



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
NATIONAL CRIME AND COMMUNITY SURVEY 2020

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The national Neighbourhood Watch survey was developed by Neighbourhood Watch Network to better understand the impact of Neighbourhood Watch on levels of crime victimisation, fear of crime and feelings of safety, neighbourliness, community cohesion and loneliness, and the current reach and diversity of Neighbourhood Watch.
- 1.2 The design of the survey was supported by University College London and informed by previous research from Nottingham Trent University into the Crime Survey of England and Wales. It also includes some questions from the What Works Centre for Wellbeing survey tool for measuring loneliness.
- 1.3 The findings of the national survey will be used by Neighbourhood Watch as a national baseline and support the development and evaluation of the 2020 -2025 Neighbourhood Watch Strategy. Neighbourhood Watch regions will also be provided with a summary of their own results to inform their activity and be able to use the survey or relevant sections from it, to evaluate their impact locally.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 The survey was conducted online using the Survey Monkey platform from 30th July – 21st August 2020. All responses were kept anonymous and were analysed in large groups to avoid any attempt at identifying individuals or group of people.
- 2.2 The survey was shared with Neighbourhood Watch members and non-members via Neighbourhood Watch communication channels, Police force community messaging systems, and the Countryside Alliance and other partners' communication channels. This methodology is a non-probability sampling technique, and the sample can therefore not be guaranteed as representative of the general population.
- 2.3 A total of 33,144 responses were received, of which 28,475 were assessed as complete & valid following data cleansing and included in this analysis.

3. Executive Summary

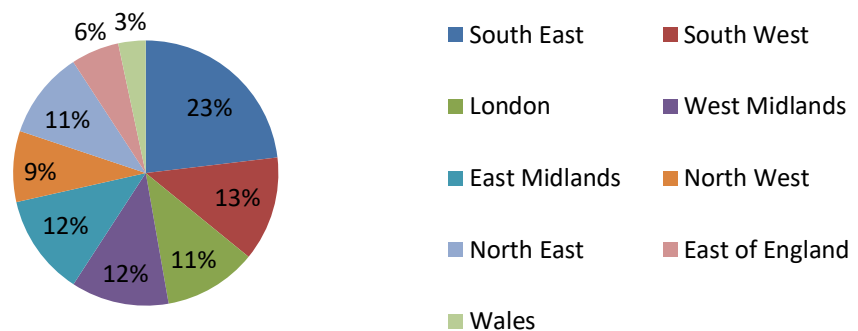
- 3.1 There is a clear link between Neighbourhood Watch and how safe people feel in their local areas. Neighbourhood Watch members are much more likely than non-members to think that crime has decreased and significantly more likely to be satisfied with their personal safety.
- 3.2 Neighbourhood Watch is an effective means of raising people's awareness about crime prevention and encouraging people to take action to protect themselves. The majority of NW members, and over half of non-members living in Neighbourhood Watch areas receive

crime prevention information from Neighbourhood Watch, with a high proportion of both members and non-members usually acting on the advice they receive.

3.3 Neighbourhood Watch improves how people feel about their neighbours and increases neighbour’s willingness to help each other out. Neighbourhood Watch members are consistently more likely than non-members to feel part of their neighbourhood, to feel they can trust people who live in the area, to perceive that there are people who would be there for them if they needed help and less likely to feel left out, isolated or lonely in their local area.

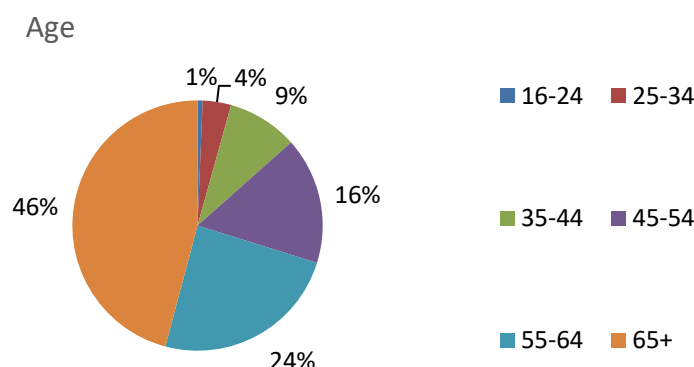
4. Profile of Respondents

4.1 The sample size varied across the regions of England and Wales. The largest response rate was from the South East (23%), followed by the South West (13%), W. and E. Midlands (both 12%), London and the N. East (both 11%). The lowest response rates were from Wales (3%), E. of England (6%) and the N. West (9%).

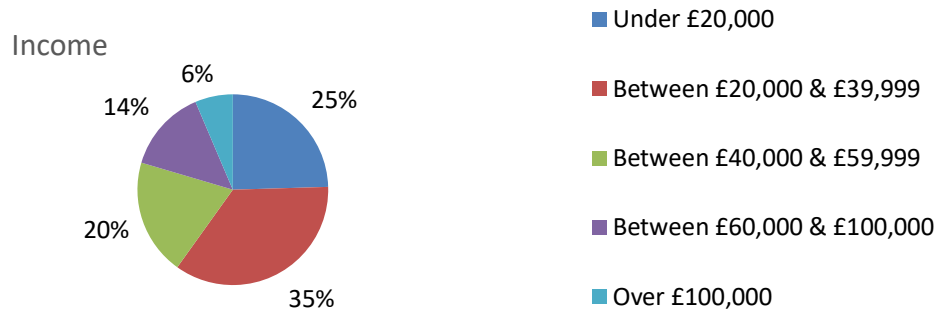


4.2 Respondents were in the main from a White British background (90%), 2% from any other white background, 2% were from an Asian background, 0.4% from a Black background, 0.7% a mixed background and 2.3% from any other ethnic group.

4.3 Respondents tended to fall into older age groups, in particular 65+ (46%). 24% were between 55 and 64, 16% between 45 and 54, 9% between 35 and 44, with 5% of respondents under 35yrs old.



4.4 Respondents had a high level of house ownership (87%), with the majority (60%) earning below £40,000 pa.



5. Neighbourhood Watch Membership

- 5.1 47% of respondents live in a Neighbourhood Watch area, with 53% either not living in a NW area or not knowing whether they do or not.
- 5.2 Of the respondents who live in a Neighbourhood Watch area, 73% identified as members of Neighbourhood Watch.
- 5.3 34% of the total number of respondents identified as members of Neighbourhood Watch.

