a big issue in a number of districts (Pendle, Hyndburn and Rossendale). Dog fouling can be a 'signal issue' (a flag to people that indicates more serious issues in the area) and so it may be worth targeting these areas to improve issues with dog fouling.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and gangs of youths are the most cited reasons that make people feel unsafe. As well as this, fewer people think ASB is being dealt with compared to crime. Feeling unsafe has been shown to increase feelings of anxiety and can lead to issues with repeat victimisation. To try and tackle this, ways to develop community spirit and good relations between neighbours (which are reasons that people feel safe in areas) in areas where people feel unsafe should be investigated.

Theft from gardens, sheds etc is seen as by far the biggest community safety issue in local areas by respondents. It would be interesting to compare this to PACT (Police and Communities Together) statistics to see whether this matches up to what is being reported or whether it is just a perception. Similarly, drug dealing is seen to be a bigger issue in Hyndburn compared to other districts. Further work could be done to see if this reflects reality.

When looking at respondents' perceptions of the root causes of crime, all aspects have lowered with the exception of mental health. While there is wider research suggesting that mental health issues can be related to crime, at the time this survey was carried out there were a number of media reports linking mental health and crime which may have affected response. Further investigation on why people's perception of this has changed could be done.

Deprived areas in Lancashire seem to have a particular problem with community safety. On the whole people in these areas are less satisfied with their area, more likely to feel unsafe in their area, feel the level of crime is worse in their area than other areas of Lancashire and have bigger issues with ASB. This ties in with other research. It is recommended that targeting of these areas is carried out through community safety initiatives.

Overall, the findings in this report should be used to develop the community safety agreement and strategic assessment.

2. Introduction

Lancashire County Council has run Living in Lancashire since August 2001 (formerly known as Life in Lancashire). A panel of people who live in Lancashire is contacted on a regular basis to seek their views on a range of county council related subjects. Panel members are voluntary participants in the research and they receive no incentives for completion.

The panel has been designed to be a representative cross-section of Lancashire's population. The results for each survey are weighted in order to reflect the demographic profile of the county's population.

The panel provides access to a sufficiently large sample of the population so that reliable results can be reported at a county wide level. It also allows for analysis at different sub-area and sub-group levels.

Each wave of Living in Lancashire is themed. Firstly, it enables sufficient coverage on a particular topic to be able to provide insight into that topic. And secondly, it comes across better to the residents completing the questionnaires if there is a clear theme (or 2-3 clear themes) within each survey.

The panel is refreshed periodically. New members are recruited to the panel and some current members are retired on a random basis. This means that the panel remains fresh and is not subject to conditioning ie the views of panel members become too informed with county council services to be representative of the population as a whole.

3. Research objectives

The objective of this survey is to look at people's views on community safety. Questions looked specifically at:

- people's views on aspects of their local area;
- anti-social behaviour and community safety issues in local areas;
- perceptions of the causes of crime; and
- perceptions on how crime and anti-social behaviour are dealt with.

4. Methodology

This wave of Living in Lancashire was sent to 3,411 members of the panel on 11 February. A reminder was sent on 24 March and the fieldwork ended on 10 April 2015.

The survey was conducted through a postal questionnaire and an online version of the same questionnaire. The postal questionnaire was sent to 2,300 members and the online questionnaire was emailed to 1,111 members.

Prior to the mailing the panel was refreshed so 1,912 recipients of the survey were new members receiving this as their first questionnaire.

In total, 2,216 questionnaires were returned, giving an overall response rate of 65%.

The data set is weighted by age, ethnicity and district to reflect the Lancashire overall population, and figures are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated. The weighted responses have been scaled to match the effective response of 1,312, which is the equivalent size of the data if it had not been weighted and was a perfect random sample.

A number of the questions asked in this wave of Living in Lancashire were also asked in wave 42 (September 2013). Responses to the two waves have been compared and statistically significant differences are noted in the report.

In this wave, respondents were asked an open question about why they feel safe or unsafe in their local area. All the responses to this question were read and grouped into similar themes. Analysis was carried out on the themes.

4.1. Limitations

The table below shows the sample tolerances that apply to the results in this survey. Sampling tolerances vary with the size of the sample as well as the percentage results.

Number of respondents	50/50 + / -	30/70 + / -	10/90 + / -
100	10%	9%	6%
200	7%	6%	4%
500	4%	4%	3%
1,000	3%	3%	2%
2,000	2%	2%	1%

On a question where 50% of the people in a sample of 2,000 respond with a particular answer, the chances are 95 out of 100 that the answer would be between 48% and 52% (ie +/- 2%), versus a complete coverage of the entire Lancashire population using the same procedure.

The following table shows what the percentage differences between two samples on a statistic must be greater than, to be statistically significant.

Size of sample A	Size of sample B	50/50 + / -	30/70 + / -	10/90 + / -
100	100	14%	13%	8%
100	200	12%	11%	7%
500	2,000	5%	4%	3%
2,000	2,000	3%	3%	2%

(Confidence interval at 95% certainty for a comparison of two samples)

For example, where the size of sample A and sample B is 2,000 responses in each and the percentage result in each group you are comparing is around 50% in each category, the difference in the results needs to be more than 3% to be statistically significant. This is to say that the difference in the results of the two groups of people is not due to chance alone and is a statistically valid difference (eg of opinion, service usage).

For each question in the survey, comparisons have been made between different sub-groups of respondents (eg age, gender, disability, ethnicity, geographic area) to look for statistically significant differences in opinion. Statistically valid differences between sub-groups are described in the main body of the report.

