



# Neighbourhood Watch Crime and Community Survey

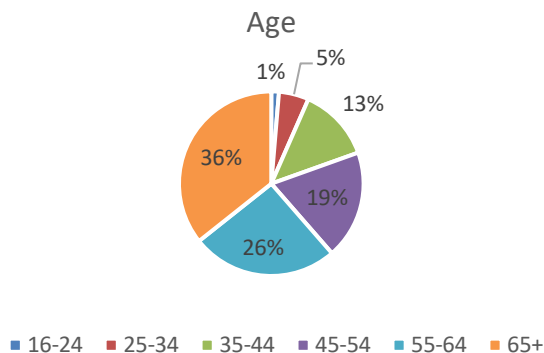
## West Midlands Region

### 1. Introduction

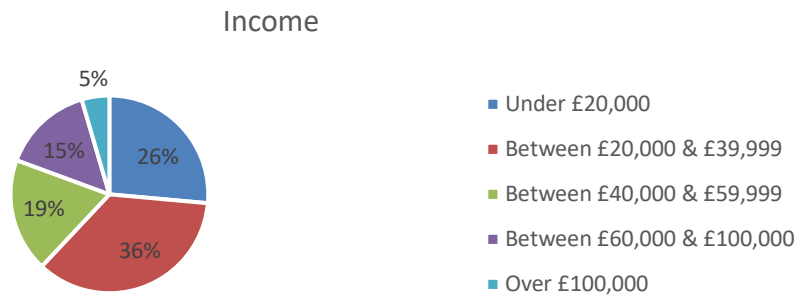
- 1.1 The national Neighbourhood Watch survey was developed by Neighbourhood Watch Network to better understand the impact of Neighbourhood Watch on levels of crime victimisation, fear of crime and feelings of safety, neighbourliness, community cohesion and loneliness, and the current reach and diversity of Neighbourhood Watch.
- 1.2 The design of the survey was supported by University College London and informed by previous research from Nottingham Trent University into the Crime Survey of England and Wales. It also includes some questions from the What Works Centre for Wellbeing survey tool for measuring loneliness.
- 1.3 The findings of the national survey will be used by Neighbourhood Watch as a national baseline and support the development and evaluation of the 2020 -2025 Neighbourhood Watch Strategy.
- 1.4 This report is a summary of survey results from the West Midlands region including data from: -
  - Staffordshire
  - Warwickshire
  - West Mercia
  - West Midlands

### 2. Profile of Respondents

- 2.1 12% of the total sample size was from the West Midlands.
- 2.2 Respondents were in the main from a White British background (93%), 2% were from an Asian background, 1% from a Black background and 2% from any other ethnic group.
- 2.3 Respondents were mainly in older age groups, in particular 65+ (36%), with 6% of respondents under 35yrs old.