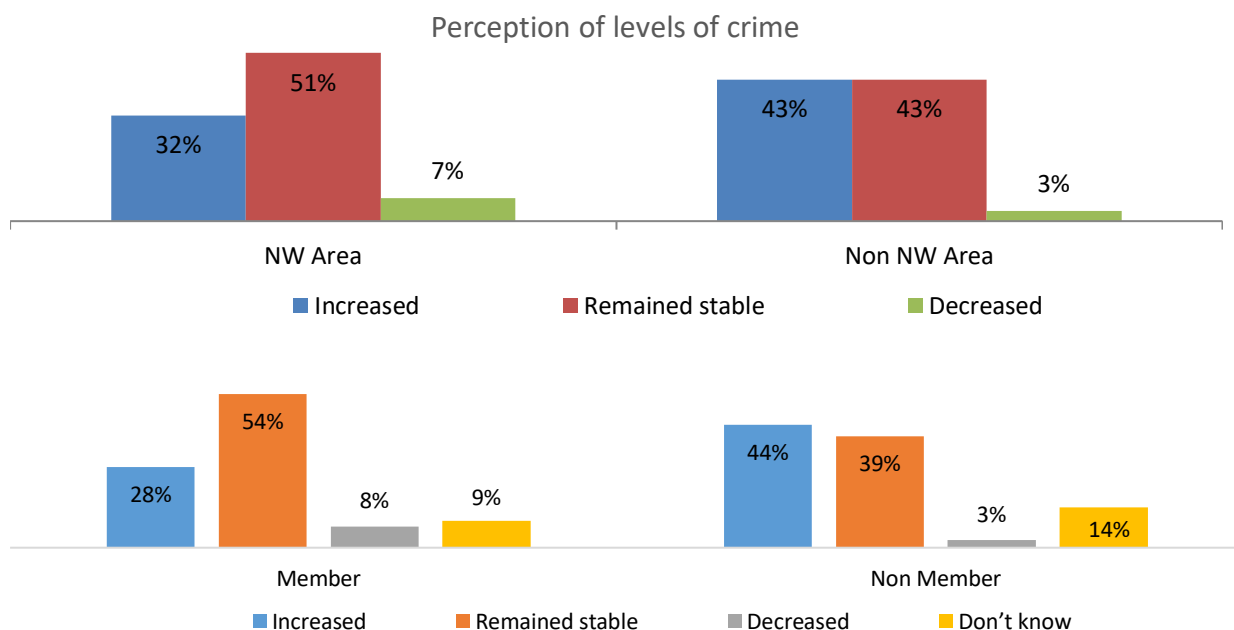
6. Perception of Crime and Safety

- 6.1 Those who live in a Neighbourhood Watch Area are more likely to be satisfied or very satisfied with their personal safety than those who don't (59% vs 45%), with members of Neighbourhood Watch in those areas even more likely to be satisfied or very satisfied with their personal safety (63%).



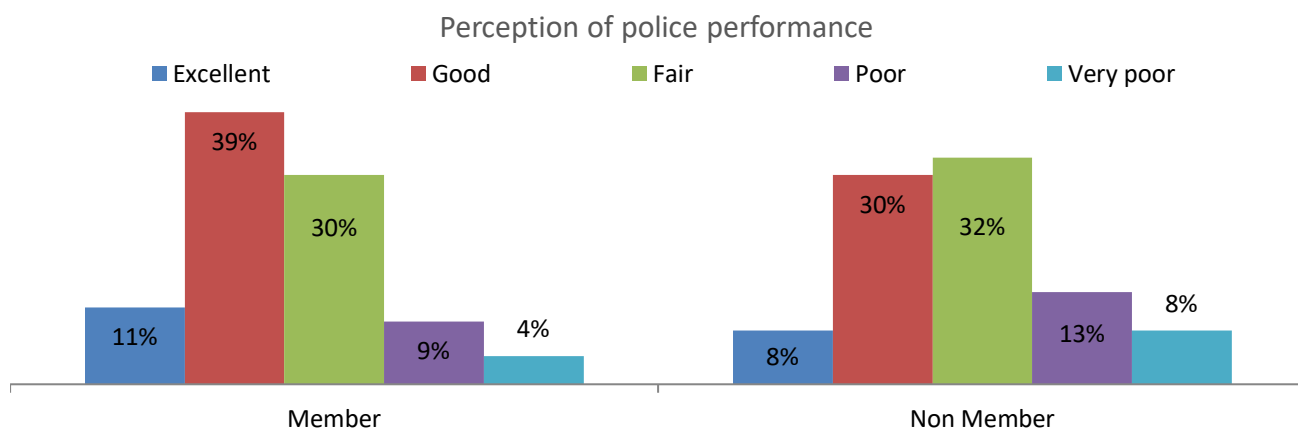
- 6.2 Those living in a Neighbourhood Watch area are less likely to say that crime has increased than those who don't live in a NW area (32% vs 43%), with Neighbourhood Watch members

in those areas even less likely to think that crime has increased (28%), and significantly more likely to think crime has decreased or remained stable (62% vs 42%).



7 Policing

- 7.1 42% of all respondents think the police in their area do an excellent or good job.
- 7.2 The more respondents think crime has decreased the better they think of the police. 68% of those who think crime has decreased think the police do an excellent or good job, compared to 26% of those who think crime has increased.
- 7.3 Neighbourhood Watch members are more likely than non-members to think the police do an excellent or good job (50% vs 38%).



