



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 Shawbridge Corridor ”

Shawbridge Corridor 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 Shawbridge Corridor over the next few weeks. 700 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 Shawbridge Corridor 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 Shawbridge Corridor 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 Shawbridge Corridor 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? // SHAWBRIDGE CORRIDOR - THE PLACE TO BE: THEN AND NOW // BEING AND ASYLUM SEEKER IN GLASGOW // HEALTH AND WELLBEING INDICATORS FOR THE SHAWBRIDGE CORRIDOR

SHAWBRIDGE CORRIDOR



GLASGOW COMMUNITY
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
RESEARCH AND LEARNING
PROGRAMME



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.

A Sneak Preview...

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 Shawbridge Corridor 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 Shawbridge Corridor. 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

Shawbridge Corridor the place to be: THEN AND NOW

We spoke to the ladies from the Pollokshaws Pensioners Club, all of whom were amongst the first tenants to move into the Riverbank Street multi storey flats 33 years ago. We asked them to tell us about what it was like to live in the Shawbridge Corridor when it was first built back in the 1970's. We also asked them to tell us about how the area has changed over the past 30 years and what kind of improvements they feel would be of most benefit to the area.

All of the ladies spoke with great enthusiasm of the vibrant and thriving community that was the Shawbridge Corridor back in the 1970's. One of the pensioners Mrs Betty Campbell recalls the excitement and anticipation of moving into her new home:

"I was bringing up a young family in a room and kitchen and I was delighted to be getting a new home. I really enjoyed and appreciated it. I was delighted with my new bathroom, inside toilet and hot water."

Mrs Agnes Wilson also moved to the Shawbridge area with her family shortly after the multi-storey flats were built and recalls a strong proud community that campaigned together to develop local facilities:

"We had to work hard as neighbours to get funding for play facilities for our children. At one time the children had to play in the grave yard. Which was just not acceptable. We all had to work very hard together to get the funding for the swing park."

And now

All of the ladies were disappointed that such a good community has been allowed to become so run down. They feel that the decline is in part due to a loss of community spirit:

"There is nothing in the area for the kids and teenagers to do. They hang around the back stairs and you can often hear them fighting and arguing. It can be frightening and it makes it so that you afraid to go out."

"In the past the communal areas were always kept sparkling clean. All the neighbours took their turn at making sure the corridor floor was washed and polished and for 30 years it was never missed. All that has stopped, the flats are being given to people who have no respect for the place and once the area starts to look run down its hard to stop."

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

The ladies told us that the one thing they would do to improve the area is create more facilities for children and young people:

"There is nothing in the area for the kids and teenagers to do. They hang around the back stairs and you can often hear them fighting and arguing. It can be frightening and it makes it so that you afraid to go out."

The ladies have a strong sense of belonging and commitment to the Shawbridge Corridor. They believe that this kind of local commitment, alongside investment in the homes in the area, offers a real opportunity to transform the Shawbridge Corridor.

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."

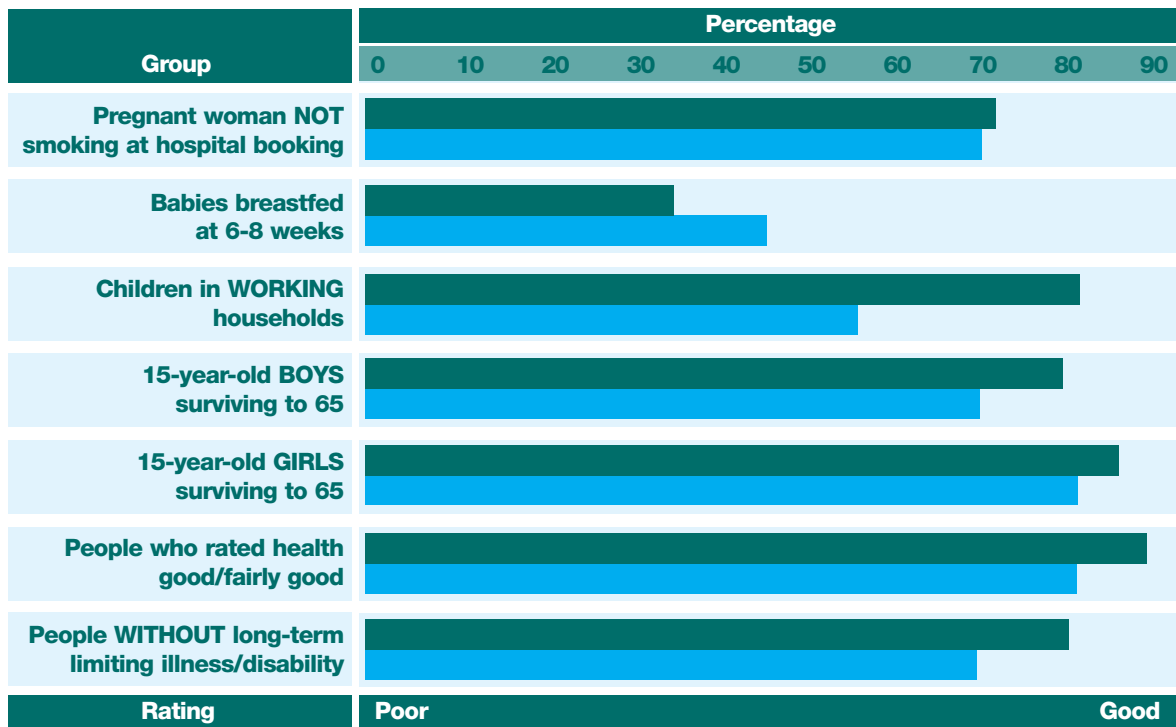
Once the families became settled in their new community and learned to speak English they had very positive and enthusiastic things to say about the help and support they received from local residents, community organisations and local community groups:

"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.

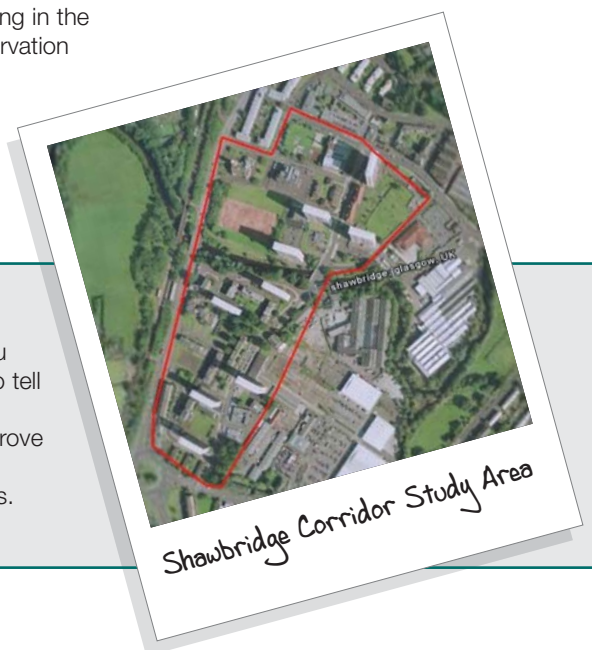
We thought you would like to know how the health and wellbeing indicators of Shawbridge Corridor residents compares with the rest of Scotland.*

■ Scotland ■ Shawbridge Corridor



*Data from NHS Health Scotland, for postcode sector G43 1, various years and sources, including 2001 Census.

As you can see the bar shows that almost all aspects of health of the people living in the Shawbridge Corridor 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
 The Glasgow Centre for Population Health
 Level 6 | 39 St Vincent Place
 Glasgow G1 2ER
 Telephone: 0141 221 9439
 Email: yvonne.christley@drs.glasgow.gov.uk

www.gowellonline.com