

Introduction

This briefing paper presents headline results of the 2020/21 Community Safety Survey.

Context

Covid 19 has made this year unlike any before. A large part of the year was spent under some level of restriction which has meant that many people have spent a lot more time at home. The survey itself was largely conducted during a period of lockdown. It is reasonable to expect that this would have an impact on people's feelings of safety and experiences of certain types of crime.

It is also worth noting that the previous year's survey took place shortly after high profile murders in MK. This also may have inflated fear of certain types of crime and impacted on how safe people felt.

Survey response

The survey was conducted over 12 weeks, with the fieldwork period ending in early 2020. The survey was conducted online and promoted widely by partners. The total number of responses received was 1284. This is a significantly smaller number of responses than the previous year (2361) as engagement around the survey was impacted by Covid 19. 98% of respondents were residents of Milton Keynes.

Key findings

- Residents feel safer than this time last year both during the day and walking alone at night.
- Concern about being a victim of crime has fallen for all types of crime, most notably levels of concern about knife crime and gangs have both fallen by 15 per cent.
- Relatively low numbers of respondents have personally experienced or been impacted by issues such as burglary, knife crime and gangs.
- The most commonly experienced issues are environmental crimes such as fly tipping and graffiti, speeding and nuisance vehicles, drugs and neighbourhood issues.
- There has been no real change in the proportion of respondents who said that they knew someone who carries a weapon.
- A small number of respondents admitted to carrying a weapon for their own protection or because other people do.
- There has been a small reduction the proportion of respondents who said they have been victims of domestic abuse.

Survey results – perceptions of levels of crime

Survey results indicate that respondents feel safer than they did this time last year.

Walking alone during the day

89% of respondents felt very or somewhat safe walking alone in their area during the day. This compares to 82% of respondents to the previous survey.

Walking alone at night

57% of respondents said they felt very or somewhat safe walking alone in their area after dark, compared to 45% in the previous year's survey.

Perceptions of levels of crime

73% of respondents felt that from has gone up (a decrease on the previous year, where 88% of respondents felt crime had gone up). This year 41% of respondents felt that crime had gone up a lot, compared to 61% last year.



Survey results – fear of crime

Respondents are less worried about being a victim of crime in MK than they were this time last year.

The proportion of respondents who were worried about being the victim has fallen this year in all types of crime. The biggest reduction was in the following categories:

- Knife crime – down by 15%
- Gangs – down by 15%
- People being drunk or rowdy in public – down by 14%
- Violent extremism/terrorism – down by 14%

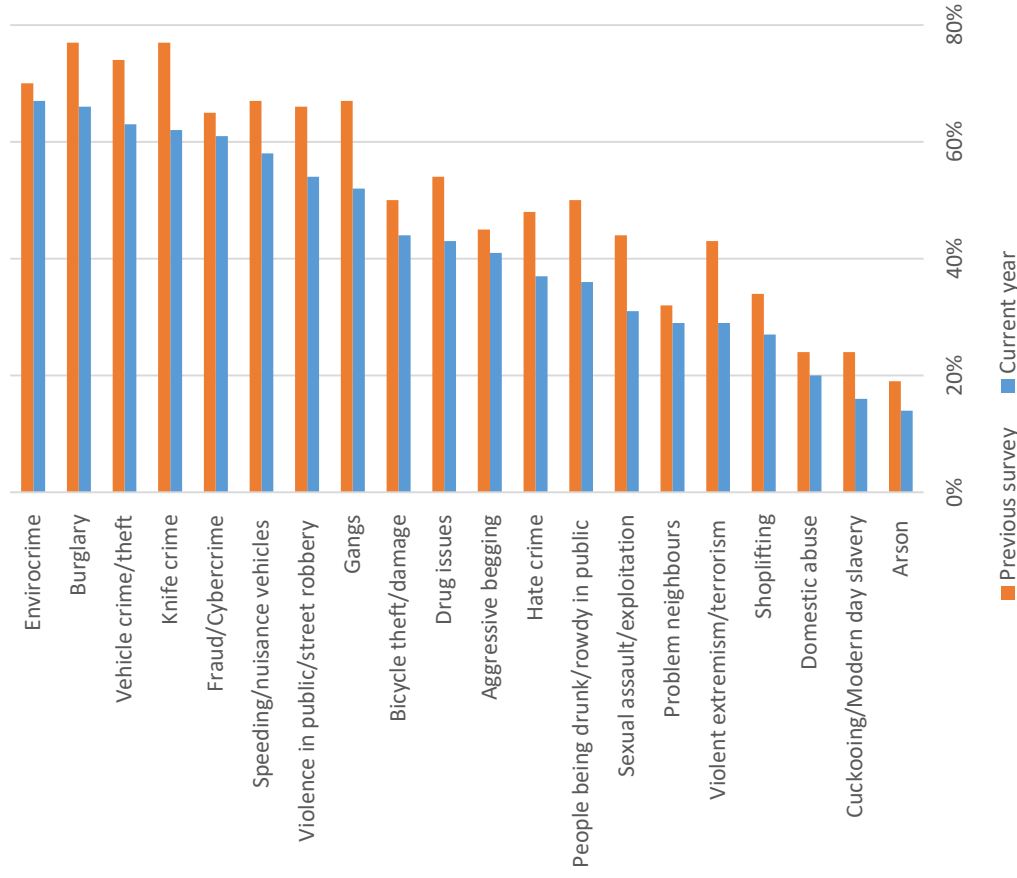
The top three concerns in the most recent survey are:

- Envirocrime which include fly tipping, dumping rubbish, dog fouling and graffiti (67%)
- Burglary (domestic and residential) (66%)
- Vehicle crime and theft (63%)

In 2019/20, the biggest concern was knife crime (77%) which is now the fourth biggest concern.

	2020/21	2019/21
1	Envirocrime (67%)	Knife crime (77%)
2	Burglary (66%)	Burglary (77%)
3	Vehicle crime/theft (63%)	Vehicle crime/theft (74%)
4	Knife crime (62%)	Envirocrime (70%)

Percentage of respondents who are very or quite worried about being a victim in MK over the next 12 months



Survey results – experience of crime

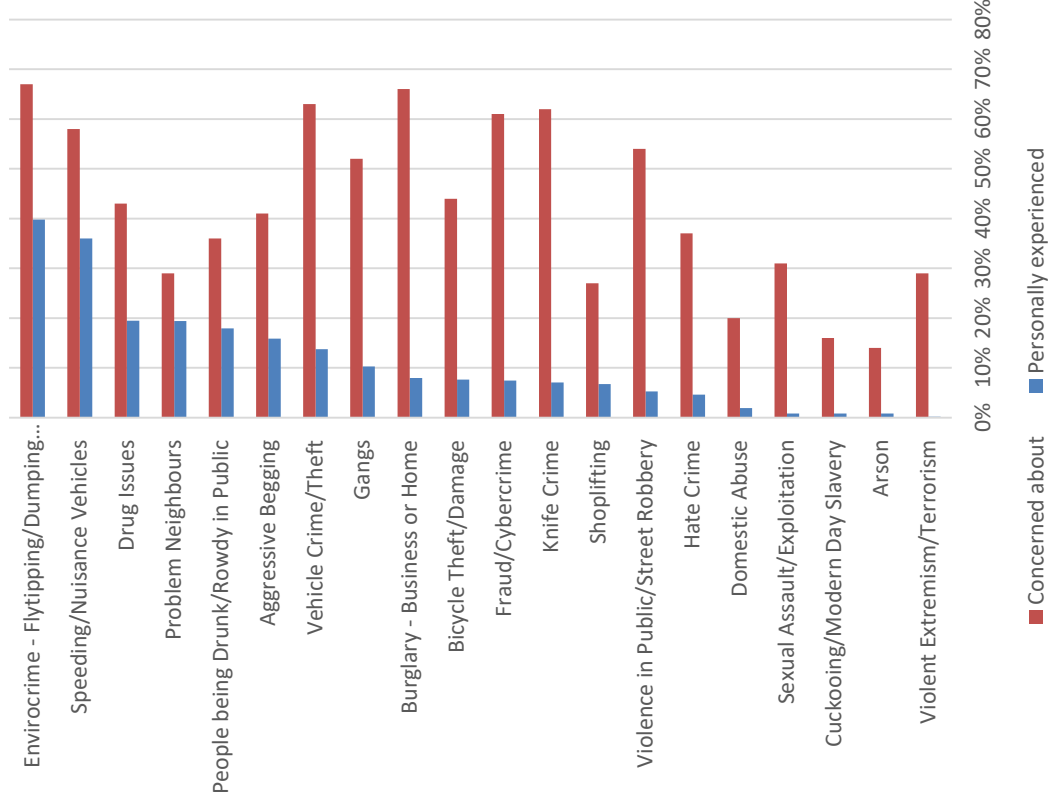
Respondents are asked if they have personally experienced any of the crimes in the previous 12 months. As would expected, the proportion of respondents who have experienced crimes are relatively low compared to the proportion who say they are concerned about being a victim.

