



Neighbourhood Watch Crime and Community Survey

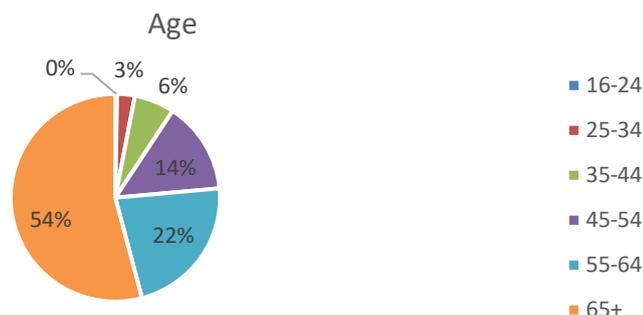
South West Region

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.
- 1.4 This report is a summary of survey results from the South West region including data from the following police force areas: -
 - Avon and Somerset
 - Devon and Cornwall
 - Dorset
 - Gloucestershire
 - Wiltshire

2. Profile of Respondents

- 2.1 13% of the total sample size was from the South West.
- 2.2 Respondents from the South West were in the main from a White British background (95%), with 2% from any other ethnic group.
- 2.3 Respondents tended to fall into older age groups, in particular 65+ (54%), 22% were between 55 and 64, 14% between 45 and 54, 6% between 35 and 44, with 3% of respondents under 35yrs old.



2.4 Respondents had a very high level of house ownership (89%), with 64% earning below £40,000 pa.



3. Neighbourhood Watch Membership

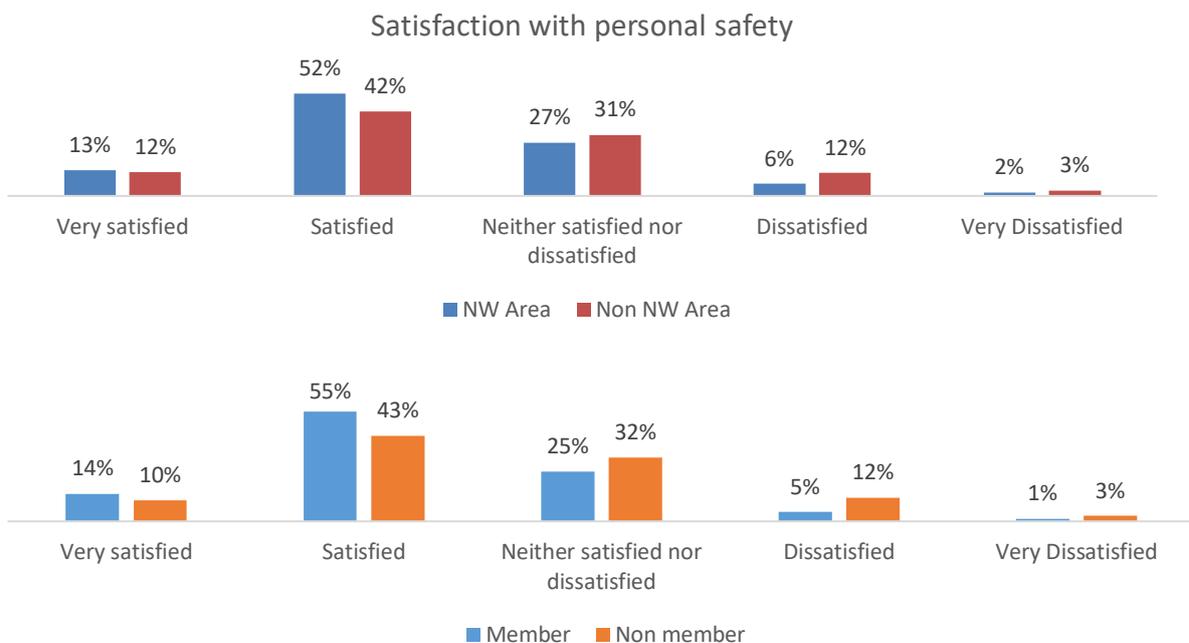
3.1 54% of respondents from the South West live in a Neighbourhood Watch area, with 46% either not living in a NW area or not knowing whether they do or not.

