



GLASGOW COMMUNITY  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING  
RESEARCH AND LEARNING  
PROGRAMME



**Welcome to the latest findings edition of the GoWell newsletter. Last summer our researchers visited neighbourhoods that lie near to the Red Road flats such as Balornock, Barmulloch and Petershill. We asked residents from those neighbourhoods to take part in a very important health, housing and regeneration study called GoWell.**

Since then 769 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

## Initial findings

Last year our researchers spoke to residents from your area in the first of four surveys that will cover a period of 10 years. From these residents we learned that...

- Residents from your area are generally positive about their homes and neighbourhood.
- Residents feel reasonably healthy compared to the rest of Glasgow, but homeowners enjoy better health than tenants.
- Nearly three quarters of the residents from your area are economically active
- Residents tend not to think that many of the most serious forms of anti-social behaviour are particular problems in their neighbourhoods, but people do think that gangs, vandalism and youth related problems are still an issue.
- Many residents also think that youth and leisure amenities and services are inadequate – in contrast to most other local services, which tend to be highly rated.

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

## Why is the GoWell team interested in studying the neighbourhoods surrounding Red Road?

Dr Matt Egan – Researcher



The GoWell team and I are interested in areas like Balornock, New Balornock, Barmulloch and Petershill because they are part of a multi-million pound community regeneration programme currently taking place in Glasgow.

Regeneration can involve a range of activities such as building new homes, refurbishment, demolition– and attempts to give communities more of a voice, as well as supporting them with improved services and amenities. Your neighbourhoods will experience regeneration in their own right and may also be affected by the big changes that are taking place in the nearby Red Road area.

These activities provide the GoWell team with an opportunity to find out what people from your area think about their communities, and how urban regeneration might affect your health and wellbeing in the long term.

## About your home, health and community

### What kind of people live in your area?

**About a quarter** of residents from your neighbourhoods live in modern tenements, whilst the others live in a range of different housing types, such as traditional four-in-a-block flats and modern detached and semi-detached houses etc.

**Just over half** the residents are home owners. **The rest** rent, usually from a housing association.

There is a broad spread of age-groups across the communities we surveyed. **One in six** of the homes contain pensioners, whilst **nearly half** contain children.

Unlike the Red Road multits, the surrounding neighbourhoods tend not to be ethnically diverse. **Ninety-eight percent** of GoWell participants describe themselves as 'white Scots' and there are hardly any asylum-seekers or refugees.

### Money and jobs

People in your neighbourhoods tend to be economically active. **Around half** the adults work, and another **20%** are in education/training or similar form of activity.

**Few** residents say they earn more than Glasgow's average income but many prefer not to give details of their income. A **quarter** of residents say that at times they have difficulty paying bills of one kind or another.

### Your general health

Generally speaking, population health is usually better in richer areas and poorer in neighbourhoods experiencing deprivation. We asked residents in Balornock, New Balornock, Barmulloch and Petershill about their health over the last 12 months. We found there was poorer self-reported health compared to national figures from the last census, but the figures for your neighbourhood were similar (and arguably even a little better) to those for the city of Glasgow.

However, good health is not evenly spread. Whilst **two thirds** of home owners in your area say their health was good over the previous year, **less than a half** of the housing association tenants agree.

### Social Contact

Only about **10%** of residents live on their own, although another **10%** are bringing up children alone. **The vast majority** of participants live with other adults.

However **most** people in the neighbourhoods surrounding Red Road maintain fairly regular social contact with people outside their household. **Around nine out of ten** see or contact their relatives at least weekly, and a **similar proportion** maintain contact with friends once a week or more

### Anti-social behaviour problems in your area

**At least two thirds** (and often much more) of residents across Balornock, New Balornock, Barmulloch and Petershill think that most forms of anti-social behaviour are **not** problems in their neighbourhoods. These include things like violence, harassment, noisy or problem neighbours, racism, sectarianism, burn-out cars and burglaries.

However, **around half** the residents do think that vandalism, gangs and behaviour associated with young people are problems.

Housing association tenants seem to be particularly affected or concerned about anti-social behaviour. They are consistently more likely to rate particular issues as problems in their area compared to home owners.

### Satisfaction

**Three quarters** of the people in and around your area are satisfied with their home and a similar proportion are satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live.

**One in four** residents think their homes need some work to improve them, but **less than 3%** think serious work is required. In contrast, **around three quarters** say their homes are fine as they are.

We also asked residents what they thought about services and amenities in their areas. Some were rated well, with **two thirds** of the residents saying that local transport, rubbish collection, health centres and schools were good. Other services, such as policing, shops, banks and child care/nursaries fared less well.

However, from the list we presented only youth and leisure services failed to get a 'good' rating from the majority of residents.

On the whole, **most** residents are satisfied with their home and neighbourhood, but many have said that they would still like to see improvements.



# RED ROAD SURROUNDING AREA

SUMMER 2007

## 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. Nearly half of the residents we contacted from this area 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](http://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](mailto:yvonne.christley@drs.glasgow.gov.uk) or telephone us on 0141 221 9439

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