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**TITLE: REDCAR AND CLEVELAND OLDER PERSON'S PARTNERSHIP
BOARD CONSULTATION DAY MARCH 2008 RESULTS**

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 26th March 2008 Redcar and Cleveland LSP held an Older Person's Partnership Board education and consultation day at Redcar racecourse.
- 1.2 The event was aimed at over 50s and themed around neighbourhood policing with presentations from the Neighbourhood Policing Team, the Warden Service, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, the Youth Inclusion Project and the Crime Prevention Officer.
- 1.3 Cleveland Police Authority ran a consultation session using the interactive IML equipment to ask a series of questions covering fear of crime and neighbourhood policing. The following report outlines the results of the consultation session.

2 RESULTS

Demographics

- 2.1 35 people took part in the consultation session. Of these, nearly half (46%) were from the Redcar area. 31% were from One, 14% from Guisborough, 6% from East Cleveland and 3% from Kilton. There were no participants from the Gates area.

Fear of Crime

- 2.2 Participants were asked how safe they felt walking alone in their local area after dark. Nearly half (48%) stated that they felt unsafe (39%) or very unsafe (9%), compared to 38% who expressed feelings of safety (9% very safe and 29% safe). 14% of the participants expressed no opinion.

- 2.3 Participants were next asked to pick their main reason for feeling unsafe from the following options:
- I do not feel unsafe
 - National media
 - Local media
 - Bad reputation of the area – word of mouth
 - You know someone who has been a victim of crime or asb
 - You have seen crime or asb taking place
 - You have been a victim of crime or asb
- 2.4 29% of participants stated that they did not feel unsafe. Of those who did feel unsafe, the most popular reason was local media (17%), which had far more of an influence than national media (6%). 14% stated that they had seen crime or anti-social behaviour taking place, and 14% had been victims themselves. Table 2.1 below shows the full results of this question:

Table 2.1 What is your main reason for feeling unsafe?

Reason for feeling unsafe	%
I do not feel unsafe	29%
Local media	17%
You have seen crime or asb taking place	14%
You have been a victim of crime or asb	14%
Bad reputation of the area – word of mouth	14%
You know someone who has been a victim of crime/asb	6%
National media	6%

- 2.4 Participants were asked what the biggest factor was in how safe they felt in their local area – the crime levels or the anti-social behaviour levels. Anti-social behaviour levels were a far bigger factor in feelings of safety than crime levels, with 79% of the votes compared to only 21% for crime.

Crime

- 2.5 Participants were asked to pick which of the following crimes worried them most where they lived:
- Robbery
 - House burglary
 - Shed/garage burglary
 - Car crime
 - Vandalism and criminal damage
 - Drug dealing
 - Violent crime/assaults
 - Shoplifting
- 2.6 Vandalism and criminal damage was by far the most popular choice, with 44% of the votes. This reinforces the views expressed in the previous question that participants were far more worried by so called anti-social behaviour or low level crime, than by more serious crimes such as violent crime and robbery, which only received 12% of the votes between them.

House burglary was the second biggest concern, with 19% of the votes. Table 2.2 below shows the full results of this question:

Table 2.2 Which of the following crime worries you most?

Crime	%
Vandalism and criminal damage	44%
House burglary	19%
Drug dealing	16%
Violent crime/assaults	9%
Shed/garage burglary	6%
Robbery	3%
Shoplifting	3%
Car crime	0%

- 2.7 The next question asked participants to state how they thought the crime rate in the borough had changed over the past year. 40% stated that they felt crime levels remained unchanged. However, 37% felt that crime levels had increased compared to only 23% who felt that they had decreased. 26% felt that there was a lot more crime, 11% a little more crime, 14% a little less crime and 9% a lot less crime.
- 2.8 Participants were next asked what they based their views of the crime rate on, from the following options:
- Reports of crime in the media
 - Word on the street/local gossip
 - Friends or family have been victims of crime
 - You have seen crime taking place
 - You have been a victim of crime
- 2.9 Participants were far more likely to be influenced by the media (38%) or by local gossip (29%) than by personal experience. Only 9% stated that they had been a victim of crime, and a further 9% that they had seen crime taking place. 15% stated that they knew people who had been victims.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 2.10 Participants were asked to pick which of the following types of anti-social behaviour worried them most where they lived:
- Noisy neighbours and loud parties
 - Teenagers hanging around the streets
 - Under age drinking on the streets
 - Drug using
 - Adults being drunk or rowdy in a public place
 - Rubbish or litter lying around
 - Off road motorcycles, including quad bikes
 - Verbal harassment from young people
 - Verbal harassment from adults

2.11 Under age drinking on the streets was the most popular choice, with 35% of the votes, followed by teenagers hanging around the streets with 26%. It is interesting to note that so many of the participants chose the teenagers option, rather than choosing an option which described what aspect of teenagers they found anti-social, i.e. verbal harassment, drug using, litter etc. This perhaps underlines the fact that elderly people often find teenagers intimidating even when they are not actually behaving in an anti-social manner. Table 2.3 below shows the full results of this question:

Table 2.3 Which of the following types of asb worries you most?

