



GLASGOW COMMUNITY  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING  
RESEARCH AND LEARNING  
PROGRAMME



**Welcome to the latest findings edition of the GoWell newsletter. Last summer our researchers visited two neighbourhoods in Govan and asked local residents to take part in a very important health, housing and regeneration study called GoWell.**

Since then 188 Govan 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 residents from two Govan neighbourhoods in the first of four surveys that will cover a period of 10 years. From these residents we learned that...

- Residents tend to be positive about their homes and neighbourhood.
- Most residents report that many forms of anti-social behaviour are not problems in their neighbourhood.
- However, there is concern about problems associated with drink, drugs, vandalism and young people.
- Self-reported health in Govan is relatively poor.
- Two thirds of residents are economically active but most residents sometimes struggle to pay bills.
- Adults belonging to two parent families report the best health and tend to have more positive views about their community.



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

### Why is the GoWell team interested in studying Govan?

Dr Matt Egan – Researcher



The GoWell team and I are interested in the homes situated to the east and west of Govan shopping centre because they are part of a multi-million pound community regeneration programme currently taking place in Glasgow.

Regeneration might involve internal and external improvements to people's homes as well as attempts to support communities with improved services and amenities.

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 regeneration.

## About your home, health and community

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

We focused on homes situated on or near to Burleigh Street, Crossloan Terrace, Harhill Street, Harmony Row, Orkney Street, Vicarfield Street and Burndyke Court. **Two thirds** of GoWell participants live in post-war tenement flats, whilst the rest live in houses and other kinds of buildings containing apartments.

**Most** are housing association tenants. **Two in five** residents have children at home, and **a third** of parents are bringing up children alone. **Twelve per cent** of households contain pensioners and **twenty per cent** contain people living by themselves.

The **vast majority** of residents in these parts of Govan describe themselves as 'white Scottish' (**over 90%**) and **less than 2%** are asylum seekers or refugees.

### Money and jobs

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

However, **three quarters** of the residents report being either employed or in training or are economically active in some other way.

### Your general health

Generally speaking, population health is usually better in richer areas and poorer in neighbourhoods experiencing deprivation. In Govan only **38%** of residents described their health over the past 12 months as good – nearly half the national figure from the last census.

Age-related illness accounts for some of the health problems. Only **19%** of pensioners regarded their health as good over the previous year. The proportion of single parents and adults living alone who reported good health was also well under a half. However, a majority (**59%**) of participants from dual parent households did report good health over the last 12 months.

### Anti-social behaviour problems in your area

**Most** residents do not consider burglaries, racism, sectarianism, gangs, burnt out cars and noisy neighbours to be serious issues affecting their neighbourhood. In each case, around **two thirds** (or more) of residents said these were not a problem.

**Most** residents are concerned about substance abuse and dealing in their area. **Around half** of the GoWell participants identify problems associated with drink and drugs. Graffiti, vandalism and anti-social behaviour linked with teenagers are also top concerns.

Adults who are part of two parent families are consistently **less likely** to rate the various forms of anti-social behaviour we listed as problems in their area, compared to single parents and participants from households where there are no children.

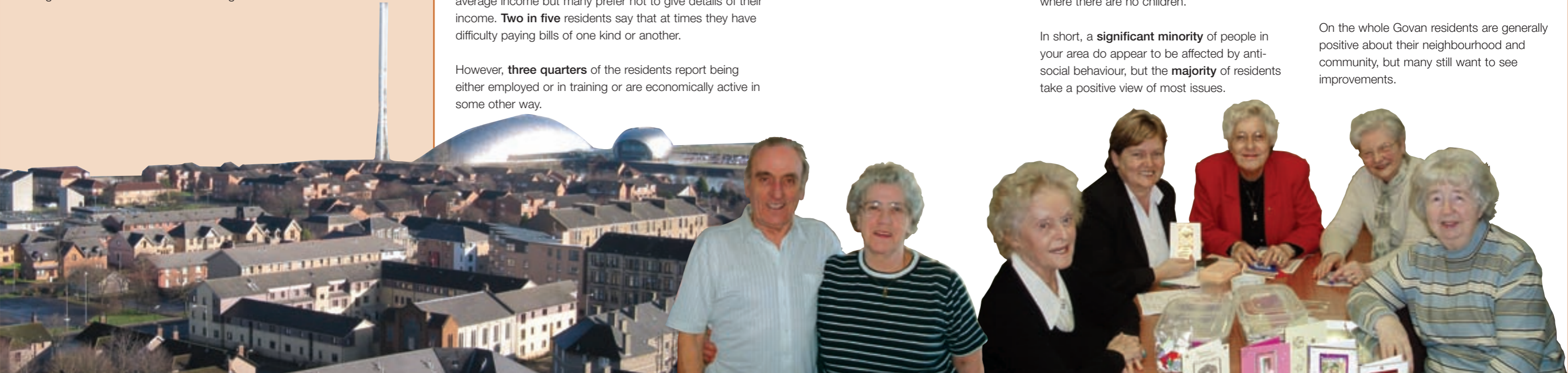
In short, a **significant minority** of people in your area do appear to be affected by anti-social behaviour, but the **majority** of residents take a positive view of most issues.

### Satisfaction

**Eight out of ten** residents from these Govan neighbourhoods are satisfied with their home and **three quarters** say they are satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live. Just **under a third** say that some work is needed to improve their homes, and **7%** say major work is required. Nonetheless, **most** residents say their home is fine as it is.

**Few** residents describe local services and amenities as poor. Transport was the top rated service, with **80%** describing it as good or fairly good. Rubbish collection, health centres, banks, schools and shops were also highly rated by around **two thirds** of residents (and at times more). Residents tended to be less enthusiastic about local policing (only **56%** rated this as good) and youth/leisure services (**58%** rated good).

On the whole Govan residents are generally positive about their neighbourhood and community, but many still want to see 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. Two thirds of the Govan 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](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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