2.4 Respondents had a very high level of house ownership (83%), with 62% earning under £40,000 pa.



### 3. Neighbourhood Watch Membership

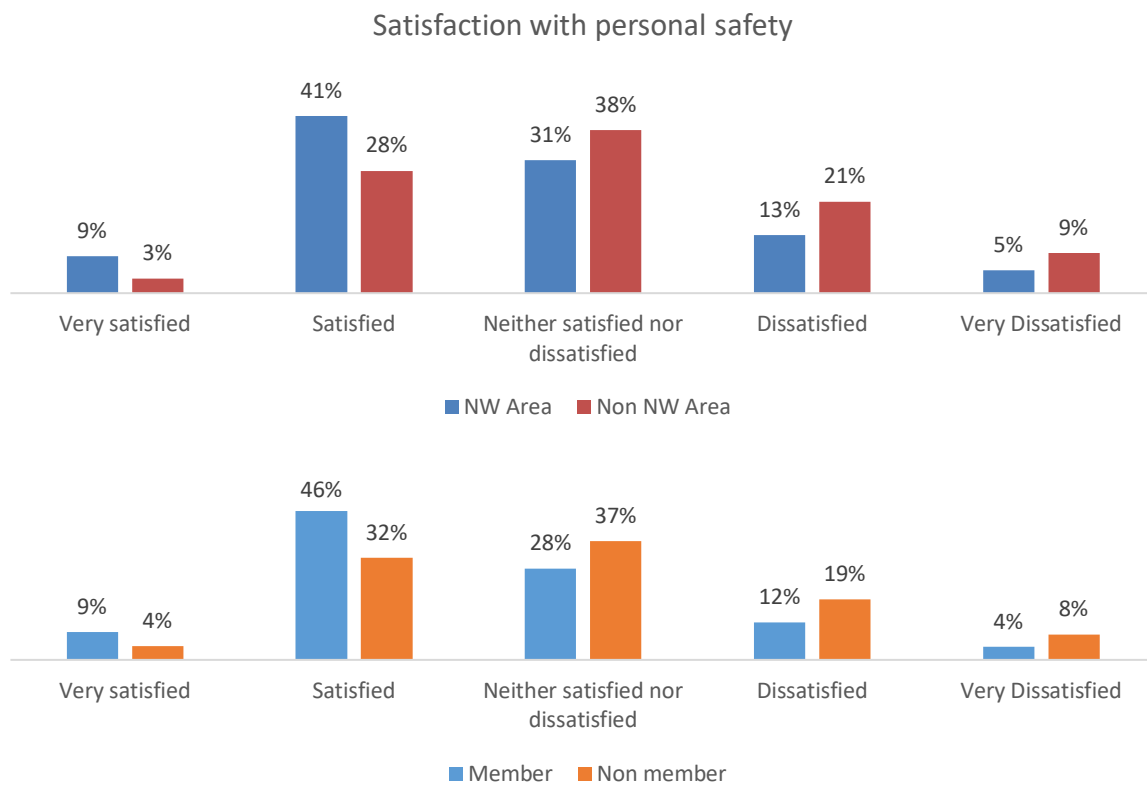
3.1 40% of respondents live in a Neighbourhood Watch area, with 60% either not living in a NW area or not knowing whether they do or not.

3.2 Of the respondents who live in a Neighbourhood Watch area, 62% identified as members of Neighbourhood Watch.

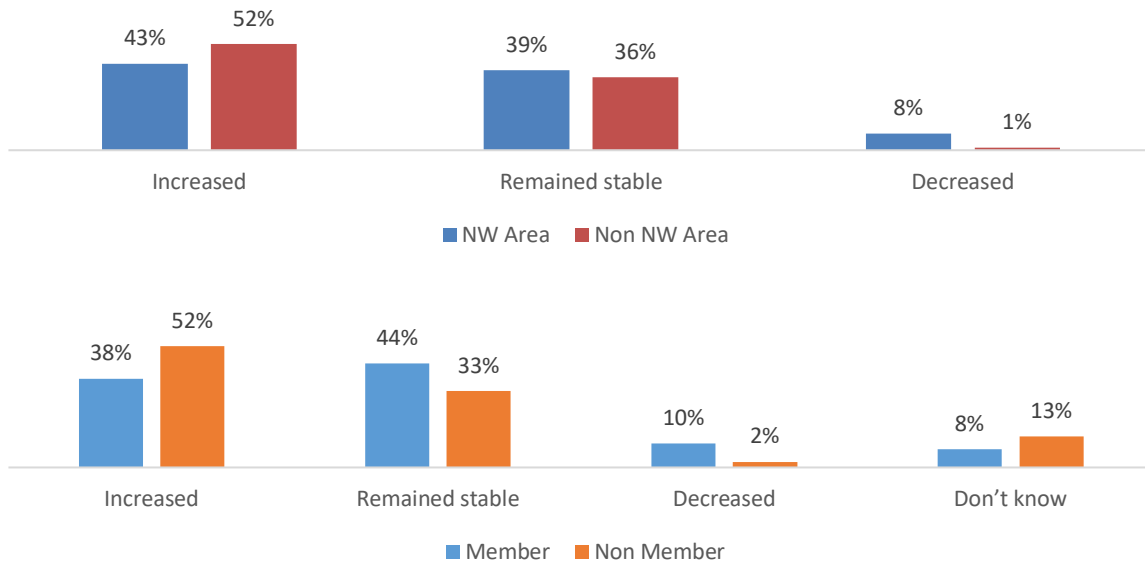
3.3 24% of the total number of respondents identified as members of Neighbourhood Watch.

### 4. Perception of Crime and Safety

4.1 Those who live in a Neighbourhood Watch Area are more likely to be satisfied with their personal safety than those who don't (50% vs 31%), with members of Neighbourhood Watch in those areas even more likely to be satisfied with their personal safety (55%).