The most commonly experienced crimes are envirocrime (40%), speeding and nuisance vehicles (36%), drug issues (19%) and problem neighbours (19%).

Although levels of concern are relatively high about burglary and knife crime, the proportion of respondents who have said they have personally experienced these type of crime are relatively low (burglary 8%, knife crime 7%).

27% of respondents have not experienced any of the crimes listed.

Concern and personal experience



Reporting

42% of those who had experience or been affected had not reported any of the issues in the last 12 months. Just over half said they had reported one or more issues to the police or the council (51%).

It only happened once

Police have more pressing issues

What's the point? They don't do anything.

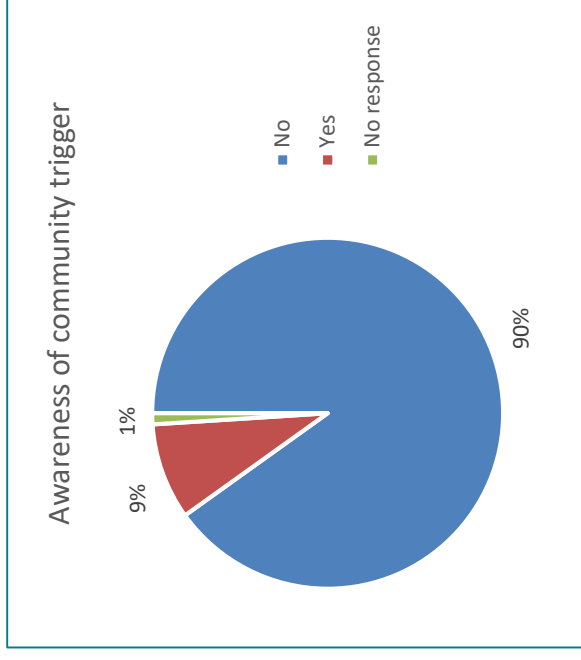
It wasn't bad enough

Types of crime

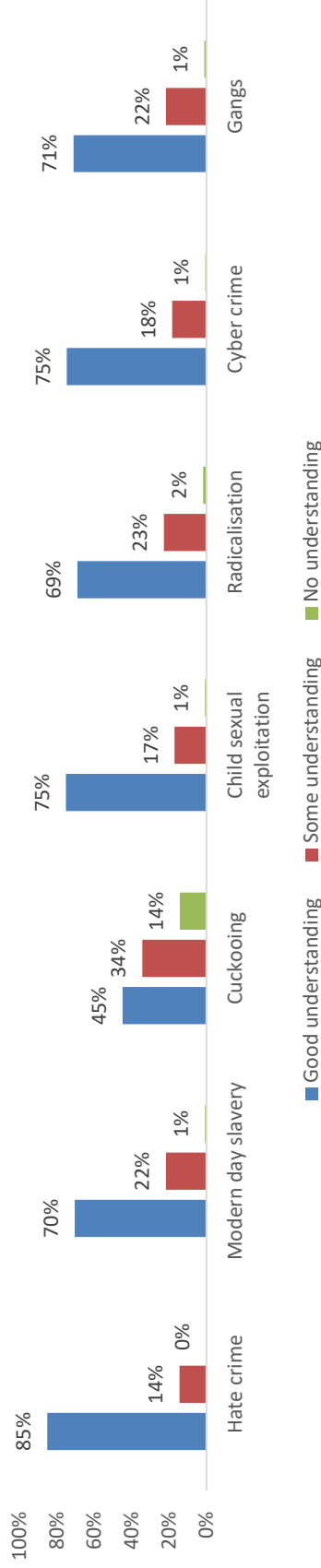
Respondents were asked to rate their understanding of a number of terms. Most respondents had at least some understanding of all the terms, including hate crime, modern day slavery, child sexual exploitation, radicalisation, cybercrime and gangs. However, a significant proportion of respondents (14%) had no understanding of the term ‘cuckooing’.

