



GLASGOW COMMUNITY
HEALTH AND WELLBEING
RESEARCH AND LEARNING
PROGRAMME

03



Welcome to the latest findings edition of the GoWell newsletter. Last summer our researchers visited the neighbourhoods in Scotstoun and Yoker that surround the multi-storeys on Plean Street and Kingsway Court. We asked residents from those neighbourhoods to take part in a very important health, housing and regeneration study called GoWell

Since then 308 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 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.
- Around seven in ten adult residents from your area are economically active
- Residents tend to think that your area is free from many of the most serious forms of anti-social behaviour, but people do think that vandalism, drink and youth related problems are still an issue.
- Many residents also think that local services and amenities for children and young people are not good – in contrast to most other local services, which tend to be highly rated.



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

Why is the GoWell team interested in studying the neighbourhoods surrounding Plean St and Kingsway Crt

Dr Matt Egan – Researcher



The GoWell researchers and I are interested these parts of Scotstoun and Yoker 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 - and attempts to give communities more of a voice, as well as supporting them with improved services and amenities. Your neighbourhoods are part of a city-wide regeneration programme and may also be affected by the investment that is directed at the multi-storey flats in your 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 the multi-storeys?

About two thirds of residents from your neighbourhoods live in 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 a third of 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 fifth of the homes contain pensioners, whilst two fifths contain children.

Unlike the Plean St and Kingsway Crt multistoreys, the surrounding neighbourhoods tend not to be ethnically diverse. Ninety-four percent of GoWell participants from your study area describe themselves as 'white Scots' and there are very few asylum-seekers or refugees.

Social contact

About 20% of residents live on their own, although another 16% are bringing up children alone. The vast majority of participants live with other adults.

Furthermore most people in your neighbourhood maintain fairly regular social contact with people outside their household. Around 7 out of 10 see or contact their relatives at least weekly, and 8 out of 10 maintain contact with friends once a week or more. To an extent social isolation appears to be age-related, as pensioner households are particularly likely to report few social contacts.

Your general health

Population health is usually better in richer areas and poorer in neighbourhoods experiencing deprivation. We asked residents in your area about their health over the last 12 months. We found there was poorer self-reported health where you live compared to national figures from the last census, but the figures for your neighbourhood were similar (in fact a little better) to those for the whole 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, only half of the housing association tenants agree.

Money and jobs

People in your neighbourhoods tend to be economically active. Nearly half the adults work, and another 22% 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 third of residents say that at times they have difficulty paying bills of one kind or another.

Anti-social behaviour problems in your area

At least two thirds (and often much more) of residents in the neighbourhoods surrounding Plean St and Kingsway Crt 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, over half the residents do think that vandalism and behaviour associated with young people are problems, and nearly a half are also concerned about drunken behaviour and litter in their area. Six out of ten think drugs are a problem.

Residents of the tenements seem to be particularly concerned about anti-social behaviour. They are consistently more likely to rate particular issues as problems in their area compared to people who live in other types of homes in your neighbourhood.

Satisfaction

Eighty per cent of the people in and around your area are satisfied with their home and 90% are satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live.

A third of residents think their homes need some work to improve them, but less than 5% think serious work is required. In contrast, around two thirds 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 at least around two thirds of the residents saying that local transport, rubbish collection, health centres and shops were good.

However most people seem to think that children and young people are let down by services in the area. Only a third of residents rate childcare/nurseries or youth and leisure services as good, whilst only a half rate schools this way.

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



SCOTSTOUN 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

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

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