



GLASGOW COMMUNITY
HEALTH AND WELLBEING
RESEARCH AND LEARNING
PROGRAMME



Welcome to the latest findings edition of the GoWell newsletter. Last summer the GoWell researchers visited the Gorbals Riverside area and asked local residents to take part in a very important health, housing and regeneration study called GoWell

Since then 171 Gorbals Riverside residents have very generously given their time and have completed survey interviews with our researchers, along with about 6000 other households in 14 different communities across Glasgow.

The GoWell team would like to use this newsletter to share with you and your community some of the key findings for your area. We will send you further newsletters in the future to keep you up to date with all we have found out.

Meanwhile, we would like to thank you and your community for taking part in GoWell. Without your help this study would not be possible.

With best wishes
The GoWell team

The key findings

Last year our researchers spoke to nearly 200 Gorbals Riverside residents in the first of four surveys that will cover a period of 10 years. From these residents we learned that...

- There is widespread satisfaction in peoples homes, neighbourhood and many public services amongst residents of Gorbals Riverside.
- However, most residents are concerned about some forms of anti-social behaviour from young people and vandalism in the area.
- Gorbals Riverside residents are less likely to describe their health as good, compared to figures from the whole of Glasgow and the whole of Scotland.
- Most people in Gorbals Riverside have regular social contacts and social isolation is comparatively rare.



IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR COMMUNITY

Why is the GoWell team interested in studying Gorbals Riverside?

Dr Matt Egan – Researcher



The GoWell researchers and I are interested in studying Gorbals Riverside because of its important role in Glasgow's urban regeneration programme.

The kinds of regeneration activities that are expected to take place in your community involve things like improving people's homes, and attempting to identify and deliver what residents think is needed to help their community thrive.

All of these activities provide the GoWell team with an opportunity to find out from local residents if and how their health and lives are changed as a result of investment in community regeneration.



About your home, health and community

What kind of people live in your area?

Gorbals Riverside contains multi-storey flats and two thirds of the GoWell participants live in these. The rest live in post-war deck access / tenemental homes. The majority are managed by housing associations.

Gorbals Riverside is home to many families – **about half** the households have children. There is also a sizable population at the other end of the age scale, with pensioners living in around **one in eight** households in the neighbourhood.

Money and jobs

Few Gorbals Riverside residents say they earn more than Glasgow's average income, and **nearly half** have told us they have difficulty paying bills of one kind and another.

Forty percent of residents report having a job, although another **40%** are in training or in some other way economically active.

Your general health

Generally speaking, population health is usually better in richer areas and poorer in places where jobs and money are more scarce. Self-reported health in Gorbals Riverside is considerably poorer than the national average taken from the last census.

Where as nationally, 68% of people in Scotland said the health had been good in the last 12 months, only **27%** of residents from Gorbals Riverside say the same in our GoWell survey. Pensioners, single parents and people living on their own are particularly likely to have experienced poorer health last year.

Social Contact

Only **one in two** participants share their home with another adult. Nearly **thirty percent** live alone, and the rest are single parents.

On the other hand, residents of Gorbals Riverside do not tend to be socially isolated. It is a neighbourhood where the vast majority of residents have regular social contacts. **Nine out of ten** residents speak to or contact friends at least once a week, and **eight out of ten** speak to or contact relatives at least weekly.

Anti-social behaviour problems in your area

The GoWell questionnaire listed a number of issues that concern people in many neighbourhoods and we asked residents to say whether they were problems, serious problems, or not a problem in Gorbals Riverside.

Many issues were not considered to be problems in your neighbourhood. **At least three quarters** of Gorbals Riverside residents did not consider violent crime, burglary, noise, harassment, racial harassment, sectarianism or burnt out and abandoned vehicles to be problems. **Around six in ten** residents said that drugs, drink, problem neighbours and litter were not a concern.

However, **about half** of residents (and more, in some instances) felt that vandalism, anti-social behaviour from teenagers and gangs were problems.

Satisfaction

Around 80% of Gorbals Riverside residents are satisfied with their home and with their neighbourhood as places to live.

Nonetheless a **quarter** of residents think their homes need some improvement. **Less than 5%** think major improvement is needed and no-one wants their home to be demolished. **Seven in ten** residents say their home is fine as it is.

Besides being satisfied with their homes, the **majority** of residents are also satisfied with local services in Gorbals Riverside. Local schools are rated as good by almost all the residents (**96%**), and transport is also highly rated (**86%** said local transport was good).

Two thirds of residents rate banks, childcare/nurseries, health care, and policing in for your area as good. However, there was less enthusiasm overall (but still approval from the majority) for local shops, youth and leisure services and rubbish collection (**less than 60%** rate these as good).

Therefore whilst there is general satisfaction from residents in this neighbourhood, many tell us that there are still areas that would benefit from improvements.



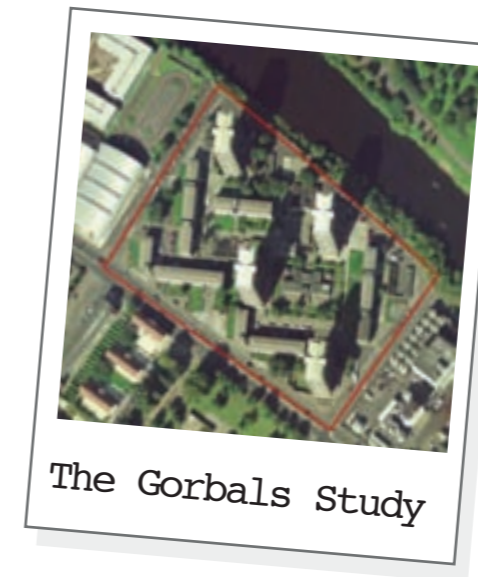
About the study

GoWell is conducted by an independent team of researchers. Over the next 10 years we will inform residents and housing planners about the impacts of neighbourhood changes across Glasgow.

GoWell asks people about health, housing, neighbourhood and community issues. Three out of every five Gorbals Riverside residents we contacted responded.

Some could not be contacted or chose not to take part. They might have their own story to tell, but we can tell lots about your neighbourhood by looking at the many residents who did participate.

Our next steps include further resident contacts, and analysis of more information to fill knowledge gaps about what people want from community regeneration and to find out what your top concerns are.



The GoWell team

About us, the GoWell team

The principal investigators who designed and are leading the GoWell programme are:



Phil Hanlon
Professor of Public Health, based at the University of Glasgow.



Ade Kearns
Professor of Urban Studies, based at the University of Glasgow.



Mark Petticrew
Associate Director, Medical Research Council Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, based at the University of Glasgow



Carol Tannahill
Director, the Glasgow Centre for Population Health.

The GoWell team is also made up of a core group of staff, comprising our Researchers, a Communications Manager and a Programme Administrator. These members of the team will introduce themselves to you in the next issue of the newsletter.

The GoWell website

To help to keep you and your community fully informed of all GoWell progress and developments we have created a GoWell website. The purpose of the GoWell website is to provide the people taking part in GoWell, their communities and others interested in GoWell with a way of obtaining information about the findings directly from the GoWell team. The site contains links to the latest GoWell news, findings and events. If you would like to find out more please visit: www.gowellonline.com

What do you think?

We would like to know what you think. Send your views to: yvonne.christley@drs.glasgow.gov.uk or telephone us on 0141 221 9439

GoWell

The Glasgow Centre for Population Health
Level 6 | 39 St Vincent Place
Glasgow G1 2ER
Telephone: 0141 221 9439
Email: Yvonne.christley@drs.glasgow.gov.uk

www.gowellonline.com