3.2 Of the respondents who live in a Neighbourhood Watch area, 78% identified as members of Neighbourhood Watch.

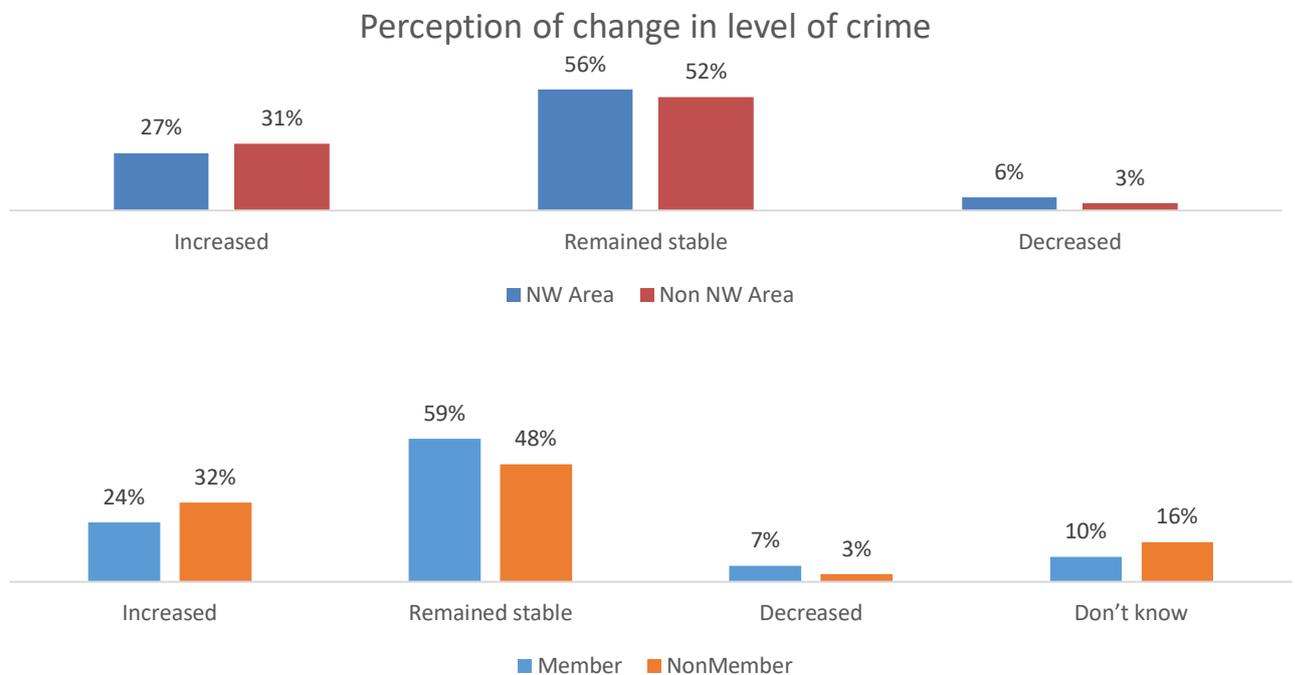
3.3 41% of the total number of respondents from the South West identified as members of Neighbourhood Watch.

4. Perception of Crime and Safety

4.1 Those who live in a Neighbourhood Watch Area in the South West are more likely to be satisfied with their personal safety than those who don't (65% vs 54%), with members of Neighbourhood Watch in those areas even more likely to be satisfied with their personal safety (69%).



4.2 Those living in a Neighbourhood Watch area are less likely to say that crime has increased than those who don't (27% vs 31%), with Neighbourhood Watch members in those areas even less likely to think that crime has increased (24%), and significantly more likely to think crime has decreased or remained stable (66% vs 51%).

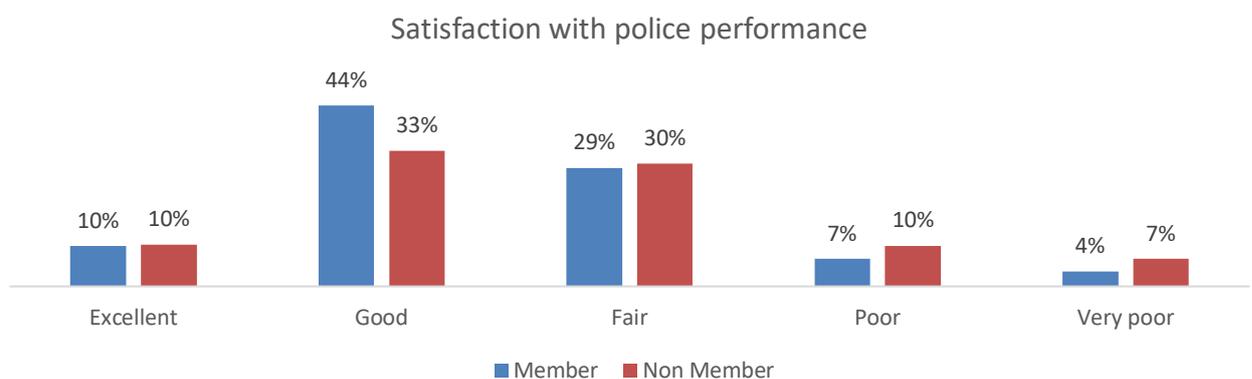


5. Policing

5.1 42% of all respondents to the national survey think the police in their area do an excellent or good job.