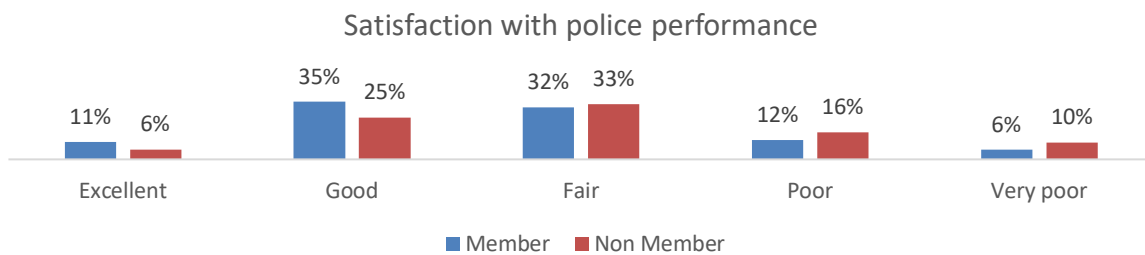


4.2 Those living in a Neighbourhood Watch area are less likely to say that crime has increased than those who don't (43% vs 52%), with Neighbourhood Watch members in those areas even less likely to think that crime has increased (38%), and significantly more likely to think crime has decreased or remained stable (54% vs 35%).



## 5. Policing

- 5.1 42% of all respondents to the national survey think the police in their area do an excellent or good job.
- 5.2 The more respondents think crime has decreased the better they think of their local police. 67% of those who think crime has decreased think the police in their area do an excellent or good job, compared to 24% of those who think crime has increased.
- 5.3 Neighbourhood Watch members in West Midlands are more likely than non-members to think the police in their area do an excellent or good job (46% vs 31%).



## 6. Neighbourhood Watch Activity

### 6.1 Information provision

The vast majority of Neighbourhood Watch members, and over half of non-members living in Neighbourhood Watch areas in West Midlands receive regular information from Neighbourhood Watch. 77% of all respondents living in Neighbourhood Watch area received details of local crime from Neighbourhood Watch once or more a month, 61% received fraud and cybercrime prevention advice once or more a month and 56% received advice on home security once or more a month.

Both members and non-members are likely to act on crime prevention advice they receive from Neighbourhood Watch. 53% of Neighbourhood Watch members and 41% of non-members usually act on that advice, with 41% of NW members and 46% of non-members sometimes acting on it.

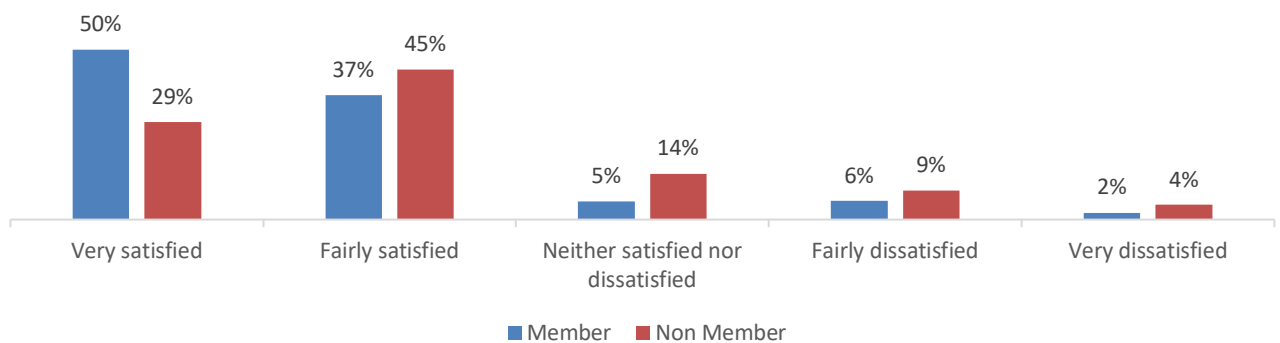
## 6.2 Other Activities

In addition to regularly sharing crime prevention advice, Neighbourhood Watch activities also focus on supporting vulnerable people in their area or improving the local environment. 18% of respondents said that their Neighbourhood Watch group had been actively supporting vulnerable people in the community and 16% that their local group had arranged or supported activity to look after or improve the local environment over the last 3 months.