Crime	%
Under age drinking on the streets	35%
Teenagers hanging around the streets	26%
Rubbish or litter lying around	18%
Off road motorcycles, including quad bikes	9%
Verbal harassment from young people	9%
Adults being drunk or rowdy in public places	3%
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	0%
Drug using	0%
Verbal harassment from adults	0%

2.12 The next question asked participants to state how they thought the levels of anti-social behaviour in the borough had changed over the past year. 34% stated that they felt anti-social behaviour levels remained unchanged. However, over half (54%) felt that levels had increased compared to only 12% who felt that they had decreased. 43% felt there was a lot more anti-social behaviour, 11% a little more, 9% a little less and 3% a lot less.

2.13 Participants were next asked what they based their views of anti-social behaviour levels on, from the following options:

- Reports of anti-social behaviour in the media
- Word on the street/local gossip
- Friends or family have been victims of anti-social behaviour
- You have seen anti-social behaviour taking place
- You have been a victim of anti-social behaviour

2.14 Again participants were most likely to be influenced by the media, with 31% of the votes. However, there were much higher levels of personal experience of anti-social behaviour, with 26% stating that they had seen it taking place and 9% that they had been victims. 23% based their views on local gossip and 11% knew someone who had been a victim.

Neighbourhood Policing

2.15 Participants were next asked how often they saw their local neighbourhood team compared with a year ago. 33% stated that they felt visibility had remained unchanged during this time. However, participants who had noticed a difference in visibility levels were more likely to feel that levels had decreased than increased since the introduction of neighbourhood policing.

33% stated that they saw the neighbourhood team a lot less often, 3% a little less often, 14% a little more often and 17% a lot more often.

- 2.16 The next question asked participants if they knew their local police officer. Nearly half (42%) stated that they did, either by name (21%), by number (6%) or by sight (15%).
- 2.17 Knowledge of PCSOs was slightly higher, at 45%. Of these, 21% knew their local PCSO by name and 24% by sight.
- 2.18 Participants were next asked how well they felt that the police and partners dealt with problems in their local area. 18% expressed no opinion, but of those who did there was more positive feedback (46%) than negative (36%). 9% felt that problems were dealt with very well, 37% fairly well, 12% poorly and 24% very poorly.
- 2.19 The final two questions quizzed participants on the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) telephone number and the Warden's contact numbers. There was some confusion between the SPOC and the general Ladgate Lane number, but most participants were aware of one or the other so knew of a number to use for non emergency police contact. Knowledge of the Warden's contact numbers was also quite high, especially given that there are separate numbers for office hours and out of hours service and that one of these has recently changed.

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Participants had fairly low feelings of personal safety, with 48% stating that they felt unsafe or very unsafe walking alone in their local area after dark. This demonstrates far lower feelings of safety than expressed by younger age groups in previous consultations¹. Local media played the greatest role in determining these high levels of fear.
- 3.2 Anti-social behaviour levels were a far bigger factor in influencing feelings of personal safety than crime levels. This was underlined by the fact that participants were considerably more worried by vandalism and criminal damage than by more serious crimes such as violent crime and robbery.
- 3.3 The most worrying types of anti-social behaviour were under age drinking on the streets and teenagers hanging around the streets, demonstrating the high levels of fear in the older generation regarding young people.
- 3.4 Participants felt that both crime levels and anti-social behaviour levels had risen considerably over the past year since the introduction of neighbourhood policing. Anti-social behaviour was seen to be a particular problem with over half the participants stating that levels had risen since

¹ Stockton Youth IAG, Stockton Children's Trust Board events

March 2007. However, the main factor in determining participants' views of crime and anti-social behaviour levels was the media, underlining the powerful influence of negative news stories.

- 3.5 Participants expressed higher levels of personal experience of anti-social behaviour than crime, with 26% stating that they had seen anti-social behaviour taking place and 9% that they had been victims.
- 3.6 36% of participants felt that they saw their local neighbourhood team less often than a year ago, compared with only 31% who felt that visibility levels had increased. This is particularly discouraging given that the majority of attendees were well engaged with the community through participation in local forums and neighbourhood groups.
- 3.7 Despite the low feelings of visibility, familiarity with the local team was relatively high, with 42% of participants stating that they knew their local police officer, and 45% that they knew their local PCSO.
- 3.8 Nearly half the participants (46%) stated that they felt the police and partners dealt very well or fairly well with local problems, compared to just over a third (36%) who felt that problems were dealt with poorly or very poorly.