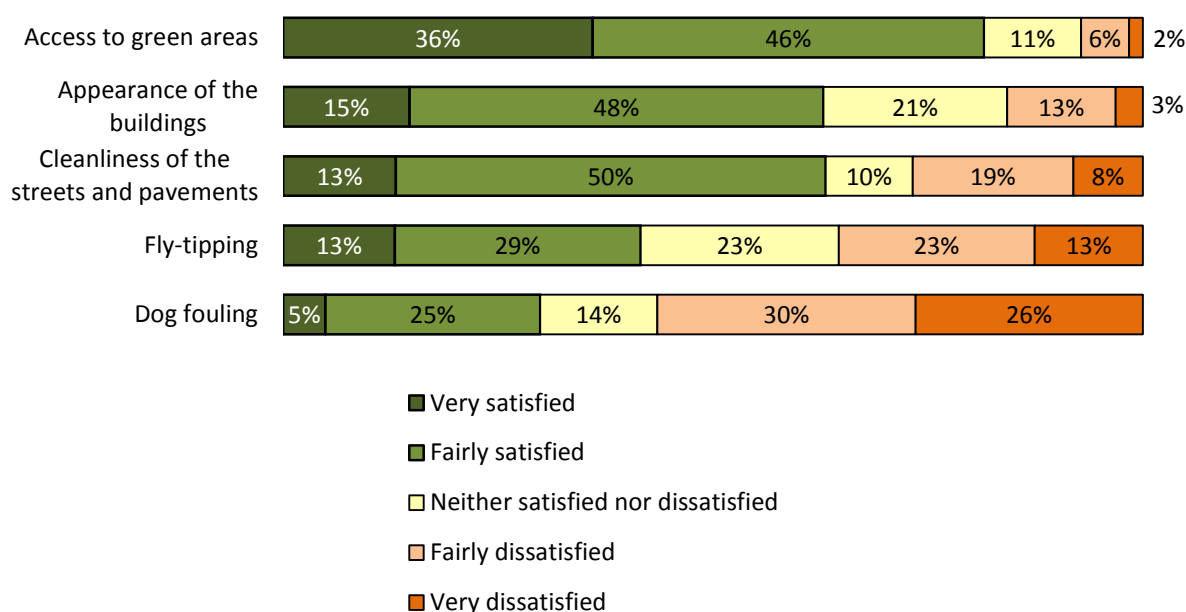
In charts or tables where responses do not add up to 100%, this is due to multiple responses or computer rounding.

5. Main research findings

Respondents were asked about satisfaction with aspects of their local area. Local area was defined as the area within 15 minutes walk of home.

Around four-fifths of respondents (82%) are satisfied with the access to green areas in their local area. Around three-fifths of respondents (56%) are dissatisfied with dog fouling in their local area.

Chart 1 - How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following in your local area?



Base: all respondents (unweighted 2,122-2,174, weighted 1,360-1,385)

Respondents who rent their accommodation from a council or housing association are more likely to be dissatisfied with fly-tipping in their local area (44% dissatisfied). Respondents living in the most deprived areas of Lancashire¹ are more likely to be dissatisfied with: cleanliness of streets and pavements (37% dissatisfied), appearance of the buildings (31%) and fly-tipping (54%).

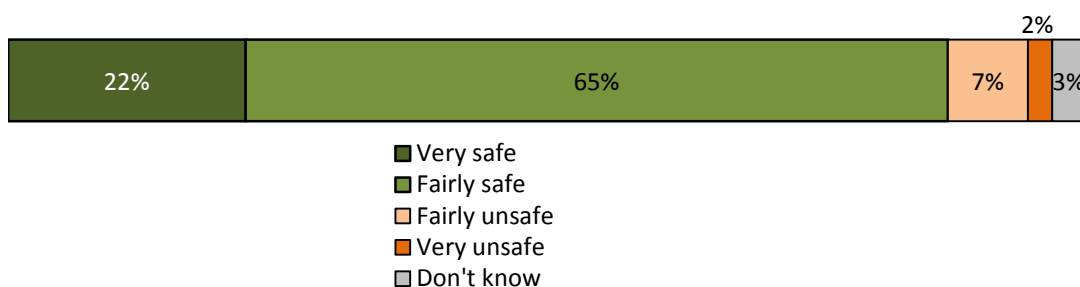
Respondents in Pendle and Rossendale are more likely to be dissatisfied with the cleanliness of streets and pavements in their local area (36% of respondents in both areas). Respondents in Hyndburn are more likely to be dissatisfied with the appearance of the buildings in their local area (36% dissatisfied). Respondents in Hyndburn, Pendle and Rossendale are more likely to be

¹ The 'most deprived areas' is defined as the 20% of LSOAs in Lancashire which have the highest scores for deprivation in the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation.

dissatisfied with dog fouling in their local area (68% of respondents in Hyndburn, 67% in Pendle and 66% in Rossendale).

Around nine out of ten respondents (87%) consider their local area to be safe while one in ten (10%) consider their local area to be unsafe.

Chart 2 - How safe or unsafe do you consider your local area to be?



Base: all respondents (unweighted 2,187, weighted 1,391)

Respondents in socio-economic group AB are more likely to consider their local area to be safe (94%). Respondents in Ribble Valley are also more likely to consider their local area to be safe (98%).

