



Community Safety Partnerships Consultation

Report by Consultation & Engagement Team

March 2026



1. Background

Bolton's Community Safety Partnership, a collaborative partnership including Bolton Council, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service, Probation, Health, Youth Justice, Housing Providers, and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sectors, ran a six week consultation between Monday 2nd February 2026 until Friday 6th March 2026.

Each year, the Bolton Community Safety Partnership undertakes an assessment that considers the reports and impact of crime and antisocial behaviour across the borough. This assessment is used to identify the crime and disorder priorities for the Community Safety Partnership, and it informs the development of a delivery plan to address these concerns. The consultation set out to seek local resident and stakeholder views on crime and safety in local areas, helping to inform priorities to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough over the next three years.

2. Methodology

The consultation process was a public consultation, enabling any Bolton resident, business, community group or representative the opportunity to share their views on crime and antisocial behaviour in their area. A comprehensive communication plan was implemented to raise awareness of the consultation across the borough. This included the use of social media and dissemination to partner organisations, community and VCSFE groups across the borough to encourage their service users to complete the consultation questionnaire. "E-View", the council's consultation panel, comprising of over 300 members, was also used to engage residents.

Participants were surveyed using a questionnaire tool made up of open and closed questions, over a period of six weeks, providing respondents the opportunity to reflect and share their thoughts on the crime and anti-social behaviour across Bolton. The questionnaire was made available both digitally and offline, with the questionnaire being accessible on the council's consultation web page, as well as in hard copy format on request.

A copy of the questionnaire is included at the end of this document, located in Appendix A.



Analysis notes

- Results are presented in the questionnaire format with 'Don't know' type responses removed unless stated.
- Comments have been categorised where feasible. Unless otherwise stated, categories with 10 or more responses are shown. Categories may overlap and a comment from one respondent included in multiple categories. A sample of comments [verbatim] are included in the report. Comments may be abbreviated so that only the relevant extract is included. One comment may be coded into multiple categories, and each category may only cover a certain aspect of the comment, for example a respondent may have made both positive and negative comments about the same aspect.
- Base: unless otherwise stated the base is the number of respondents to a particular question.
- Data has been cleansed where appropriate, e.g., comments moved into existing responses.

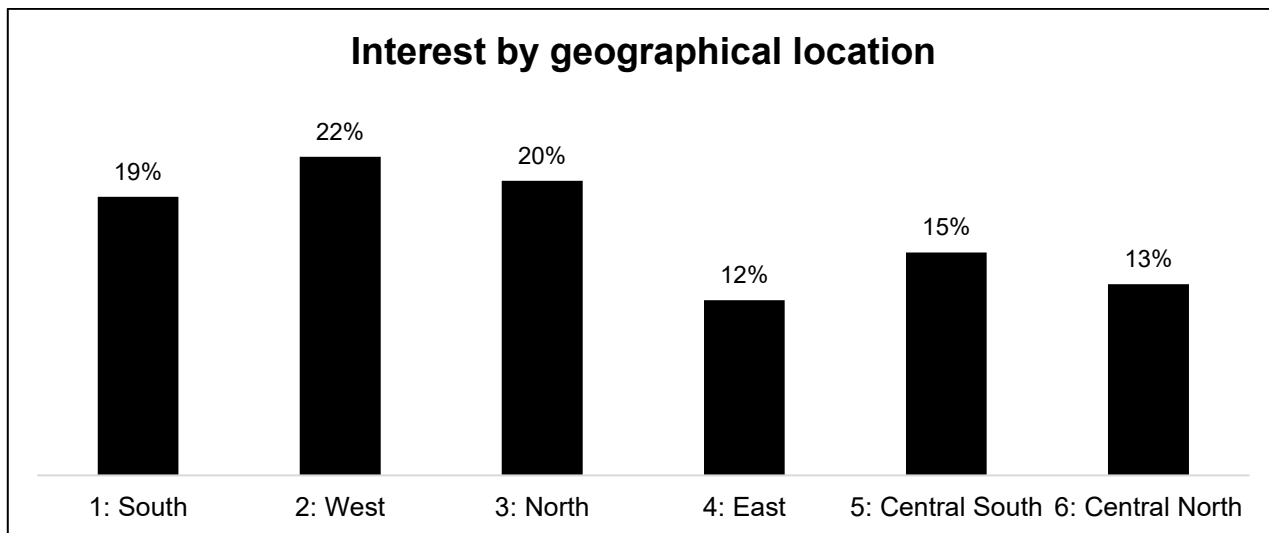
3. Consultation responses

A number of open-ended questions were included in the questionnaire to give respondents the opportunity to comment on crime in their area and make suggestions about the priorities for the Community Safety Partnership.

A total of 217 residents and stakeholders took part in the survey, outlining their reflections on the Community Safety Partnership priorities and crime in the Bolton borough. Three of these responses were received by elected members.

4. Completions based on area

Respondents were asked whether their responses were based on the area they lived. 94% of responses were completed based on residential areas. Of the 186 valid postcodes received, 20% of responses were based on geographical areas in the North of the borough, 19% based in the South and 22% based in the West. The East part of the borough was the area least engaged with the consultation (12%).



Base: 186

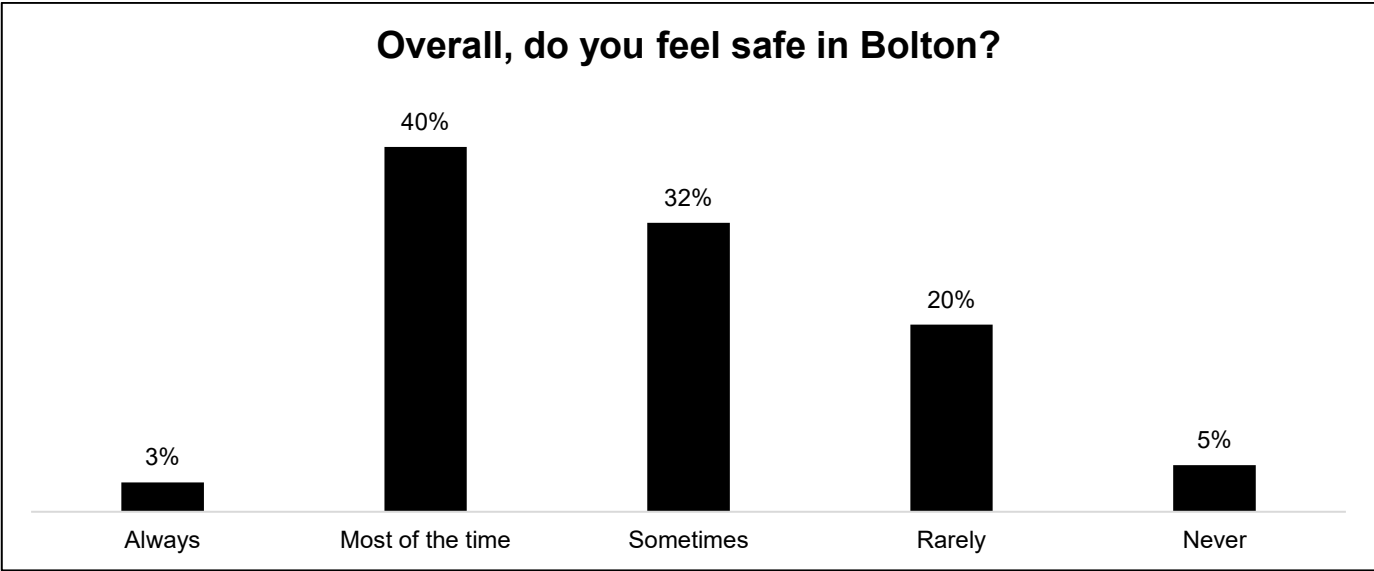
13 individuals completed the survey based on other geographical areas of interest. Seven of these were completing the survey in regards to Bolton Town Centre. One completed the survey with a boroughwide perspective and others included:

- “Blackburn road deane”
- “Farnworth”
- “BL7”
- “BL6”
- “Great Lever”

5. Feeling unsafe in Bolton

5a. Overall safety

Respondents were asked to reflect on the perceived levels of crime in their area, or the area they were choosing to comment on. 216 respondents answered. 43% of respondents highlighted that they “always” or “most of the time” feel safe in Bolton. However, a quarter of Bolton residents state they feel either “rarely” or “never” feel safe. 32% respondents “sometimes” feel safe in Bolton.

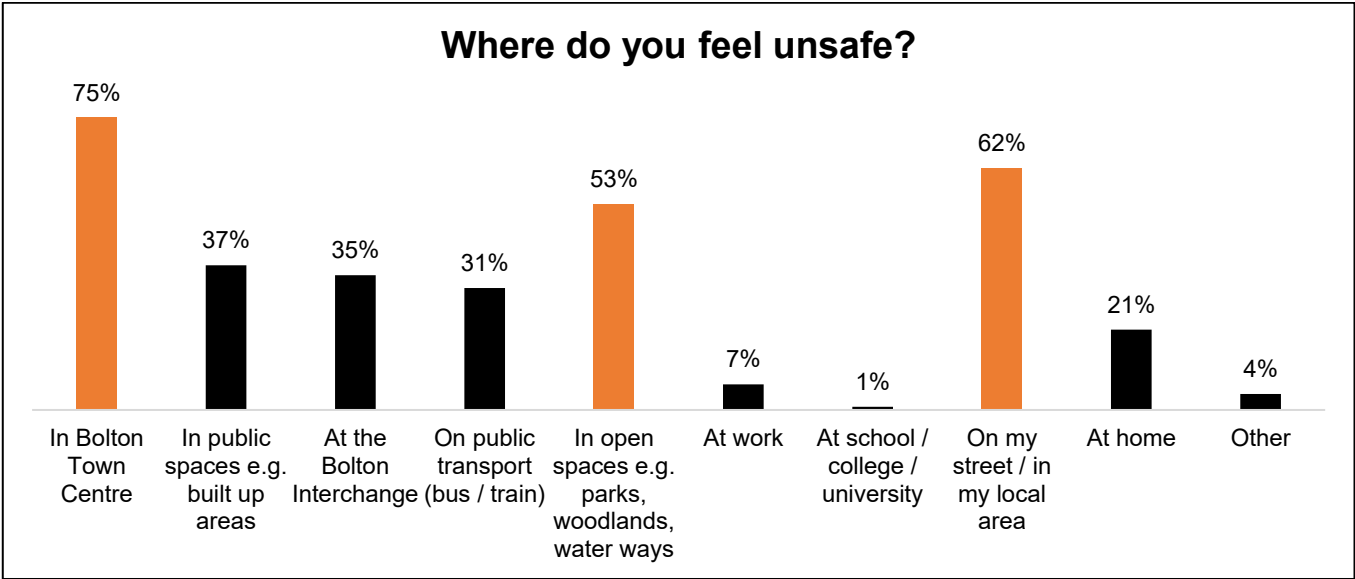


Base: 216

5b. Where people feel unsafe

Of those that responded they “sometimes”, “rarely” or “never” feel safe in Bolton, the areas that make residents feel unsafe the most are Bolton Town Centre (75%), on their street / in their local area (62%) and in open spaces e.g. parks, woodlands, water ways (53%). One in five respondents stated they do not feel safe at home (21%). Five respondents selected “other”, elaborating they do not feel safe at the following locations:

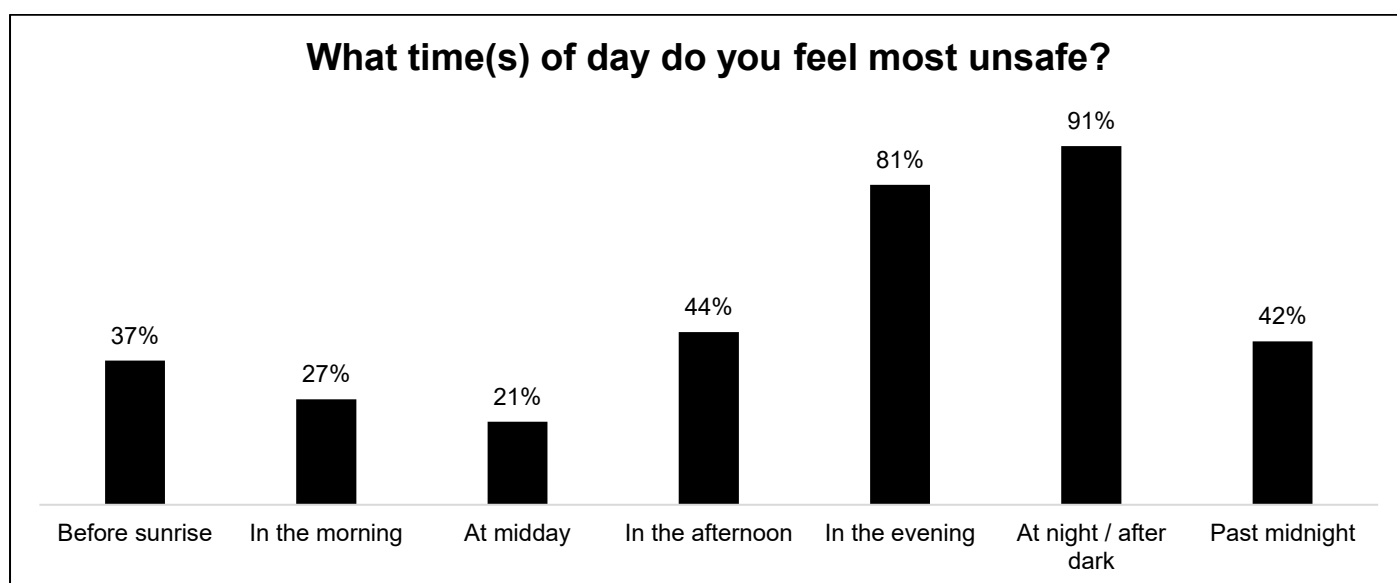
- “All around halliwell its full of thieves and druggies”
- “My allotment as we have regular trespassers as it isn’t secure”
- “McDonalds”
- “On the way to and from mosque”
- “Farnworth precinct”



Base: 121

5c. What times people feel unsafe

Of those that feel unsafe in Bolton, respondents were asked to share at what times of day they feel most unsafe. 123 respondents provided their perceptions of safety, the majority of whom revealed that they do not feel safe at night or after dark (91%) or in the evening (81%). At least 20% of the respondents do not feel safe at any point during the day or night. The time that the least respondents feel unsafe is at midday (21%).