5.2 The more respondents in the South West think crime has decreased the better they think of the police. 75% of those who think crime has decreased think the police in their area do an excellent or good job, compared to 31% of those who think crime has increased.

5.3 Neighbourhood Watch members in The South West are more likely than non-members to think the police in their area do an excellent or good job (54% vs 43%).



6. Neighbourhood Watch Activity

6.1 Information provision

The vast majority of Neighbourhood Watch members (93%), and over half of non-members (68%) living in Neighbourhood Watch areas in the South West receive regular information from Neighbourhood Watch. 76% of all respondents living in a 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 46% received advice on home security once or more a month.

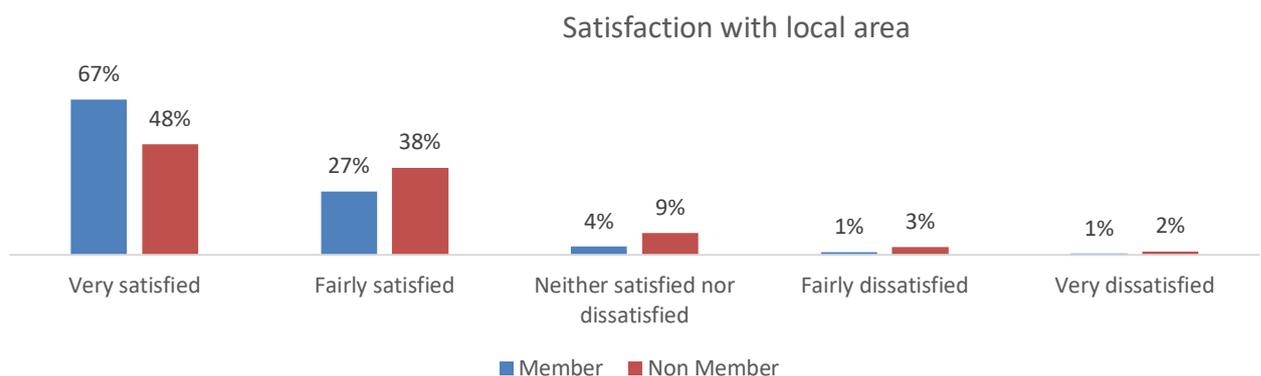
Both members and non-members are likely to act on crime prevention advice they receive from Neighbourhood Watch. 51% of Neighbourhood Watch members and 39% of non-members usually act on that advice, with 39% of members and 43% of non-members sometimes acting on it.

6.2 Other Activities

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 13% that their local group had arranged or supported activity to look after or improve the local environment over the last 3 months. 4% of NW groups in the South West also arranged or conducted crime prevention talks, 5% arranged property marking and 6% arranged or ran community social events over the past 3 months.

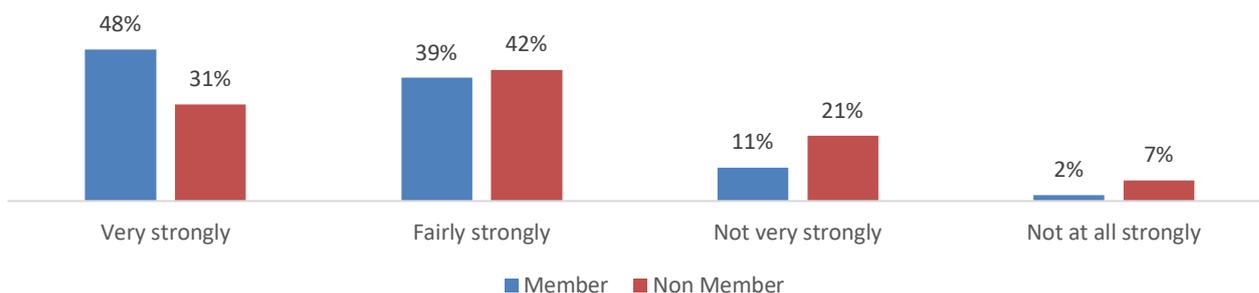
7. Community

7.1 Neighbourhood Watch members are more likely to be very satisfied or fairly satisfied with their local area than non-members (94% vs 86%). In particular they are much more likely to be very satisfied with their local area (67% NW members vs 48% non-members).



