



# in your neighbourhood

Winter 2013

SIGHTHILL

## Welcome to the latest edition of the GoWell newsletter for Sighthill...

We send two newsletters each year to keep you updated on what's been happening in GoWell and to let you know what residents have been telling us in our surveys. If you're a bit unsure of what GoWell is, the box to the right describes briefly what we are about. We are interested in how people are affected by changes to their housing and neighbourhoods and whether these changes are making a difference to health, wellbeing and community life.

The last GoWell survey took place in 2011 in Sighthill. At that time, many of the ratings for homes and the neighbourhood were quite low, although some (such as the 'quiet and peacefulness' of the area) were improving.

Since 2011, a great deal has changed in Sighthill, and change will continue to happen in coming years. We are keen to keep in touch with residents during the next few years to see how living in an area undergoing such changes is affecting your health and wellbeing. Our next survey will take place in 2015 and, even if you are no longer living in the Sighthill area then, we hope that you will still be able to participate in the survey.

People in Sighthill may also be affected by a reduction in income due to the welfare reforms and we have included in this newsletter some of the survey responses to our questions about being able to afford the cost of essential items. We know that finding it difficult to pay bills and being in debt can impact on mental health and wellbeing. On the back page you will find contact details for organisations that can provide information and help.

We hope you find this newsletter of interest. As always, we would welcome any thoughts or comments you may have on it. You can find our contact details on the back page.



GoWell is a ten-year research and learning programme that aims to find out from local people what they think of the efforts to improve their area and whether the changes are having an impact on their health and wellbeing. We have now completed three surveys in Sighthill in 2006, 2008 and 2011. The next survey is planned for 2015. From these surveys, we have built up a picture of the changes that are taking place in your community; and what changes are important to residents.

We share and discuss these findings with a range of organisations that plan and deliver services in your area and more widely, including housing associations, the local health board, Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government. The findings are being used to help shape and improve services and regeneration efforts both now and in the future.





### Overall satisfaction with home

In 2011, 61% of residents were satisfied or very satisfied with their home. This has decreased slightly over time.

Overall satisfaction with home	2006	2008	2011
Satisfied/very satisfied	72%	63%	<b>61%</b>

### Overall condition of home

In 2011, around half (52%) of residents were satisfied or very satisfied with the condition of their home overall. This figure is similar to 2008, but is lower than in 2006.



Overall condition of the home	2006	2008	2011
Satisfied/very satisfied	68%	54%	<b>52%</b>

### Quietness and peacefulness of the neighbourhood

Just over half of residents thought that their neighbourhood was very or fairly quiet and peaceful in 2011. This was an increase from 42% in 2006.

Quietness and peacefulness of the neighbourhood	2006	2008	2011
Very/fairly quiet/peaceful	42%	31%	<b>54%</b>



### Attractiveness of neighbourhood environment

Around one third (35%) of people thought that the attractiveness of the neighbourhood was very or fairly good in 2011. The number of people who feel this way is higher than in 2008, but is lower than in 2006.

Attractiveness of neighbourhood environment	2006	2008	2011
Very/fairly good	54%	20%	<b>35%</b>

### Satisfaction with neighbourhood as a place to live

In 2011, 62% of participants were very or fairly satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live. This has improved slightly since 2008 but is lower than in 2006.

Satisfaction with neighbourhood as a place to live	2006	2008	2011
Very/fairly satisfied	72%	57%	<b>62%</b>





## Household budgets

Our survey asks not only about how people feel about their home, neighbourhood and community but about their personal circumstances. This includes some questions on household budgets and we specifically ask participants whether they ever have difficulty meeting the cost of a selection of household items. In **Sighthill** in 2011...



**20% had difficulty paying their rent or mortgage**

**37% had difficulty paying for fuel (gas, electricity or other bills)**

**26% had difficulty paying their council tax**

**31% had difficulty paying for clothes or shoes**

**31% had difficulty paying for food**

While some effects of the austerity measures introduced by the UK coalition government may already have been felt within communities, the main effects of austerity measures and associated welfare reforms may only become apparent in coming years. This raises the question of whether these percentages will have increased by the time of our next survey in 2015.



The welfare reforms mentioned in this newsletter include a whole range of changes to the UK's welfare system, the most well known of which are the changes to Housing Benefit and the introduction of Universal Credit, which will see a range of benefits such as housing benefit, income support, employment and support allowance, jobseekers' allowance and child tax and working tax credits bundled up into one single monthly payment and paid directly into recipients' bank accounts.

A lot of work is going on in your area and in the city to help support people through these changes, so if you are unsure or worrying about how the changes will impact on you, the following organisations will be able to provide you with information and support.



If you are a GHA or Cube tenant you can contact their welfare reform hotline on freephone **0800 597 3777**; or if you are calling from a mobile you can call **0141 444 0110**. Additionally, if you are struggling with high fuel costs, debt or budgeting issues then their fuel or money advisors may be able to help – speak to your housing officer or visit the GHA website at **www.gha.org.uk** for more information.



If you are receiving Housing Benefit but are still having difficulty meeting your rent payments, you may be able to get extra help from the Discretionary Housing Payment Fund. This fund is available through Glasgow City Council with assistance from the Scottish Government. There are special rules about applying so to get more information you can contact your local benefits office by phone on **0141 287 5050** or visit them at 45 John Street, City Centre.



GAIN is a network of agencies including the citizens' advice bureau and legal, housing and independent money advice agencies. GAIN offers free, confidential and impartial advice on a wide range of financial issues including debt, money management, benefits advice and housing issues, as well as providing free legal advice.

The GAIN Helpline is a freephone helpline for people living and/or working in Glasgow. GAIN Helpline advisers will give you initial advice (including a full benefit check if appropriate) and refer you to a GAIN agency for more in depth advice if required.

For free advice call the GAIN Helpline on **0808 801 1011**.

Opening hours are Mon - Fri 10am – 8pm and Sat 10am - 2pm.

Their website is [www.gain4u.org.uk](http://www.gain4u.org.uk).

## What's next?

We'll send you another newsletter early next year. If you have any questions or queries meantime though please don't hesitate to contact us.



We have also now joined the world of Twitter so you can follow us at: **@GoWellOnline** for all our latest updates and news.

## For more information on GoWell, please contact:

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All the personal information we collect is completely confidential and anonymous and is not shared with anyone outside the research team