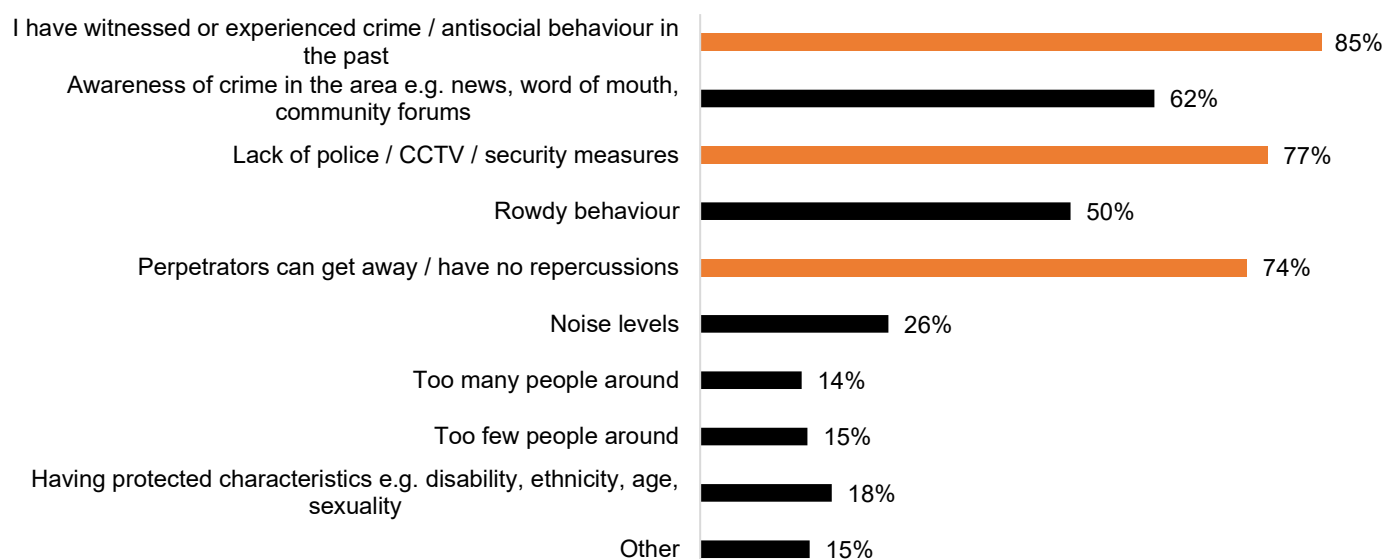


Base: 123

5d. Why people feel unsafe

Respondents that feel unsafe in Bolton were asked why they feel unsafe in the locations and times they selected. Most respondents feel unsafe because: they have witnessed or experienced crime / antisocial behaviour in the past (85%), there is a lack of police / CCTV / security measures (77%), and because *“perpetrators can get away / have no repercussions”* (74%). At least half of the respondents shared that awareness of crime in the area (62%) or rowdy behaviour (50%) contributes to making the area feel unsafe. Furthermore, 18% of respondents with protected characteristics noted that this contributes to them feeling unsafe in Bolton.

What is the reason you feel unsafe in the places and times you selected?



Base: 123

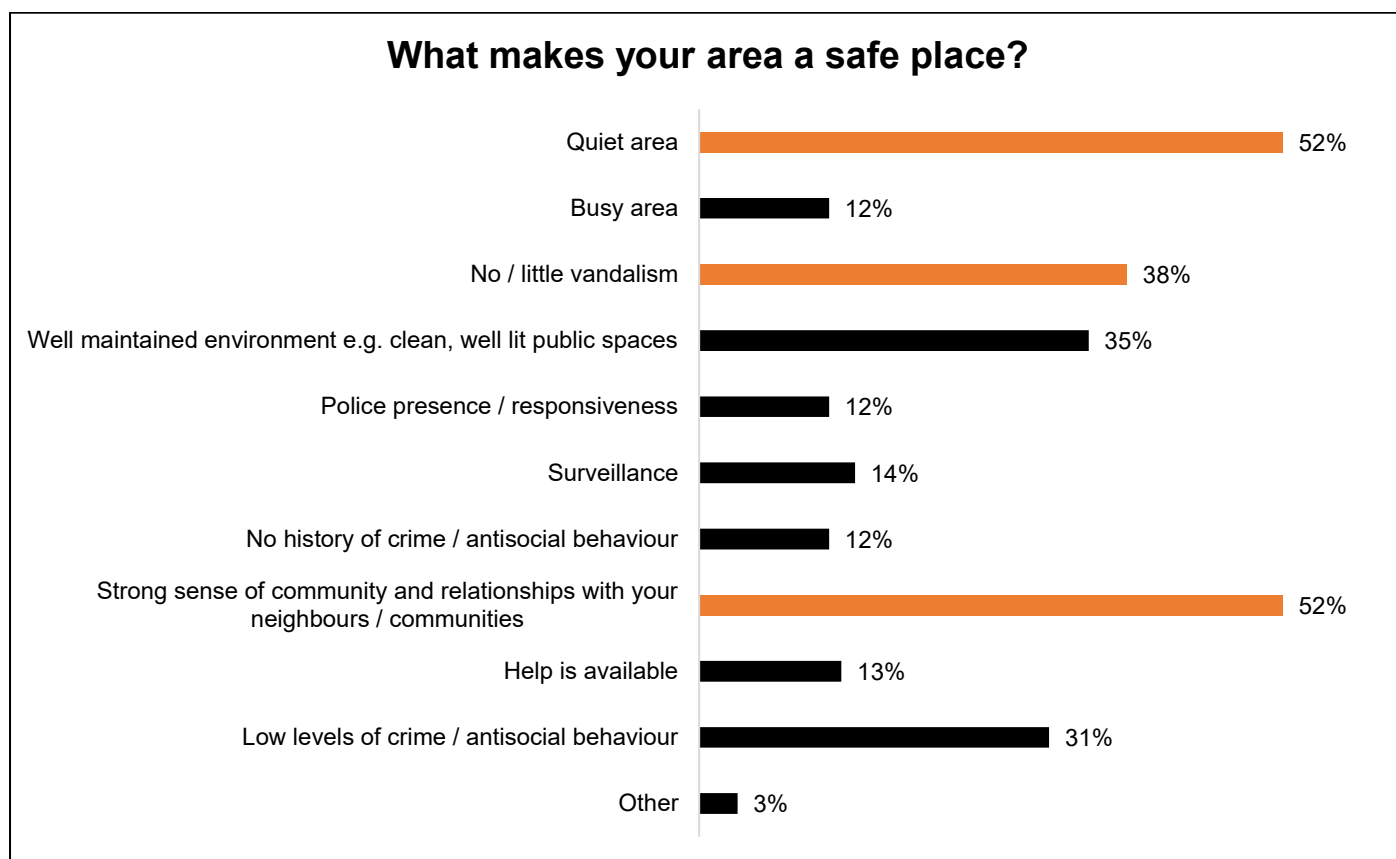
18 respondents feel unsafe for other reasons, including the prevalence of drug users, dealers and beggars in Bolton. Concerns surrounding community cohesion and immigration were often raised, as well as lacking security measures, girls' and women's safety, litter / flytipping or other antisocial behaviour all contributed to respondents not feeling safe in Bolton.

- *"Too much drug dealing in the area , even in broad daylight"*
- *"Dumped nitrous oxide canisters, spirits bottles,"*
- *"Bolton center especially Victoria square area if full of beggars"*
- *"Too many strangers, no sense of community."*
- *"Around Deane / Daubhill especially on St Helens Road there are often lots of groups of males hanging around outside shops and as a women it can sometimes make me feel unsafe"*
- *"The increase in people who claim to be patriots, and their willingness to be openly xenophobic."*
- *"The council turning street lights down to nothing every night at 9pm"*
- *"Mask riding youths on illegal electric bikes and e-scooters"*
- *"Overgrown and unkempt vegetation also lead to feeling unsafe in areas."*
- *"The lack of environmental care shown by fast food outlets,"*

6. Safety in Bolton

Respondents that feel safe in Bolton *"always"* and *"most of the time"* were asked what makes their area safe. Their area being quiet (52%), having little or no vandalism (38%) and having a strong sense of community and relationships with neighbours (52%) were amongst the most popular reasons. Over a third selected that having a well maintained environment, e.g. clean and well-lit public spaces, makes them feel safe (35%). Notably, a significant fraction of respondents stated that their area has low levels (31%) or no

history (12%) of crime and antisocial behaviour. Other reasons people feel safe included: *"It is only a minority of people who make the area feel unsafe due to their behaviour/ use of drugs/ alcohol"*.



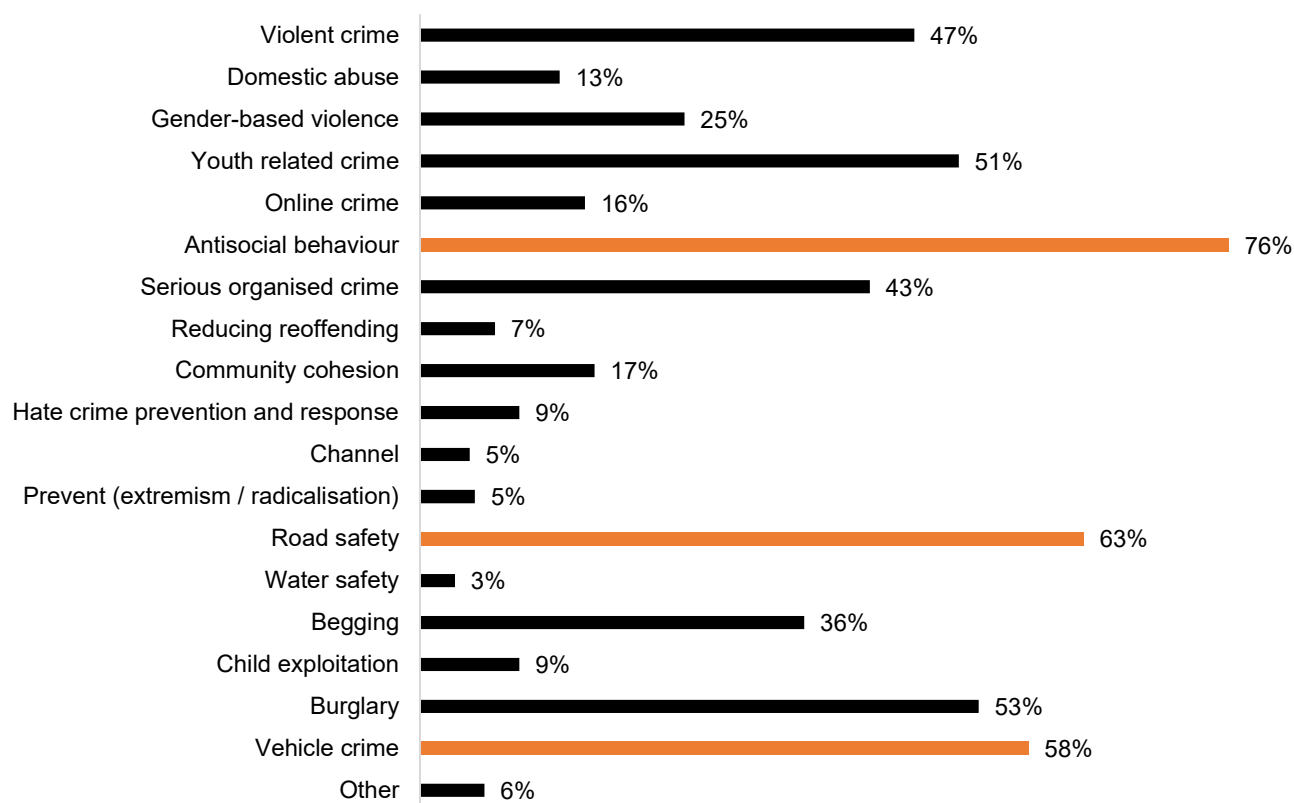
Base: 87

7. Problems with crime and antisocial behaviour

All respondents were asked which types of crime and antisocial behaviour they worry about in their area.

The majority of respondents are concerned about antisocial behaviour in general (76%). Vehicle crime (58%), road safety (63%), burglary (53%) and youth related crime (51%) were the most common types of crime people worry about. A minority of respondents are concerned about reducing reoffending (7%), Prevent (5%), water safety (3%) or child exploitation (9%).

What type of crime / anti-social behaviour do you worry about in your area?



Base: 212

13 selected “other” issues, of which 12 elaborated on other concerns. These focused on drugs, theft and other forms of antisocial behaviour:

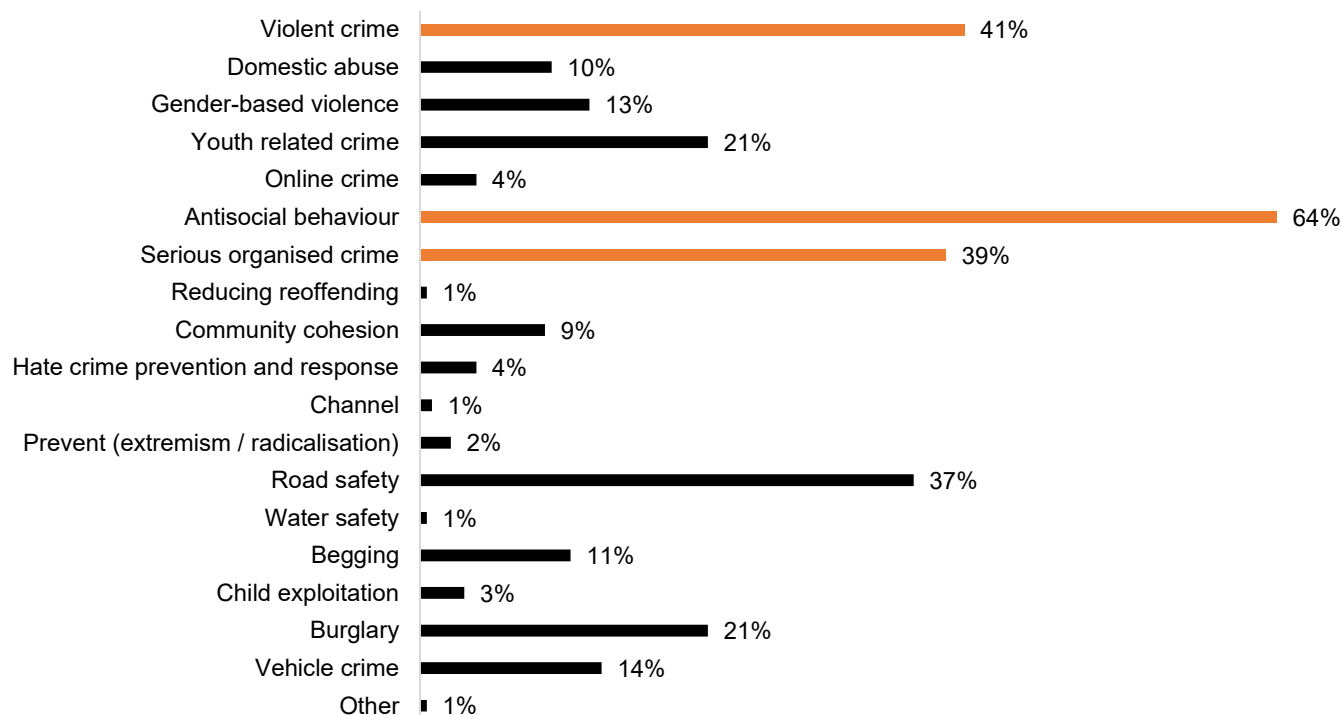
- “Fly tipping in the back street and people routing through residents bins”
- “Drug crime”
- “Beggars.”
- “Parcels being stolen, cold caller crime, parcel scam crime”
- “E-Bikes, mobile phone use whilst driving.”
- “Dangerously out of control dogs”
- “Shop theft”

8. The Community Safety Partnership

8a. Prioritising crime and disorder issues

Respondents were asked to select the top three crime and disorder issues for the Community Safety Partnership to prioritise tackling in Bolton. The issues that most respondents want to see prioritised are antisocial behaviour (64%), violent crime (41%) and serious organised crime (39%). Road safety was raised as a priority issue by 37% of respondents. One respondent selected “other”, mentioning drug crime should be tackled.