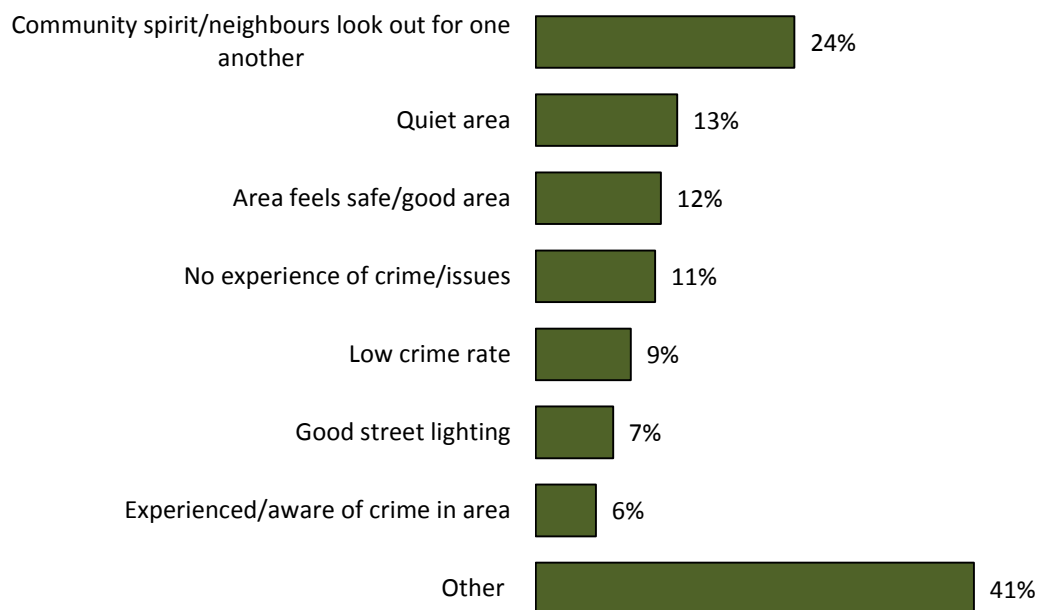
BME respondents and respondents not in employment but not yet retired are more likely to consider their local area to be unsafe (18% of BME respondents and 17% of those not in employment feel it is unsafe). Respondents living in the most deprived areas of Lancashire are also more likely to consider their local area to be unsafe (24% feel it is unsafe).

Respondents in Burnley and Hyndburn are more likely to consider their local area to be unsafe (22% in each district feel it is unsafe).

Respondents were asked to give a brief reason why they feel their local area is safe or unsafe. Where fewer than 5% of respondents were included in a category, the category was classified as 'other'.

For respondents who consider their area to be safe, the most common reason given is a sense of community spirit or that neighbours look out for each other (24%). Other common reasons are that it is a quiet area (13%), that it is a good area and feels safe (12%) and that they have no experience of crime or issues in the area (11%).

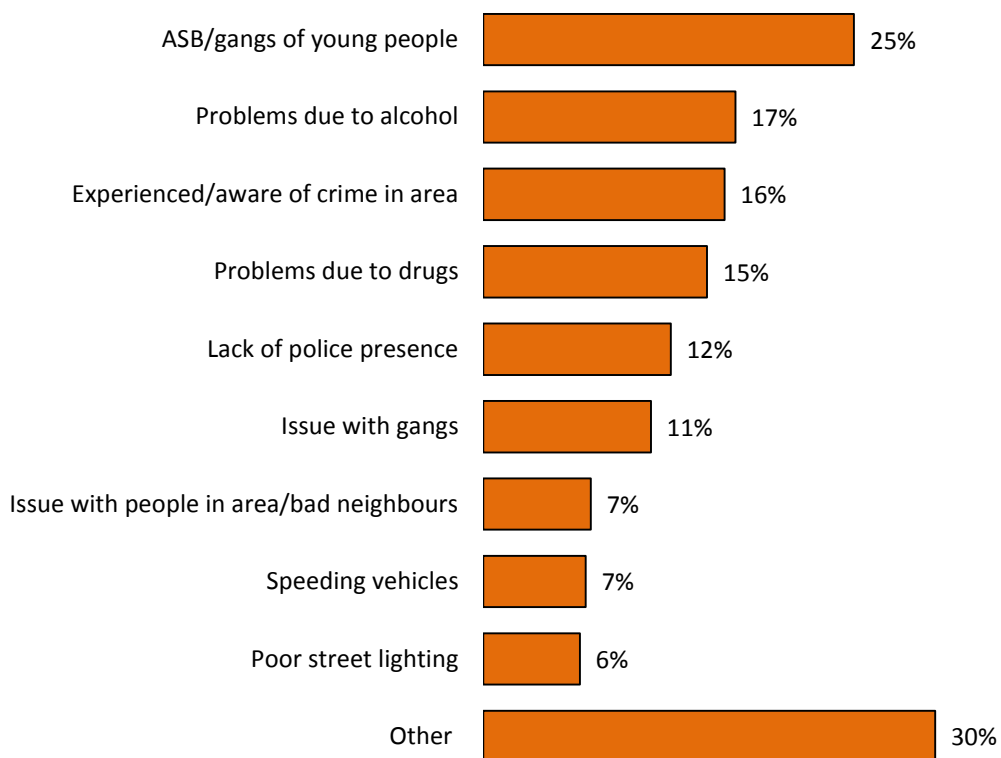
Chart 3 - Briefly, what is the one main reason why you feel safe?



Base: respondents who feel safe in their area (unweighted 1,495, weighted 926)

For respondents who consider their area to be unsafe, the most common reason given is that there is ASB or gangs of young people in the area (25%). Other common reasons are problems due to alcohol (17%), that they have experienced or are aware of crime in the area (16%) and problems due to drugs (15%).

Chart 4 - Briefly, what is the one main reason why you feel unsafe?

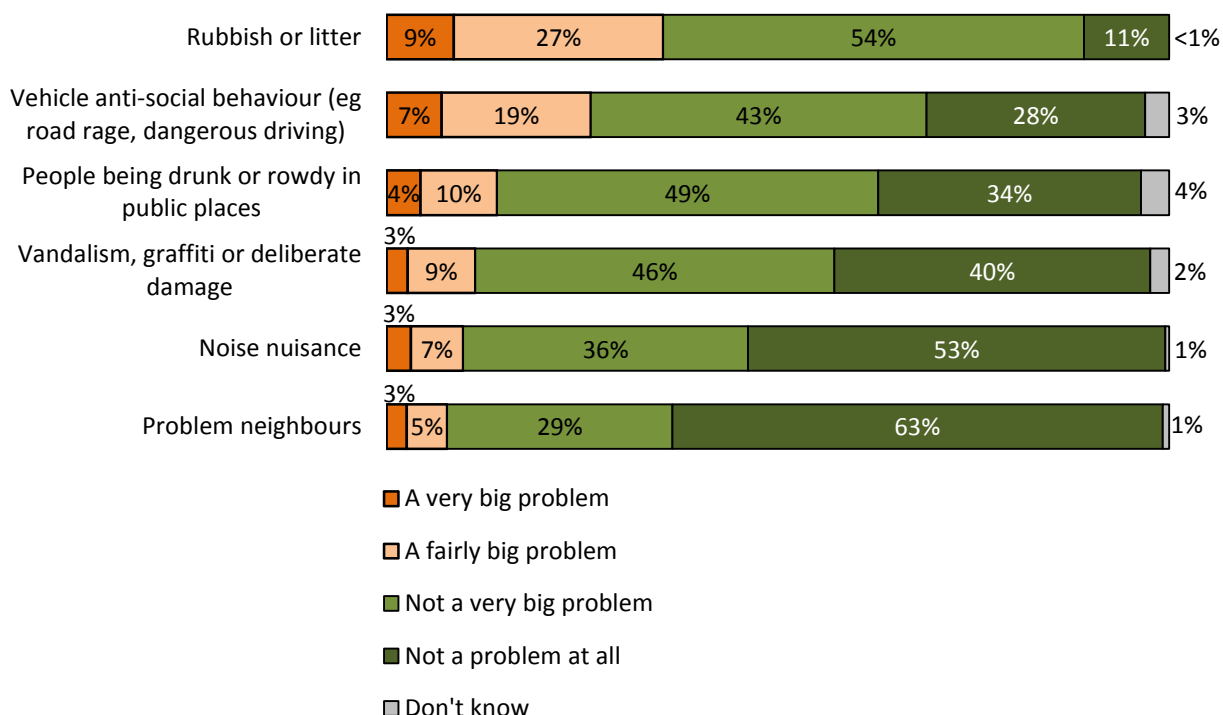


Base: respondents who feel unsafe in their area (unweighted 152, weighted 120)

Respondents were asked how big a problem a number of aspects of anti-social behaviour are in their local area.

Around a third of respondents (35%) think that rubbish or litter is at least a fairly big problem in their local area while around a quarter of respondents (26%) think that vehicle anti-social behaviour is at least a fairly big problem.

Chart 5 - Thinking of your local area, how much of a problem do you think each of the following are?



Base: all respondents (unweighted 2,129-2,177, weighted 1,369-1,386)

BME respondents and respondents who are not in employment but not yet retired are more likely to think that people being drunk or rowdy in public places is at least a fairly big problem in their local area (27% of BME respondents and 26% of respondents not in employment).

