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**TITLE: BME FACE THE PEOPLE CONSULTATION RESULTS 2009**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 On 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009 Safer Middlesbrough Partnership held a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Face the People session at the International Centre in Abingdon Road. This was the second event of this kind to be held by the Partnership, the first meeting having taken place in February 2008.
- 1.2 The meeting was chaired by Middlesbrough District Commander Steve Sugden. The Panel also included representatives from the Fire Brigade, Local Authority and Safer Middlesbrough Partnership.
- 1.3 The meeting involved an update on the work that has taken place since the initial meeting, an interactive consultation session using the IML equipment and a question and answer session with the Panel.

## **2 KEY FINDINGS**

- 2.1 The top three anti-social behaviour priorities for the BME community in Middlesbrough are teenagers hanging around the streets (20%), rubbish/litter (20%) and vandalism/damage and fires (16%). For BME residents in Stockton the top priorities are teenagers (35%), drug using (22%), noisy neighbours (13%) and drunk and rowdy people (13%).
- 2.2 The top three crime priorities for the BME community in Middlesbrough are house burglary (17.5%), criminal damage (16%) and car crime (16%). For BME residents in Stockton the top priorities are criminal damage (22%), drug dealing (14%) and shop lifting (14%). Women were far more concerned by hate crime than men.
- 2.3 Nearly half the attendees (45%) stated that they felt safe as members of the BME community in Middlesbrough. Although similar levels of men and women felt safe, women were far more likely to feel unsafe than men.

- 2.4 Middlesbrough town centre, Gresham and Grove Hill were considered to be particularly unsafe areas.
- 2.5 Nearly all of the attendees had been a victim of hate crime within the last twelve months, with the most common types of hate crime experienced being verbal abuse or mickey taking.
- 2.6 Women were much more likely than men to have suffered more serious physical abuse as a result of their ethnicity, and were also more likely to have been spat at than men.
- 2.7 71% of attendees had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour within the last year, with women suffering higher levels of victimisation than men (81% compared to 64%).
- 2.8 31% of those who had been victims of crime or anti-social behaviour had not reported the incident.
- 2.9 The main barriers to reporting hate crime in Middlesbrough were seen to be feeling that the incident wouldn't be taken seriously and fear of prejudice from the police. For men the main barrier was the fact that incidents happen so often there would seem to be no point in reporting them. Women were more worried than men that the police would be prejudiced.
- 2.10 The overall results of the performance measure question were the same as those achieved in the Neighbourhood Survey, with 44% of attendees stating that they agreed that the police and council were dealing with the issues that mattered in their area. Men and women had similar confidence levels (45% for men and 44% for women), but Stockton attendees had much higher levels of confidence than those in Middlesbrough (60% compared to 40%).

### **3 RESULTS**

#### **Demographics**

- 3.1 43 people took part in the consultation session. Just over three quarters (77%) were from Middlesbrough, with the remaining 23% from Stockton. Nearly half the attendees were from outer Middlesbrough (NPT3), with the remaining Middlesbrough attendees living in the town centre area (NPT1 and NPT2). The meeting was better attended than in 2008 when only 26 people took part in the consultation session.
- 3.2 Two thirds of the attendees (67%) were aged between 16 and 44, with 34% in the 35 to 44 age range. Nearly two thirds (63%) were male.

## Anti-Social Behaviour

3.3 Attendees were asked to choose the three main areas of anti-social behaviour which they felt that partners should concentrate on, with the following options:

- Noisy neighbours and loud parties
- Teenagers hanging around the streets
- Vandalism, graffiti, deliberate damage and deliberate fires
- Drug using
- People being drunk or rowdy in a public place
- Rubbish or litter lying around
- Off road motorbikes, including quad bikes
- Begging
- Prostitution and kerb crawling

3.4 Overall the top three priorities were teenagers hanging around the streets (25%), rubbish (18%), and drug using (13%). These are the same top three priorities as in 2008. However, when considering only the responses from the Middlesbrough attendees, the top three priorities were jointly teenagers and rubbish, followed by vandalism and criminal damage. For Stockton attendees the top priorities were teenagers, drug using and jointly noisy neighbours and people being drunk and rowdy. Male and female attendees had roughly the same concerns, although noisy neighbours were a bigger issue for women. Table 3.1 below shows the full results of this question:

**Table 3.1 Anti-Social Behaviour Priorities**

	Percentage (%)					
	Overall	Middlesbrough	Stockton	Male	Female	2008
Teenagers hanging around	25	20	35	21	29	27
Litter	18	20	9	18	17	18
Drug using	15	14	22	16	14	16
Vandalism & graffiti	13	16	4	15	11	14
Noisy neighbours	9	8	13	6	14	7
Drunk/rowdy people	8	7	13	10	6	7
Prostitution	6	7	4	8	3	7
Off road bikes	4	5	0	3	6	4
Begging	2	3	0	3	0	0

	1 <sup>st</sup> priority
	2 <sup>nd</sup> priority
	3 <sup>rd</sup> priority

## Crime

- 3.5 Attendees were next asked to choose the three main areas of crime which they felt that partners should concentrate on, with the following options:
- Vehicle crime
  - House burglary
  - Theft from a person
  - Hate crime
  - Shop lifting
  - Criminal damage
  - Violent crime
  - Shed/garage burglary
  - Drug dealing
- 3.6 Overall the top priorities were criminal damage (17%), house burglary (16%) and jointly car crime and drug dealing (15% each). For Middlesbrough residents house burglary was the top priority, followed jointly by criminal damage and car crime. Attendees from Stockton were primarily concerned by criminal damage, followed jointly by drug dealing and shoplifting. Concerns were similar to those expressed in 2008, although hate crime was a greater concern in last year's consultation.
- 3.7 Although men and women had the same top priority, of criminal damage, men were concerned by house burglary and drug dealing, whereas women were much more worried about hate crime. For younger attendees (16 to 24 year olds) shop lifting was the biggest concern. Table 3.2 below shows the full results of this question:

**Table 3.2 Crime Priorities**

	Percentage (%)					
	Overall	Middlesbrough	Stockton	Male	Female	2008
Criminal damage	17	16	22	19	16	16
House burglary	16	17.5	10	18	11	16
Car crime	15	16	10	14	14	20
Drug dealing	15	15	14	16	13	12
Shed/garage burglary	12	12.5	10	13	11	8
Hate crime	11	11	10	8	16	16
Shop lifting	7	5	14	5	11	2
Violent crime	4	4	5	5	3	6
Theft from a person	3	2.5	5	2	5	4

	1 <sup>st</sup> priority
	2 <sup>nd</sup> priority
	3 <sup>rd</sup> priority

## **Hate Crime**

- 3.8 Attendees were asked how safe they felt generally in Middlesbrough as a member of the BME community. Overall 5% felt very safe, 40% fairly safe, 26% neither safe nor unsafe, 24% a bit unsafe and 5% very unsafe. This equates to 45% of attendees feeling safe compared to 29% feeling unsafe.
- 3.9 Although similar levels of men and women felt safe (46% of men and 43% of women), women were far more likely to feel unsafe (44% compared with 19%). A high proportion of younger attendees (16 to 24 year olds) felt safe (60%), although a high proportion of this age group also reported feeling unsafe (40%). All of the older attendees (over 65) felt fairly safe.
- 3.10 Middlesbrough town centre, Gresham and Grove Hill were considered to be particularly unsafe areas.
- 3.11 Looking specifically at hate crime, the attendees were asked which of the following types of hate crime they had been subjected to within the last twelve months:
- Verbal abuse
  - Physical abuse – spitting
  - Physical abuse – pushing/hitting/throwing items
  - Mocking/mickey taking
  - Other
  - None of the above
- 3.12 The most common types of hate crime experienced were verbal abuse (29% of votes registered) and mocking/mickey taking (24%). 16% of the votes registered were for more serious physical abuse, and 13% for spitting.
- 3.13 Women were much more likely than men to have suffered more serious physical abuse, and were also more likely to have been spat at than men.
- 3.14 Only 10% of the votes registered stated that they hadn't been victims of any type of hate crime, indicating the high levels of hate crime experienced by this sector of the community.
- 3.15 When asked the same question regarding people they knew, a higher percentage reported more serious physical abuse (22% of votes registered).

## **Experiences of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**

- 3.16 71% of attendees stated that they had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour within the last twelve months. Women were much more likely to have been victims than men (81% compared to 64%). Levels of victimisation were much higher than in last year's attendees when 55% stated that they had been victims.

- 3.17 31% of those who had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour stated that they did not report the incident. Reporting levels were similar for men and women.
- 3.18 For those who did report the incident, by far the most popular people to report it to were the police, with 39% of the votes registered.
- 3.19 The main barriers to reporting hate crime in Middlesbrough were seen to be feeling that the incident wouldn't be taken seriously and fear of prejudice from the police. For men the main barrier was the fact that incidents happen so often there would seem to be no point in reporting them. Women were more worried than men that the police would be prejudiced.

### **Confidence Measure**

- 3.20 The final question was the Home Office overarching performance indicator for policing (APACS 2.2 / PSA23) – how much would you agree or disagree that the police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area.
- 3.21 Overall 44% agreed that the police and council were dealing with the issues that matter. Men and women had very similar confidence levels (45% for men and 44% for women). Stockton attendees had very high levels of confidence (60%) compared to Middlesbrough attendees (40%).