8. Neighbourhood Watch Activity

Information provision

- 8.1 The vast majority of Neighbourhood Watch members, and over half of non-members living in Neighbourhood Watch areas receive regular information from Neighbourhood Watch. 71% of all respondents living in Neighbourhood Watch area received details of local crime from Neighbourhood Watch once or more a month, 60% received fraud and cybercrime

prevention advice once or more a month and 52% received advice on home security once or more a month.

8.2 Both members and non-members are likely to act on crime prevention advice they receive from Neighbourhood Watch, with 52% of Neighbourhood Watch members and 40% of non-members usually acting on that advice, and 39% of members and 43% of non-members sometimes acting on it.

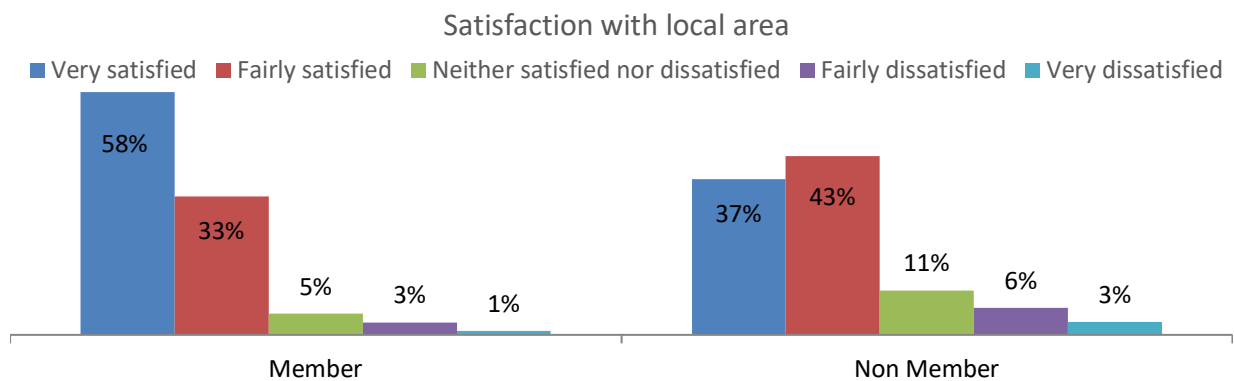
Other Activities

8.3 In addition to regularly sharing crime prevention advice, Neighbourhood Watch activities also focus on supporting vulnerable people in their area or improving the local environment. 20% of respondents said that their Neighbourhood Watch group had been actively supporting vulnerable people in the community and 14% that their local group had arranged or supported activity to look after or improve the local environment over the last 3 months.

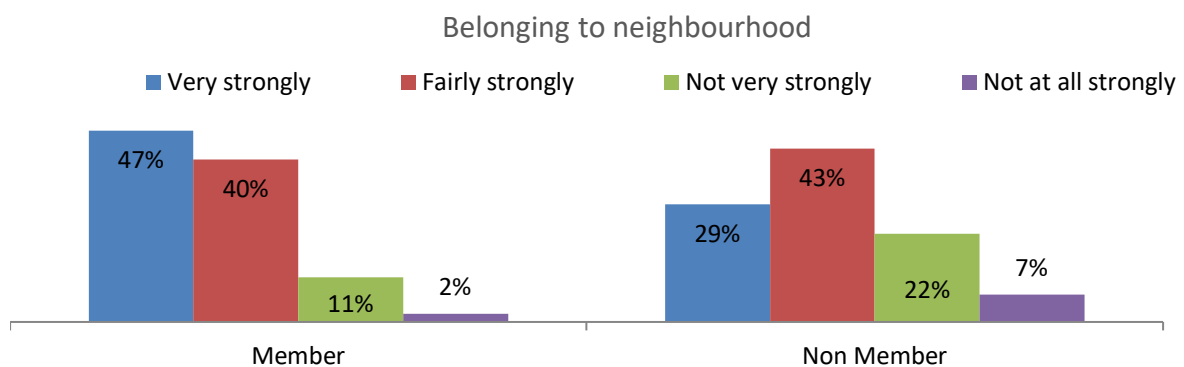
8.4 8% of NW groups arranged or conducted crime prevention talks and 9% arranged or ran community social events over the past 3 months, rising to 15% of groups who generally run these events annually.