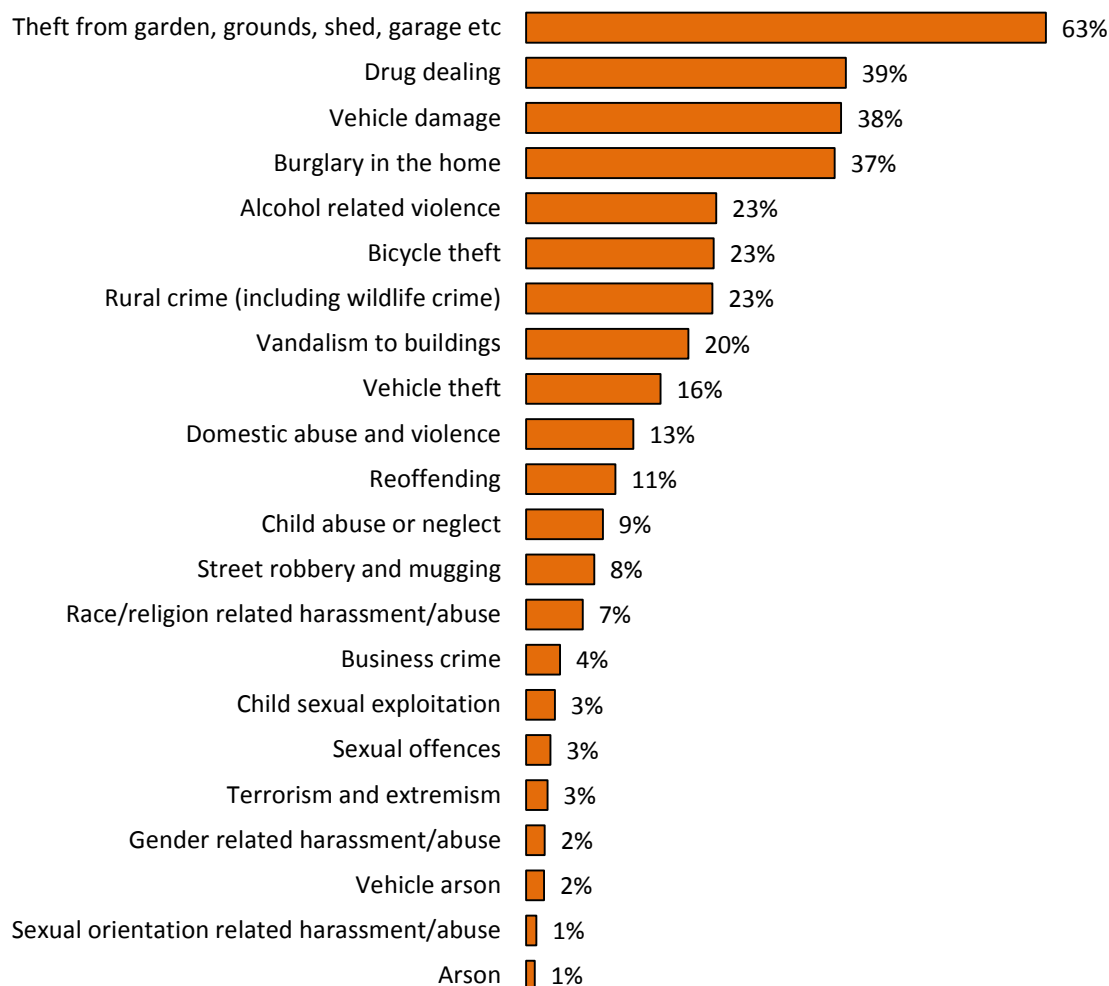
Respondents living in the most deprived areas of Lancashire are more likely to think that the following are at least a fairly big problem in their local area: rubbish or litter (62%), people being drunk or rowdy in public places (31%), problem neighbours (15%), noise nuisance (21%) and vandalism, graffiti or deliberate damage (24%).

Respondents in Ribble Valley are more likely to think that rubbish or litter, people being drunk or rowdy in public places and vehicle anti-social behaviour are not a problem at all in their local area (24% answered 'not a problem at all' for rubbish, 52% for people being drunk or rowdy and 39% for vehicle ASB).

Respondents were given a list of 22 community safety issues and asked to select which are the five biggest problems in their local area. Only respondents who selected five or fewer issues were included in the analysis.

The most common response for the biggest problems is theft from garden, grounds, shed, garage etc (63%) followed by drug dealing (39%), vehicle damage (38%) and burglary in the home (37%).

Chart 6 - Thinking about your local area, which of the following community safety issues are the biggest problems?



Base: all respondents (unweighted 1,467, weighted 982)

Respondents aged 25-44 are more likely to think that domestic abuse and violence is one of the biggest problems in their local area (18%). BME respondents are more likely to think that drug dealing (58%) and alcohol related violence (35%) are among the biggest problems in their local area. Respondents in socio-economic group DE are also more likely to think that drug dealing (53%) and alcohol related violence (38%) are among the biggest problems.

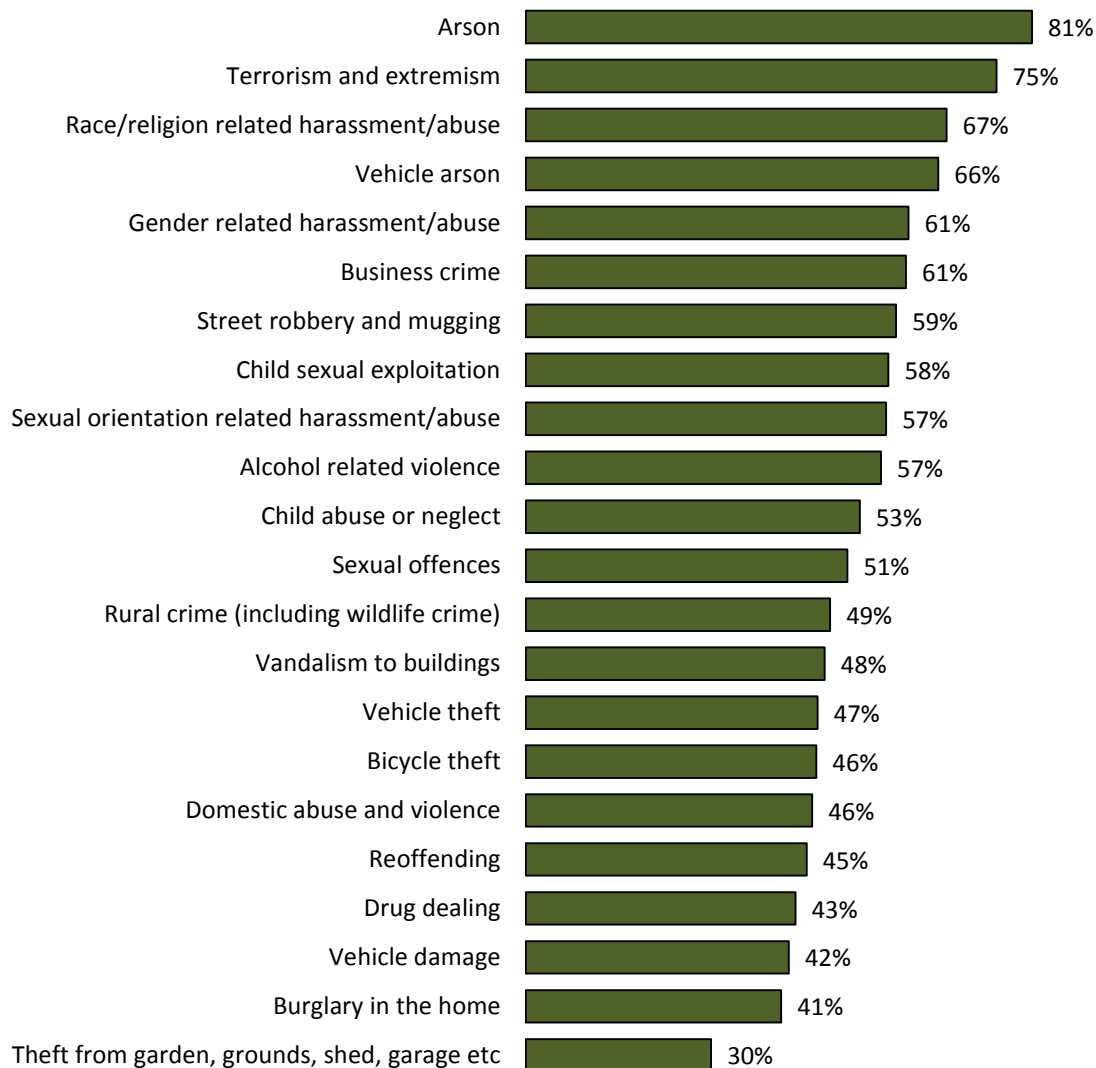
Respondents living in the most deprived areas of Lancashire are more likely to think that drug dealing is one of the biggest problems in their area (53%).

