



GLASGOW COMMUNITY
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
RESEARCH AND LEARNING
PROGRAMME

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



“ We would like to find out from you what you think of efforts to improve and regenerate the Gorbals Riverside ”

Gorbals Riverside To Take Part In Groundbreaking New Health Study

Welcome to the first edition of the GoWell Newsletter. GoWell is a new research programme that will be coming to the Gorbals Riverside over the next few weeks. 200 local residents will be asked to take part, along with 7000 other households from 12 different communities across Glasgow.

Over the next 10 years more than a billion pounds will be invested in Glasgow's homes and communities, and the Gorbals Riverside is one of the communities expected to benefit from this investment. But how will we know if the money spent on improving and regenerating the Gorbals Riverside has actually created the kinds of homes and community that local people want to live in? Well that's where GoWell comes in – we would like to find out from you what you think of efforts to improve and regenerate the Gorbals riverside and if all this investment has had an effect on your health and well-being.

By taking part in the GoWell study you will be able to tell those organisations responsible for neighbourhood renewal and community regeneration what works in your area and what doesn't. We realise it is only by speaking to local residents that the GoWell team will be able to find out if there are links between your health, home and community.

GoWell was officially launched in February this year by Community Minister Malcolm Chisholm. Mr Chisholm is pictured here alongside local community housing representatives and the GoWell Research Team.



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GORBALS RIVERSIDE



GoWell

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Introduction

PROFESSOR
ADE KEARNS

GoWell is the first research and learning programme of its kind in Europe. It aims to find out from local people what they think of the efforts to improve Glasgow's homes and communities and if these improvements have had an impact on their health and well being.

Over one billion pounds will be invested in community regeneration and neighbourhood renewal in the next 10 years. We would like to find out during this time if all this investment is producing the kinds of homes and communities that people want to live in.

In addition, a major driving force behind the GoWell programme is our commitment to ensure that the views of local people are taken into account by those responsible for making decisions about future regeneration initiatives. To do this the GoWell team will produce high quality research that will engage directly with local people, policy makers and practitioners.

The GoWell programme will provide those responsible for health, housing and regeneration with the best possible information on which to base decisions for transforming Glasgow's homes and communities. We expect that the answers provided by the GoWell programme will be of great relevance to local people, local communities, local housing organisations and to urban policy makers around the world.

The GoWell programme has brought together a team of some of the UK's most experienced researchers on one of the most important regeneration and health studies ever to be undertaken in Europe.

Who will be doing the interviews?

BMG research, a well known independent research company, will be carrying out interviews with local people on behalf of the GoWell team. The information local people give the BMG interviewers will be held in the strictest confidence and will not be shown or passed onto any other organisation. Similarly, no one will ever be able to identify people, who have taken part in the interview from the answers they give.

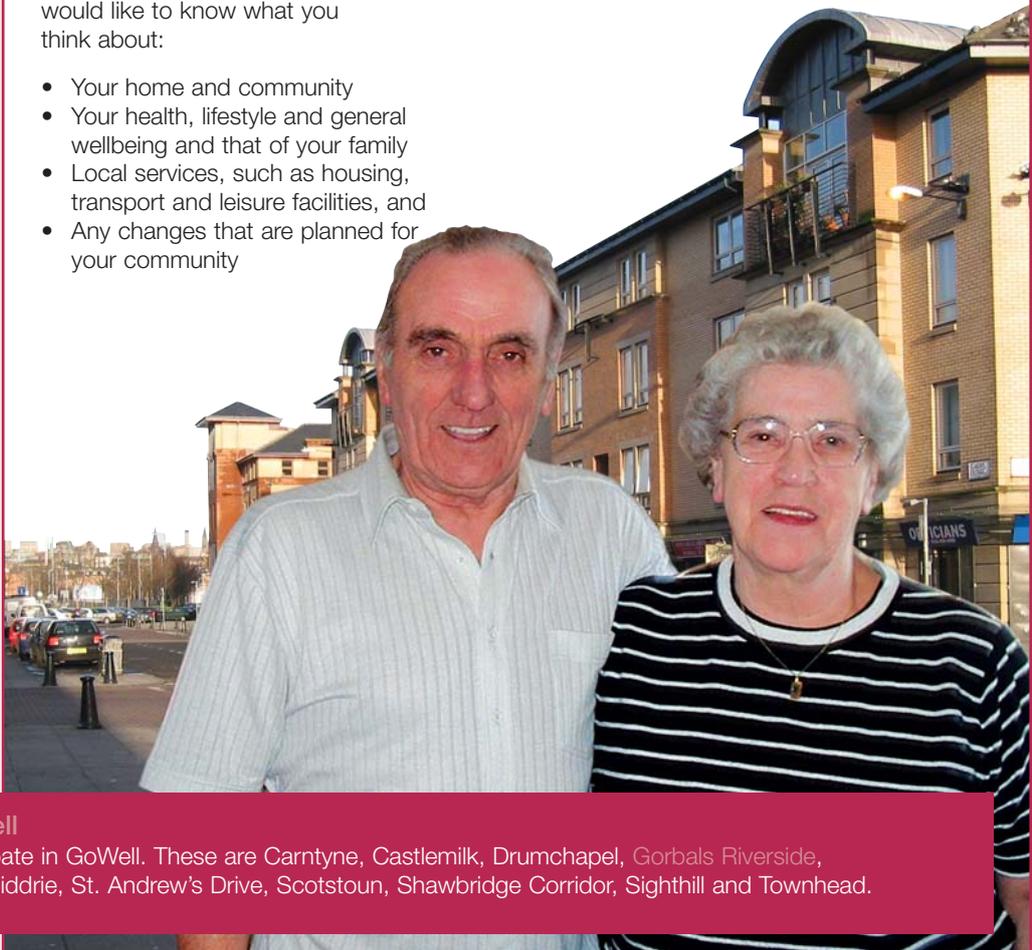
Here is a sneak preview of what the interviewers will ask...