What are the three most important crime and disorder issues for the Community Safety Partnership to tackle in Bolton?



Base: 215

8b. Reasoning for crime and disorder priorities

Residents and stakeholders were asked to reflect further on why they selected the top three crime and disorder issues in the previous question. Comments were received by 148 residents and stakeholders, which were categorised into eight key themes. The themes receiving the highest proportion of comments were centred around feeling concerned about the crime and disorder in question, having high awareness of the crime in Bolton, and the relevance of the crime to the respondent. Other reasons for selecting certain crime and disorder priorities included having personal experience, or having witnessed these issues, and having a lack of trust in authorities or consequences for perpetrators. Several discussed the wider political and media landscape and how this has impacted their level of concern for different types of crime and disorder. A full overview of the themes are highlighted in the table below.

Please explain why you have chosen these issues.		
Rank	Category	Number of responses
a.	High level of concern / awareness / relevant	81
b.	Witnessed crime / personal experience	29
c.	Lack of police / consequences / no confidence in authorities / recurring problem	26

d.	Wider political context and media impact: immigration concerns / political rhetoric, media, social media attention and recent events	17
e.	Explanation of crime / general comments	16
f.	Level of impact on victims / residents	11
g.	Impacts on protected groups	10
h.	Solutions and suggestions	10

a. High level of concern / awareness / relevant

81 comments discussed having high levels of concern for different crime types, namely antisocial behaviour, serious organised crime, violent crime and road safety. Respondents discussed the visibility of these issues, becoming aware via word of mouth about crimes and concerns for family members. Several recounted experiences where they became aware of different crime types at home, whilst outdoors or on the road.

Antisocial behaviour:

- *"Its the most visible, drug dealing and fighting is happening in broad daylight and beggars intimidate you and if they dont get given money the pick pocket and shoplifting starts"*
- *"Too much of it going and needs to be stopped before it escalates"*
- *"Hear a lot about ASB at Mc Donald's"*
- *"Driving at high speed day and night. Drug dealing is getting worse. See this more often throughout all times. Off road bikes are being seen much more. Even on pavements all around Rivington."*
- *"Youths with face coverings on e-bikes terrorising the area. Vehicke theft is regular."*
- *"In Farnworth, it's becoming the new town centre with begging and anti social behaviour, it needs clamping down on, before it becomes out of control, the anti social behaviour in the market place shopping centre and the bus station, is seriously out of control"*
- *"I'm woken every night by cars speeding along... with their loud exhausts. They use it as a race circuit. 2. ASB, loud noise, fireworks in Captains Clough forest every night, setting fires. The beggars outside Best One shop who threaten people if you do not give them money"*
- *"Bolton town centre has become a no go area in the evening and going to the theatre and knowing you have to go through town is very off putting"*
- *"The amount of youths riding bikes/crossers through the village and up and down dirt tracks is both anti social and a blight to road safety."*
- *"Given the number of open green spaces and town centre spaces, there are regular reports of ASB. In the area that I live (near Longsight Park) there is regular ABS with the use of off-road backs and it being a cut through for more organised crime."*
- *"People on phones drive without proper attention going at high or low speed and weaving unpredictably. Some Youths drop litter near schools and parks, if this is broken glass then it is dangerous to animals and people."*

Serious organised crime:

- *"I have never witnessed so many drug dealings , its constant and degrades the area i live in."*
- *"I have seen drug deals openly occurring 20 feet off Blackburn Road."*
- *"Vape shops, barbers, desert shops are fronts for drugs/money laundering"*
- *"People smoking weed then driving off. possible dealing too. the shop still selling illegal cigarettes and gas but still doing it."*
- *"Serious crime, such as drug dealing etc is very serious and i worry for my son growing up with these worries."*
- *"There is too much drug taking among the youth, something needs to be done about it."*

Violent crime:

- *"Knife crime is all over"*
- *"Because they seem to occur frequently"*
- *"These crimes risk lives and threaten our safety on the streets"*
- *"The number of knife deaths"*
- *"There has been attacks, stabbings and robberies on Chorley Old Rd. Its not safe."*

Road safety:

- *"These are the ones I have the most awareness of. Road safety is definitely an issue in our area."*
- *"Daily observe motorised scooters and bikes on pavements.. many travelling faster than the cars on the roads. Many of their riders are completely dressed in dark clothing whom are almost impossible to see in the dark. It matters not whether you are driving or walking... they can't be seen and pose danger to themselves, pedestrians and motorists alike."*
- *"Bad driving on a daily basis such as tailgating,not paying attention, speeding,road rage always from older drivers aged 40's to 80's not younger drivers like you would think."*
- *"Too much bad driving, speeding, inconsiderate parking. Vehicle crime and burglary is definitely on the increase"*
- *"Concerned about speeding traffic along Cricketers Way."*
- *"Speeding on moss bank way is horrendous more so late in the evening."*
- *"Cars regularly speeding 60mph in 30 mph area on main road through Blackrod at 10.pm to 11pm"*
- *"Our road is 30mph but 90% of traffic travels over that limit, youths on motor bikes and E bikes regularly fly down the road at excess speed day or night no lights on"*
- *"Noticeable cars stopping in the back streets and persons going to driver side and exchanging ? Cars excessive speeding on Radcliffe Road near Lever Bridge area, Bromwich Street and Wheatfield street"*
- *"Road safety is sometiing that has the capacity to affect anyone at any time. Drivers are too complacent, selfish, and aggressive. The number of drivers who speed, tailgate, block junctions, jump red lights, park dangerously, use a mobile device, and more, has become an epidemic." Dangerous driving and parking comes up all the time around schools, and needs to be addressed."*
- *"It scares me that when my children who will soon be old enough to drive will be on these roads and they are not safe."*

b. Witnessed crime / personal experience

29 comments discussed their personal experiences with particular types of crime and disorder, several of whom mentioned relatives who have been victims of crime and antisocial behaviour.

- *"Driving through bolton town centre to work people still begging at lights and try car doors"*
- *"My sister in law and her friend were killed by a young speeding driver."*
- *"We were nearly run off the road on Armadale Road from a speeding car over taking a bus coming the opposite way on a blind bend last week."*
- *"Both Men and Woman are facing Domestic Incidents that they shouldnt have to. Mine started with being pushed around, having my money Stolen off me... When it finally ended with him raping me... i just wanted my Children safe"*
- *"I was attacked in... my now ex place of work... with a weapon."*
- *"All three of happened whilst present in my own home. My home should feel like a safe place."*
- *"Got threatened/intimated by 1 driver for looking at him because he was beeping his horn at 22.00."*
- *"I've had my number plate stolen 3 times"*
- *"I have experienced this and still experiencing constant harrasment from the neighbours at... Brightmet Bolton... The area is a cyndicate of crime"*
- *"I am a victim of antisocial behavior and assault"*

- *"I avoid using the bus at schools letting out time. Due to shouting, swearing and sometimes threatening behaviours."*

c. Lack of police / consequences / no confidence in authorities / recurring problem

26 comments raised concerns that there were no consequences for perpetrators following reporting of crime and antisocial behaviour, which for some has resulted in a lack of trust and confidence in authorities and the recurrence of issues.

- *"Reported and nothing done"*
- *"The courts are far too lenient on repeat offenders who commit burglary."*
- *"Not enough police presence and crime seems to be getting worse this leads me to feel unsafe in Bolton"*
- *"People racing up and down deane and derby street every weekend and nothing is being done to stop it."*
- *"Is it really going to be looked at..... I don't think so"*
- *"Even with the PSPO order in place and the town centre enforcement officer, beggars still come out and set up and just walk away when enforcement approach them, more needs to be done... you report it to gmp and nothing gets done, even when they have mass reports!"*
- *"Online it is very clear that people are confident to openly display their phobic views, and they are not being shut down or challenged by public accounts run by the council or police, never mind the news accounts."*
- *"I know someone who was caught with a canister and the police didn't even do anything about it."*
- *"The drug sellers have been here over fifteen years - yes i complain yes i report to my mp - both have failed to get rid of this scourge on our community"*
- *"Westhoughton has big issues. There's no police presence."*
- *"No consequences of actions even if offenders are caught."*
- *"There is zero interest both from Police officers and reporting it online to GMP"*

d. Wider political context and media impact: immigration concerns / political rhetoric, media, social media attention and recent events

17 comments discussed wider challenges in the political landscape and others focused on recent media attention of crime and antisocial behaviour in Bolton. In particular, several mentioned the fatal car crash in Bolton that occurred in January 2026 before the consultation launched, which garnered significant [media attention](#). It is worth noting that there is a high concern for road safety (63%) throughout the findings for this consultation. With regard to the political landscape, several discuss tensions surrounding community cohesion, experiences of witnessing racism and concerns of radicalisation. Several noted that social media influenced their priority crime and disorder issues.

Recent events:

- *"Road safety is absolutely paramount. Living in the BL3 area, im sure you'll understand why with the number of incidents which occur on a daily basis including the very high profile and traffic incident which killed 4 people on Wigan Road recently."*
- *"Because of what has gone on since Christmas in our area"*
- *"There has been a crash nearly every single day around Bolton since the major crash, more police presence and deterrents are needed."*

Political landscape and media influence:

- *"I suppose, its what i presume is going on in my area. This information is gleaned from the news, tv, social media etc"*
- *"Community Cohesion - there are heightened tensions between different communities and a lot of resentment against immigration, etc."*
- *"Conversations and experiences have led me to believe these issues are on the rise alongside some dangerous opinions, media and attitudes, they need nipping in the bud quickly."*
- *"The flags on the lamp posts seem to have given people the green light to be racist. I rarely engage with anyone after the reform tent turned up on the car park over the road and overhearing racist comments in local shops"*
- *"Domestic abuse is not treated with the seriously it needs. Far right radicalisation is on the increase and flags on lampposts don't help anyone."*
- *"The above ticked crimes are regularly talked about on social media."*
- *"They are what I see more of in Bolton. (In particular the monstrous online hate which influences people) which starts to affect daily life."*

e. Explanation of crime / general comments

16 comments explained their perspectives of different crime types and influencing factors that may lead to further crime.

- *"Begging is unacceptable and should be treated as such."*
- *"Drug dealing openly on the streets and from the neumeros barbers / vape shops that are now in horwich."*
- *"I have chosen these from a personal and professional perspective."*
- *"Organised crime can result in the majority of the other issues listed"*
- *"Because they link into each other. Youth committing crime, causing a nuisance and speeding in my area."*

f. Level of impact on victims / residents

11 stakeholders reflected that they chose priority issues in relation to the level of impact of these crime on victims and themselves as residents.

- *"Anti-social behaviour such as drug taking, vehicle theft and littering all impact my sense of wellbeing."*
- *"Because they are happening on my street"*
- *"Biggest impact on me and my property"*

g. Impacts on protected groups

10 comments raised the impacts of different crime and disorder types on protected groups such as older residents, children, people from different ethnic backgrounds and women. Several residents discussed concern for vulnerable relatives.

- *"Student parking on pavemnts out side our houses and blocking our gates my 82 yr old mother is in a wheel chair now and we can't get out or past"*
- *"Fear for my daughter, especially with the way the number of strange men there are around look at her. Children can't protect themselves and there's a lack of parenting capability in society"*
- *"I have been myself victim of discrimination/ racism, assault in work,"*

- *"Hate crime is just disgusting and people need to be brought to book in order to stamp out this resentment and toxicity against different communities that pervades the borough."*
- *"The gangs of men hanging around on Chorley Old Road is frightening for a lone woman walking to the shops. Especially near the Premier shop where they are dealing drugs"*
- *"Online crime is increasing evolving while remaining 'unseen', particularly for young people which is my concern as a parent."*
- *"I'm an older woman and I'm not sure how secure I'd feel walking around the area late at night."*
- *"Dangerous behaviour especially from men towards women."*

h. Solutions and suggestions

10 stakeholders took the time to raise suggestions to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour challenges, such as *"policing and education"*, *"breaking cycles"*, having a *"strong community"* and provisions for young people, as well as stronger enforcement on dangerous driving.