Respondents in Hyndburn are more likely to think that drug dealing is one of the biggest problems in their local area (60%) while respondents in Ribble Valley are more likely to think that rural crime (including wildlife crime) is one of the biggest problems (64%).

Given the same list, respondents were then asked to select which of the issues are not a problem in their local area.

The most common responses for issues which aren't a problem in respondents' local areas are arson (81%), and terrorism and extremism (75%).

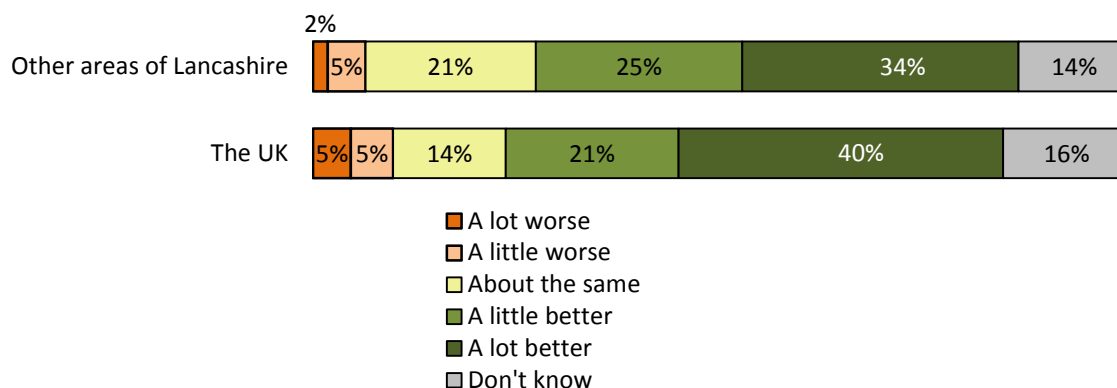
Chart 7 - Thinking about your local area, which of the following community safety issues are not a problem?



Base: all respondents (unweighted 1,891, weighted 1,182)

Around three-fifths of respondents feel that the level of crime in their area is better than that in other areas of Lancashire (61%) and better than the UK (59%).

Chart 8 - How do you feel the level of crime in your local area compares with the following areas? The level of crime in my local area is...



Base: all respondents (unweighted 2,118-2,180, weighted 1,352-1,388)

Respondents living in the most deprived areas of Lancashire are more likely to feel that the level of crime in their local area is worse than in other areas of Lancashire (15% feel it is worse) and is worse than in the UK (20%).

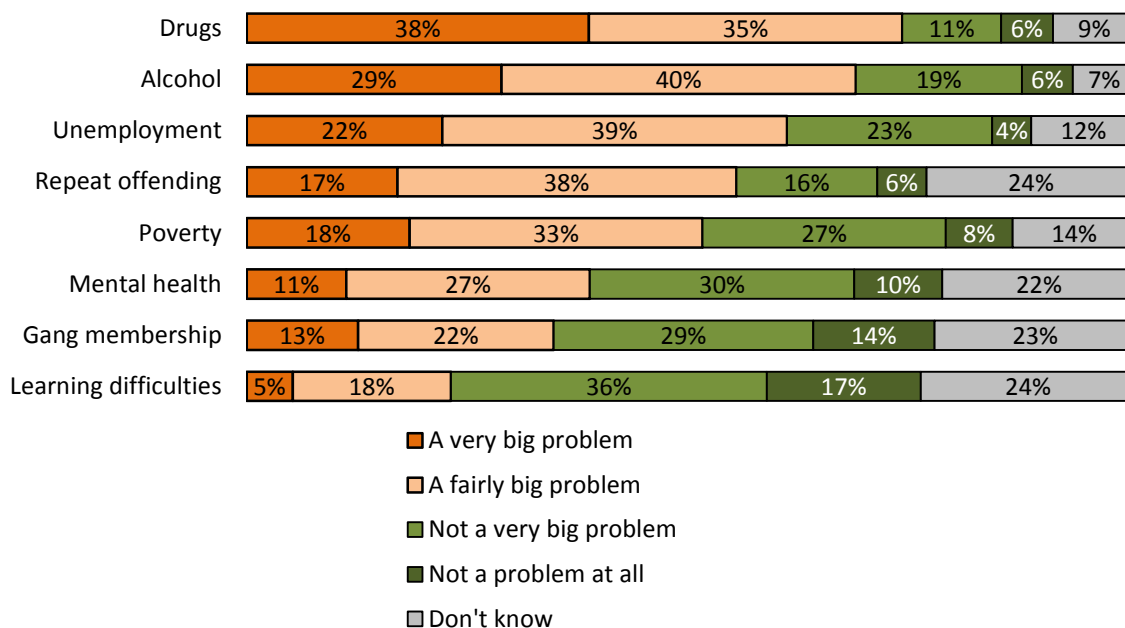
Respondents in socio-economic group AB are more likely to feel that the level of crime in their local area is better than in other areas of Lancashire (67% of AB respondents feel it is better).

Respondents in Fylde and Ribble Valley are more likely to feel that the level of crime in their local area is better than in other areas of Lancashire (81% of Fylde respondents and 84% of Ribble Valley respondents). Respondents in Ribble Valley are also more likely to feel that the level of crime in their local area is better than in the UK (83%).

Respondents were then asked to think about the root causes of crime. Around three-quarters of respondents (74%) think that drugs are at least a fairly big problem in relation to the root causes of crime. Around two-thirds (68%) think that alcohol is at least a fairly big problem and around three-fifths (61%) think that unemployment is at least a fairly big problem.

Compared to the response in September 2013 (wave 42), most of the listed potential causes of crime are considered less of a problem now (ie a lower proportion of respondents think they are at least a fairly big problem now compared to 2013). The exceptions are learning difficulties, for which the proportion has stayed almost the same, and mental health for which the proportion has increased from 30% in September 2013 to 39% in the current wave.

Chart 9 - Thinking about the root causes of crime, how much of a problem do you think each of the following are?

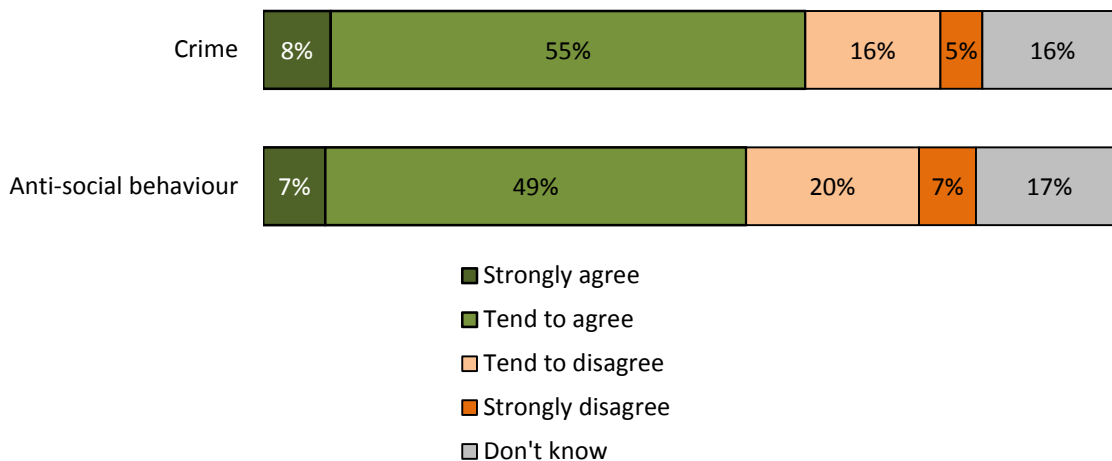


Base: all respondents (unweighted 2,044-2,163, weighted 1,318-1,380)

BME respondents, respondents who are not in employment but not yet retired and respondents living in the most deprived areas of Lancashire are more likely to feel that unemployment is at least a fairly big problem in relation to the root causes of crime (73% of BME respondents, 70% of respondents not in employment and 75% of respondents in the most deprived areas). Respondents in socio-economic group DE are more likely to feel that learning difficulties is at least a fairly big problem in relation to the root causes of crime (33% of DE respondents).

Around three-fifths of respondents (63%) agree that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime in their local area, while a slightly lower proportion (56%) agree that they are dealing with anti-social behaviour.