9. Community

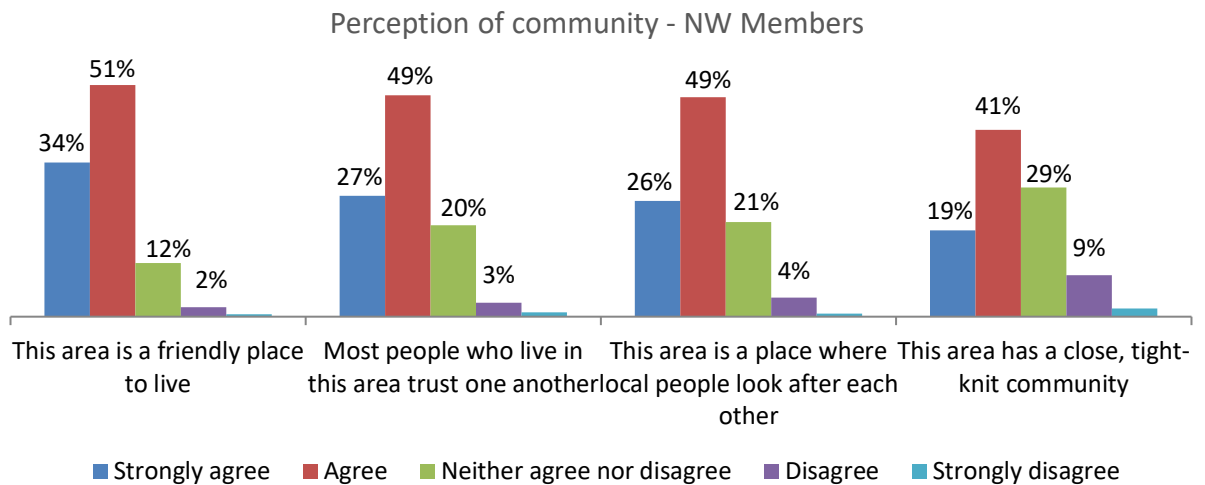
9.1 Neighbourhood Watch members are more likely to be satisfied or very satisfied with their local area than non-members (91% vs 80%). In particular they are much more likely to be very satisfied with their local area (58% NW members vs 37% non-members).



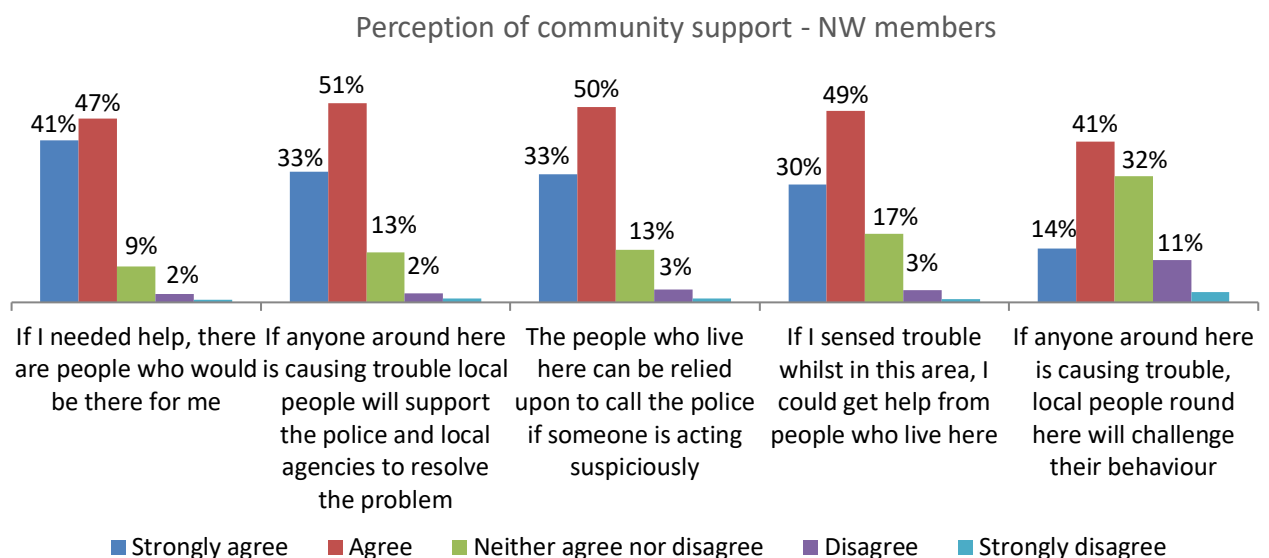
9.2 Neighbourhood Watch members are more likely to feel part of the neighbourhood than non-members (87% vs 75%). In particular they are much more likely to very strongly agree that they feel part of the neighbourhood (47% NW members vs 29% non-members)