- *"Could be reduced simply by efficient policing and education."*
- *"Start with children then less likely to lead into adult hood. Breaking cycles starts with communities and their aspirations and opportunities"*
- *"Needs to be public awareness... they should wear light/bright clothing and a cycle helmet. I was horrified the other day when I saw a toddler being transported by its mother on a motorised cycle at considerable speed weaving in and out of traffic and neither were wearing a cycle helmet."*
- *"I believe a strong community leads to a reduction in crime as there is civic pride and local ownership"*
- *"It is very important to understand how and why adults and young people commit ASB, and if necessary develop better links with partnership agencies (social services, housing providers, businesses, educational establishments, eg). It is very clear there are not enough staff to manage current demand for investigating incidents as well as carrying out educational/preventative work... Dangerous drivers need to be identified and removed from the road, and poor standards need to be addressed."*
- *"Young people need to have access to correct education provision, safe spaces with limited cost and sporting activities"*

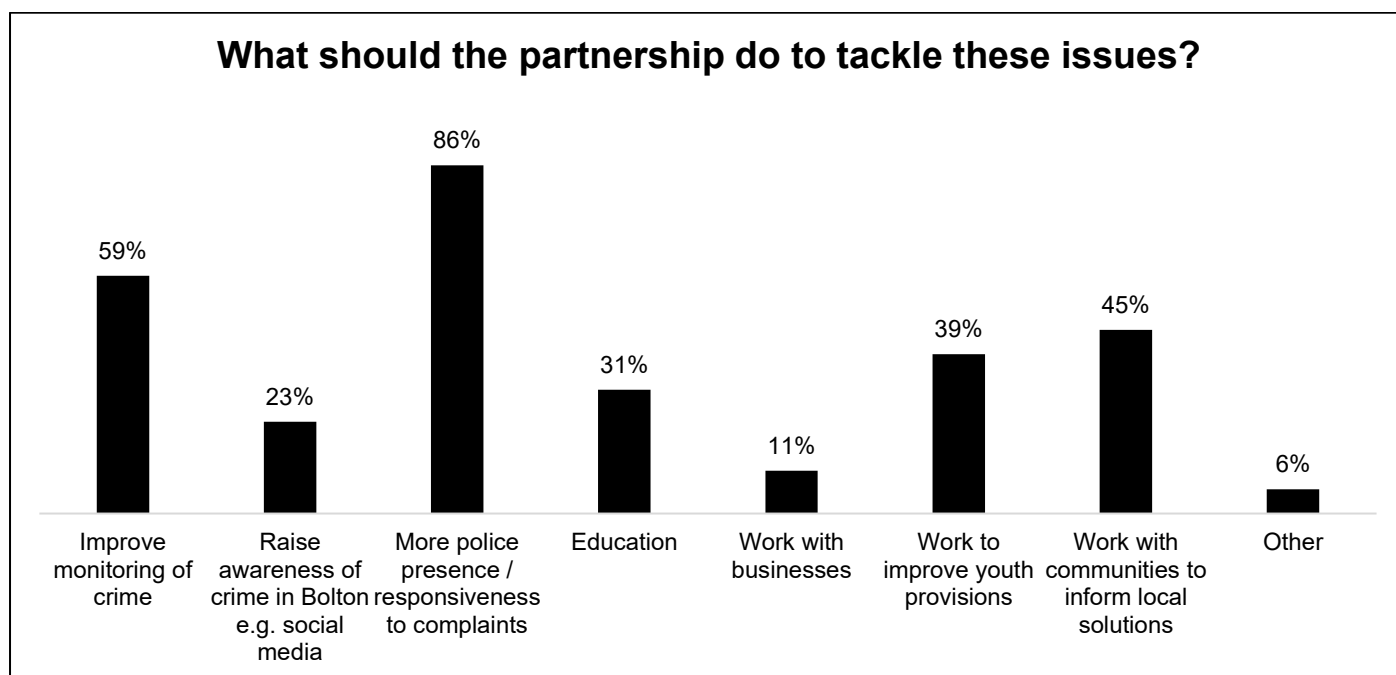
Responses from elected members included:

- *"Youth Crime... There are always youths committing ASB on Bolton Bus Station. It does not feel safe. Community Cohesion - there are heightened tensions between different communities and a lot of resentment against immigration, etc. ASB - There is lots of anti-social behaviour taking place across Bolton Town Centre and on the Farnworth Green Development/Farnworth Town Centre in general. This involves large gangs of youths intimidating people on electric scooters and bikes. Some wear balaclavas and are clearly drug dealing."*
- *"Drug dealing can be seen in the open on streets all over Bolton. Prevent crime, too many protests and high profile cases where Bolton is named."*
- *"Road safety and terrible speeding is a high volume crime and these people kill pedestrians and other drivers. Violent crime can easily kill people when too many think people do not know the risk. Domestic violence has terrible effects on children that blights the rest of their whole lives - women do die because of DV too and the DV rates are too high"*

8c. How the Community Safety Partnership can respond

Next, consultees were asked how the Community Safety Partnership can support communities and residents to respond to crime and disorder. 216 respondents outlined their suggestions, where the majority believe that more police presence and responsiveness to complaints (88%) is the best way for the

partnership to respond. Improving monitoring of crime was another common intervention raised (59%) as well as working with communities to inform local solutions (45%).



Base: 216

13 respondents provided further comments centring how the Community Safety Partnership can tackle crime and antisocial behaviour. Most suggestions focus on prosecution, stronger police responses and monitoring crime, whilst other suggestions include preventative methods and partnership working.

- *“Work with local community groups who lead in preventative measures and advice across the country and can link in with the communities due to their local knowledge and the existing network*
- *“Speed prevention resources, much more severe penalties.”*
- *“Put cctv in back street”*
- *“Use the VCSE sector more, and be much more proactive with interagency and interdepartmental working.”*
- *“Actively seek out ASB and drug offences”*
- *“Harsher penalties. Faster police response and harsher on petty crimes to be used as a deterrent.”*
- *“Investment into gender equality facilitation starting with school aged children to prevent gender based violence... This combined with improved media literacy for pupils could be a starting point.”*
- *“I would like it to be tackled (especially the toxic online garbage) but I do not know what to suggest.”*

8d. Supporting communities and residents to respond to crime and disorder

124 respondents provided their reflections on how communities can respond to crime and disorder. Many residents focused on policing measures, such as increasing police presence on streets, adding more CCTV cameras and an improved response to complaints and improved communication channels with residents. There was a visible sentiment of frustration with the reporting system, of which several residents revealed they do not feel heard nor feel crime is being adequately addressed. Several discussed community events, working with different organisations, and implementing initiatives to increase awareness of reporting and to

help the partnership understand the issues within the community. Some residents raised preventative measures to respond to crime and disorder, focusing primarily on education and youth provision. A minority discussed challenges with community cohesion and provided suggestions.

How can the CSP support communities and residents to respond to crime and disorder?		
Rank	Category	Number of responses
a.	Visible presence of police and more security measures	54
b.	Encouraging reporting of crime / responding to reports / listening to victims	40
c.	Improved communication and community engagement	22
d.	Stronger enforcement / regulation / prosecution	17
e.	Youth provision / education / early intervention and prevention	15
f.	Information sharing	10
g.	Partnership working	10
h.	Community cohesion / tensions	10

a. Visible presence of police and more security measures

54 stakeholders discussed that the Community Safety Partnership can support residents by increasing the visibility of police and providing more security measures such as CCTV. Several mentioned that police patrols are not present in their areas and that there should be increased policing in “*high crime rate areas*”. One respondent noted the lack of impact as a result of having a police presence in their area: “*We have an estate office where the police are present daily. Not only does this not deter crime it also does not improve monitoring*”.

- “Police officers in communities eg on the street not at a meeting at a hub”
- “Put cctv in the areas. These crimes are not being caught and people know this. By the time the police answer the telephone they have gone.”
- “If possible more presence on the streets on housing estates which is where it’s bad”
- “Listen to our concerns and put speed cameras up”
- “More presence especially when the crime is recurring in our area”
- “More police to stop dangerous driving and yours on e-bikes”
- “Step up more patrols, get officers out of vans and cars and deploy on the streets, I hardly see the pcso in Farnworth town centre, never mind the neighbourhood officers on the beat.”
- “Visible police patrols not seen one for six months.”
- “Have high presence in high crime rate areas”
- “They need to be Visible and easy to make contact with”
- “Pressure the police to be visible and have a dedicated set of people ready to respond to problem areas (as the police promised for farnworth but never really did)”
- “Should communities and residents by responding to crime and disorder and supporting prevention? It would help if there were more cameras in areas that are isolated, including parks and green spaces and more police presence to support prevention.”
- “By getting a physical presence of law enforcement officers. After 18.00 just never happens obviously down to poor morale and lack of numbers.”

b. Encouraging reporting of crime / responding to reports / listening to victims

40 respondents discussed the reporting of crime and the response from police. Several respondents expressed frustration with the reporting system, issues not being followed up, feeling unheard by police authorities and challenges with the reporting system. Some respondents suggested changes to the line of communication for residents, such as having a *“dedicated phone/contact number”* and *“conduct useful analysis of crime reporting statistics”*.

- *“Listen! Give an email where we can send you footage of drug dealing, littering, gas canisters inhaling etc”*
- *“Make sure that there is always a response from GMP so that people feel supported and listened to”*
- *“Listen to victims more and give more time to investigate these crimes.”*
- *“Have a dedicated phone/contact number for residents”*
- *“Having a proper and understandable reporting system that is easy to use. The current system puts people off reporting. We hear, if it's not reported, we can't act. Well, if we can't report it, you can't act. Start putting Police stop off points in towns and villages, like a caravan, not just Scholey Street and Police Stations miles from communities like Horwich/Middlebrook.”*
- *“Make it easier to report and have certain people who you can report directly to”*
- *“Evaluate responses, see what could be done better and then implement”*
- *“Be more responsive to issues raised by local community residents or organisations who work in local areas. From a personal perspective as a family we have raised issues with known drug dealers who are dealing to a family member and we never know if it has been followed up. Data to show what has response has been taken when information is shared could help to raise confidence from individuals or communities.”*
- *“Listen to them and conduct useful analysis of crime reporting statistics”*
- *“Encourage more residents to report crimes and suspicious behaviour. Be more responsive to people when they report crimes. Many people are disillusioned when they report a crime and its not followed up.”*
- *“Actually respond”*
- *“Answer the phone promptly. Be seen to deliver solutions.”*

c. Improved communication and community engagement

22 residents discussed that community engagement and better communication and information available would support residents. There was a common perspective that community events could benefit residents by showing *“people how they can make themselves feel safer”* and *“how and who to report incidences would help”*. Several mentioned that having accessible, open spaces to engage with authorities would support residents.

- *“Communicate with residents, but there again not many residents want to come forward”*
- *“Engaging events where people feel able to talk to the CSP representatives”*
- *“Speak to residents on a door to door, face to face basis.”*
- *“Repeat messaging about how and who to report incidences would help, for instance if I see signs of Nitrogen Dioxide use who do I report it too? Likewise littering and fly tipping?”*
- *“Arrange quarterly events that involve all key agencies, religious, and community leaders (for example community alliances) to show strength in cohesion... These events can have sports challenges, art, anything that celebrates community. If people feel safe, start to see that where they live is clean and looked after, crime will go down.”*
- *“Open surgeries and events at schools so adults can access support”*

- *“Communication between agencies is awful”*
- *“Provide visual support, hold community events to show people how they can make themselves feel safer.”*
- *“Making their presence known to the public and making it as easy as possible for people to engage with it. Letting residents know what they can do. Working with communities to identify problematic groups.”*
- *“Speak with them to understand the communities. Investment needs to be made in communities.”*

Two respondents reflected on the benefits of engagement with residents through initiatives such as Bee in the Loop and the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

- *“The police do attempt to keep local communities informed and offer opportunities to the general public to voice concerns at local forums and Bee in the Loop has been a huge positive”*
- *“The neighbourhood watch scheme, although I'm not directly involved does provide sources of information and makes me something is being done about crime and anti-social behaviour”*

d. Stronger enforcement / regulation / prosecution

17 comments discussed having stronger enforcement and prosecution of individuals committing crime. Several raised the need to regulate and prevent problems from persisting, for example by having *“harsher penalties for repeat offenders for motoring offences”*.

- *“Improve provision for young people and pursue serious drug/ crime gangs”*
- *“Instead of petty crimes getting no further action fine the parents they will soon stop”*
- *“More arrests, zero tolerance”*
- *“Stop and search. Tackle dangerous driving”*
- *“There needs to be harsher penalties for repeat offenders for motoring offences. The current penalties are not enough to deter repeat offenders.”*
- *“More police and more prosecutions would deter.”*
- *“Longer sentences - anyone who does not live here needs to be moved on and their identities thoroughly checked detained if illegal”*
- *“Target serial offenders and use proper sentencing,”*
- *“Using a mobile phone whilst driving is illegal so remind people and monitor the roads. I have watched police go past people on phones driving and do nothing, so there is now little trust in police to help the issue. Stop e-bikes being sold and remove illegal ones from the streets already out there.”*

e. Youth provision / education / early intervention and prevention

15 comments discussed that youth provision and early education could help to alleviate crime and disorder challenges. Education on reporting, support available for young people and *“preventative measures”* were raised as a mechanism for deterring people from criminal activity.

- *“The police should be more proactive.”*
- *“Education towards the communities more and how the partnership is helping regularly and not now and then basis.”*
- *“More youth centres. There's little or no provisions for teenagers to call their own”*
- *“Improve education around how victims and witnesses can be protected, when they report crimes. Especially DV and drug dealing. Many are too scared to go ahead with giving statements or going to Court.”*

- *“Aim to put more preventative measures in place. Increase resources and sources of support for parents and young people particularly around online safety.”*
- *“Work with youth providers to divert young people and make sure they know what’s available and support them to access it.”*
- *“Be more proactive”*

f. Information sharing

10 comments were received from respondents that suggested that the partnership should share more information with residents to increase awareness of *“active crime”* and *“what is going on locally.”*

- *“Raising awareness of issues.”*
- *“Inform us of what is going on locally.”*
- *“Maker us aware of active crime within our local community”*
- *“More information on how to directly access support. awareness of relevant issues and less saturation of “media propaganda” i.e immigration etc etc.”*

g. Partnership working

10 comments focused on partnership working with agencies.

- *“Sadly, i don't think much can be done, realistically, funding cuts, loss of police, lack of presence. Potentially liason with local schools”*
- *“Never had any partnership members on my syreet and I have lived here 20 years”*
- *“Police engagement wuth schools, businesses and councillors”*

h. Community cohesion / tensions

10 stakeholders reflected on the importance of bringing the community together, for example through events, whilst others focused on the tensions of some residents.

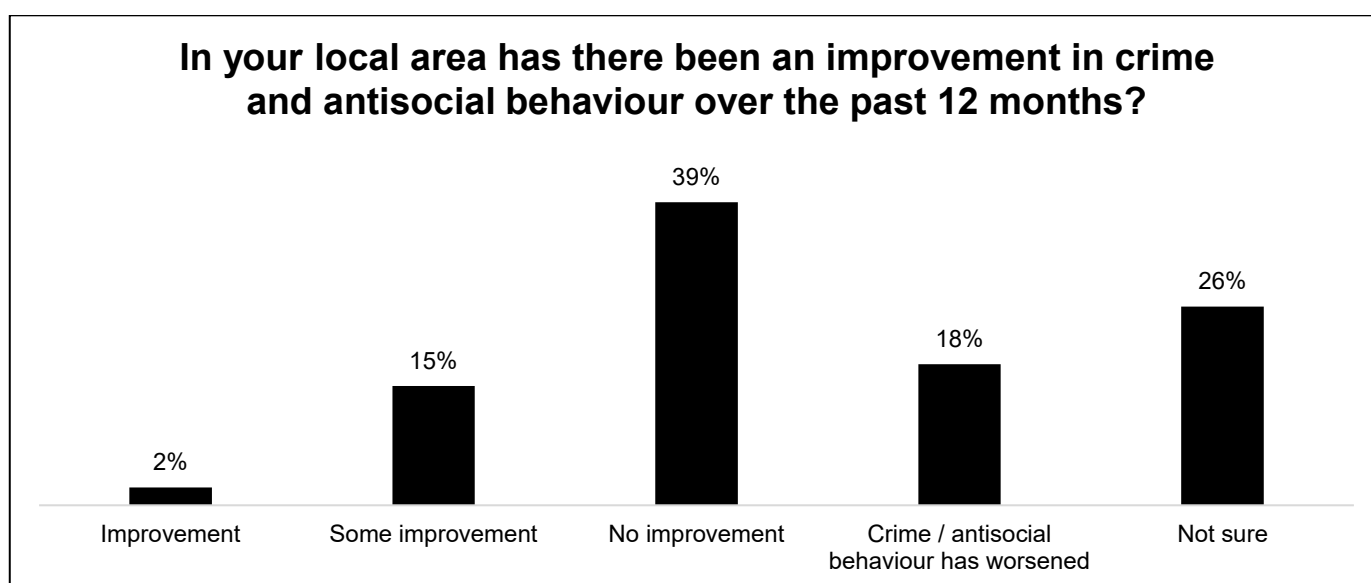
- *“More inclusive events in the community that promotes cohesion and promotion of looking out for each other”*
- *“Bring different community groups together. Ignorance and fear are the roots of most social crimes. Small groups with loud voice intent on causing division are not helping society.”*
- *“All the drug sellers are from far east - they stand there all day and night - why are they not in work? like i have to? ... i do respect the police but you’ve failed my neighbourhood by not being strong enough with elected members about the change in cultures and ideologies and tensions and drug selling and not releasing the true figures about the reality of the situation”*

13 other responses were received, focusing on getting *“people to trust the police and agencies again so more people will report and support”*. Several raised a lack of confidence that change will be made: *“No point suggesting anything when i know it wont be acted on”*, and others critiqued the role of communities in addressing crime: *“communities cannot deal with drug selling and drug crime - it’s dangerous - we’ve had shootings and knife crime related to these drug sellers”*. One comment raised concerns with the year round sale of fireworks and the associated noise pollution. Comments from elected members included:

- *“By placing more PCSO's and Police on the beat, targeting ASB/Crime hotspots and giving PCSO's the power to arrest.”*
- *“Police engagement wuth schools, businesses and councillors”*
- *“Communities and residents responding to crime or disorder might not be a good idea - because many residents believe in retribution towards and direct punishment of offenders. There's still a lot to do in encouraging people in Farnworth to report crime, disorder and ASB. Get the reporting rate up. Promote crimestoppers. Many people believe it is grassing.”*

8e. Levels of crime and antisocial behaviour

Respondents were asked to outline whether there has been an improvement in crime and antisocial behaviour over the past 12 months. 17% of respondents indicated that there has been an improvement, 39% stated there has been no improvement, 18% think crime and antisocial behaviour has worsened in the last year and 26% were not sure.



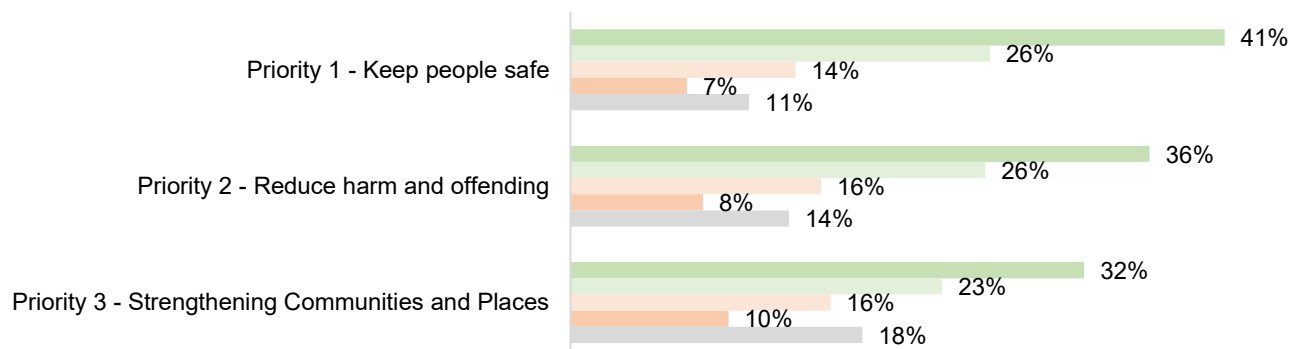
Base: 216

8f. The Community Safety Partnership priorities

The Community Safety Partnership has three priorities: 1. Keep People Safe, 2. Reduce Harm and Offending and 3. Strengthening Communities and Places. Respondents were asked to share to what extent they agreed that these priorities remain relevant for Bolton. For Priority 1, 67% agreed it remains relevant for Bolton, and 62% agreed Priority 2 remains relevant. 55% agree that Priority 3 remains relevant.

Do the Community Safety Partnership Priorities remain relevant for Bolton?

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree No opinion / not sure



Base average: 204

9. Further comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide any further comments about crime and antisocial behaviour in Bolton, resulting in 100 responses. These were categorised into five themes that cover general comments around crime and antisocial behaviour in Bolton and resident concerns, a sentiment that Bolton is declining and crime is increasing. Other comments include concerns about the police responding to reports and the funding of authorities to tackle crime and disorder issues.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about crime and antisocial behaviour in Bolton?		
Rank	Category	Number of responses
a.	Types of crime and antisocial behaviour in Bolton	59
b.	Decline in Bolton / not feeling safe / increase in crime and disorder	27
c.	Suggestions	23
d.	Listening to residents and victims' voices / Police response	16
e.	Resourcing / funding / visible action and policing	11

a. Types of crime and antisocial behaviour in Bolton

59 comments discussed the types and antisocial behaviour in Bolton, with issues such as drug dealing, begging, littering, e-bikes and concerns around money laundering being often mentioned. Residents raised concerns about the level of crime and the impact on residents.

Common crime and antisocial behaviour issues:

- "Electric bikes off road motorcycles Drug dealing in plain view."
- "Begging and street drugs and drinking is the biggest issue."
- "A neighbour of mine deals drugs in plain sight and doesn't give a damn"

- *"The path from River Street alongside the A666 is littered with evidence of rough sleeping. Cleaning areas such as these will help send a message that we don't tolerate activities that make our shared spaces look untidy and feel unwelcoming."*
- *"Money laundering and drug dealing, badly parked cars all day outside barber shops. Nothing seems to be done about it."*
- *"I only know what I see occasionally... shop lifting, begging and drug selling taking place out of cars."*
- *"The proliferation of HMO's is becoming a problem."*

Resident concerns:

- *"Too many door knocking (either people trying to sell you something) or are they just seeing where elderly or vulnerable people live."*
- *"It is totally out of control, and the people who are doing it, don't care because they no the police won't attend"*
- *"You can barely walk or drive anywhere without getting strong smells of cannabis"*
- *"Unfortunately there is little integration of cultures leading to major issues now and in the near future in Bolton"*
- *"Antisocial behaviour due to heavy drug use and property being used. 24 hours daily. Having a real mental health issue on rest of residents"*
- *"Sexual exploitation in farnworth is prolific It needs addressing on Highfield urgently "*
- *"Ethnicity should not be a reason not to deal with issues. Certain areas of Bolton seem to be a free for all."*
- *"Its awful and the age rate is becoming younger as time progresses"*
- *"It's too high, particularly knife crime and anti social motorbikes. A lot of places are filthy with litter everywhere which attracts more anti social people"*
- *"There are more criminals than police in my area."*
- *"Too many beggars in the town centre Youths and gangs causing trouble in the interchange Speeding in built up areas eg wigan road crash in January that killed an innocent taxi driver."*

b. Decline in Bolton / not feeling safe / increase in crime and disorder

27 comments discussed residents' sentiments of feeling unsafe and that there is an increase in crime and disorder. Several mentioned that Bolton has *"deteriorated over the years"* and raised concerns that they *"no longer feel safe"* and some are *"terrified to leave their homes"*.

Decline in Bolton / increase in crime and disorder:

- *"The continued chipping away of resources has resulted in an almost lawless situation."*
- *"There has been a rise in HMOs in our area and this has attracted more anti social behaviours , for example , drug dealing and refuse being dumped on the street"*
- *"It's now at its worse and nothing is being done"*
- *"Born and bred in Bolton. Unfortunately, like many, its so sad to see how its deteriorated over the years."*
- *"Speeding appears to be increasing."*
- *"I witness it escalating each day. Its depressing. It appears out of control."*
- *"In the past 50 years there has been an increase in the number of people of African heritage who unfortunately do not appear to accept our cultural norms. In the past month on four separate occasions I have found it necessary to challenge unacceptable behaviour in young males. 'In your face , and sense of entitlement ' appears to be the norm from that age group."*
- *"In the last approx. 3 years the anti social behaviour and local crime as progressively worsened."*
- *"I have always felt that Bolton is a great place to live and work but recently the general feel is one of sadness. In particular I am saddened by the lack of pride that people have in the general tidiness of the Borough. There seems to be a lack of respect for people and property."*

Feeling unsafe:

- *"Bolton town centre has crime happening in broad daylight and you couldn't get me into Bolton at night if you paid me constant fighting and trouble"*
- *"It is happening all the time in my area. It is very frightening. When in bed at night they are kicking the main door of the flats which is frightening. If I could move I would move tomorrow. This estate isn't safe."*
- *"Being in the town centre is scary, there are lots of people behaving strangely, sexual predators, intimidation from beggars and drug users and general aggression."*
- *"Avoid Middlebrook due to selfish drivers and won't go out in Horwich at night."*
- *"I do not feel safe walking around my home town. I cannot live peacefully here anymore as every night it is like a war zone with fireworks sounding like bombs going off then once they stop the car exhausts start and it sounds like a race track. We just want to live in peace and have quiet at night time to sleep before we go to work."*
- *"I've moved to Bolton 20 yrs ago and I used to feel safe in Bolton but now I don't... in general Bolton is declining in every sense"*
- *"Farnworth is becoming unsafe particularly with youth crime and intimidation. I am wanting to relocate as I no longer feel safe in my home and out of my home."*
- *"Residents of the Ollo development in Farnworth are terrified to leave their homes, constant targeted abuse and hate speech being thrown around by masked individuals who have a proven track record of trying to break into our homes."*
- *"This is one of the main reasons why people are staying away from Bolton Town Centre because they feel unsafe, there is a perception of it being unsafe and a growing reputation that it isn't safe."*

c. Suggestions

23 comments raised suggestions for tackling crime and antisocial behaviour. Interventions include adding more bins in residential areas, improving pot hole repairs, having stronger enforcement on electric vehicles, improving the reporting system – and taking inspiration from other authorities' approaches. Education, increasing police presence in towns and promoting "zero tolerance" for crime were also suggested.

- *"Behind many incidents of ASB are wider social issues such as poor mental health, substance misuse, lack of opportunities for young people, and economic pressures. Tackling these root causes alongside enforcement would help create safer, more confident neighbourhoods across Bolton."*
- *"Pro actively target e scooters and modified electric bikes. This is now the preferred mode of transport for the drug runners"*
- *"When opening yet another takeaway maybe they should be made to provide bins in the side streets where people have to live"*
- *"The appalling response to Pot hole repair must definitely contribute to more accidents. Should be a much higher priority and carried out more effectively rather than the hotch potch approach on minor roads"*
- *"It needs to be easy to report concerns about certain roads for speeding, dangerous parking practices outside schools, active reporting of sightings of drug dealing or ebikes. Most of these fall outside of 999, 101 does not always seem to get the information to local teams, and not everyone feels confident to navigate the online system... There needs to be a fluid, reactive reporting service for people who have information, or want to submit seeing something criminal that does not require a 999 response... Salford council have a dedicated social media team that takes reports and directs people to appropriate departments. Mersey police have a 24/7 social media team that people can contact with information."*
- *"It's important that street lighting is always switched on"*
- *"Flags on lampposts are anti social and they should be taken down."*
- *"Effective speeding measures need to be put in place.... particularly in the 'low crime' areas where there have been too many serious RTAs in the last few months"*

- *"There needs to be a zero tolerance of all crime, however small. Only by prosecuting all offenders will criminals be discouraged from offending, standards in the country have deteriorated over the last few decades so we now accept offences like spitting and littering as normal."*
- *"We need urgently to solve parking problems particularly near the schools in my area"*
- *"More assemblies in schools delivered by the local authority More police presence to address behaviour/vehicule speed (hindley road, wearish lane, etc)"*
- *"If there was a greater police presence and more deterrents for criminals there would be a lot less anti-social behaviour and crime"*
- *"Investigate how road safety can be improved because those breaking the law do not suffer consequences."*

d. Listening to residents and victims' voices / Police response

16 comments explored reporting mechanisms, listening to residents and the response from police.

Increasing patrolling efforts and responding to reports were raised.

- *"Communities are unsure how to report anonymously without fear or reprisals"*
- *"I don't feel listened to. I report drugs, motorbikes on the field, littering etc but nothing seems to get done"*
- *"It would be nice if you would act on reported issues."*
- *"The council just don't care, so long as they are getting the rent each month, they house criminals and trouble makers amongst decent people"*
- *"Its on the increase as people dont want to report so there getting away with it which then means they take bigger chances its a vicious circle"*
- *"Resident associations are good places for the local policeman to keep up with information but to run resident associations cost money. This is where the Council could take the lead and help setup R/As"*
- *"Not enough police. Reporting too difficult and not helpful. Called about an alarm going off in the middle of the night. Said they couldn't come out. Would I go and check whose alarm it was? Like I'm gonna get dressed and go and investigate. I'm not a police officer. I'm a lone older female."*
- *"Town centre has no police presence outside of operations. I would like to see actual police officers patrolling to stop beggars and people riding scooters into built up areas."*

e. Resourcing / funding / visible action and policing

11 comments discussed the need for resourcing to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in Bolton.

- *"The needs to be a targeted campaign to stop people riding electric scooters and motor bikes with faces covered but no helmets or safety gear. They need to be stopped"*
- *"Needs more funding from government for police and stronger powers for housing to evict, more money for youth work and crime prevention"*
- *"I believe the police do not have the resources to tackle antisocial behaviour- more money should be allocated for this purpose."*
- *"We need to see Action now, not Online Consultations"*

Seven other comments discussed concerns with monitoring of CCTV and private hire vehicles: *"the increased numbers of private hire vehicles registered in Wolverhampton etc being used in Bolton is a cause for concern."*; *"The cctv, pubwatch and stopwatch scheme should be rolled out to all of set towns in Bolton, not just the town centre and it should be monitored 24/7 like they do in Manchester, not finishing on a Monday at 6pm"*. Others discussed the work done in Halliwell: *"people pulling together to show the positive people control the area not the bad people is inspiring"*.

