



GLASGOW COMMUNITY
HEALTH AND WELLBEING
RESEARCH AND LEARNING
PROGRAMME

TOWNHEAD



Welcome to the latest edition of the Townhead GoWell newsletter. You may remember receiving our last newsletter earlier this year in which we told you about general progress for the GoWell programme and what we had planned for this year. This newsletter outlines what residents told us has changed about living in your neighbourhood since 2006.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with GoWell, it is a ten year programme looking at the impacts of housing and neighbourhood regeneration on the health and wellbeing of communities. One of the ways we do this is through our survey of residents.

Our first survey was in 2006 and we have already circulated newsletters with the findings from that. We completed our second survey in August 2008 and we are planning to carry out another two in 2011 and 2013. Over time this will give us a picture of how regeneration is affecting residents like yourself. What are the important changes? Have things got better or worse – and for whom? These findings will be used to help planners improve services and regeneration in your area and elsewhere in the future.

Many of you who read this may have taken part in one or both of our surveys. To those of you who did take part, once again we thank you very much for your time.

Since our last newsletter we have been comparing what residents told us in our most recent survey in 2008 with what they told us back in 2006. We are pleased to provide you with a summary of this. As you will see, some issues have remained much the same, some have improved, while others have got worse. We hope they will be of interest to you.



WHO'S INCLUDED?



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There are 15 different areas in Glasgow included in our study – one of which is Townhead.

Within Townhead, GoWell is focussing on the multi-storey flats located around St Mungo Avenue and Drygate as shown on the map.



KEY FINDINGS

369 Townhead residents took part in the first survey in 2006 and 263 took part in the second survey in 2008. Below is a summary of some of the things they told us about living in Townhead.

- Most people who took part in the survey are satisfied with their **homes** (85% in 2008) and the proportion 'very satisfied' increased from 9% in 2006 to 33% in 2008.
- Most people are also satisfied with the **neighbourhood** as a place to live – 83% in 2008. Again there is an increase in the proportion saying they are 'very satisfied' with the neighbourhood from 9% in 2006 to 27% in 2008.
- Most of the **public services and amenities** in and around the neighbourhood are seen to have improved. For example, the number of people who rated childcare or nurseries as 'good' increased from 49% in 2006 to 71% in 2008; ratings for shops rose from 58% in 2006 to 74% in 2008; and ratings for children's play areas rose from 45% in 2006 to 71% in 2008.
- We asked some questions about whether **anti-social behaviour** issues were a problem in your neighbourhood. The three most 'serious' problems are reported to be: people being drunk or rowdy in public places; people using or dealing drugs; and teenagers hanging around on the street.
- Feelings of **safety** at night-time have declined. In 2006, 12% of people said they either felt very unsafe or never walk alone after dark but this had risen to 34% of people feeling this way in 2008.



- When asked whether they felt the **reputation** of Townhead had changed over the past two years almost half (49%) felt it had stayed the same; 34% felt it had got better; while 17% felt it had got worse.
- There is a strong **sense of belonging** in Townhead with 81% of people saying they feel like they belong to the neighbourhood. This is a slight decrease from the 89% who felt this sense of belonging in 2006.
- Townhead is viewed as an area where **people from different backgrounds** get on well together and this increased from 91% in 2006 to 94% in 2008.
- Many more people feel like they can **have a say in decisions** that affect them. For example, the number of people who feel their landlord or factor takes account of residents' views when making decisions increased from 53% in 2006 to 75% in 2008. More people also feel that either on their own or with others they can influence decisions affecting the local area – from 18% in 2006 to 43% in 2008.
- **Smoking** rates have increased slightly from 42% in 2006 to 45% in 2008.
- **Self-reported health** has declined slightly with 67% of people saying their health is excellent or good in 2008, compared to 76% who reported excellent or good health in 2006.



WHAT NEXT:



Over the coming year we will send you a series of newsletters, each of which will focus on a particular issue and provide you with the survey responses for that issue in more detail.

In addition to sharing the survey findings with you and your neighbours through this newsletter, we're offering presentations to local stakeholders and service providers such as local housing organisations, community planning partnerships, and community health and care partnerships. If you belong to a community group that would be interested in hearing a presentation and discussion of the findings for Townhead please contact Jennie Coyle on the details below.

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

For more information on GoWell contact:

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GoWell is a collaborative partnership between the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, the University of Glasgow and the MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, sponsored by Glasgow Housing Association, the Scottish Government, NHS Health Scotland and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde.