



Police Headquarters
Ladgate Lane
Middlesbrough
TS8 9EH

Chair: Cllr Dave McLuckie Tel: 01642 301467
Chief Executive: Mr J McCarthy BA(Hons), IPFA Tel: 01642 301623
Chief Constable: Mr S Price QPM BSc(Hons) MSt(Cantab) Fax: 01642 301495
Tel: 01642 301215

TITLE: LGBT FACE THE PEOPLE CONSULTATION RESULTS 2009

AUTHOR: SARAH WILSON, CONSULTATION & PERFORMANCE OFFICER

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 20th October 2009 Safer Middlesbrough Partnership held a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Face the People session at the Thistle Hotel in Middlesbrough. This was the second event of this kind to be held by the Partnership, the first meeting having taken place in September 2008.
- 1.2 The meeting was chaired by Councillor Barry Coppinger. The Panel also included representatives from the Police,¹ My Sisters Place, Crown Prosecution Service, Probation Service and Local Authority Community Protection.
- 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 anti-social behaviour priorities for the LGBT community in Middlesbrough are teenagers hanging around the streets (20%), people being drunk and rowdy (20%), drug using (16%) and vandalism/damage and fires (16%). For LGBT residents in Redcar and Cleveland the top priorities are teenagers (30%), drug using (20%) and drunk and rowdy people (20%).
- 2.2 The top three crime priorities for the LGBT community in Middlesbrough are hate crime, criminal damage and violent crime (each with 17%). For LGBT residents in Redcar and Cleveland the top priorities are drug dealing (28%), violent crime (19%) and shop lifting (19%). Women were far more concerned by shoplifting than men.

¹ District Commander and Gay Police Association Chair

- 2.3 Just over a third of the attendees (35%) stated that they felt safe as members of the LGBT community in Middlesbrough.
- 2.4 Middlesbrough town centre, the bus station and the train station were considered to be particularly unsafe areas, especially at night.
- 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 68% of attendees had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour within the last year, with men suffering higher levels of victimisation than women (75% compared to 60%).
- 2.7 Reporting levels were very low, with 66% of those who had been victims of crime or anti-social behaviour stating that they had not reported the incident.
- 2.8 The main barrier to reporting hate crime in Middlesbrough was seen to be feeling that the incident wouldn't be taken seriously. However, there were many other significant factors such as fear of the perpetrators, fear of prejudice from the police and also feeling that incidents happen so regularly there is no point in reporting them. Men were much more fearful of perpetrators than women, and were also more worried that the police would be prejudiced. For transgender attendees the key factor was the frequency of incidents.
- 2.9 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 had far higher confidence levels than women (49% compared to 20%), and Middlesbrough attendees had far higher levels of confidence than those in Redcar and Cleveland (50% compared to 14%).

3 RESULTS

Demographics

- 3.1 21 people took part in the consultation session. Just under half (48%) were from Middlesbrough, with 32% from Redcar and Cleveland, 10% from Stockton, 5% from Hartlepool and 5% from outside Cleveland. The Middlesbrough attendees were split equally between the town centre area (NPT1) and outer Middlesbrough (NPT3 and NPT4).
- 3.2 Attendees were predominantly from the younger age categories, with 34% aged between 16 and 24, 9% between 25 and 34 and 26% between 35 and 44. Over two thirds (70%) were male, and three of the attendees considered themselves to be transgender.

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%), people being drunk and rowdy (18%), and drug using (16%). Although the top priority remains the same as in 2008, in the previous year's consultation litter had been a much greater issue whilst drugs and alcohol related problems had not rated particularly highly.
- 3.5 When considering only the responses from the Middlesbrough attendees, the top three priorities remain the same, although vandalism and criminal damage is also a key concern. Redcar and Cleveland attendees had the same concerns as those from Middlesbrough although they were less worried about vandalism and criminal damage. Responses from other geographical areas have not been analysed separately as they only refer to groups of one or two people.
- 3.6 Although male and female attendees had the same top concern, women were far more worried about drunk and rowdy behaviour whilst men were more concerned by drug taking. Women also rated litter as a serious concern. Table 3.1 below shows the full results of this question:

Table 3.1 Anti-Social Behaviour Priorities

	Percentage of votes (%)					
	Overall	Middlesbrough	Redcar and Cleveland	Male	Female	2008
Teenagers hanging around	25	20	30	20	34	17
People being drunk and rowdy	18	20	20	14	33	12
Drug using	16	16	20	19	8	12
Vandalism/damage/fires	12	16	10	14	8	13
Litter	12	4	10	12	17	17
Noisy neighbours	7	8	5	9	0	6
Off road bikes	5	8	0	5	0	5
Begging	5	8	5	7	0	11
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	7

	1 st priority
	2 nd priority
	3 rd priority

Crime

3.7 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

3.8 Overall the top priorities were drug dealing (18%), followed jointly by hate crime and criminal damage (16% each). These are the same top concerns as in the previous year's consultation. However, when considering only the Middlesbrough attendees, drug dealing was not a very high concern whereas violent crime was considered much more of a problem. Attendees from Redcar and Cleveland were very concerned by drug dealing, and were also worried about violent crime and shoplifting.

3.9 Men and women had quite different crime concerns, with women being predominantly worried about shoplifting, which was not a big concern at all for men. Table 3.2 below shows the full results of this question:

Table 3.2 Crime Priorities

	Percentage (%)					
	Overall	Middlesbrough	Redcar and Cleveland	Male	Female	2008
Drug dealing	18	12.5	28	18	21	15
Hate crime	16	17	14	14	21	22
Criminal damage	16	17	10	16	14	16
Violent crime	14	17	19	14	14	12
Shoplifting	10	4	19	5	30	10
House burglary	9	12.5	0	12	0	5
Shed/garage burglary	7	12.5	0	7	0	6
Theft from a person	5	4	10	7	0	7
Vehicle crime	5	4	0	7	0	7

	1 st priority
	2 nd priority
	3 rd priority

Hate Crime

- 3.10 Attendees were asked how safe they felt generally in Middlesbrough as a member of the LGBT community. Overall 10% felt very safe, 25% fairly safe, 30% neither safe nor unsafe, 30% a bit unsafe and 5% very unsafe. This equates to equal numbers of attendees feeling safe as feeling unsafe (35% each).
- 3.11 Women had much clearer feelings regarding safety than men – 37% of the men questioned chose the neutral option for this question, whereas none of the women chose this option. Half the women felt safe and half felt unsafe, but none felt very safe. None of the men stated that they felt very unsafe.
- 3.12 Transgender attendees had fairly low feelings of personal safety – one attendee felt fairly safe, one felt a bit unsafe and one felt very unsafe.
- 3.13 Middlesbrough town centre, the bus station and the train station were considered to be particularly unsafe areas, especially at night.
- 3.14 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

- 3.15 The most common types of hate crime experienced were verbal abuse (56% of votes registered) and mocking/mickey taking (24%). Only 5% of the votes registered were for more serious physical abuse, and 5% for spitting.
- 3.16 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.
- 3.17 When asked the same question regarding people they knew, a much higher percentage reported more serious physical abuse (40% of votes registered).

Experiences of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- 3.18 68% of attendees stated that they had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour within the last twelve months. Men were much more likely to have been victims than women (75% compared to 60%). Levels of victimisation were lower than in last year's attendees when 80% stated that they had been victims.
- 3.19 66% of those who had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour stated that they did not report the incident. Reporting levels were the same for men and women.
- 3.20 For those who did report the incident, the most popular people to report it to were the police, or friends and family, each with 16% of the votes registered.
- 3.21 The main barrier to reporting hate crime in Middlesbrough was seen to be feeling that the incident wouldn't be taken seriously. However, there were many other significant factors such as fear of the perpetrators, fear of prejudice from the police, and also the feeling that these incidents happen so frequently there is just no point in reporting them. Men were much more fearful of perpetrators and also more fearful of prejudicial treatment from the police than women. For transgender attendees the key factor was the frequency of incidents.

Confidence Measure

- 3.22 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.
- 3.23 Overall 44% agreed that the police and council were dealing with the issues that matter. Men had far higher confidence levels than women (49% for men and 20% for women). Middlesbrough attendees had far higher levels of confidence (50%) compared to Redcar and Cleveland attendees (14%).