Here are some of the topics we would like your opinion on as part of the GoWell programme. In particular we would like to know what you think about:

- Your home and community
- Your health, lifestyle and general wellbeing and that of your family
- Local services, such as housing, transport and leisure facilities, and
- Any changes that are planned for your community

How will the GoWell results be used to improve Glasgow's homes and communities?

Your opinion on these important matters will help the GoWell team to build a picture of what it is like to live in the Gorbals Riverside and what local people would like done to improve the area. The GoWell team will use what local people tell us to help those organisations responsible for regenerating and renewing the Gorbals Riverside. Local community based housing organisations will then be able to use this information to work out what kinds of investments are effective in improving the lives of local people and the places they live in.



COMMUNITIES TAKING PART IN GoWell

12 communities have been selected to participate in GoWell. These are Carntyne, Castlemilk, Drumchapel, Gorbals Riverside, Govan, Red Road and the surrounding area, Riddrie, St. Andrew's Drive, Scotstoun, Shawbridge Corridor, Sighthill and Townhead.

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

Gorbals Riverside the place to be: THEN AND NOW

We spoke to long standing Gorbals residents Joe and Mary Davie to find out what it was like to live in Gorbals Riverside when it was first built back in the 1960's. We also asked them to tell us about how the area has changed over the past 40 years and what kind of improvements they would like to see made to their area.

Joe and Mary both spoke with great pride and enthusiasm of the vibrant and thriving community that is the Gorbals. Joe and Mary have lived in the multi storey flats in the Gorbals Riverside development since they were built back in the 1960's. Mary told us she remembers fondly the excitement and anticipation of moving into her new home with her young family:

"I was delighted to be moving into a brand new house. We moved here from a room and kitchen, and I was very pleased with my new inside bathroom and fitted kitchen. Back then the rent was very high but I felt it was money well spent."

And now

Joe told us that he feels the multi storey flats have suffered from years of neglect brought about by a lack of investment in the exterior and interior appearance of the flats:

"The Gorbals is a great place to live and I can't imagine living any where else, but you need to provide people with homes that can be proud of. Mary and I have lived here for the past 44 years and in all of that time the kitchen and bathroom have never been replaced."

Mary and Joe also feel that the internal layouts of the flats were very badly designed:

"We have two sets of internal stairs in our flat and you have to go up both to get from the living room to the front door. Mary who is disabled finds it very difficult to manage the stairs and get about the flat in general. We put our names down for a house 20 years ago and are still waiting."

"The Gorbals is a great place to live and I can't imagine living any where else, but you need to provide people with homes that can be proud of."

What improvements would you like to make to your community area?

Joe and Mary feel that urgent regeneration investment is required to reverse the decline in the quality of the housing. As Joe pointed out:

"People don't want to raise their families in tower blocks and I think those responsible for the regeneration should listen carefully to this. Most people want a house with their own back and front door, and surely in this day and age that is not too much to ask."

Joe and Mary have a strong sense of belonging and commitment to the Gorbals. They believe that local commitment alongside investment in regenerating the homes in the area offers a real opportunity to transform the Gorbals Riverside into an area where people want to live.

What do you think?

Send your views to Yvonne.christley@drs.glasgow.gov.uk or telephone us on 0141 221 9439

Being an Asylum Seeker in Glasgow

We went to speak with Sivaparatham Kumaravelu and Anton Kanapathipillai at their allotment to find out more about being an asylum seeker in Glasgow.

In the beginning both men and their families found it difficult to integrate into their new communities. They felt this was because a minority of their new neighbours were unhappy with asylum seekers using limited local resources.

As Sivaparatham explains:

"When my family were housed here in 2001 there were not enough play areas or facilities for the children and young people. Local residents were very unhappy that our children were using the play areas; the play areas are only very small."

"I can understand that local people were worried we were taking over but as we settled in and got to know each other, we started to understand a bit more about each other."