7.2 Neighbourhood Watch members are more likely to feel part of the neighbourhood than non-members (87% vs 73%). In particular they are much more likely to very strongly agree that they feel part of the neighbourhood (48% NW members vs 31% non-members).

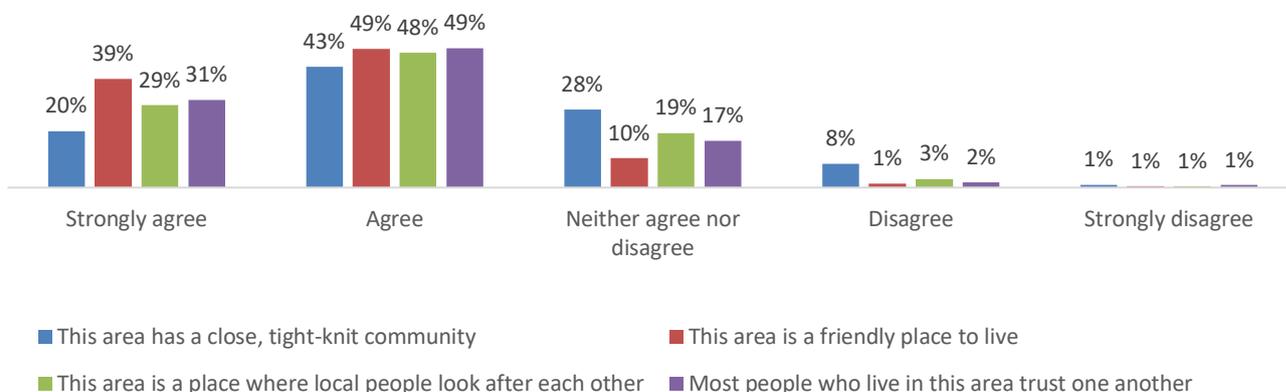
Belonging to neighbourhood



7.3 Neighbourhood Watch members and non-members are relatively as 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.

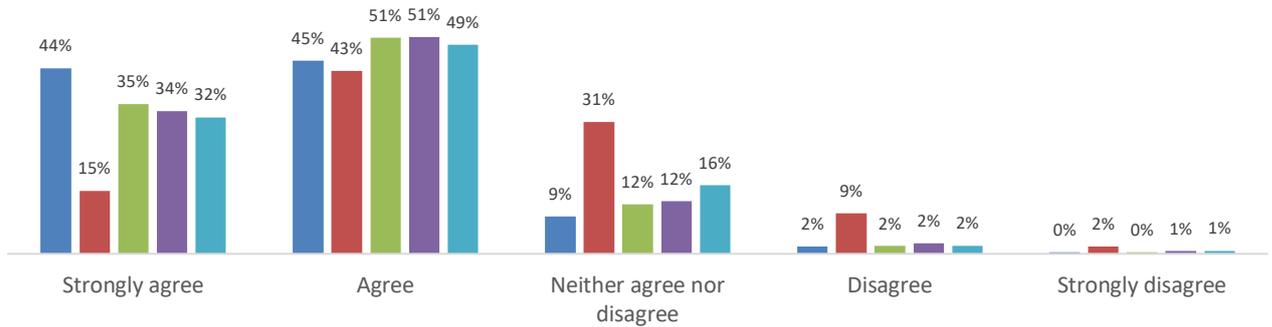
7.4 Neighbourhood Watch members in the South West are more likely than non-members to agree that they live in a friendly place (88% vs 77%), can trust people who live in the area (80% vs 63%), are part of a close knit community (63% vs 48%) and live in an area where people look after each other (77% vs 63%).

Perception of neighbourhood NW members



7.5 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 (89% vs 78%), that people would help the police and other agencies to resolve problems (58% vs 41%), call the police if someone is acting suspiciously (86% vs 74%), help if they sensed trouble (85% vs 70%) and intervene if anyone in their area is causing trouble (81% vs 64%).

Community support



- If I needed help, there are people who would be there for me
- If anyone around here is causing trouble local people will support the police and local agencies to resolve the problem
- The people who live here can be relied upon to call the police if someone is acting suspiciously
- If I sensed trouble whilst in this area, I could get help from people who live here
- If anyone around here is causing trouble, local people round here will challenge their behaviour

7.6 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 lacked companionship or felt left out vs 60% of non-members; 72% of members said they hardly ever or never felt isolated from others vs 62% of non-members and 76% of members said they hardly ever or never felt lonely vs 66% of non-members.

