



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 Townhead ”

Townhead 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 Townhead 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 Townhead is one of the communities expected to benefit from this investment. But how will we know if the money spent on improving and regenerating Townhead 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 Townhead 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? // TOWNHEAD THE PLACE TO BE: THEN AND NOW // BEING AND ASYLUM SEEKER IN GLASGOW // HEALTH AND WELLBEING INDICATORS FOR TOWNHEAD

TOWNHEAD



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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 Townhead 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 Townhead. 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

Townhead the place to be: THEN AND NOW

We spoke to Mary Carpenter who moved to the Townhead multi-storey flats when they were first built back in the 1970's. We asked Mary to tell us what it was like to live in Townhead back in the 70's and how the area has changed over the past 30 years. We also asked her to tell us about what kind of improvements she would make to the local area.

Mary spoke with great enthusiasm of the vibrant and thriving community that was Townhead back in the 1970's. She has been a resident in the area for more than 30 years and remembers the excitement and anticipation of moving into the Townhead multi-storey flats with her family:

"I thought the flats were beautiful. I moved here with my Mother who was disabled. My mother had really struggled with the stairs in our old house, and it made a big difference to her moving to a brand new flat."

Mary recalls a strong proud community where all the neighbours knew each other:

"I knew all of my neighbours very well and we all took our turn at cleaning the communal areas. Everything was kept neat and tidy. We never had any trouble on this floor."

And now

Mary told us that in the past 15 years the Townhead multi-story flats have been experiencing some decline. She was disappointed that the homes in such a good community have been allowed to become run down:

"I think Townhead is a good community to live in, but I also think that the condition of the multi storey flats both inside should be a top priority. In particular I think this block has gone down-hill since we lost the full time concierge service. The concierge did a really great job of ensuring that the block was secure and kept clean and tidy."

"We need more police in the area and more facilities for young people and children to deal with the increasing vandalism and the fear of crime."

What kind of improvements would make a difference to the local area?

Mary told us of a number of improvements which she feels would make a big difference to the area along with physical improvements to the multistory flats:

"We need more police in the area and more facilities for young people and children to deal with the increasing vandalism and the fear of crime."

Mary has a strong sense of belonging and commitment to Townhead. She believes it is this kind of local commitment alongside investment in regenerating the homes that offers a real opportunity to improve Townhead.

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."

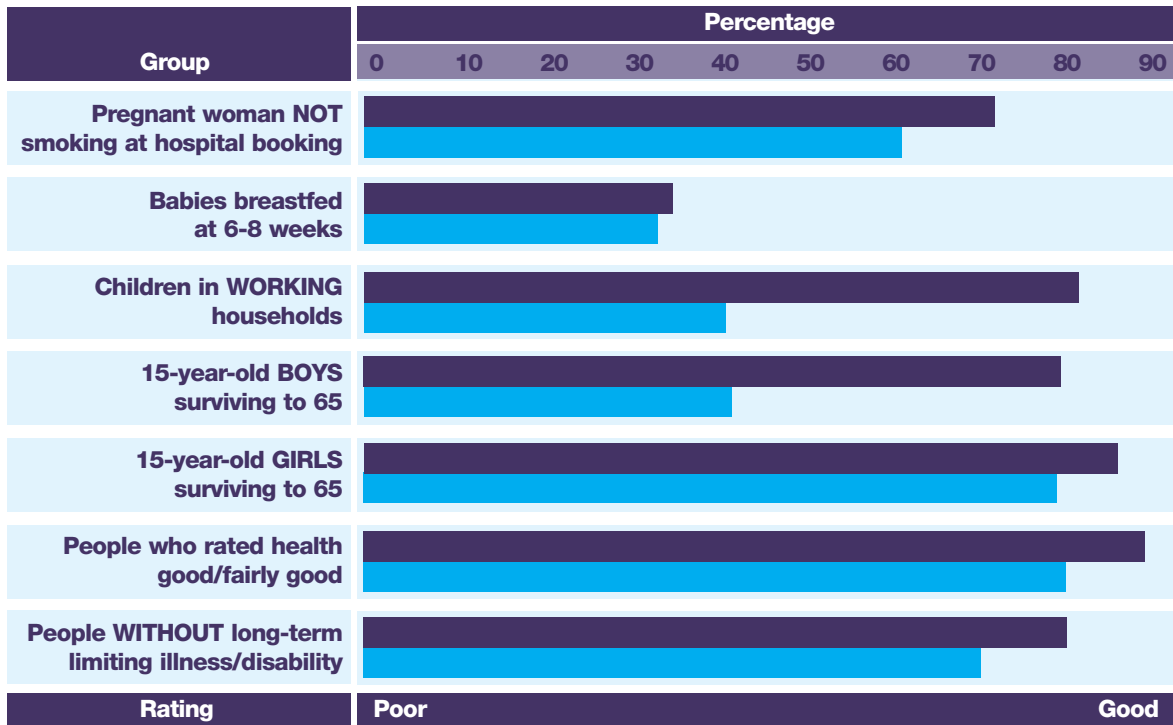
Once the families became settled in their new community and learned to speak English they had very positive and enthusiastic things to say about the help and support they received from local residents, community organisations and local community groups:

"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.

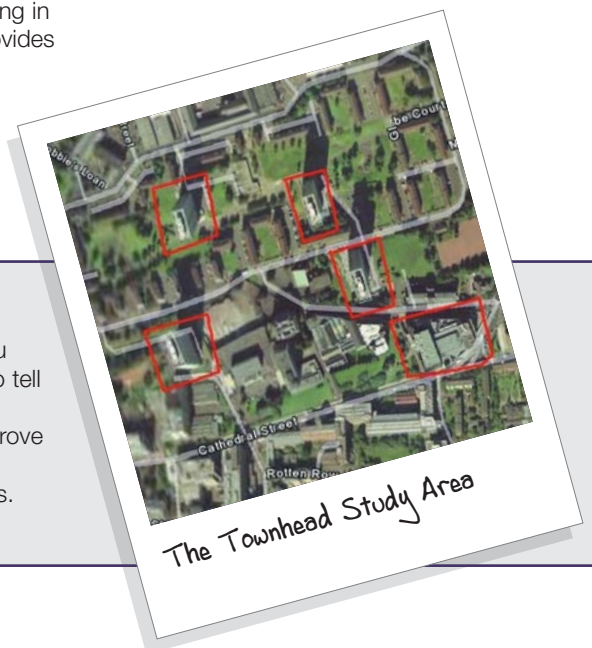
We thought you would like to know how the health and wellbeing indicators of Townhead residents compares with the rest of Scotland.*

■ Scotland ■ Townhead



*Data from NHS Health Scotland, for postcode sector G4 0, 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 Townhead 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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