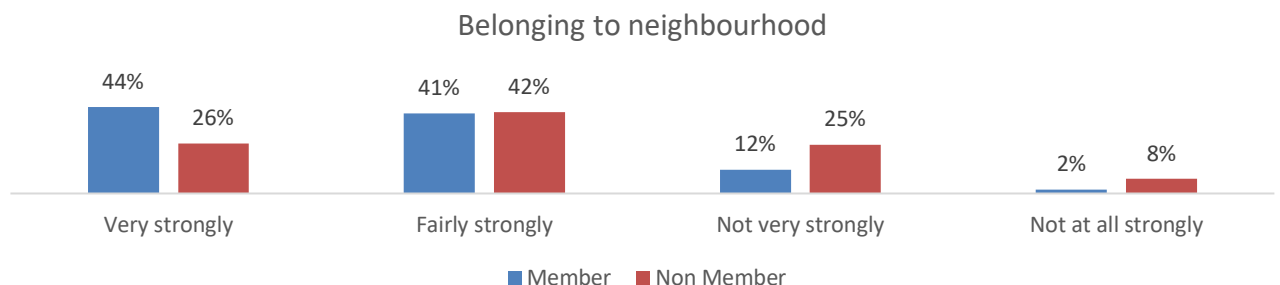
10% of NW groups in the West Midlands also arrange or conduct crime prevention talks and 11% arrange or run community social events.

## 7. Community

7.1 Neighbourhood Watch members are more likely to be very satisfied or satisfied with their local area than non-members (87% vs 74%), in particular, to be very satisfied with their local area (50% NW members vs 29% non-members).

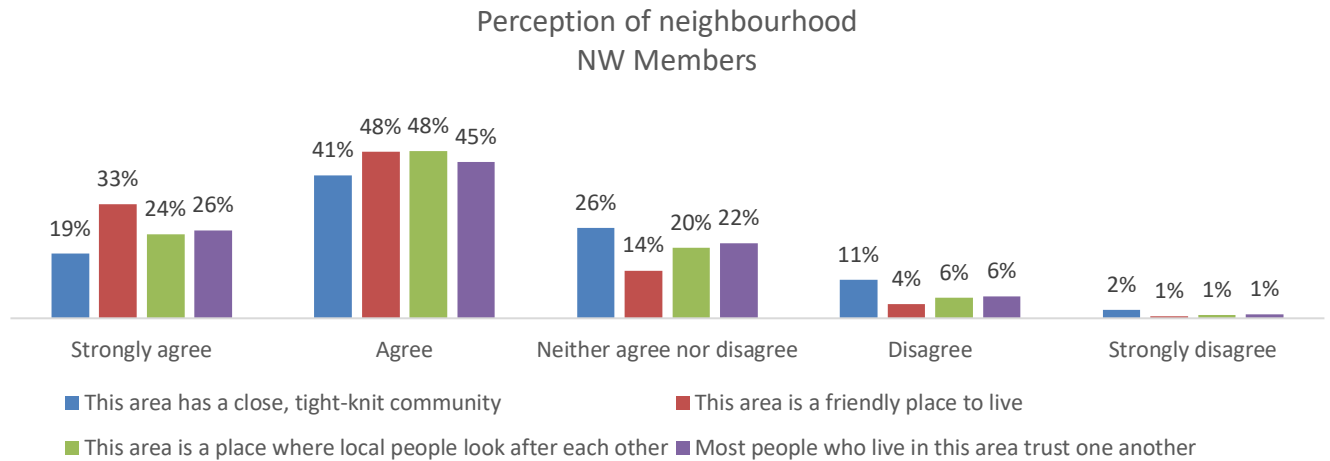


7.2 Neighbourhood Watch members are more likely to feel part of the neighbourhood than non-members (85% vs 68%), in particular, to very strongly agree that they feel part of the neighbourhood (44% NW members vs 26% non-members).