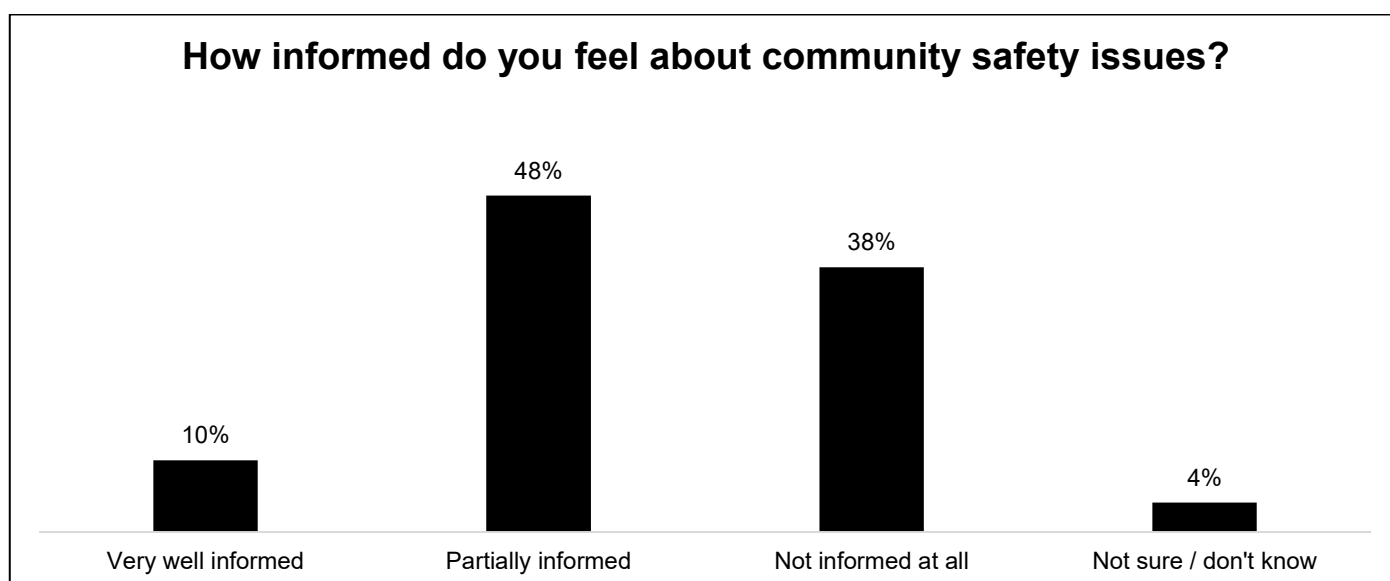
Two comments from elected members were received:

- *“Housing associations needs to be prepared to evict troublesome tenants”*
- *“Drug dealing has a complex residents view. They only care about the stealing that goes on to fund the habit or any actions to get people hooked like children. Residents hate organised crime where homes get robbed, vehicles get robbed... Many residents hate illegal immigration and associated illegal workers in premises too thinking this is OC too. Not enough has been done to reduce violent crime against taxi drivers - we should be ashamed of a lack of hard response on that. Mind you we should also be ashamed that we dont deal tough enough with domestic violence offenders - ok, give them anti violence programmes. We are not heavily promoting - Send in Dashcam footage of all the speeders and law breaking drivers in Farnworth and Bolton - GMP should fund Bolton more to deal with the despicable moronic drivers problem we have here.”*

10. Staying informed

10a. Feeling informed about community safety issues

Consultees were asked to reflect on how informed they feel about community safety issues. 10% of respondents stated that they feel “very well informed”, and almost half (48%) feel “partially informed”. 38% of respondents feel “not informed at all” and 4% were not sure / did not know.

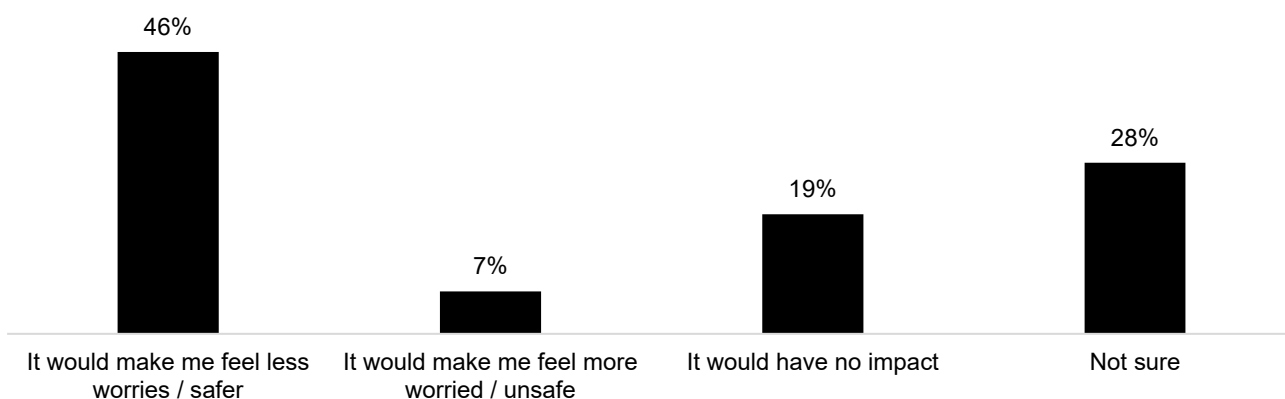


Base: 215

10b. Information about crime and community safety

It was important to understand whether more information about crime and community safety would have an impact on residents' concern of crime and feelings of safety. 46% of respondents that responded stated that more information would make them feel less worried / safer, while 7% think it would make them feel more worried / unsafe. 19% of respondents stated that it would have no impact and 28% were not sure.

What effect would more information about crime and community safety in your local area have on your concern of crime and feelings of safety?

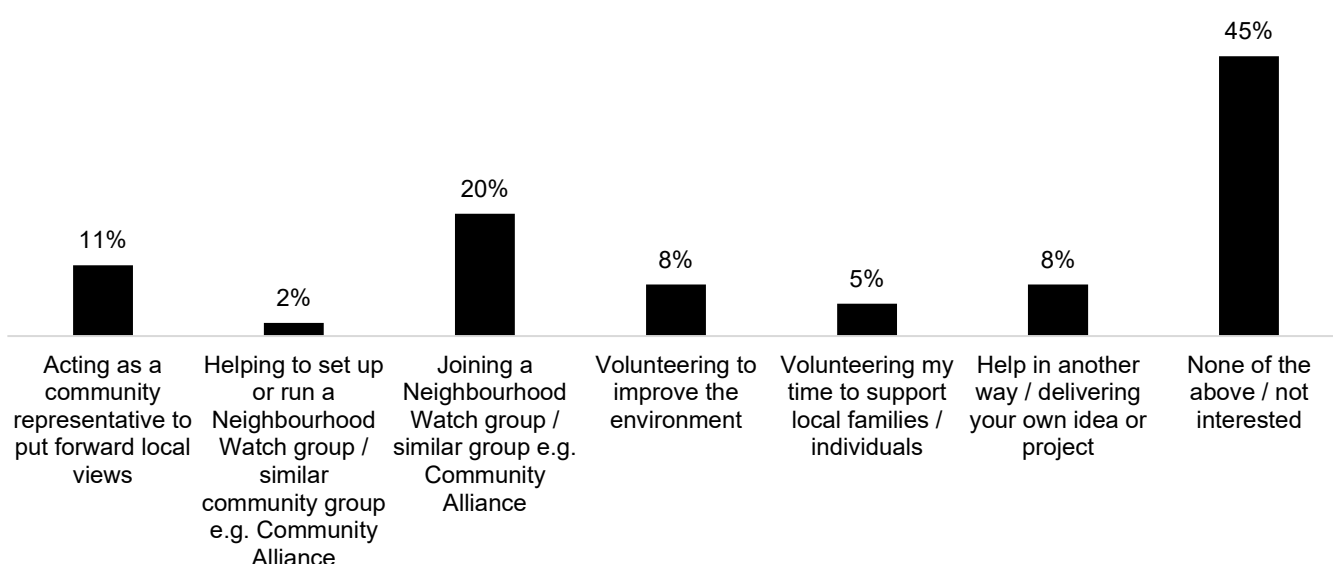


Base: 216

10c. Getting involved in your area

Respondents were asked whether they were interested in helping to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour in their area and improve community safety. 193 respondents answered this question, of which 45% were not interested in getting involved. Of those that did want to get involved, joining a Neighbourhood Watch group or similar group e.g. Community Alliance was most popular (20%), followed by acting as a community representative to put forward local views (11%).

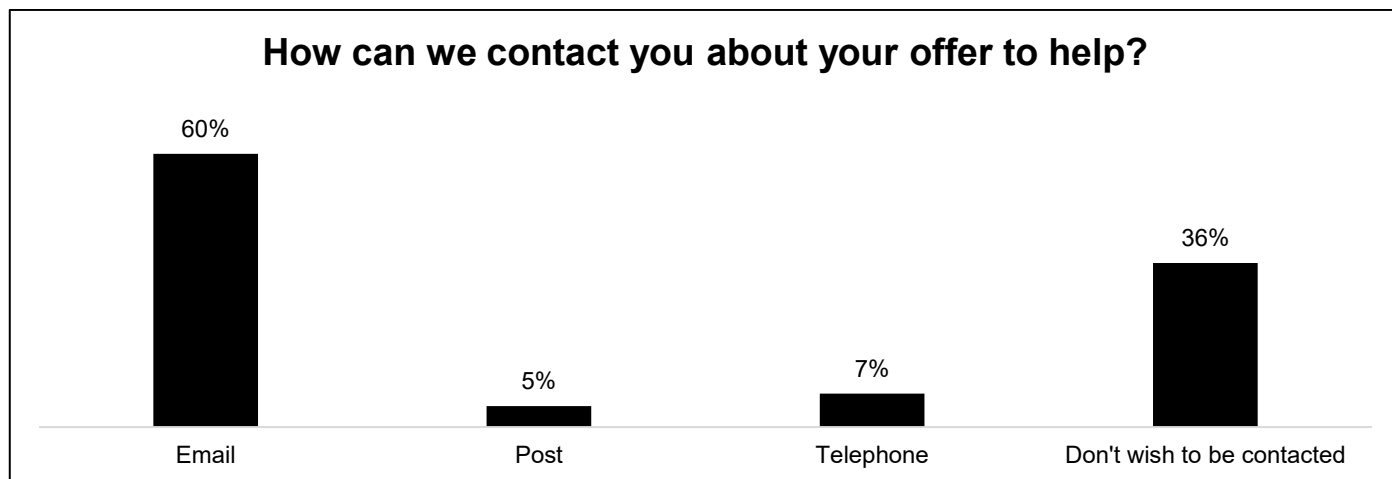
Would you be interested in helping to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in your area and improve community safety?



Base: 193

10d. Preferred contact

Next, respondents were asked about the best method to get in touch about their offer of getting involved. Email was the most preferred option (60%), followed by telephone (7%). 36% did not wish to be contacted further. The contact details for those interested in volunteering were shared with the relevant team.

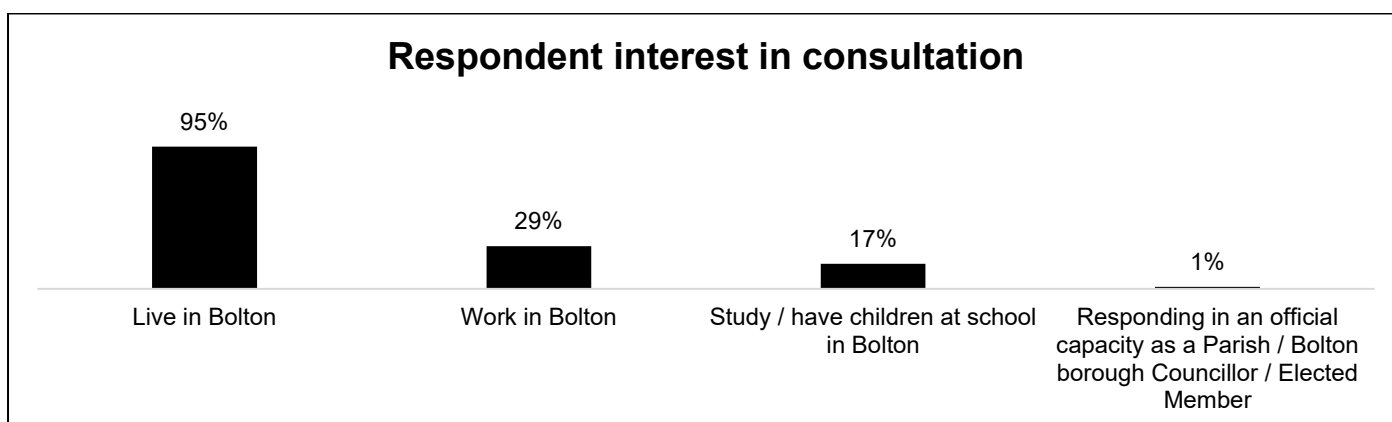


Base: 109

11. Interest in the consultation

11a. Respondents' interest in the consultation

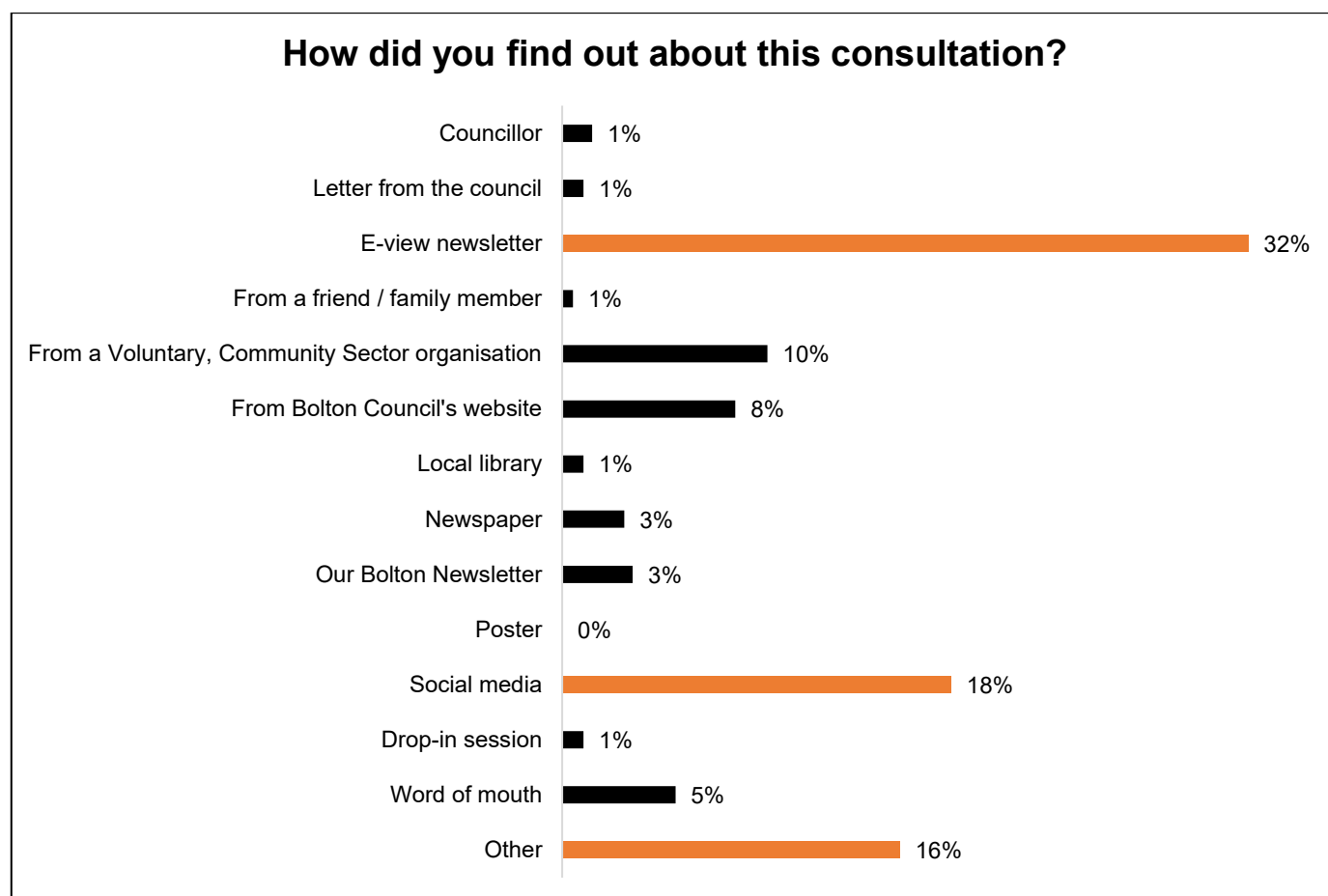
The consultation sought to gather the interest of the respondent in crime and antisocial behaviour in their area. 214 respondents replied to this question, with responses spanning more than one category. The prime interest for people completing the survey was living within the Bolton borough (95%) with 29% respondents working in Bolton and 17% studying or having children studying at a school in Bolton. Three official responses were received from elected members in the following wards: Farnworth South, Little Lever and Darcy Lever and Farnworth North.