Community Trigger

A smaller proportion (9%) had heard the term ‘Community Trigger’ before completing the survey. A Community Trigger gives victims of ASB the ability to request a review of their case, where the locally defined threshold is met. If you have already reported 3 incidents of anti-social behaviour in the last 6 months to the council, police or your social housing provider and feel that the issues have not been resolved, you can request a Community Trigger review of your case.



Level of understanding



Carrying weapons

A small proportion of all respondents admitted to having knowledge of somebody carrying a weapon (4%). This is a similar figure to previous survey. When asked if respondents had carried a knife on them in the last 12 months, the majority answered ‘No’; however, there were 6 people who stated they had carried a knife for their own protection, and one who stated they carried a knife because other people do.

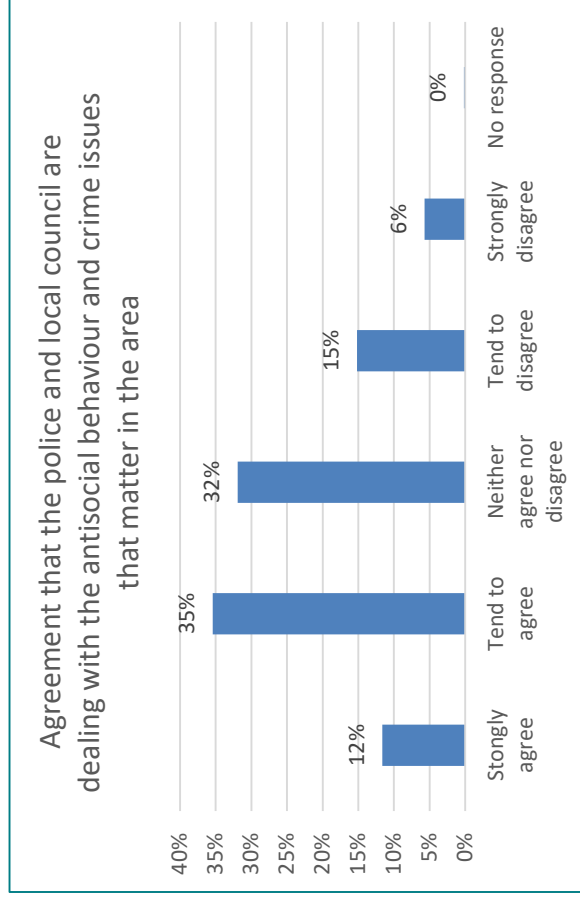
Domestic abuse

14% of respondents stated that they have experienced domestic abuse. Domestic Abuse involves any coercive, controlling, threatening or violent behaviour. The proportion of respondents experiencing Domestic Abuse are slightly lower level than 2019/20 (18%).

Partnership response to crime and ASB

When asked whether respondents agreed that the police and local council are dealing with the antisocial behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area, 47% agreed to some extent, compared 37% this time last year.

Just over a third of respondents had heard of Safer MK before completing this survey (36%).



Fire safety at home

Asked whether there is a working smoke alarm and/or Carbon Monoxide detector in their home, 93% responded that they had either a smoke alarm or both. Just over 3% of respondents have neither. 28% of respondents with a smoke alarm and/or carbon monoxide monitor test them monthly.

Around three quarters of respondents have a planned escape route in case of a fire, (73%).