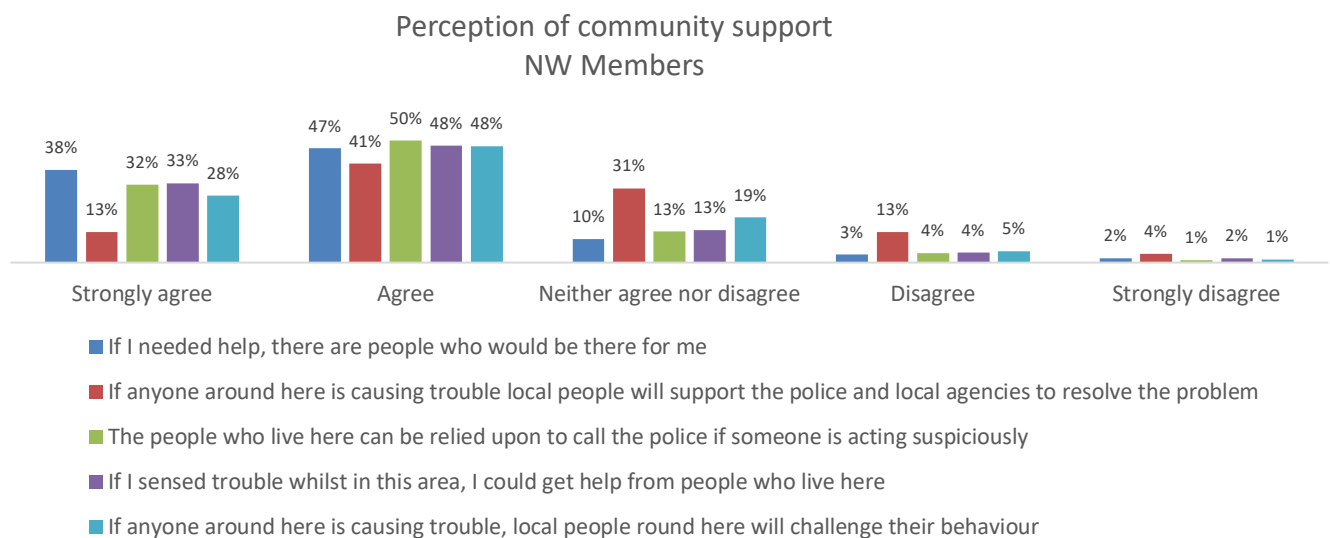


7.3 Neighbourhood Watch members and non-members are relatively as active and ready to help their neighbours with day to day issues such as keeping an eye on their house when they are on holiday, taking their bins out/put bins away, taking in deliveries/parcels, visiting or helping elderly or vulnerable neighbours with shopping and errands.

7.4 Neighbourhood Watch members are more likely than non-members to agree that they live in a friendly place (87% vs 67%), can trust people who live in the area (71 vs 49%), are part of a close knit community (50% vs 35%) and live in an area where people look after each other (72% vs 49%) .



7.5 Neighbourhood Watch members are more likely to perceive that people in their neighbourhood would pull together if anyone needed help or there were problems in the area. Neighbourhood Watch members are more likely than non-members to perceive that if they needed help there are people who would be there for them (85% vs 71%), that people would help the police and other agencies to resolve problems (54% vs 33%), call the police if someone is acting suspiciously (82 % vs 65%), help if they sensed trouble (81% vs 62%) and intervene if anyone in their area is causing trouble (76% vs 54%).



7.6 Neighbourhood Watch members are consistently less likely to feel left out, isolated or lonely in their local area. 69% of Neighbourhood Watch members said they hardly ever or never felt left out or that they lacked companionship vs 55% of non-members. 74% of NW

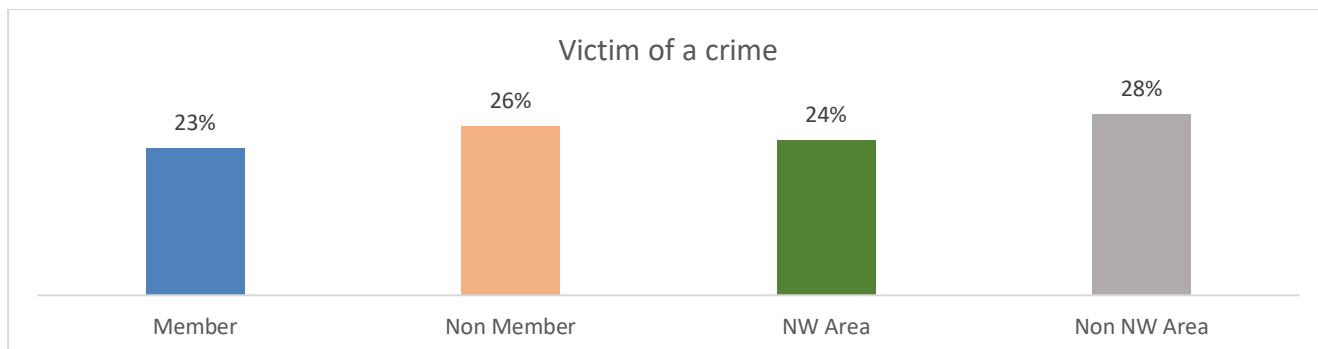
members said they hardly or never felt isolated from others vs 59% of non-members and 75% members vs 61% non-members that they hardly ever or never felt lonely.

## 8. Experience of Crime

8.1 25% of all respondents in the West Midlands had been a victim of a crime in the last 2 years.