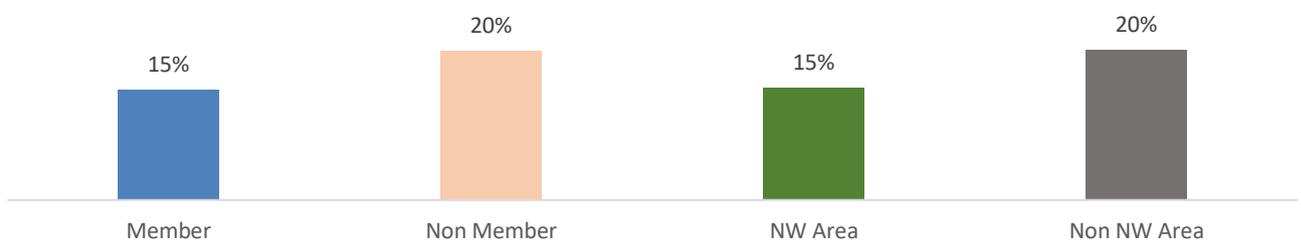
8. Experience of Crime

8.1 18% of all respondents from the South West had been a victim of a crime in the last 2 years.

8.2 15% of respondents living in a Neighbourhood Watch area had been a victim of crime in the past 2 years as opposed to 20% of those not living in a Neighbourhood Watch area.

8.3 Similarly, 15% of Neighbourhood Watch members had been a victim of crime in the past 2 years vs 20% of non-members.

Victim of a crime

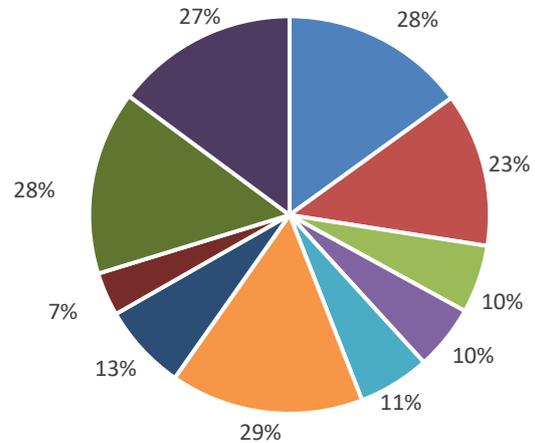


8.4 29% of the respondents who had been a victim of crime in the past 2 years had been harassed, threatened or verbally abused in the street; 28% had suffered a burglary or online crime; 27% other fraud; 23% had their vehicle stolen or property stolen from their vehicle; 13% had been subject to hate crime; 11% had suffered a sexual assault in the street; 10%

had something stolen from them outside or had a bicycle stolen; 7% had suffered domestic abuse.

- Having your home broken into and something stolen
- Having your vehicle stolen or property stolen from your vehicle
- Having your bicycle stolen
- Having property stolen from your person while you are out
- Sexual harassment or assault in the street
- Being harassed, threatened or verbally abused in the street
- Hate crime
- Domestic abuse
- Online crime
- Other frauds and scams

Crime experienced in past 2 years



8.5 Harassment is most likely to have happened most recently (in the past 3 months) or is still ongoing (42%) with 24% of cases of online crime or other fraud, 15% of burglary, 14% of vehicle crime and 10% of theft from the person having also occurred within the past 3 months.

9. Crime and Community Concerns

9.1 Worries over the past week about all crime types surveyed (except harassment) generally reflected those that had occurred most recently - 24% of respondents had worried about online crime and fraud, 15% burglary, 14% vehicle crime, 10% theft from the person. However, harassment had been a worry for just 7% of respondents over the past week.

9.2 Speeding, Anti-Social Behaviour and fly-tipping are the most common community concerns. 46% of respondents said they had been concerned about speeding and 21% had been concerned about Anti-Social Behaviour or fly-tipping in the previous week. Other significant concerns were drug use / dealing, with 17% of people having been concerned about this in the past week. 6% of respondents had worried about knife crime or serious violence in the past week.

10. Conclusion

10.1 This report provides a snapshot of the findings of the national Neighbourhood Watch survey for the South West region that can be used as a benchmark against which Associations can focus and evaluate improvement activity over the coming 12months.

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