- 9.3 Neighbourhood Watch members and non-members are similarly active and ready to help their neighbours with day to day issues such as keeping an eye on their house when they are on holiday, taking their bins out/put bins away, taking in deliveries/parcels, visiting or helping elderly or vulnerable neighbours with shopping and errands.
- 9.4 Neighbourhood Watch members are more likely than non-members to agree that they live in a friendly place (85% vs 73%), can trust people who live in the area (76 vs 55%), are part of a close knit community (60% vs 42%) and live in an area where people look after each other (75% vs 55%).



- 9.5 Neighbourhood Watch members are more likely to perceive that people in their neighbourhood would pull together if anyone needed help or there were problems in the area. Neighbourhood Watch members are more likely than non-members to perceive that if they needed help there are people who would be there for them (88% vs 75%), that people would help the police and other agencies to resolve problems (84% vs 69%), call the police if someone is acting suspiciously (83 % vs 65%), help others if they sensed trouble (79% vs 59%) and intervene if anyone in their area is causing a disturbance (55% vs 37%).



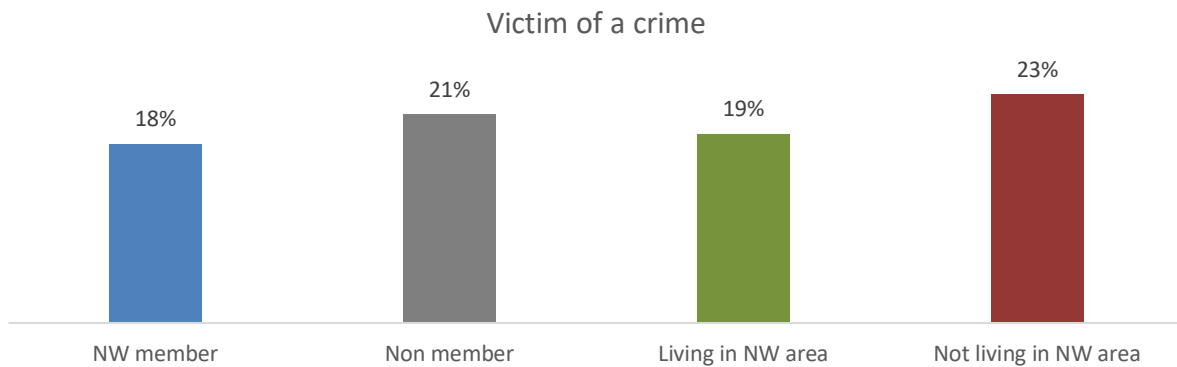
9.6 Neighbourhood Watch members are consistently less likely to feel left out, isolated or lonely in their local area. 70% of Neighbourhood Watch members said they hardly ever or never felt left out or that they lacked companionship vs 60% of non-members.

10. Experience of Crime

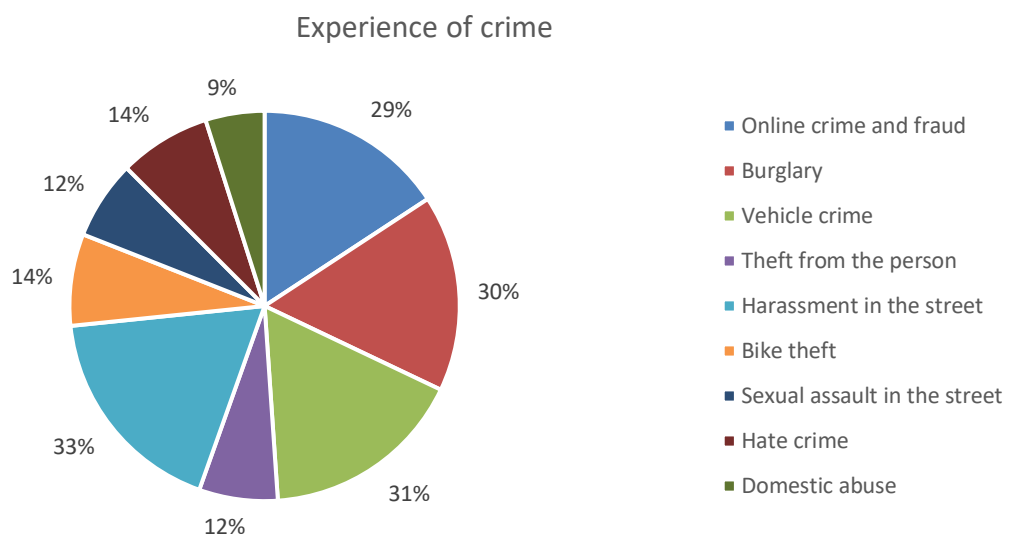
10.1 21% of all respondents had been a victim of a crime in the last 2 years.

10.2 19% of respondents living in a Neighbourhood Watch area had been a victim of crime in the past 2 years as opposed to 23% of those not living in a Neighbourhood Watch area.

10.3 18% of Neighbourhood Watch members had been a victim of crime in the past 2 years vs 21% of non-members.



10.4 30% of the respondents who had been a victim of crime in the past 2 years had suffered a burglary, 31% had their vehicle stolen or property stolen from their vehicle and 33% had been harassed, threatened or verbally abused in the street; 29% had been a victim of on line fraud, with 28% having been a victim to other types of fraud; 14% had suffered hate crime or bicycle theft, 12% theft from the person or sexual assault in the street and 9% domestic abuse.



10.5 On line and other frauds are most likely to have happened more recently (in the past 3 months) or be still ongoing (45%), with 42% of cases harassment, 34% of hate crime, 29% of domestic abuse and 25% of sexual assault in the street also having occurred within the past 3 months.

11. Crime and Community Concerns

11.1 25% of respondents had worried about online crime and fraud over the past week, with burglary (21%), vehicle crime (19%) and theft from the person (15%) also identified as common regular worries. 10% of respondents had worried about harassment in the past week, 7% bike theft, 6% sexual assault, 5% hate crime and 2% domestic abuse.

11.2 Speeding and Anti-Social Behaviour are the most common community concerns. 52% of respondents said they had been concerned about speeding and 30% had been concerned about Anti-Social Behaviour in the previous week. Other significant recent concerns were fly-tipping and drug use / dealing, with 28% and 25% of people respectively having been concerned about these in the past week and 11% of respondents worrying about knife crime or serious violence.

12. Conclusion

12.1 This report provides a snapshot of the findings of the national Neighbourhood Watch survey that can be used as a benchmark against which we can focus and evaluate improvement activity over the coming 12 months in line with the 2020 – 2025 Neighbourhood Watch Strategy.

12.2 The survey will be repeated every 12 months to understand any changes in people's perceptions and experiences over time.