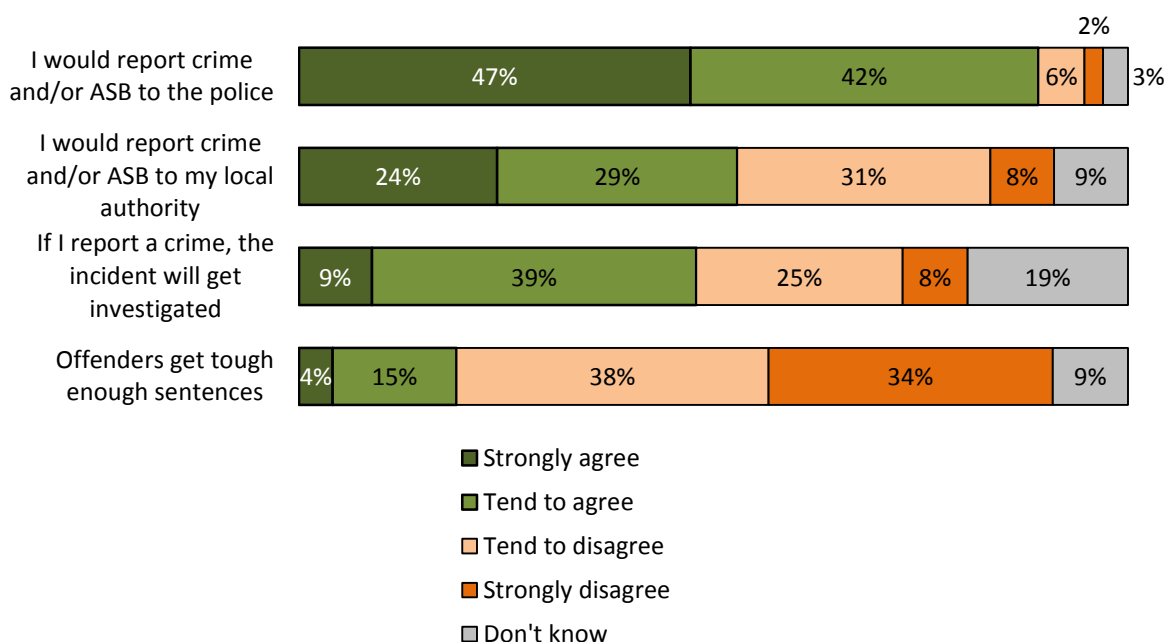
Chart 10 - To what extent do you agree or disagree that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with the following issues in your local area?



Base: all respondents (unweighted 2,170, weighted 1,381-1,385)

Around nine out of ten respondents (89%) would report crime and/or anti-social behaviour to the police and around half (53%) would report it to their local authority. Around three-quarters of respondents (72%) disagree that offenders get tough enough sentences.

Chart 11 - How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements



Base: all respondents (unweighted 2,159-2,189, weighted 1,380-1,391)

Respondents aged 60 and over and respondents with a disability are more likely to agree that they would report crime and/or ASB to their local authority (63% of respondents aged 60 and over and 62% of disabled respondents).

Male respondents are more likely to disagree that if they report a crime it will be investigated (40% disagree).

BME respondents are more likely to agree that offenders get tough enough sentences (36% agree).

6. Conclusions and recommendations

Dog fouling is felt to be a big issue in a number of districts (Pendle, Hyndburn and Rossendale). Dog fouling can be a 'signal issue' (a flag to people that indicates more serious issues in the area) and so it may be worth targeting these areas to improve issues with dog fouling.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and gangs of youths are the most cited reasons that make people feel unsafe. As well as this, fewer people think ASB is being dealt with compared to crime. Feeling unsafe has been shown to increase feelings of anxiety and can lead to issues with repeat victimisation. To try and tackle this, ways to develop community spirit and good relations between neighbours (which are reasons that people feel safe in areas) in areas where people feel unsafe should be investigated.

Theft from gardens, sheds etc is seen as by far the biggest community safety issue in local areas by respondents. It would be interesting to compare this to PACT (Police and Communities Together) statistics to see whether this matches up to what is being reported or whether it is just a perception. Similarly, drug dealing is seen to be a bigger issue in Hyndburn compared to other districts. Further work could be done to see if this reflects reality.

When looking at respondents' perceptions of the root causes of crime, all aspects have lowered with the exception of mental health. While there is wider research suggesting that mental health issues can be related to crime, at the time this survey was carried out there were a number of media reports linking mental health and crime which may have affected response. Further investigation on why people's perception of this has changed could be done.

Deprived areas in Lancashire seem to have a particular problem with community safety. On the whole people in these areas are less satisfied with their area, more likely to feel unsafe in their area, feel the level of crime is worse in their area than other areas of Lancashire and have bigger issues with ASB. This ties in with other research. It is recommended that targeting of these areas is carried out through community safety initiatives.

Overall, the findings in this report should be used to develop the community safety agreement and strategic assessment.

7. Appendix 1: Socio-economic group definitions

These groups are based on Market Research Society definitions and on the respondent. They are graded as A, B, C1, C2, D and E.

Group A

- Professional people, very senior managers in business or commerce or top-level civil servants.
- Retired people, previously grade A, and their widows.

Group B

- Middle management executives in large organisations, with appropriate qualifications.
- Principal officers in local government and civil service.
- Top management or owners of small business concerns, educational and service establishments.
- Retired people, previously grade B, and their widows.

Group C1

- Junior management, owners of small establishments, and all others in non-manual positions.
- Jobs in this group have very varied responsibilities and educational requirements.
- Retired people, previously grade C1, and their widows.

Group C2

- All skilled manual workers, and those manual workers with responsibility for other people.
- Retired people, previously grade C2, with pensions from their job.
- Widows, if receiving pensions from their late partner's job.

Group D

- All semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers, and apprentices and trainees to skilled workers.
- Retired people, previously grade D, with pensions from their late job.
- Widows, if receiving pensions from their late partner's job.

Group E

- All those entirely dependent on the state long term, through sickness, unemployment, old age or other reasons.
- Those unemployed for a period exceeding six months (otherwise classified on previous occupation).
- Casual workers and those without a regular income.