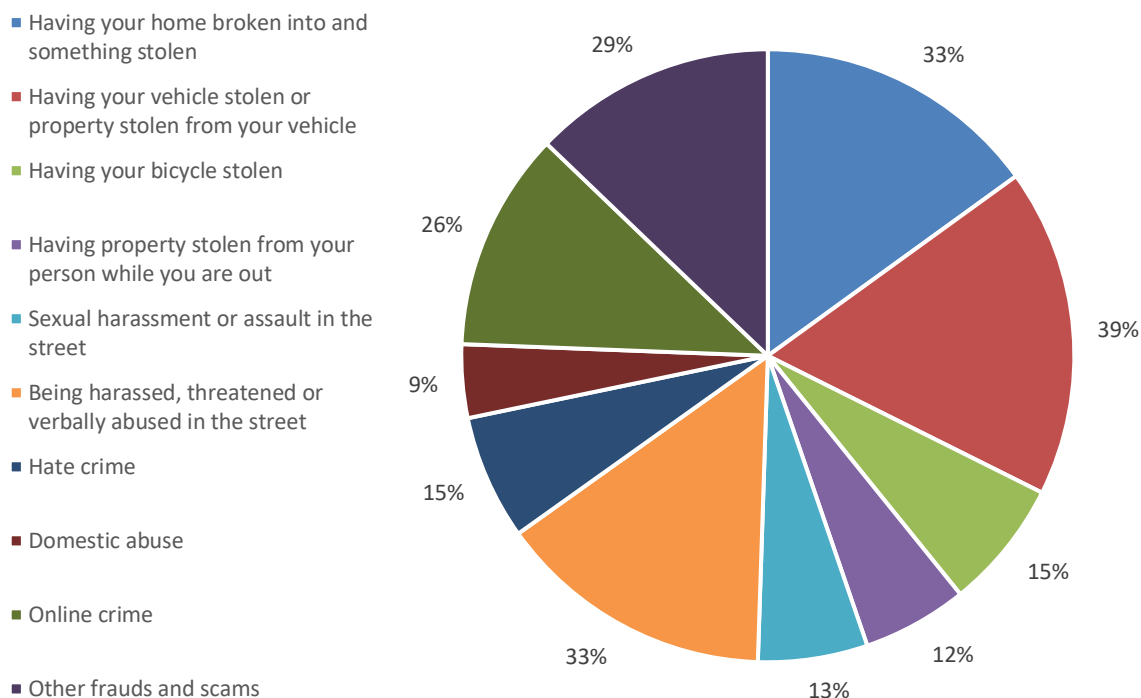
8.2 24% of respondents living in a Neighbourhood Watch area had been a victim of crime in the past 2 years as opposed to 28% of those not living in a Neighbourhood Watch area.

8.3 23% of Neighbourhood Watch members had been a victim of crime in the past 2 years vs 26% of non-members.



8.4 39% of the respondents who had been a victim of crime in the past 2 years had their vehicle stolen or property stolen from their vehicle; 33% had suffered a burglary or been harassed, threatened or verbally abused in the street; 26% and 29% had been a victim of online fraud or other fraud respectively; 15% had been subject to hate crime or had their bicycle stolen; 13% suffered a sexual assault in the street; 12% had something stolen from them outside and 9% suffered domestic abuse.

## Crime experienced in past 2 years



8.5 Harassment is most likely to have happened most recently (in the past 3 months) or is still ongoing (40%) with 27% of cases of fraud, burglary and vehicle crime having also occurred within the past 3 months.

## 9. Crime and Community Concerns

9.1 27% of respondents had worried about burglary, car crime or online crime and fraud over the past week. However, theft from the person (20%), harassment (15%), bike theft (8%) and hate crime (7%) were also identified as regular worries.

9.2 Speeding and Anti-Social Behaviour are the most common community concerns. 61% of respondents said they had been concerned about speeding and 37% had been concerned about Anti-Social Behaviour in the previous week. Other significant concerns were fly-tipping and drug use / dealing, with 32% and 34% of people respectively having been concerned about these in the past week. 16% of respondents had worried about knife crime or serious violence in the past week.

## 12. Conclusion

12.1 This report provides a snapshot of the findings of the national Neighbourhood Watch survey for the West Midlands region that can be used as a benchmark against which Associations can focus and evaluate improvement activity over the coming 12 months.

12.2 The survey will be repeated every 12 months to understand any changes in people's perceptions and experiences over time.