Base: 214

11b. Awareness of the consultation

Respondents were asked to share how they became aware of the consultation. The majority of the respondents that answered stated they were made aware by the E-view newsletter (32%), social media (18%) or by another method (16%). 14 stated they found out by email, and a further 10 stated they found out via a Bee in the Loop email. Two respondents found out via a Neighbourhood Watch email. Other responses included Bolton News, Staff News and through the council's website and communications.



Base: 209

12. Demographics

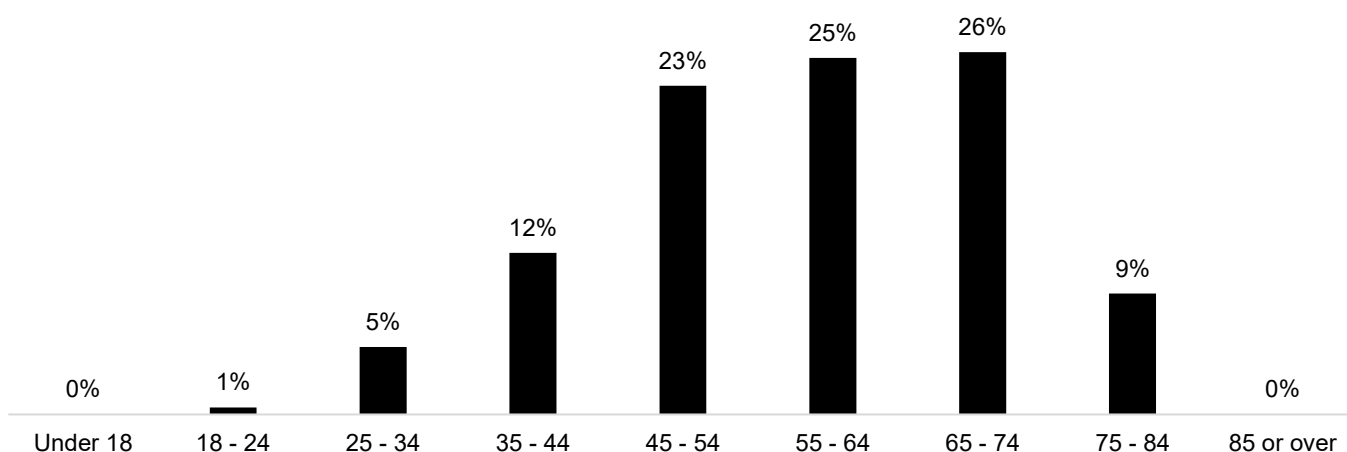
12a. Gender

208 responses were received providing the respondent's gender. 60% of respondents identify as female and 40% identified as male.

12b. Age

Responses were predominantly received from respondents aged 45 and above (74%). 1% of responses were received from young people, aged under 25 years. 35% of responses were above the age of 65 years.

What age group are you in?

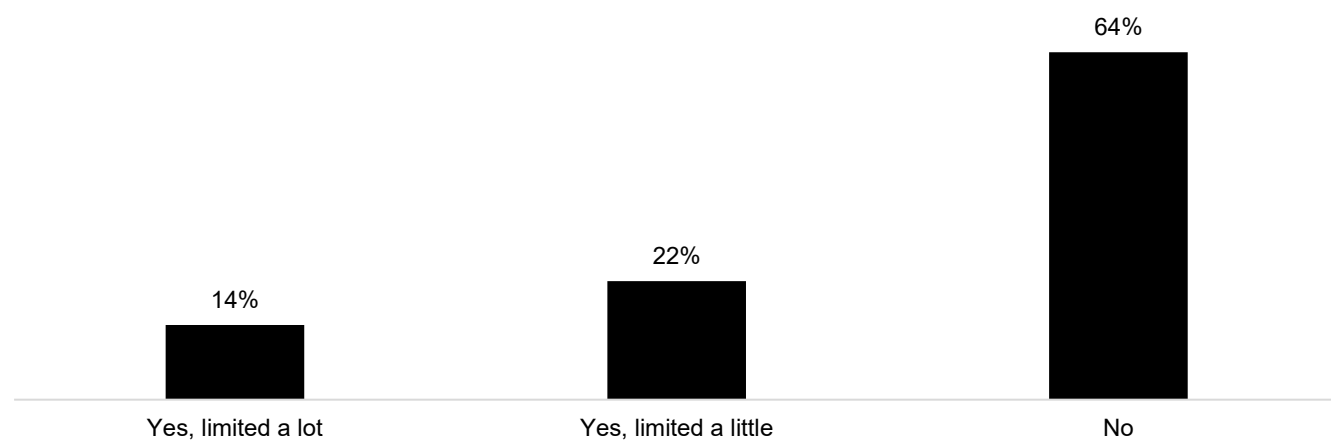


Base: 209

12c. Disability Status

36% of responses were received from individuals experiencing a long-term health or disability condition.

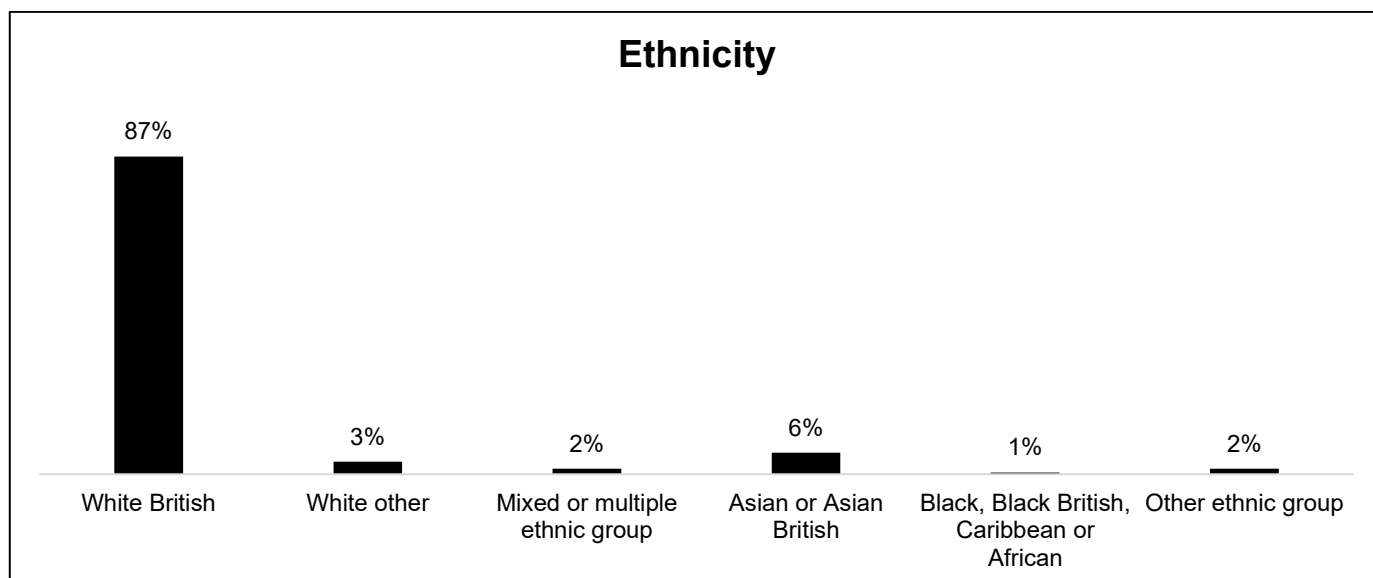
Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a long-term physical or mental health condition / illness?



Base: 210

12d. Ethnicity

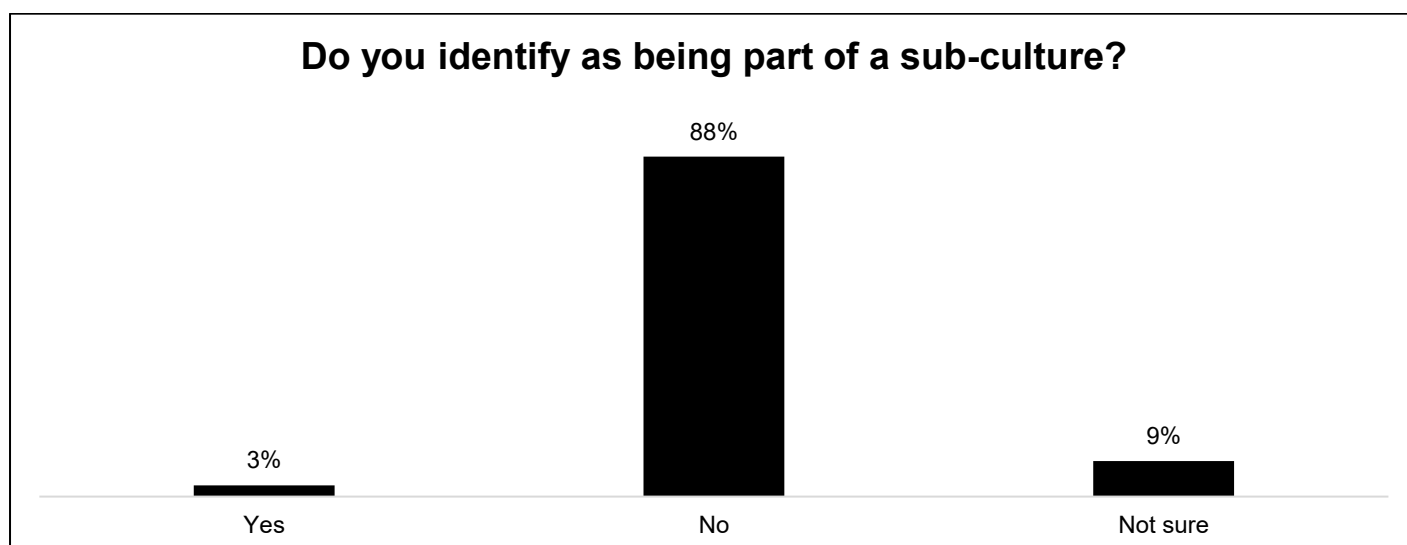
The majority of respondents (87%) that took part in the survey, identify as being White British. 6% identify as being from an Asian or Asian British background. 7% identify as being from another ethnic background.



Base: 205

12e. Sub-culture

The majority of the total respondents that took part in the survey (206), identify not being a part of a sub-culture (88%). 3% identify as being part of a sub-culture.

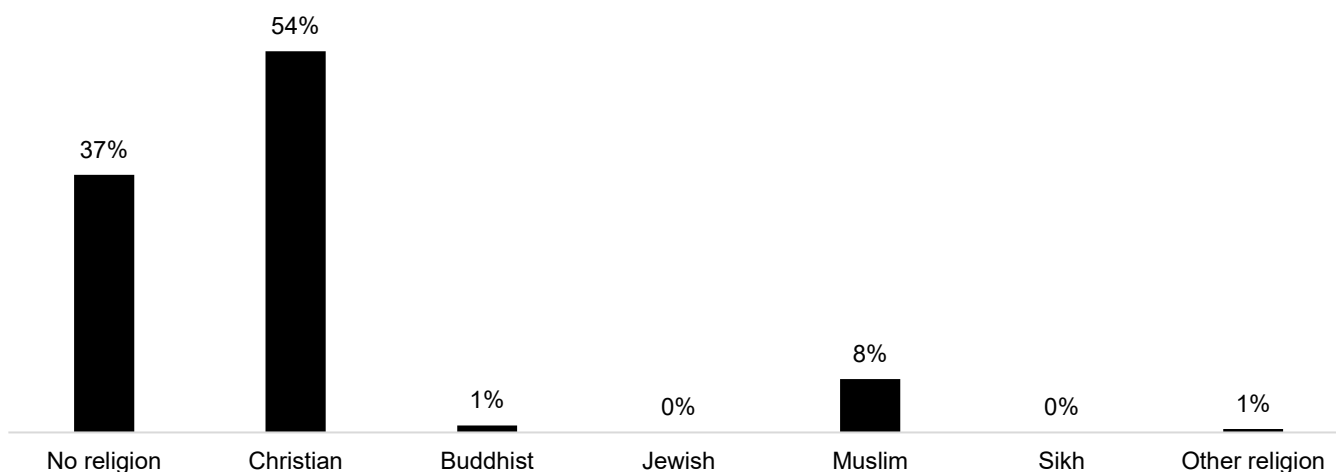


Base: 206

12f. Religion

Residents and stakeholders completing the survey were asked to provide their religion. This was to help identify the level of engagement from protected groups. 10% identified as belonging to groups other than Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations). Over half identified as Christian (54%). 37% stated they didn't belong to any religion.

What is your religion?

