



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 Govan ”

Govan 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 Govan over the next few weeks. 350 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 Govan is one of the areas expected to benefit from this investment. But how will we know if the money spent on improving and regenerating Govan 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 Govan 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.



CONTENTS // INTRODUCTION // WHO WILL BE DOING THE INTERVIEWS? // GOVAN THE PLACE TO BE: THEN AND NOW // BEING AND ASYLUM SEEKER IN GLASGOW // HEALTH AND WELLBEING INDICATORS FOR GOVAN



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 Govan 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 Govan. 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

Govan the place to be: THEN AND NOW

We spoke to long standing Govan resident Roddy McMillan to find out what it was like to live in Govan when he first moved to the area over 30 years ago. We also asked him to tell us about how the area has changed over the past 30 years and what kind of improvements he would like to see made to his community.

Roddy spoke with great pride and enthusiasm of the vibrant and thriving community that was Govan back in the 1970's. Roddy remembers fondly the excitement and anticipation of moving into his new home:

"I moved to Govan with my family back in the 70's. We were delighted with our new house especially the inside bathroom. My daughter got a room of her own which was great, we really loved it here."

And Now

Roddy told us that Govan has been experienced some decline over the past few years, and was is disappointed that such a good community has been allowed to become run down:

"I am glad the area is going to be regenerated. I can't remember the last time that the houses have been refurbished either inside or out. I must say though the area is already changing for the better, you just need to look around and you can see the difference already."

"We have a problem with vandalism and graffiti in this area. I think this is because the teenagers have no where to go and so they occupy their time hang around streets and vandalising things."

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

Roddy told us that the one thing he would do to improve the area is create more facilities for children and young people. Roddy feels that the absence of proper youth facilities and suitable play areas has resulted in a problem with vandalism, graffiti, and youth gangs:

"We have a problem with vandalism and graffiti in this area. I think this is because the teenagers have no where to go and so they occupy their time hanging around streets and vandalising things."

Roddy has a strong sense of belonging and commitment to Govan. He believes that local commitment alongside investment in regenerating the homes in the area offers a real opportunity to transform Govan 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."

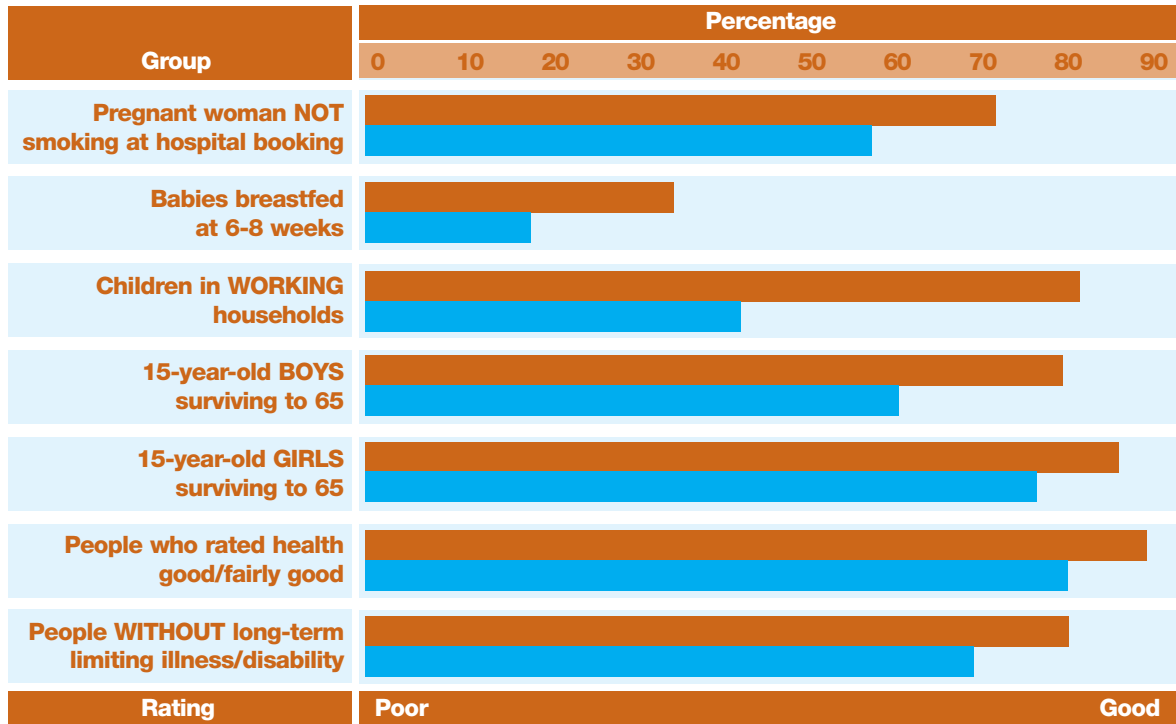
Once the families became settled in their new community and learned to speak English they had very positive and enthusiastic things to say about the help and support they received from local residents, community organisations and local community groups:

"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 Govan residents compares with the rest of Scotland.*

■ Scotland ■ Govan

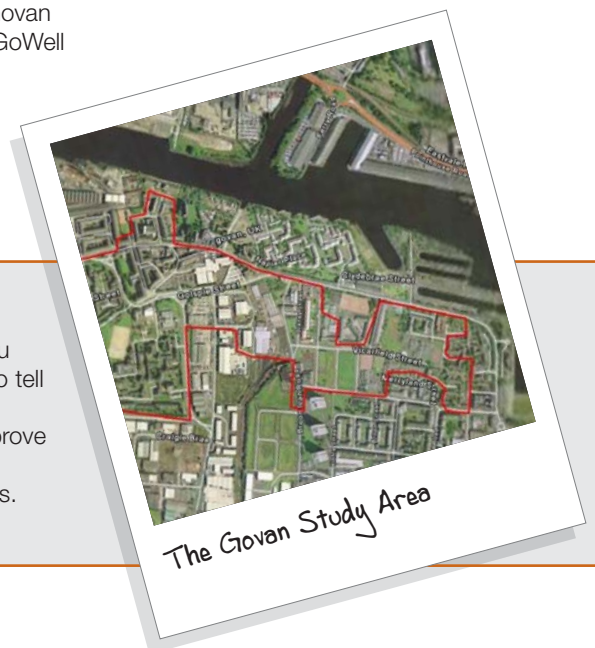


*Data from NHS Health Scotland, for postcode sector G51 3, various years and sources, including 2001 Census.

As you can see the bar shows that all aspects of health of the people living in Govan 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:



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