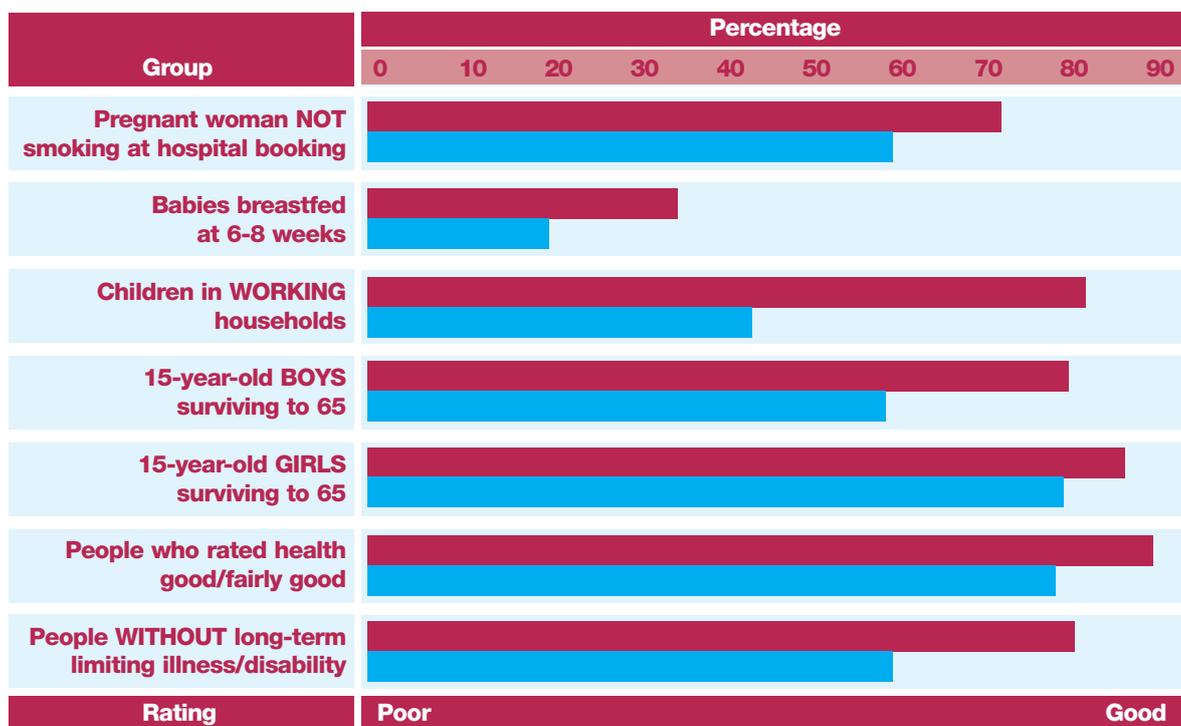
Once the families became settled in their new community and learned to speak English they had very positive and enthusiastic things to say about the help and support they received from local residents, community organisations and local community groups:

"Since arriving in Glasgow in 2001 there have been big changes in local attitudes to people seeking asylum here. I feel that my neighbours and community make me and my family feel very welcome and part of this community."

Both men felt that the community was highly responsive to the needs of asylum seekers and had played a key role in assisting them and their families to become part of the local community. They both were highly appreciative of the dedication and hard work of local volunteers in supporting them to forge a new life in Glasgow.

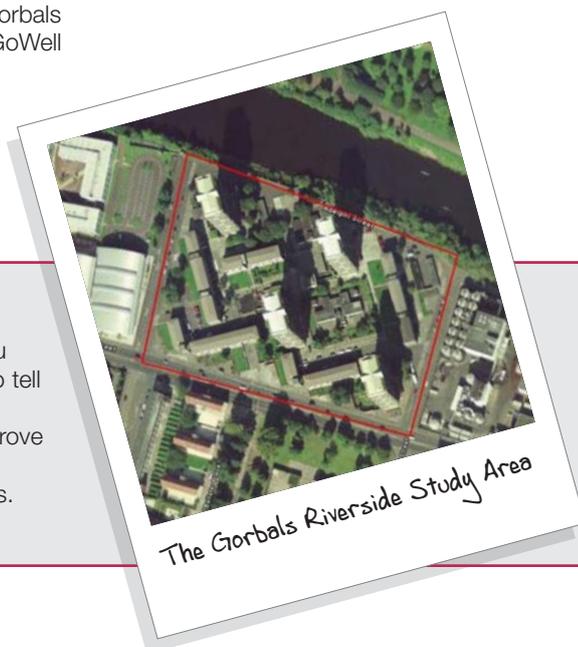
We thought you would like to know how the health and wellbeing indicators of Gorbals residents compares with the rest of Scotland.*

■ Scotland ■ Gorbals Riverside



*Data from NHS Health Scotland, for postcode sector G5 0, various years and sources, including 2001 Census.

As you can see the bar shows that all aspects of health of the people living in Gorbals is markedly worse than for Scotland as a whole. This observation provides the GoWell team with a springboard for action over the next ten years.



About the GoWell Newsletter

The GoWell Newsletter will be published 3 times each year and is written for you and your community by the GoWell research team. We will use the newsletter to tell you about what we have found out about your local community and keep you informed as to how the information you provide us with will be used to help improve Glasgow's homes and communities in the future. We would also welcome any contributions, ideas or suggestions you might have for future GoWell newsletters. Simply send or email your news to the following address:

GoWell

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