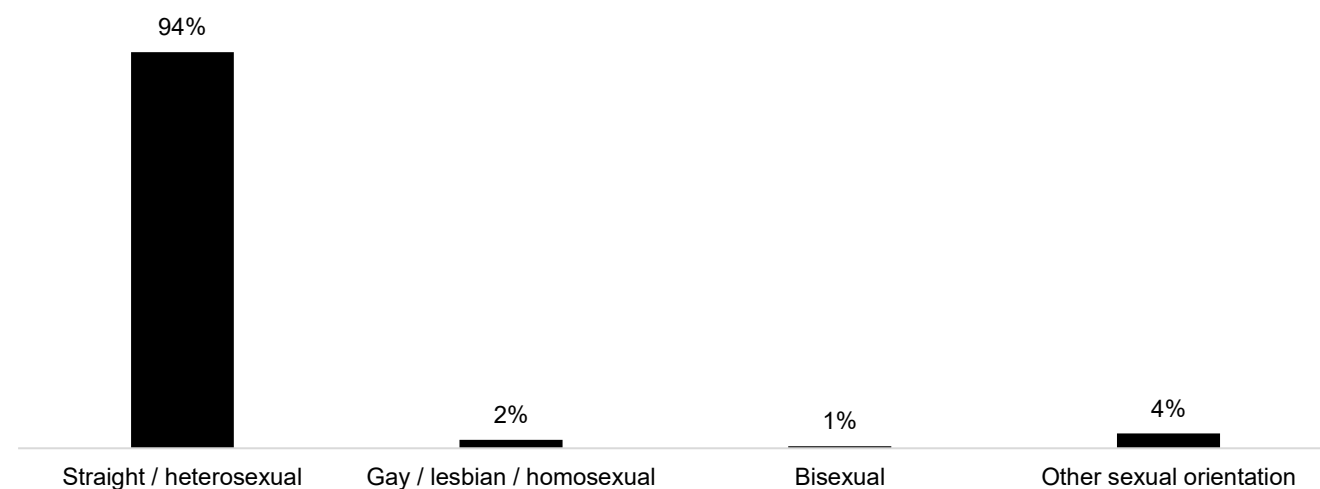


Base: 210

12g. Sexual orientation

Respondents were asked to provide their sexual orientation. 7% of responses were received from residents and stakeholders other than '*straight / heterosexual*'.

What is your sexuality?



Base: 201

13. Summary

Bolton's Community Safety Partnership, a collaborative partnership including Bolton Council, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service, Probation, Health, Youth Justice, Housing Providers, and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sectors, ran a six week consultation between Monday 2nd February 2026 until Friday 6th March 2026. The consultation set out to seek views on crime and safety in Bolton, helping to inform priorities to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough over the next three years.



The consultation was disseminated to partner organisations, community and VCSFE groups across the borough. E-View, the council's consultation panel, was also used to engage residents. 217 residents participated in the survey, of which three were from elected members. Most respondents completed the questionnaire based on the area they lived (94%). The geographical range of responses was relatively broad, with at least 12% of responses covering each area.

A quarter of residents stated they rarely or never feel safe in Bolton. Areas where people feel most unsafe include Bolton Town Centre (75%), open spaces e.g. parks, woodlands, waterways (53%) and in their local area (62%). Most people shared they feel safe at night / after dark (91%). Residents shared they feel unsafe because they have witnessed or experienced crime and antisocial behaviour (85%), there is a lack of policing and security measures (77%), and perpetrators have no repercussions (74%). Of the 43% of residents that feel safe in Bolton, their area is safe because it is quiet (52%), there is a strong sense of community and relationships with neighbours (52%), and low vandalism (38%).

All residents were asked to share the issues they worry about in their area. Antisocial behaviour (76%), road safety (63%) and vehicle crime (58%) were the top three. Residents were asked to share the top three issues that the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) should tackle: antisocial behaviour (64%), serious organised crime (39%) and violent crime (41%) were the most problematic. Residents think that more police presence / responsiveness to complaints (86%) is the best way for the CSP to respond.

Residents were given the opportunity to share how they think the CSP can support communities with responding to crime and disorder. Residents focused on increasing the visibility of police and encouraging the reporting of crime and listening to victims. Improving community engagement, prevention and partnership working were also mentioned alongside stronger enforcement and prosecution.

Comments about crime in Bolton focused on residents' experiences first hand or what has been witnessed in their area. There were strong sentiments of frustration amongst several residents with recurring crime issues, despite reporting to Greater Manchester Police. Several expressed feeling unsafe in Bolton and noted that Bolton has "*deteriorated*", or that crime appears to be increasing to some residents.

Overall, there was a mix in perceptions of crime and antisocial behaviour. 39% think there has been no improvement in the last year, 15% think there has been some improvement, and 18% think crime and antisocial behaviour has worsened. Over half of respondents agree that the three CSP priorities remain relevant: 1- Keep People Safe (67%), 2- Reduce Harm (62%) 3- Strengthening Communities and Places (55%).



Community Safety Partnership Priorities - Consultation

Consultation closes midday on Friday 6th March 2026

Overview

Bolton's Community Safety Partnership is made up of agencies who work together to reduce crime, tackle antisocial behaviour and make the borough a safer place to live, study, work and visit. The Community Safety Partnership is made up of representatives from the Local Authority, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service, Probation, Health, Youth Justice, Housing Providers, and representatives from the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector.

Each year, the Bolton Community Safety Partnership undertakes an assessment that considers the reports and impact of crime and antisocial behaviour across the borough. This assessment is used to identify the crime and disorder priorities for the Community Safety Partnership and informs the development of a delivery plan to address these concerns. This online consultation will help inform the priorities for the partnership over the next 3 years.

Why are we consulting?

Your views will help us to build a more complete picture of crime and antisocial behaviour across Bolton, which may not be illustrated by reported incidents alone.

Residents (adults and young people), Councillors, community groups, businesses and visitors are being asked for comments on how crime and antisocial behaviour within Bolton has affected them over the past 12 months.

Please can you provide us with general information rather than information about specific addresses or individuals. This is **not** a crime reporting tool. The non-emergency number to report a crime to the Police is 101 and, in an emergency, please call 999. If you want to report a crime anonymously, please visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org or call 0800 555 111.

Your response - keeping your data safe

Most questions are optional; just miss out any that you don't want to answer.

The results of this consultation may be made public. If you're responding as an individual you won't be identified in any report as your responses will be anonymised and grouped with those from other people.

If you're responding in an official capacity your response may be published but no personal details will be included.

Any personal data you provide will be held securely, in line with our retention schedule and privacy policy:

www.bolton.gov.uk/data-protection-freedom-information/privacy-notices

We use Snap Surveys professional software to collect and process your data. Snap Surveys Ltd. follow the UK General Data Protection Regulation, and their privacy policy can be found by following this link:

www.snapsurveys.com/survey-software/privacy-policy-uk/.

Your area

This section informs of which areas in Bolton you are discussing throughout the survey. We will not use this information to contact or identify individuals.

Are you completing the survey about the area in which you live?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please give your full postcode.

Which area in Bolton are you completing this survey about?

Safety in Bolton

Overall, do you feel safe in Bolton?

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Sometimes ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

If you answered 'sometimes', 'rarely' or 'never', where do you feel unsafe? Tick as many as apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ In Bolton Town Centre | ☐ At work |
| ☐ In public spaces e.g. built up areas | ☐ At school / college / university |
| ☐ At the Bolton Interchange | ☐ On my street / in my local area |
| ☐ On public transport (bus / train) | ☐ At home |
| ☐ In open spaces e.g. parks, woodlands, water ways | ☐ Other (please specify) |

Please specify where you feel unsafe.

What time(s) of day do you feel most unsafe? Tick all that apply.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ☐ Before sunrise | ☐ In the afternoon | ☐ Past midnight |
| ☐ In the morning | ☐ In the evening | |
| ☐ At midday | ☐ At night / after dark | |

What is the reason you feel unsafe in the places and times you selected? Tick all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ☐ I have witnessed or experienced crime / antisocial behaviour in the past | ☐ Lack of police / CCTV / security measures | ☐ Too many people around |
| ☐ Awareness of crime in the area e.g. news, word of mouth, community forums | ☐ Rowdy behaviour | ☐ Too few people around |
| | ☐ Perpetrators can get away / have no repercussions | ☐ Having protected characteristics e.g. disability, ethnicity, age, sexuality |
| | ☐ Noise levels | ☐ Other (please specify) |

Please specify.

Crime in your area

What makes your area a safe place? Tick all that apply.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ☐ Quiet area | ☐ Police presence / responsiveness | ☐ Strong sense of community and relationships with your neighbours / communities |
| ☐ Busy area | ☐ Surveillance | ☐ Help is available |
| ☐ No / little vandalism | ☐ No history of crime / anti-social behaviour | ☐ Low levels of crime / anti-social behaviour |
| ☐ Well maintained environment e.g. clean, well-lit public spaces | | ☐ Other |

Please specify.

What type of crime / anti-social behaviour do you worry about in your area?

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Violent Crime (including assault, knife/weapon related crime, robbery) | ☐ Reducing Reoffending |
| ☐ Domestic Abuse | ☐ Community Cohesion |
| ☐ Gender-based Violence (known as Violence Against Women and Girls on street, including sexual assaults, stalking and harassment) | ☐ Hate Crime Prevention and Response |
| ☐ Youth Related Crime | ☐ Channel (Support for Vulnerable Individuals at Risk of Radicalisation) |
| ☐ Online Crime | ☐ Prevent (Counter-Terrorism) |
| ☐ Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) (action that causes harassment, alarm or distress including neighbour nuisance, off-road bikes, vandalism, graffiti, street drinking, rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour) | ☐ Road Safety (Including speeding) |
| ☐ Serious Organised Crime (including drug dealing, county lines, human trafficking, modern slavery) | ☐ Water Safety |
| | ☐ Begging |
| | ☐ Child exploitation (sexual and criminal) |
| | ☐ Burglary |
| | ☐ Vehicle Crime |
| | ☐ Other |

Please specify.

The Community Safety Partnership

Your local Community Safety Partnership brings together organisations such as the council, police, fire service, health partners and community groups to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour and the issues that affect how safe people feel where they live.

The current CSP priorities are:

1. Keep People Safe.
2. Reduce Harm and Offending
3. Strengthen Communities and Places.

To find out more about the work of the partnership, take a look at the Community Safety Annual Report (2024/25): <https://www.boltonjsna.org.uk/downloads/file/399/community-safety-report-2024-25>

What do you think are the 3 most important crime and disorder issues for the Community Safety Partnership to tackle in the Bolton borough?

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Violent Crime (including assault, knife/weapon related crime, robbery) | ☐ Reducing Reoffending |
| ☐ Domestic Abuse | ☐ Community Cohesion |
| ☐ Gender-based Violence (known as Violence Against Women and Girls on street, including sexual assaults, stalking and harassment) | ☐ Hate Crime Prevention and Response |
| ☐ Youth Related Crime | ☐ Channel (Support for Vulnerable Individuals at Risk of Radicalisation) |
| ☐ Online Crime | ☐ Prevent (Counter-Terrorism) |
| ☐ Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) (action that causes harassment, alarm or distress including neighbour nuisance, off-road bikes, vandalism, graffiti, street drinking, rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour) | ☐ Road Safety (Including speeding) |
| ☐ Serious Organised Crime (including drug dealing, county lines, human trafficking, modern slavery) | ☐ Water Safety |
| | ☐ Begging |
| | ☐ Child exploitation (sexual and criminal) |
| | ☐ Burglary |
| | ☐ Vehicle Crime |
| | ☐ Other |

Please specify.

Please explain why you have chosen these issues.

What should the partnership do to tackle these issues?

- ☐ Improve monitoring of crime
- ☐ Raise awareness of crime in Bolton e.g. social media

- ☐ More police presence / responsiveness to complaints
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Work with businesses

- ☐ Work to improve youth provisions
- ☐ Work with communities to inform local solutions
- ☐ Other

Please specify.

How can the Community Safety Partnerships support communities and residents to respond to crime and disorder?

In your local area, has there been an improvement in crime and antisocial behaviour over the past 12 months?

- ☐ Improvement
- ☐ Some improvement
- ☐ No improvement
- ☐ Crime / anti-social behaviour has worsened
- ☐ Not sure

Do the current Community Safety Partnership priorities remain relevant for Bolton?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion / not sure
Priority 1 - Keep people safe	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Priority 2 - Reduce Harm and Offending	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Priority 3 - Strengthening Communities and Places	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Further comments

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about crime and anti-social behaviour in Bolton?

Staying informed

How informed do you feel about community safety issues?

- ☐ Very well informed ☐ Partially informed ☐ Not informed at all ☐ Not sure / don't know

What effect would more information about crime and community safety in your local area have on your concern of crime and feelings of safety?

- ☐ It would make me feel less worried / safer ☐ It would make me feel more worried / unsafe ☐ It would have no impact ☐ Not sure

Would you be interested in helping to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in your area and improve community safety?

- ☐ Acting as a community representative to put forward local views / suggestions. This may include helping with future consultations and sitting on a working group ☐ Helping to set up / run a Neighbourhood Watch group or similar community group e.g. Community Alliance
- ☐ Joining a Neighbourhood Watch group or similar community group e.g. Community Alliance ☐ Volunteering to improve the environment e.g. litter picking
- ☐ Volunteering my time to support local families / individuals ☐ Help in another way, or by delivering your own idea or project
- ☐ None of the above / not interested

How can we contact you about your offer to get involved?

- ☐ Email ☐ Post
☐ Telephone ☐ Don't wish to be contacted

Name:

Postal address:

Email address:

Telephone number:

Your interest

Which of the following best describes you / your family's interest in this consultation?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Live in Bolton borough [Bolton Council area] | ☐ Official response from Parish / Bolton borough Councillor / Elected Member |
| ☐ Work in Bolton borough | ☐ Official response from a business / organisation / community group. You must have their permission to submit an official response on their behalf |
| ☐ Study / have children at school in Bolton borough | ☐ None of the above - please explain below |
| ☐ Visitor to Bolton | |

Please say what your interest is.

Please say which ward, business organisation or community group you represent.

Please say what your role is - in what official capacity do you represent the ward, business, organisation or community group?

How did you find out about this consultation? Please select one option.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ Councillor | ☐ From a Voluntary, Community Sector Organisation | ☐ Our Bolton Newsletter |
| ☐ Letter from the Council | ☐ From Bolton Council's website | ☐ Poster |
| ☐ E-View newsletter | ☐ Local library | ☐ Social media |
| ☐ From a friend/family member | ☐ Newspaper | ☐ Drop-in session |
| | | ☐ Word of mouth |
| | | ☐ Other (please specify) |

If 'other', please specify.

About you

Your answers in this section help us to make sure we are getting views from different types of people.

They **won't** be used to contact or identify you unless if you provide your contact details.

Are you...?

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| ☐ Female | ☐ Male | ☐ Identify in another way |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|

Which age group are you in?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ☐ Under 18 | ☐ 35 - 44 | ☐ 65 - 74 |
| ☐ 18 - 24 | ☐ 45 - 54 | ☐ 75 - 84 |
| ☐ 25 - 34 | ☐ 55 - 64 | ☐ 85 or over |

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a long-term physical or mental health condition / illness?

- ☐ Yes, limited a lot ☐ Yes, limited a little ☐ No

What is your ethnic group?

- ☐ White British ☐ Mixed or Multiple ethnic group ☐ Black, Black British, Caribbean or African
☐ White other ☐ Asian or Asian British ☐ Other ethnic group

Do you identify as being part of a sub-culture?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

What is your religion?

- ☐ No religion ☐ Buddhist ☐ Sikh
☐ Christian [including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations] ☐ Hindu ☐ Other religion
☐ Jewish
☐ Muslim

Which of the following most closely describes your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Straight / heterosexual ☐ Gay / Lesbian / Homosexual ☐ Bisexual ☐ Other sexual orientation

Thanks! Please click 'submit' to send your response through to us.